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Pet of the week: meet Chase

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Scouting 115th Anniversary

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Chrzan puts up 34 points

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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COMMUNITY

South Main Street selected as site for East/West Compass Rail train stop

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – The Department of Transportation has announced its selection for the train stop for the East/West Passenger Rail, selecting the south side of Palmer Yard on South Main Street.

This site was determined to offer the amount of property needed for a platform to accommodate ADA needs and passenger train length, and is expected to have fewer permit requirements, making it the most affordable of the nine alternative sites that were considered. The location is estimated to be about half a mile from downtown, and was chosen after months of review, including feedback from stakeholders and community engagement events.

“We’re thrilled to have reached another milestone for West-East Rail and our efforts to expand rail service across the state with the selection of a preferred site for Palmer Station. This is going to be a major boost for Western Mass and for our state’s economy,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re grateful for all of the input we received from community members that helped us choose the best site for the station.”

“Expanding rail capacity and connectivity in Massachusetts is essential if we want to remain economically competitive,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We



Palmer Yard, on South Main Street, has been selected as the site for the proposed train stop for the East/West Passenger Rail.

applaud the efforts that have culminated in the selection of a Palmer Station location and look forward to seeing this component of West-East Rail advance to completion.”

“We are pleased to see that there is forward movement on a station in Palmer. I thank everyone on the steering committee and com-

munity members who gave feedback about this process,” said Town Manager Brad Brothers. “We look forward to working with MassDOT on this next phase.”

The next step is for the project team to create a conceptual design and coordinate with railway owner CSX, the site property owner, and

the proposed service operator, Amtrak, on the feasibility of the construction.

“We are very pleased to see ongoing progress in the advancement of the Compass Rail program, which will give residents the pas-

RAIL SITE | page 5



MONSON

Draft budgets shared for police and fire

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At the Finance Committee meeting this week, the town discussed Draft Budgets with the chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments.

The Feb. 3 meeting began by voting on a liaison to attend Mini-Tri-Board meetings on behalf of the committee. “They’re going to have one member from the Select Board, one member from the Finance Committee, and someone from the School Committee,” said Facilitator Peter Fimognari.

The subcommittee, which will also include the Finance Director and Town Administrator, is expected to meet once a month.

“It’s like what we did at the Tri-Board,” said Member Kenneth Parkes. “You hash out some things before it gets to the other Tri-Board meetings.”

Parkes nominated Member

Nancy Johnson, saying “with your knowledge of how things work, it would be great if you did it.”

The committee members voted unanimously to appoint Johnson to the subcommittee.

Police Draft Budget
Police Chief Stephen Kozloski then reviewed the Police Department’s Draft Budget, starting with his own salary, which will see a contractual increase for the second year in his three-year contract with the town.

Kozloski then highlighted items for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers contracts for sergeants, police officers, and special police officers, which are due to begin negotiations in the upcoming fiscal year.

“So you’ll see no changes on that from the current fiscal year to the upcoming fiscal year, because we have not negotiated a new contract with the IBPO yet,” Kozloski said.

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BUSINESS

Quaboag Hills Chamber hosted Baystate CEO at breakfast

By Paula Ouimette
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BELCHERTOWN – Last Tuesday morning, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its Chamber Breakfast at Christopher Heights of Belchertown, with guest speaker Peter Banko, president and CEO of Baystate Health.

Chamber CEO James Przypek opened the event by acknowledging and thanking the event’s presenting sponsor, Superior Plus Propane, and underwriters Country Bank, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Monson Savings Bank, Behavioral Health Network, Christopher Heights of Belchertown and Westfield Bank.

Przypek also welcomed state

Rep. Todd Smola to speak at the breakfast, sharing an update about the climate of state and local government, and the importance of having access to healthcare and how the closure of Mary Lane Hospital in Ware has affected the region.

“We’re very much impacted by the closure of that facility,” Smola said.

Smola also spoke about the importance of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its support of local businesses.

“The chamber is strong,” Smola said, crediting Przypek for the chamber’s continued growth.

Przypek then welcomed Banko, who recently pledged to identify a space in Ware to house a Conve-

nient Care facility, staffed with up to three physicians.

“We think about healthcare a lot,” Przypek said, referencing staff shortages, the COVID-19 pandemic, rising prescription costs and hospital closures. “It’s a statewide and national condition.”

Banko, who is the fourth CEO for Baystate Health and the first to be hired from the outside, spoke about Baystate Health’s role as an academic medical center and its affiliation with the UMass Chen Medical School. He said Baystate Health also invests about \$50 million in research.

“We’ve got a lot of great physicians,” Banko said, adding that Baystate Health provides a “com-

munity safety net” through behavioral health services and more.

“If you can’t get it at Baystate, you’re likely going to Boston,” he said.

Banko spoke about some of the changes that have occurred at Baystate Health since he took over its leadership in June of 2024, including the decision to keep its not-for-profit health insurer Health New England, after its \$165 million sale to Point32Health was announced in February of 2024.

Bank said Baystate Health is planning to invest in Health New England.

“The intent is to grow it,” Ban-

QHCC | page 2



Baystate Health President and CEO Peter Banko was the guest speaker at the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s breakfast held at Christopher Heights of Belchertown on Jan. 28.

FUNDRAISING

Tailgate Tavern announces winners of annual Soup-Off

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – This weekend, Tailgate Tavern held its annual Soup-Off fundraiser to raise funds for Light Up Palmer.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, staff at the Tavern turned on generators and plugged in 30 crock pots filled with delicious soup made by local chefs. For a \$5 charge, local residents and soup connoisseurs were able to sample as much soup as they liked and vote on their favorites.

The first place prize went to Lisa Cormier for her French Onion Soup. Cormier shared that she had to make five batches the night before, because when she entered last

year, the soup was “gone in the first 20 minutes.”

Second place went to one of the event’s helpers, Deedee Abare, for a Pizza Soup. Third prize was awarded to the Sweet Potato Kielbasa made by “Bert” Russo.

In addition to the soup competition, the event also included around 80 raffles, with winners announced, as always, by Mike Wadas. Shelley Casey, the primary organizer, said that between the charge to judge the soup competition and all the raffles, they were able to raise \$2,300.

“It wasn’t quite as busy as last year, but we had a lot of people who were away on vacation who normally would have been here,” Casey said. “Everyone was appreciative and I think it went well.”

The funds raised by this weekend’s event will all go towards Light Up Palmer, which will use them to



First place winner Lisa Cormier made extra French Onion Soup to appease the hungry judges.

Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

TAILGATE | page 6

FINANCES

Town Admin. reports grants to fire department and new tax rate

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At last week’s Select Board’s meeting, the Town Administrator presented a report on recent developments around town.

At Town Hall on Jan. 28, Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz presented her report to the members of the Select Board, detailing updates from the different town departments. In addition to updating the board on the goings-on from the Fire Department, Finance Department, the Assessor’s Office, and others, Wolowicz also updated the board on the work she has been doing for the benefit of the town.

“I worked on some grant applications for local technical assis-

tance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for the town,” Wolowicz said.

There were several updates from the Fire Department, including Firefighter Arthur Manoritù being promoted to full-time.

Wolowicz said that she and Select Board Member Peter Warren also had a conversation at the Council on Aging, and announced the onboarding of the town’s newly-appointed Veterans Services Agent.

“If you remember, Arthur Manoritù was in front of you, maybe six-to-eight months ago,” Wolowicz said. “We’re really excited for Arthur, and he started on Jan. 6.”

The department was also awarded a Firefighter Safety Grant in the amount of \$10,878.

TOWN ADMIN | page 5



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CHASE

This is Chase, who lives with Jennifer in Monson. Chase is an eight-year-old Golden Retriever who loves to swim and play in the snow. Anything that makes him wet and smelly keeps him happy! We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Monson Free Library offers classes on reading and writing cursive

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
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MONSON – The library has seen a great response with its recent offerings of classes on reading and writing in cursive.

A new session of the library's cursive class will be starting on Feb. 25. The class is held on Tuesday afternoons from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., and is open to children aged 6-12, with no previous experience required.

"We will learn the basic letter formation of upper- and lower-case cursive letters, and practice writing our signatures and reading and writing sentences in cursive," said Children's Librarian Denise Newland.

Newland learned cursive going through the town's school system in the 1980s, and said she had heard about a general interest from kids and parents who wanted exposure to it now that the writing form is no longer taught in schools.

"I read a lot about younger generations not being able to read cursive, which can be an issue," Newland said.

For the November course, the library had 16 kids participate and a significant waiting list, and so it was decided to offer it again this winter. Though the current class is already filling up, Newland said that the library hopes to hold another session depending on interest.

"There are kids who find

it fascinating; it's like a secret language and they want to know about it," Newland said. "Between the kids who wanted to learn it and the ones whose parents sent them, we had a really good time with it."

The five-week crash course focuses on the basics of reading and writing cursive. Newland noted that despite the wide range of ages and reading levels, the kids were able to pick up

"The class is open to six- to twelve-year-olds and we had all those ages, so it had a one-room schoolhouse feel," Newland said. "There were some younger kids who were very into it and disciplined and came out with lovely handwriting. It depended on the kid and who was interested in it personally; you could tell who was sent by their parents and who wanted to be there."

The class went over different letter formations and spent most of the time working on lowercase letters. Newland said the class dedicated a day to go over upper-case letters, and then tied everything together by learning to write names, and to read and write full sentences. Newland ended the class with letter writing.

"I had written each kid a letter," Newland said, "so it was in an envelope waiting for them."

The class was then instructed to write a letter in cursive to whoever they wanted with



Submitted photo

Students aged 6-12 learned to read and write cursive at the Monson Free Library last November.

many students choosing to write to a teacher or to their mom. As the class was held in the weeks leading up to Christmas, many students chose to write to Santa Claus.

Though cursive has fallen out of practice as more of our communication is relegated to digital spaces, Newland said there are tangible benefits to learning cursive. It remains in use for signatures, and Newland cited studies on the benefits of handwriting notes.

"Mostly it's about being

able to read cursive, in terms of reading documents and letters from a different age," Newland said. "Even if they don't use it all the time, at least they're being exposed to the concept of it and basic letter structures, so they should be able to go back and be able to figure out what things mean without it being too much of a mystery."

"We're also able to intersperse a bit of artsy things, so we have fun with markers and different writing utensils," Newland said. "There's nothing

they need to do to prepare for it, we have everything here. We'll take it one step at a time, so come with open mind and a willingness to learn and make mistakes, and we're going to all learn together."

The cursive class will be held from Feb. 25 to March 25 on Tuesdays from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Registration is required, so visit the library's website at MonsonLibrary.com and go to the Calendar of Events for links to sign up for this class and more.

QHCC | from page 1

Banko noted the "intense pride and loyalty" found within Baystate Health, but how it has faced many challenges including financial strains and meeting the needs of an aging and declining population. "Massachusetts is a tough state to operate in," he said. "We've had our financial challenges here over the last three years." Banko said the 65+ community is growing, and more so the 75+ and

85+, all of which presents unique challenges to healthcare. "The older you get, the more likely you are to have a chronic condition," he said. Banko touched on some of the areas where Baystate Health needs to improve, including increasing outpatient services and keeping current with the digital age of healthcare. Baystate Health has also embarked on a financial journey, which Banko said is "causing us to make a lot of tough decisions."

He said this includes selling assets, such as Baystate Health's laboratory to Labcorp in 2024, and the now reversed decision to sell Health New England. Banko said Baystate Health is looking at fixing its financial situation to the tune of \$225-250 million over the next few years, adding that two-thirds of its expenses are its staffing. He said part of the plan is to look at corporate overhead. The closure of Mary Lane Hospital in Ware was "an unfortunate situation," Banko said, with about

30% of small hospitals at risk of closing nationwide. "We've been working since August or September to try and get healthcare back [in Ware], Banko said. Banko said while Baystate Health is looking at possible sites in Ware, there may also be some opportunity to do something with the Wetherby building on the Mary Lane Hospital campus. "The primary focus is we're looking for a site that doesn't take a lot of work to get in," he said.

Opposition to Baystate Health's presence in town from the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital has resulted in a cease and desist being served to that organization's leadership, Banko said. "We should be working together," he said. Banko said Baystate Health has work to do within its hospitals and clinics, with strategic planning ongoing since this past October. "Access is our biggest opportunity," Banko said. "Access and coordinating care. We've got access issues...there aren't enough providers."

our physicians and staff to work," he said. Banko said Baystate Health is also focusing on growing its specialty care, including oncology, cardiovascular care, neurosciences, orthopedics and rehabilitation. This includes moving many of these specialties from Baystate Medical Center back to the community hospitals. "The intent is, we've got capacity at Wing [hospital] that we need to be utilizing," he said. Banko also talked about improving ties with local school districts to train students for gateway positions in the healthcare field. "We're going to have to grow our own workforce, and we've got that opportunity," he said. About QHMA

Banko talked about the wait time to see a provider, including an average of eight months for a primary care physician, nine months for a dermatologist and one year for a procedure such as a colonoscopy. Because of these waits, Baystate Health is losing a lot of commercial insurance patients to medical facilities in Boston. "We need to make sure you don't have to leave the community to get care," he said. Banko also addressed Baystate Medical Center's "D" rating from The Leapfrog Group. "We want to be a great place for

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield. Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members. The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more. The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

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TOMORROW

Gathering

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WHEN & WHERE
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at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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 space permitting, email Editor at journalregister@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced its Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night fundraiser.

The event will take place on Friday, March 21 at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

"The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to provide a fun filled and inclusive night out for all, while highlighting local businesses who sponsor the grand prizes," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer for the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber was poised to launch its first bingo event in 2020 until COVID related gathering restrictions caused the Chamber to postpone its plans, which has given us a chance to regroup and put together an even bigger and better event than originally planned."

Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards, bingo dauber, delicious snack platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Preschool and Kindergarten screenings for Monson residents

MONSON—Preschool and Kindergarten screenings for Monson residents will be the week of March 24-28. For preschool a child must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2025, for kindergarten a child must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2025.

You can use this QR code to sign up for an appointment or call 413-267-4160.



Winter workshops at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD—Winter days can be cold and long, but they also offer an opportunity to dig into a creative project, or to learn a new craft. Hitchcock is offering three such opportunities in its ongoing series of hands-on workshops led by expert craftspeople. Beginners are welcome.

On Feb. 18, Let's Cake Decorate brings its next installment in its popular series: a Woodland Cake. Sue Gaulin leads this fun workshop for adults (adult/child pairs age 8+ can also work together on one cake under one registration at no extra cost). Participants will learn to level, torte, and fill a cake with buttercream, pipe chocolate buttercream bark on the side of the 'tree stump', use premade edible moss to decorate, and then use fondant to create mushrooms, frogs, and gnomes as adornments. No decorating experience necessary, step-by-step instructions are provided, as are all supplies. Students will use Sue's decorating tools and an apron during class. A 6" vanilla cake, buttercream, fondant, cake board and carry home box will be provided.

On Feb. 19, join master stained glass artist Chris Lyons for a Mosaics workshop in which participants will each make their own tile.

Mosaics are one of the oldest art forms and can be made from just about any type of material including pebbles, seashells, gems, ivory, glass and ceramic tile. The workshop will include a quick look at the history of Mosaics and a walk through the construction process and then each participants will create a simple Mosaic coaster project using glass & ceramic tile.

Lyons also regularly offers Stained Glass Sun-catcher workshops at Hitchcock. Anyone interested is encouraged to follow Hitchcock for upcoming dates.

For more information or to register for any of the winter workshops mentioned, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

M-Pact Annual Meeting Feb. 10

PALMER—The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of Municipal Public Access Cable Television (M-Pact) at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10. All residents of Monson and Palmer are eligible to be members of the M-Pact Corporation.



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

Please join us and add your ideas and energy to make our local Public Access Cable Station even more involved in the communities of Monson and Palmer. The meeting will be at MPact office at 1659 North Main St. in Palmer.

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

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

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

CAMPUS NOTES

Favata Named to Dean's List at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA – Matthew Favata of Palmer made the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

CAMPUS NOTES

WPI fall 2024 dean's list

WORCESTER— Worcester Polytechnic Institute has announced that **Catalina Mudgett**, a Palmer resident, member of the class of 2026 majoring in Aerospace Engineering, was named to the university's dean's list for academic excellence for the fall 2024 semester.

Springfield College Dean's list 2024 fall

SPRINGFIELD— Springfield College recognizes dean's list students for the 2024 fall semester.

Rylee Bonneau from Monson to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Bonneau has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Maegan Boucher from Monson, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Boucher has a primary major of English.

Logan Fontaine from Palmer to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Fontaine has a primary major of History.

Hannah Harris from Monson to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Harris has a primary major of Health Science.

Connor McCarthy from Monson to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. McCarthy has a primary major of Health Science.

Amelia Murray from Palmer to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Murray has a primary major of Pre-Prof Athletic Training.

Jaimie Talbot from Palmer to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Talbot has a primary major of Sports Biology.

Samantha Moyer Graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE — **Samantha Moyer** of Monson received a Bachelor of Arts from Elms College following the conclusion of the Fall 2024 semester.

Moyer was among 79 students who received their degrees in December.

Assumption Students Named to Fall 2024 University's Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Ethan Beauchemin of Palmer, Class of 2027
Mason Dumas of Monson, Class of 2026

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Reader asks about SS benefits for someone with multiple ex-spouses

Dear Rusty

If a financially well-off individual had multiple ex-spouses, could it happen that the multiple ex-spouses could each be collecting Social Security based on their own financial situation as compared to their rich ex-spouses?

Thus, multiple payouts by SS? Just curious, because there are probably many people in this situation as a result of the ever-increasing number of people involved in multiple marriages that each lasted more than ten years.

Signed: Curious Ex-Spouse

Dear Curious Ex-Spouse:

A former spouse can only collect one SS benefit either their own SS retirement amount, or an amount as an ex-spouse if the marriage lasted 10 years or more. And it is possible for multiple ex-spouses of a marriage to the same person to qualify for benefits from those unions, if each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But each ex-spouse can only qualify for one benefit payment either their own earned SS benefit, or their benefit as an ex-spouse.

In other words, someone with two or more ex-spouses might have their ex's collecting full benefits on their record, provided that each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But an ex-spouse can only get one benefit—their own SS retirement amount or an ex-spouse amount, whichever is higher.

It's possible, also, that an ex-spouse can collect benefits from a former spouse at the same time as a current spouse is also collecting spouse benefits on the same record. And there is no detriment to either's amount because multiple spouses or ex-spouses are collecting on a one person's SS record (Social Security is, after all, a means for spouses, or ex-spouses, to avoid poverty). However, an ex-spouse's own SS retirement benefit from their personal lifetime work record must be less than any ex-spouse benefit they are entitled to from a former spouse. Essentially, if the "10-years-married" rule is satisfied, ex-spouses are subject to the same benefit rules as a current spouse.

You are correct that we see some cases like this these days, but each eligible ex-spouse can only get one benefit and their ex-spouse benefit is always offset by any personal SS retirement benefit the ex-spouse may also be entitled to on their own lifetime work record.

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

Letter to the Editor

Food share thank you

To the editor,

The volunteers of the Palmer Food Share wish you all the best in this New Year.

Throughout the past year, we have provided over 75,000 pounds of food to many of our neighbors. Your support means the world to us, whether you donate your time, run food drives, donate food, personal care items and/or much needed funds.

I cherish our excellent volunteers and we could not provide all we do without them. y thanks go to the volunteers that pick up bread and pastries from Big Y five days a week, the volunteers that work handing out food month after month, the people that bring all the food into the building, the volunteers that buy personal care items, cut and recycle cardboard, sort toys and food

donations, and the list goes on and on. I would also like to thank the volunteers that keep records, file and take the necessary training to comply with the Food Bank of Western MA. The Food Bank is the one that provides us with the majority of our food. Your generosity throughout the years has kept the Palmer Food Share going year after year.

I would like to thank St. Paul's Unitarian Church for lending us the building we use for the Palmer Food Share. We have been at this site for 40 years.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our patrons that use the food pantry; we are honored to serve you. Thank you.

Our hours of operation are every Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Grateful for all of you,
Catherine Plouffe,
Director of the Palmer Food Share



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'Spring' into action with these tasks

The groundhog determined we would have six more weeks of winter. Is that really a surprise to anyone?

I mean, as I write, it is only Feb. 2. But we gardeners are an impatient lot, and we so want to get our hands back into the soft earth.

There are many tasks, albeit those that are behind the scenes, that can be done now, so that when warmer weather does arrive, we can "spring" into action.

Take inventory

Last month I talked a lot about prepping for indoor seed starting, first by taking inventory of our seeds and then gathering the necessary supplies that go along with that task. But what about our outdoor ventures?

I have been busy shopping around for new IRT mulch, greenhouse supplies and amendments. How are you set on lime, grass seed, and fertilizers?

Plan to take advantage of preseason sales by knowing what you need ahead of time. Also, assess the condition of your tools. Is your rototiller working its best? Mine needs to be serviced.

By taking it to the repairman now, I'll beat the spring rush and avoid having to turn the garden over by hand! The same goes for lawn mower blades. Have these sharpened yearly for the healthiest possible turf.

Practice good garden hygiene

Regularly inspect summer bulbs that have been stored away for the winter. Throw away any that are rotten or moldy.

If you find a lot of these, consider moving what is left to a drier location. On the other hand, dahlia tubers will shrivel when conditions get too dry, mist them with clean water to re-

hydrate.

It is also a good idea to take a close look at vegetables in storage. Squash with signs of rot can be cooked and the flesh frozen for later use. Sprouts that appear on potatoes should be rubbed off and used before they soften.

Experiment with onions that have sprouted by planting them outside once the ground thaws. This vegetable is a biennial and will produce seed during its second season.

If the sprouts come from an heirloom or open pollinated variety, save a few seeds come July and start them this time next year! In the seedling stage, onions thrive on ample nitrogen to develop thick tops that will feed what we hope

are big bulbs.

Perform appropriate garden chores

I am usually negligent in cutting down asparagus foliage in the fall. Weather permitting I will get out there and cut it back to its base soon, then haul off the branches to prevent any bugs that overwintered there from infesting this year's spears.

It is also time to prune blueberries, apples and grapes. Pruning can vary depending on the age and health of your specimens. If you are not experienced at it, consult any number of good books on the subject before you head outdoors with your pruning shears and loppers.

Do make sure your tools are sharp, and if there is any hint of disease, be sure to disinfect in between cuts or at least in between specimens. If any of your fruit trees have old fruit, called "mummies" hanging from the branches, be sure to get rid of them for fear of overwintering pests.

Hang tight

Winter will be gone soon enough. Come out of hibernation and accomplish preseason gardening tasks now, before the spring rush but also remember that this is a season of rest and taking care of yourself is a good thing too.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Don't slip on the ice, here's how

This is the bread-and-butter season for orthopedic practices. Why? Ice, ice baby!

According to the CDC, approximately 1 million people in the U.S. are injured each year from slipping and falling on ice and snow, and about 17,000 of them die, often due to traumatic brain injury.

As you might expect, older individuals are particularly susceptible to serious injuries from falls on ice. A broken hip in an elder might heal just fine, or it might lead to an extended hospital stay, long-term care and a shortened life. A broken wrist or arm may result in loss of mobility and function for months or even years.

So, orthopedists will tell you that the best way to approach this is to not fall in the first place, or if you do fall, to do it in such a way as to minimize your injuries.

Here are seven tips for staying up on your own two feet:

1. Practice situational awareness.

Assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy because treacherous black ice is practically invisible. Walk in well-lit areas. If you run into a patch of possible iciness, step off the walk and into the snow, which will give you a better grip. Even if you're going a short distance, don't tell yourself, "It doesn't look that slippery to me." Be especially careful when stepping onto or off a curb.

Also, avoid texting or talking on the phone while you're potentially encountering a slippery surface.

2. Don't wear stupid shoes.

What I mean by that is that sneakers, shearlings, slides and Crocs aren't necessarily the best choices if you're going to encounter ice. Slipping creates momentum, and you want to be able to stop the momentum before you fall.

What to wear: Snow boots, obviously, with nonslip soles. Hiking shoes or boots with Vibram soles provide a better grip. If you're going to wear running shoes on snowy trails, invest in a pair of removable cleats or crampons.

You may see a recommendation to slip a pair of thick woolen socks over your shoes to provide more traction. That may work – but beware when you step onto a hard surface such as tile. It might be just as slippery as the ice.

3. Walk like a penguin.

If you've watched enough National Geographic specials, you've seen that penguins walk with their toes pointed slightly outward, take small steps and sort of waddle side to side to keep their center of gravity over their feet.

Smart birds.

When you're walking on a slippery surface, think penguin. Slow down. Point your feet outward and keep your weight slightly forward. If you're going to fall, forward is better than backward.

4. Keep your hands and arms free.

Your arms help you keep your balance, so you want to keep your arms and hands free. Keep your hands out of your pockets. Rather than carrying a pocketbook, use a backpack or cross-body bag.

5. Keep an eye on where your feet are going.

When you're all bundled up, it may be hard to look down at your feet. That, and your glasses or sunglasses may get fogged up. Before heading out, make sure you can see your feet and keep a tissue handy to wipe your glasses.

6. Clear snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways.

This seems like a no-brainer, but you don't want to fall just going to get the newspaper or the mail. Treat surfaces with pet-friendly substances, such as mulch, sand or specially treated ice melt that won't hurt Fido's paws.

7. Use ski poles or a hiking stick.

These give you more points of contact with the ground and may help you maintain your balance. They also require you to move your arms more, helping you burn more calories.

Even with all of these precautions, you may fall anyway. There are ways to fall that may help minimize or even avoid serious injury.

Foremost is not trying to stretch out your hands and wrists to catch yourself. Rather, try to land on your forearms if falling forward, and tuck in your chin to keep your head from hitting the ground. If you're falling backward, don't fight it. Try to land on the fleshy parts of your body, roll to the side and, again, tuck in your chin to protect your head. Assess how you're feeling before attempting to get up.

Those ice falls always happen when you least expect them, and usually hurt way more than anticipated. Take steps – penguin steps – to stay safe.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NSHore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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

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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.

THIS WEEK IN History

Week History
Feb. 8

The execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, as depicted here in a painting by Robert Herdman, was an act of political violence on Feb. 8, 1587.



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

On Feb. 5, in 146 BCE, the Third Punic War, the last of three between Rome and Carthage, came to an end, culminating in the final destruction of Carthage, the enslavement of its people, and Roman hegemony over the Mediterranean.

On Feb. 6, in 1952, Elizabeth II ascended the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland after the death of her father, King George VI.

On Feb. 7, in 1613, Michael Romanov, founder of the Romanov dynasty, became tsar of Russia.

On Feb. 8, in 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle.

On Feb. 9, in 1796, Qianlong, the fourth emperor of the Qing dynasty, abdicated and was succeeded by Jiaqing.

On Feb. 10, in 1990, the spacecraft Galileo flew past Venus on its way to Jupiter.

Finally, on Feb. 11, in 1753, the Pennsylvania Hospital, the first hospital in the United States, co-founded by Benjamin Franklin, began admitting patients.

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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Donate blood at Baystate Wing Hospital

PALMER— The community is invited to celebrate Valentine's Day and National Heart Month by giving the gift of life by donating blood at the Baystate Health blood drive held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additionally, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year in 2025, on April 16, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 15, and Dec. 17.

"There continues to be an urgent need for blood. When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift re-

mains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services. "Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

"There is no substitute for human blood," said VanZandt. "Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds, have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore

throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks."

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

Scantic River Artisans Exhibit 2025 Feb. 8-9

HAMPDEN— Join us for a celebration of creativity and inspiration.

Scantic River Artisans will be holding a Big Art Show and Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9. There will be a reception held on Sunday, Feb. 9 from noon to 2 p.m.

The event will be held at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street.

Experience an enchanting showcase of breathtaking artworks created by talented local artists. From stunning paintings to captivating sculptures, there is something for every art lover to admire.

The event is being sponsored by Affordable Waste Solutions and Blick Art Materials.

Please email info@scanticriverartisans.com for more information or check out the website at www.scanticriverartisans.com.

Relay for Life looking for participants

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Friday fish fry starts February 28

BELCHERTOWN—The Swift River Sportsman's Club at 350 Cold Spring Road in Belchertown is pleased to announce that their infamous Friday Fish Fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 28 and running through April 18, 2025. Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available! Come out and enjoy one of the best fish dinners in the area with generous portions.

For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

Sturbridge Senior Center open house to be held March 1

STURBRIDGE – The town of Sturbridge invites the public to the Senior Center Open House.

Please join them as they celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Senior Center on Saturday, March 1 from 1-3 p.m. at 480 Main Street. A ribbon cutting will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a blessing of the building to follow.

Come for a tour, light refreshments and meet the Senior Center staff and learn about its programs. This event is free and open to the community.

TOWN ADMIN | from page 1

"They're going to use those funds to purchase pagers," Wolowicz said. "That's going to be for the on-call firefighters so when a call is coming in, they'll be notified that way. It's a more reliable way of letting people know that they need to respond."

Fire Chief Brian Harris has submitted an Emergency Management Preparedness Grant for additional battery-powered portable lighting.

"When we had the Bradley Road fire, that was definitely something," Wolowicz said. "It was going through the night and so they needed to light up the scene."

The department will be conducting a joint training with Norcross Wildlife, Wales Fire Department, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which will involve a controlled burn in approximately 20 areas of meadows over the course of a day.

"It's important for staff members from all the departments to learn about a controlled environment and a wild land fire, how it's

different from different fires that they would attend to from a house or a car, and things to that effect."

"Speaking of burning," Wolowicz added, "the burn season, for everyone who likes to be legal, is running from Jan. 15 through May 1."

Wolowicz said that residents can register their property by going to the Fire Department's web page and paying an estimated \$20 to get a number in order to make sure they are staying in compliance. Both the Fire and Police Departments participated in joint trainings in January that included departments from other mutual aid towns.

Wolowicz said that the Finance Department enjoyed the return of its former intern, Victoria Watkins, who graduated from Pathfinder last year, was able to come back to the area for her winter break.

"She worked with us over winter break and helped a lot of the departments get some things onto their websites and updated," Wolowicz said.

Another project that the town has been wrapping up is the Fraud

Risk Assessment, which was funded through an article at last fall's Town Meeting. The town also held its first Tri-Board Meeting for the budget for fiscal year 2026.

"Then for the Assessor's Office, the values were approved," Wolowicz said. "The new tax rate for FY25 is \$14.87, and the Chapter Land deadline was Dec. 1, and so now they're finishing up the personal exemptions as well. The Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes are looking to go out later this month."

Wolowicz reported that the Treasurer/Collector's office completed reporting for the benefit information that needs to be reported each year, as well as annual reporting that is necessary for W-2 processing.

Wolowicz also announced that she was invited to observe an active shooter training, which she attended, and that she completed her recertification as a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official.

"I need to be recertified in that every three years, so I completed that," Wolowicz said.



A draft diagram of how the proposed train station will fit into the selected site on South Main Street. Submitted photos

RAIL SITE | from page 4

senger rail connectivity they need and deserve," said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "Throughout the planning and design phase for Palmer Station, we have been committed to working with the community to make a site selection that reflects their needs in the decades ahead. We appreciate all the feedback and look forward to continuing this dialogue."

Compass Rail is made up of existing and proposed East/West and North/South services that intersect in Springfield at Union Station. The goal of this expansive vision for the commonwealth is to integrate existing DOT-supported services into a unified system that increases the public's access to comprehensive transportation.

"The South of Palmer Yard location has great potential as a future stop within the Compass Rail network, and the local stakeholders' feedback has been invaluable in helping us reach an informed decision," said Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger. "The site's strategic location within Palmer and its cost-effective geography are significant benefits for the community both short- and long-term."

This rail stop will be able to connect to several services support-

ed and managed by DOT, including the following Amtrak-operated routes: the Vermonter that services Washington, D.C. and St. Albans, VT with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Valley Flyer between Greenfield and New Haven, CT, with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Hartford Line and Northeast Regional between Springfield and New Haven, CT or Washington, D.C.; and the seasonal, pilot service, the Berkshire Flyer, which runs between Pittsfield and New York City.

In addition to these routes, the East/West Rail represents proposed new Compass Rail services that will improve connections between the eastern and western parts of the state, including an Inland Route to operate between Boston and New Haven, CT through Springfield and a Boston and Albany Corridor through Pittsfield.

"After years of advocacy by the residents of Palmer, they are one step closer to realizing their goal of a Palmer train station," said Congressman Richard Neal. "This announcement follows a fair and thorough review by MassDOT, one that has been transparent throughout the decision-making process. Located just half a mile from the downtown area, this site will play a critical role in unlocking economic growth in

the Town of Palmer and surrounding communities, while providing the space needed to accommodate the demand for increased passenger rail."

"We are fortunate to have two leaders in Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll who have been steadfast in their support of improving and expanding passenger rail service throughout the Commonwealth," Neal said. "With Massachusetts receiving more than \$9 billion in federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have made substantial progress in advancing key rail projects, enhancing connectivity, and modernizing our transportation network. Today marks yet another significant milestone in making West-East Rail a reality."

"We are excited to see West-East Rail mark this milestone and move forward with the conceptual design of the project. We look forward to being a partner in helping to create more transportation options for residents here in Palmer and western Massachusetts," shared Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

For more information on the development of Compass Rail, you can visit their website at Mass.gov/Compass-Rail.

BUDGET | from page 4

Fimognari asked Kozloski how the department has been doing with the addition of new positions.

"In 2023, we, meaning the police profession Massachusetts, had to comply with certain new legislation under police reform," Kozloski said. "One of the most noteworthy and impactful pieces of legislation for Monson was the fact that the part-time officers needed to, by a certain date, which is now 2026-27, must be bridged or hired with the same credentials as full-time people." Kozloski said that these qualifications made the town unable to pull from its previous pool of candidates, which has hindered the department's ability to recruit part-time officers. In order to make up for this change, Kozloski proposed adding five officers between 2024 and 2027.

"We added two positions in the first year," Kozloski said, and then explained the addition of a full-time position that began six months into the fiscal year.

"We delayed hiring for six months," Kozloski said. "We actually just hired somebody that's in the police academy now, about halfway through, and that's basi-

cally half a position."

Finance Director Jamie Farnum mentioned that, though it's important to hear the concerns of the departments, the Finance Committee is also responsible for assessing the feasibility of any budget requests it receives.

"Because we've had these continued conversations every year about adding police officers," Farnum said, "but we've had conversations, too, that it may not be feasible to add these positions this year, and having to continue to add them the way we have."

Farnum said that the town has to make sure that it can maintain the budget for the increased staffing. A committee member suggested that this draft budget was closer to "a wish list," but Kozloski asserted that these requests are for things the department needs, as per discussions going back to 2023.

"It's not that it's not needed," Farnum said. "It's just an ability to be able to fund it."

Fire Draft Budget
The committee then heard the draft budget from Fire Chief Brian Harris, including potential increases.

"(Farnum) told me level services, so I made very little changes from last year," Harris said.

Harris indicated line items for salary changes, starting with that of the Fire Chief, which was the regularly scheduled contractual change.

The department has now increased to nine full-time firefighters including the chief, but Harris reported that this has coincided with a decrease to 15 on-call firefighters.

"We're seeing this trend nationally that on-call firefighters, or volunteer firefighters, are just dwindling," Harris said.

Harris indicated that this problem may be because of low salaries, claiming that the town is "not paying them fairly."

"That might be a reason why we're not retaining them or attracting them," Harris said.

The department collected \$21,000 from subscriptions, and Harris reported that subscriptions have gone up this year. Though there was a big influx when the department had a mass mailer campaign for the subscriptions, he said the town is not pursuing it in the foreseeable future because of the \$4,500 cost.

Following the Fire Chief's presentation, Farnum gave the committee the financial updates.



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USDA GOVT INSP FROZEN PORK SPARERIBS TWIN PACK (FREE SWEET BABY RAY'S BBQ SAUCE WITH PURCHASE) \$2.25 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE FROZEN 80% LEAN GROUND HAMBURG PATTIES 20 COUNT BOX 3 OZ 4 OZ \$15.69 \$19.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$18.99 ea
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The fundraiser's organizer, Shelley Casey (center) couldn't have run the event without her helpers, Alyna Veratti (left) and Denise Donovan.

Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

ANNUAL Soup-Off



Dawn and Fred Anghilante shared bread and soup at Tailgate Tavern's annual Soup-Off.



Though there were many impressive entries, the Cheeseburg Chowder was this reporter's favorite soup.



Mary Austin, Jamie and Dave Pinto, Josette Before, Rick Bouchard, and Caitlin Carlson shared drinks around a table.



Sharing a drink during Saturday's competition, (from left) Nate Zola, Jessica MacPhail, and Rachel McRobbie.



A generator had to be plugged in to keep all the crock-pots running and warming the soup.



A table was set up at Tailgate Tavern to hold the baskets that were raffled off through the afternoon.



This year saw a wide variety of different kinds of soups for the annual Soup-Off.

TAILGATE | from page 1

repair and replace the decorations that go up on Main Street every year. The volunteers are currently refurbishing the Purple Heart banners that have been damaged by weather.

"Light Up Palmer is wonderful," Casey said. "We started working with them when they were doing the Purple Heart Banners. My dad is a veteran, so that was a cool thing to get involved with. They're a great group of people and they work really hard."

Tailgate Tavern is located at 1012 Central Street, and is open from noon to 2 a.m. every day.

"We'll see you next year," Casey said.

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BASKETBALL



Trey Dillahunt drives to the hoop.

Dillahunt hits 1,000 in Mustangs win



Trey Dillahunt poses with his family after scoring his 1,000th point last week.

MONSON – In his freshman year, Trey Dillahunt notched his 1,000th career point during Monson’s 75-42 win over Hampshire Regional High School last Wednesday. Dillahunt was a starter beginning in seventh grade. He established himself as a prolific scorer for Monson and achieved the 1,000-point feat in less than three years. He scored 21 points in the win. Jake Beaupre also had a big game with 23 points, including three treys. Austin Meacham had seven treys for 21 points. Monson is 9-5 and headed for the state tournament now.



Jake Beaupre gets ready to shoot.



Brennan Patterson gets the jump shot.



Shane Szado tries to shoot over an opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Austin Meacham drives toward the hoop.

SWIM

Mustangs grab second win of the season



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Aly Potter makes her way down the lane.



Isabella Zeppa completes the 100 freestyle.



Mackenzie Wojciak does a leg of the 200 freestyle. More on page 8.

Panthers score big win over Easthampton



Aaliyah Wojciak competes in the 200 freestyle.



Abby Shirzadi heads down the lane in the 200 medley relay.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Bianca Barbosa does her leg of the medley relay. More on page 8.

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Olivia Chrzan goes for two points in traffic

Chrzan puts up 34 in Monson loss

MONSON – The Monson High School girls basketball team continued to get great play from Olivia Chrzan, but ultimately fell in a high-scoring matchup with Springfield International Charter School 74-53. Chrzan scored 34

points while Cali Zielinski added 10 points in the defeat. Monson is now 3-9 on the season, but is still in the top 32 in the Power Rankings for the state tournament due to it’s difficult schedule.



Grace Barry shoots for the Mustangs.



Cali Zielinski takes the jump shot.



Lylia Ellis heads for the layup.



Mia Hudak attempts the three-pointer.



Outstanding regular season continues for Pathfinder girls basketball

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional girls basketball picked up two more wins, defeating Smith Academy and Gateway Regional on Jan. 23 and 27, respectively. The road trip continues for the Pioneers, but their road will eventually lead to the state tournament as Pathfinder has reached 11 wins on the season against just two losses. Pathfinder's win over Gateway was a great defensive effort. The Pioneers held Gateway Regional to just 10 points. Coming up, the Pioneers will face Hampden Charter School on Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

T-Birds get huge weekend sweep

DES MOINES, IA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-17-2-2) got points from 14 of their 18 skaters in a 7-2 drubbing of the Iowa Wild (14-26-2-1) on Saturday night inside Wells Fargo Arena.

The T-Birds wasted little time jumping in front for a second straight night, as Simon Robertson and Hugh McGing capped a 2-on-0 with McGing cashing in on a one-timer past Jesper Wallstedt just 1:22 into action. Otto Stenberg also picked up an assist as all three players on the line broke point droughts of three or four games.

Sam Bitten, playing in the building his brother Will called home for three seasons, joined the fun at 5:47 with a perfect bar-down wrist from the right circle to push the lead to 2-0 off setups from Samuel Johansson and Leo Loof. Johansson has now registered a point in five of his last six games.

Vadim Zherenko drew the starting assignment in net and held his own with 16 stops in the opening period. Johansson provided a helping hand after Zherenko made a mini-breakaway save on Hunter

Haight, and the young blueliner successfully kept Mikey Milne from cashing in on a rebound to keep the score deadlocked.

Iowa finally would break through on its 16th shot of the period as Travis Boyd crashed the far post to tap home a 2-on-1 pass from Matthew Sop to get the Wild deficit down to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

There were more parallels from Friday's game early in the second period, as McGing unleashed a perfect shot under the crossbar at 2:23, beating Wallstedt for his second of the evening and restoring the two-goal lead, 3-1.

Iowa put together their best push of the night over the next five minutes, culminating in a tally by Luke Toporowski to cut the margin back to a single goal, 3-2, at 7:26.

Just as it appeared the Wild would change the tide of the game, the T-Birds had other plans as Nikita Alexandrov drove the net front from the right circle and beat Wallstedt to the near post to make it 4-2 just 17 seconds after the Toporowski goal.

The Springfield attack

poured it on from there. Michael Buchinger announced his presence at 8:49, jumping into a play as a trailer before snapping a wrist past Wallstedt to make it 5-2 off a cross-ice setup from Matthew Peca.

Another potential momentum shift came at 13:39 of the second when Dylan Peterson barreled in on net, taking a shot on Wallstedt before colliding with the Iowa netminder. Peterson was given a five-minute charging major, setting the stage for the Wild power play to try to climb back into the game. Wallstedt was forced to leave the game as Samuel Hlavaj came in on relief.

Instead of the moment sparking the home team, the T-Birds only further added to their lead when Peca intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated into the zone on the right wing, and snapped another perfect shot upstairs past Hlavaj for his team-leading 16th goal, making it a 6-2 game heading into the third.

The Wild had no answers for Zherenko in the third, despite Iowa throwing 16 pucks on the T-Birds

net and 50 total by the night's conclusion. The third-year goalie finished with a season-high 48 stops to earn the win, and Alek Kaskimaki capped off the offensive onslaught with his second goal in two nights at 17:12 of the third round out the scoring.

Dalibor Dvorsky will be in action on Sunday and Monday at the AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29 Casino in Palm Springs, California. The rookie star will first participate in the AHL All-Star Skills Competition presented by Silvercrest on Sunday, Feb. 2 (9:00 p.m. ET). Then, on Monday, Feb. 3, Dvorsky and the Atlantic Division will look to take home the 3-on-3 crown in the 2025 AHL All-Star Challenge presented by Spotlight 29 Casino at 9:00 p.m. ET. Both events can be seen on NHL Network and AHLTV powered by FloHockey.

Springfield next takes to the ice on Friday, Feb. 7 to begin a home-and-home set against the Providence Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

NAME: Trey Dillahunt
SCHOOL: Monson
Dillahunt scored his 1,000th career point in a win for Monson over Hampshire Regional on Jan. 29.

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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Railers score win over Mariners

PORTLAND, ME – The Worcester Railers HC (18-19-2-4 42pts) took down the Maine Mariners (16-23-3-0, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 4,421 at Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Atlanta Gladiators on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester scored first Sunday afternoon when Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) scored 5:23 into the first. Maine answered back with a goal of their own from Wyllum Deveaux (1-1-2) to tie the score at 1-1 heading into the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) was the second period's lone scorer giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. Maine tied it early in the second period with a goal from Lynden McCallum (1-0-1), but shortly after the Railers grabbed the lead right back when Cole Donhauser (1-1-2) scored a shorthanded goal to give the Railers the 3-2 lead. The Railers finished the third period by scoring two more goals, the first scored by Mark Cheremeta (1-0-1) 15:52 into the third, and the second an empty net goal from Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) giving the Railers the 5-2 victory.

The scoring got started by the Railers 5:23 into the first when Matt Ustaski (2nd) found the back of the net off a pass from Jordan Kaplan. Maine tied the score at 1-1 just under ten minutes

later off the stick of Wyllum Deveaux (8th). Shots favored Worcester 20-10 in the first period.

It took nearly 17 minutes of second period action for either team to score. It was Connor Welsh (5th) who scored giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. His shot from the left point deflected off of a Maine Mariner and beat Bischel high. Shortly after the Railers goal, they went on the penalty kill following a five-minute major for boarding called on Griffin Loughran. The Railers successfully killed the first 2:32 of the Maine power play to wrap up the second period. Worcester outshot Maine 31-17 in the second period.

The Railers started the third period by killing the remainder of the Maine power play, but shortly after the penalty expired Maine was able to net one. It was Lynden McCallum (15th) who scored for the Mariners. The Railers did not wait long to regain the lead, as Cole Donhauser (5th) forced a turnover at center ice and took it all the way home and scored the shorthanded goal giving the Railers the 3-2 lead. Mark Cheremeta extended the Worcester lead to 4-2 with his breakaway goal 15:52 into the third period. Matias Rajaniemi (2nd) capped off the Railers five goal night with his empty net goal 17:27 into the third, securing the 5-2 win for Worcester. Shots favored Worcester 8-7 in the third and 40-25 in regulation.

BUSINESS

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

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

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

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Rachel McNally looks to finish her race.



Harper Casavant does the 100 flystroke race.



Maddie Moreau heads down the pool in the 200 individual medley.

PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, Palmer won its fifth meet of the season against Easthampton and improved to 5-7 on the season 104-69. Rachel

McNally took the win in the 50 freestyle. Madelyn Roy was a winner in the 100 breaststroke, and Hannah Roy got the victory in the 100 backstroke. Scarlett LaRose

took the 100 freestyle and Nelia Lachance took home the diving competition. Palmer took two of the three relays.

MONSON – The Monson High School girls swimming team scored a much-needed win over Hampden Charter School on Jan. 21 107-7. The Mustangs had winners in every

event, including all three relay races. There were a number of double winners for Monson. Isabella Zeppa won the 100 flystroke and the 200 individual medley. Claire Wahlund

took the 500 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke. Annabelle Tulloch was the winner in the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. The Mustangs are 2-5 on the season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

DEATH NOTICES

David G. Backus
Died Jan. 31, 2025
Services Feb. 13, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Earl Chaffee, 76
Died Feb. 3, 2025
Services Feb. 10, 2025
Beers & Story
Palmer Funeral Home

(Sandra) Joyce Jacek, 82
Died Jan. 27, 2025
Guare & Sons Funeral Home

Robert "Lobby" O. Johnson
Died Jan. 31, 2025
Services are private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Thomas J. Reed
Died Jan. 22, 2025
Services TBA
Lombard Funeral Home

Thomas R. Stone
Died Jan. 28, 2025
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

O B I T U A R I E S

David G. Backus



PALMER—David G. Backus, 70, passed away Jan. 31, 2025 at Holyoke Medical Center. Born in Palmer, MA on Dec. 25, 1954, he was the son of George and Margaret C. (Denning) Backus. David lived his entire life in Palmer and proudly served his country in the US Air Force. He worked for over 30 years at the former TVA Electronics in Ware as a technician. David loved being outdoors and fishing. He was an active member in the American Legion Post

130. David is survived by his wife, Stella (Haluch) of Palmer, his two sons, William and his wife Bethany of Brookfield and Jonathan and Dazaray of Barre. David also leaves his sister, Kathy Chaffee of Palmer along with grandchildren, Loralie, Jameson, Everett, Wesson, Logan and Zelda Backus. Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 13 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.



at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Church. Burial with military honors will be at the MA Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at 1 p.m. For those wishing, donations may be made in his memory to the American Legion Post 241, 143 Palmer Rd. Monson, MA 01057

(Sandra) Joyce Jacek, 82

EAST MONTPELIER, VT—(Sandra) Joyce Jacek, 82, of East Montpelier passed away on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 at the Central Vermont Medical Center. Her husband, Fred was at her side along with dear friends Joe and Ellen Smollen.

the 4th grade at Union Elementary School in Montpelier, VT in 1964 and remained there until her retirement in 1994.



Association, and the Vermont Retired Educators Association. Her hobbies include gardening, fishing, and crafts.

Joyce was born on Sept. 15, 1942 in New Haven, CT to parents, Albina (Stanic) and Albert Pilvelis. She attended schools in Montville, CT and graduated from Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT in 1960. Joyce then attended and graduated from Lyndon Teachers College in 1964. She began teaching

by her husband of 58 years and close cousins, Tom and Ginny Kelly of Milford, CT. She is predeceased by her parents and brothers Dr. Albert Pilvelis and Robert Pilvelis.

Per Joyce's wish there will be no calling hours or burial services.

Joyce had membership in the Montpelier Education Association, Vermont Education Association, National Education

Donations in her name may be made to the East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. box 146, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Arrangements are in the care of Guare & Sons Funeral Home.

Robert "Lobby" O. Johnson

It is with deep respect and solemn reflection that we announce the passing of Robert "Lobby" O. Johnson, who departed this life on Jan. 31, 2025, at his home in Monson, MA, at the age of 93. Robert was born on Sept. 22, 1931, in Palmer, MA, to Ralph and Beatrice (Wallace) Johnson, who both predeceased him. He was raised in Palmer, MA and then moved to Springfield in Monson in 1986.

loved Palmer, he received the key to the city. Robert dedicated over 37 years to the U.S. Postal Service as a mail handler and driver, embodying the virtues of reliability and commitment. He was actively involved with the Palmer American Legion Post 130 where he served as a post commander and the VFW on Worthington Street, Springfield, MA.



field, Janet Sheppard of Springfield, June Jewell of Indiana, and Robert Johnson of Springfield, all of whom carry forward their father's wisdom and love. He was also a proud grandfather to 15 grandchildren, Matthew, Timothy, Taylor, Nicholas, Terrence, Travis, Lacey, Samuel, Emmanuel, King, Tiffany, Robert Michael, Teyawna, Robert Tamele, Charles and 19 great-grandchildren, Amelia, Gianni, Sophie, Jaxyn, Jacob, Hopelynn, Nyla, Zaire, Nassiah, Josiah, Jurnee, Islah, Lynnasia, Serenity, Tyla, Dream, Daisy, Ilesha and Lanessa who brought unending joy and pride to his days.

Robert was a dedicated and steadfast pillar in his community, whose life was marked by service, both to his country and his community. A decorated veteran, Robert enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from Palmer High School, where he had previously excelled in two varsity sports, a fullback in football and left-handed pitcher in baseball, earning his place in the Palmer Hall of Fame. His military service during the Korean War was distinguished by immense sacrifice and bravery, which included a harrowing period when he was held as a prisoner of war for three years. For his valor, he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was assigned to the 2nd Division 9th Infantry Regiment.

Robert was not only a man of resolve but also one of simple pleasures and cherished entertainments. Those who knew him recall his passion for horse racing and his daily routine of reading the newspaper from cover to cover, savoring crossword puzzles, engrossing himself in sports, and never missing an episode of his favorite television show, Gunsmoke.

He leaves behind his life partner Mary Lamb, their cherished pet Gabby along with her children and grandchildren. He is survived by his siblings Beatrice Hinkle of California and Donald "Sid" Johnson of Palmer and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

Upon returning to his be-

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Irene H. (Chase) Johnson, his siblings; Bernard, Ralph, Charles, Leroy, Kenneth, Agnes Wallace and a daughter, Renee Johnson, as well as a grandson, Jawell.

In accordance with his family's wishes, services were held privately, with Robert being laid to rest at the Mass. Veterans Cemetery in Agawam, a fitting tribute to a man who served his nation with dignity and honor. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

His legacy lives on through his six children: Wanda Steele and her husband Carlton of Springfield, Robin Holland of Springfield, Cynthia Walker and her late husband Lamont of Springfield and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.
Engineering, forestry, wild-life and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

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

Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.
What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

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

DCR upcoming winter hybrid presentations

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

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

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

History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.
Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping

O B I T U A R I E S

Thomas J. Reed, 1938-2025

WALEs—Thomas J. Reed passed away at home surrounded by his loving family, Jan. 22, 2025 at the age of 86. Tom was born in Pittsfield, MA, March 9, 1938 to the late Thomas C. and Helen D. (Kushi) Reed. He was a graduate of high school and enlisted in the Navy. He was honorably discharged and began his career as a steam room engineer. Tom retired from American Optical in Southbridge after many years.

Tom was an active member of the Wales Fish and Game Club where he served as a board member. He was a member of

the NRA and enjoyed hunting and fishing in his younger years.

Thomas was predeceased by his wife Sally (Tompkins) Reed in 2013, he was also predeceased by his son, Bruce Reed in 2006 and a grandson Todd Reed in 2017. Tom leaves his grandsons Jeffrey Reed and his partner Chelsey Hines of Wales, Scott Reed and his wife Samantha of Palmer; daughter in-law Monique T. Reed, granddaughter in-law, Jessica Reed; grandchild-



dren, Kaitlyn, Jacob, Jackson, Elora, Lena, Logan and Grayson.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. Services will be held in the Spring at Wales #4 Cemetery with the date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Wales Fish and Game Club, P.O. Box 101, Wales, MA 01081.

Thomas R. Stone, 1948-2025

PALMER—Thomas R. Stone, 76, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025. Tom was a successful, hard working, self-made business owner, T. R. Stone Trucking, Inc. Tom Stone was a legend in the trucking industry. He will be best remembered for his "shiny" trucks & excellent service in the transportation industry. Tom was a contractor with the United States Postal Service for many decades. The United States Postal Service

awarded Tom the Eagle Spirit Award for Excellence. Tom & his drivers participated in truck shows, Make-A-Wish Convoys for Kids & Ronald McDonald Convoys for Kids. Nothing could touch his passion for Trucking & "Nice Trucks."

Tom leaves his life partner of 40 years, Beth E. Smith of Palmer; daughters, Jennifer DeLorge of Pittsfield, Tina Laviolette of Peru, Ma, Carol-Anne Ellinger of Holyoke and Mi-

chelle Dingmond of Chicopee and seven grandchildren. He also leaves his sister, Shirley Stone, Francesca LaPierre, Marian Stone and brother, Michael Stone. He was predeceased by parents, Henry D. Stone and Frances Stone, brother, Donald and sister, Ellen.

All services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 388 incidents on its logs from Jan. 21 through Jan 27.

Jan. 21

At 2:21 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the corner of N. Main Street and Mt. Dumplin Road.

At 2:27 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Springfield Street and Three Rivers Road.

At 7:27 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 7:29 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 9:13 p.m. police gave summons to Melinda Sue Coffy, 24, of 155 Ventura, Ludlow, for operating

a motor vehicle with a suspended license and no inspection sticker.

Jan. 22

At 11:26 a.m. police gave summons to Stephen Ryan Martowski, 31, 12 Belchertown St., Three Rivers, for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, 2 marked lane violations and speeding at a rate greater than was reasonable and proper.

At 4:02 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:08 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Jan. 23

At 5:38 a.m. police gave summons to Anna M. Drap, 35, of 1 Off Larviere St., Three Rivers, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, motor vehicle lights violation and speeding at a rate exceeding the

posted limit.

At 1:22 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Thorndike Street.

At 2:16 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 8:33 p.m. police arrested Sefa Kuruca, 53, 1622 N. Main St., Palmer, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

Jan. 24

At 4:17 a.m. police arrested Heather Marie Szafranski, 33, 12 Orchard St., Palmer, for assault and battery on a police officer, receiving stolen property and receiving a stolen vehicle.

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two fire calls and 22 emergency medical calls for the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 2.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 11:44 a.m., the department responded to Stafford Road and Mayhill Road for a tree on powerlines, and returned to service at 12:15 p.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:41 p.m., the department responded to Bridge Street for smoke in the building, and returned to service at 9:06 p.m.

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY



Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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NOTICE

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

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VALENTINE'S DAY GARAGE SALE.
FEBRUARY 14-16, 8AM-3PM.
6 PARADISE LAKE ROAD MONSON.
No early birds please.
Moving, everything must go.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

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PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
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SERVICES

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Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

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DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

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Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call 413-896-8264.

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1984 LARSON, 15 ft. bowrider, refurbished 6 years ago. 80hp, 2 stroke outboard. Runs well. Trailer included. \$700. (843) 226-4786.

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1980 FORD PICKUP. Available for restoration. Chassis refurbished, 302 C6 transmission. Needs body and interior work. Moving, can't take with me. \$4000. (843) 226-4786.

STORAGE

STORAGE: FREE MONTH! Secure gate access, well lit. Great prices. Call Secure Storage at 413-800-6278 for your free month.

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HELP WANTED

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR
Council on Aging for the Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced Activities Coordinator. Miscellaneous duties to include supporting current programs and developing new programs to increase attendance and participation of the growing aging population in the Oakham Senior Center. Up to 12 hours per week (flexible) \$20.00/hr. depending upon experience. Resume should be sent to Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov, or mailed to Board of Selectmen, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA 01068.

COA COORDINATOR for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at www.westhamptonma.gov. Applications accepted until position filled.

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT
BRIGHT SPACIOUS 2 BED-ROOM IN INDIAN ORCHARD
3RD FLOOR. \$1,100. LARGE KITCHEN-LIVING ROOM COMBO. ELECTRIC HEAT. NO SMOKING, NO PETS. GOOD CREDIT. 413-543-3062

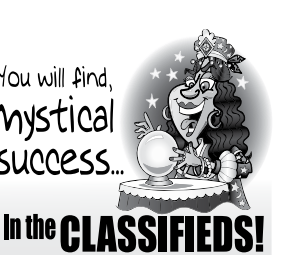
FOR RENT

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

REAL ESTATE



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



Psychic medium night Feb. 27

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

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

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

Tickets are \$60 for CMS Chamber members and their employees, or \$65 for non-Members. Cash bar. This intimate and enlightening evening with Gary is limited to 100 attendees, so get tickets now. For Medium Night tickets and information give the Chamber a call at 508-347-2761 or email info@cmschamber.org.

DCR offers February vacation program on tracks and scat

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program "Tracks and Scat" on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and informative indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 413-323 - 7221. To register visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/250b6dc-beefc4f30a4da5b0f86abc4f3>.

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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25A0004AD
In the matter of:
Aria Moon Champney
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:
**Russell A Kemp of Holland, MA
Sara Jean Kemp of Holland, MA**
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Aria Moon Kemp
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **02/28/2025.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 22, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/06/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1351EA
Estate of:
Mark Kirk
Also known as:
Mark A Kirk
Date of Death: 11/12/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 03/04/2025.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 28, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/06/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the public meeting room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, on the application of the Monson Fire Department for Special Permit for the expansion of the existing Fire Station as provided by §4.2 and §7.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The Applicant proposes to enlarge the existing building and perform necessary site-work to optimize the area by improving traffic flow which will ensure staff and pedestrian safety. The property is zoned Central Commercial and is within the Water Supply Protection district, located at 200 Main Street, Monson, MA, Map 115 Parcel 047, and owned by the Town of Monson. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Planning Board Office and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
01/30, 02/06/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John N. Mason, Ruth E. Mason to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, dated April 27, 2005 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14990, Page 58, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, its successors and assigns to The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York as Trustee for the certificate holders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-5, recorded on March 21, 2022, in Book No. 24458, at Page 388 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on February 24, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 238 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: That certain Parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situated on the South side of the Brimfield & Brookfield Road, in Brimfield, County of Hampden and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground on the Southerly side of the high-way leading from Brimfield to Brookfield and commonly known as the Brookfield Road and at the Northeast Corner of land now formerly of John Ratagan and a brook and thence commencing Southerly along said brook and land formerly of said

John Ratagan to an iron pin in the ground at the corner of land of said Ratagan and other land now or formerly of George C. Vreeland, et ux, a distance of two hundred fifty (250') feet, more or less; thence turning and running Easterly along other land now or formerly of said Vreeland and more or less parallel line with said Brookfield road to an iron pin in the ground at other land now or formerly of said Vreeland, a distance of three hundred fifty (350') feet, more or less; thence turning and running Northerly along other land now or formerly of said Vreeland and more or less parallel with the afore described brook to an iron pin in the ground in the Southerly side of the high-way leading from Brimfield to Brookfield, commonly known as the Brookfield Road, a distance of two hundred fifty (250') feet, more or less; thence turning and running Westerly along the Southerly side of said Brookfield Road to an iron pin in the ground at the point of BEGINNING, a distance of three hundred fifty (350') feet, more or less, containing 87,500 square feet, more or less. (approx. 2.1 acres)

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4034, Page 251. 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.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWABS, INC., ASSET BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-5
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500 26266
01/30, 02/06, 02/13/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 7:05 P.M.** in the Select Board Meeting room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, to review a petition for a Special Permit

for an Estate Lot as provided by §6.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws for Clark Zelazo. The property is zoned Rural Residential and is located on Paradise Lake Road identified on Assessors Map 74 Parcel 23A as shown on a plan prepared by Heritage Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc dated 01/20/2025. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
01/30, 02/06/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Commercial Mortgage (the "Mortgage") given by NEW ENGLAND RECREATION & HEALTH, LLC (the "Mortgagor") to Paul J. Les (the "Mortgagee") dated December 6, 2018, recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22481, Page 81, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the premises described in said Mortgage all and singular will be sold at Public Auction at Eleven O'clock, A.M. on the 20th day of February, 2025, at the mortgaged premises located at 0 Chamber Road, f/k/a 8 Chamber Road, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, to wit:

The land situated in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known and designated as:

The land in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, located on the Northeastly side of Chamber Road and being known as Parcel GH on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Three Rivers, Palmer, MA Prepared for Paul J. Les (Owner)" dated February 18, 2015, by Sherman & Frydryk, LLC, Land Surveying and Engineering, 3 Converse Street, Suite 203, Palmer, MA 01069, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 372, Page 41.

Together with any and all rights held by the Grantor to the road and associated land. Intending to convey all of the land conveyed to the Grantor via deed of William J. Hastings as Trustee of the William J. Hastings Revocable Living Trust as recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17177, Page 277.

Subject to the drainage easement benefiting Parcel GH all as shown on the above referenced Plan.

Being the premises conveyed to said Mortgagor by deed from Paul J. Les dated December 4, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22481, Page 78.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of the following specific items, to the extent the same are in force and applicable:

Subject to: Liens for real estate taxes, and liens for any unpaid municipal assessments, water and sewer charges, if any; rights, restrictions, reservations and easements as cited in deeds recorded in Book 3767, Page 185, and Book 8749, Page 294, if in force and effect and applicable; and to all easements and rights of way of record, including but not limited to the following: easement to New England Power Co. Recorded at Book 2531, Page 478; assent agreement at Book 14287, Page 370; Owner's Maintenance Association Agreement at Book 17177, Page 249.

The property is being sold "as is", "where is", and "with all faults" as of the date of closing, subject to and with the benefit of the following, if any there be, insofar as in force and applicable and having priority over the Mortgage: any and all rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, public assessments, unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal liens, assessments, oil and hazardous materials and environmental liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, attachments and encumbrances, boundary line disputes, overlaps, encroachments and any matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the premises. It shall be the bidder's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: The following "terms of sale" shall apply to the sale. To qualify as a bidder an initial deposit shall be paid at the time and place of the foreclosure sale as specified above in the amount set forth herein ("Initial Deposit"). The Initial Deposit due from the high bidder shall be FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$15,000.00) DOLLARS. Within five (5) business days after the sale an additional deposit shall be paid by the successful bidder sufficient to bring the aggregate deposit up to an amount equal to ten (10%) per cent of the auction price (the "Additional Deposit"). The deposit shall be paid by the successful bidder to Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C. ("Escrow Agent") as earnest money, by certified or bank cashier's check, unless otherwise announced at the sale. The entire deposit shall be retained by Escrow Agent for liquidated damages in the event the successful bidder fails to perform and as a result does not consummate the sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay the balance of the purchase price plus a Five (5%) percent Buyer's Premium commission payment to the auctioneer in addition to the bid price, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described

property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves all of its rights against such successful bidder including, without limitation any deficiency resulting from a resale, whether to the second highest bidder, Mortgagee, or otherwise, together with costs of resale and any costs of maintaining or owning the Property. Mortgagee may, at its election, retain the Initial Deposit and the Additional Deposit as liquidated damages; or, purchase the property for the amount bid by the successful bidder; or sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction, provided that Mortgagee in its discretion may require, (i) said second highest bidder to deposit with the Escrow Agent the amount of the required deposits as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (ii) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale and (iii) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice time being of the essence.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The description for the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The successful bidder shall pay all recording fees and documentary stamps in connection with the transfer of the premises, any costs of obtaining smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and smoke and carbon monoxide detector certificates and the transfer or issuance of any licenses, all real estate taxes, tax titles, and municipal charges due as of the date of sale and those due thereafter through the date of Closing, as well as all of its costs in connection with the transaction, including but not limited to title examinations and title premiums. No adjustments whatsoever will be made, whether for taxes, municipal charges, utilities or otherwise.

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

A foreclosure deed will be delivered to the purchaser

for recording on full receipt of the purchase price. The successful bidder will be required to sign at the auction sale a Memorandum of Sale containing the terms of sale.

Present holder of said mortgage,
PAUL J. LES
By his attorneys:
Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C.
01/23, 01/30, 02/06/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Bridget K. Sloan and Joseph C. Sloan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns, dated November 16, 2018 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22449, Page 172, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 23042, Page 332 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 PM on February 20, 2025** at 92 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land with buildings thereon in BRIMFIELD, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being further bounded and described as follows: The land being shown as Lot 4 on the westerly side of Wales Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, on sheet 1 of 2 on a plan entitled "PLAN OF LAND, BRIMFIELD, MA, PREPARED FOR: JEFFREY L. PAULIN", dated March 26, 2004, drawn by Fancy Land Surveying, 3 Hastings Road, Spencer, MA and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 333, Page 53 and Book of Plans 333, Page 54. Said Lot 4 containing 1.532 acres (66,750 +/- square feet) according to said plan. For title reference see Deed Book 22449, Page 128. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid

taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
22-003513
01/30, 02/06, 02/13/2025

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.



Nat Falk offers best men's clothing for 88 years
Nat Falk has been in business for more than 88 years, offering the best in men's clothing along with personalized service at competitive prices. The business was started on Main Street by Nat Falk in 1936, with Joe Falk becoming the owner in 1977, and his son, Charlie, taking over the business in 1995. Since then, Charlie has continued the hallmark of the store, offering low alterations (with some exceptions) in the store with prices at or below its competitors for the same service. Nat Falk offers customer service that is second to none while still offering prices that cater to working people. To today's market of competition inflating their prices and then raising the same sales week after week, Nat Falk offers everyday great values. We don't play the pricing games," Charlie said. "We offer the best in personalized service at workmen's prices." Nat Falk carries name brands such as Carhart, Levi's, Huggo, Eberhard, Lord, Van Heusen, Arrow and Corduroy, just to name a few. They carry big and tall sizes and a great Bay Scout supplier. Nat Falk is the place to go for formal wear with a full selection of suits and rentals for that all important day. Come in today and enjoy the best in service at unbeatable prices. It's what Nat Falk has been about since 1936.

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Troop #64 celebrates the Scouting America's 115th anniversary



Scouts and leaders of Scouting Troop #64 participated in the Picnic table project.

As part of Community Service, Scouting Troop #64 carried and assembled tables a half mile down the Barker Street Trail to the picnic area on the trail.



Members of the Western Massachusetts Council, Scouting America, and the Conservation Committee participated in the Springfield Museum's Earth Day again, helping youths make bird houses that they could take home free.



Cub Scouts from Pack #164 took part in the Gold Rush event for the pack's winter activity.



At the Order of the Arrow Banquet this year, Scouting America Troop #64 was awarded a Unit of Excellence Recognition Certificate along with a special patch, presented to the troops' Senior Patrol Leader by their Charter Organization Representative Peter Izyk.



First year Women Empowered volunteer awards were presented to Patricia Matty from St. Germain Investment Management, Delmartina Lopez from Delmartina Lopez Consulting, and Ellen Freyman from Shatz, Schwartz, and Fentin. Executive Board and Event Committee Member Cheryl Izyk acted as master of ceremonies and presented the awards.

By Peter Izyk
Guest Column



Submitted photos
Pack #164, chartered by the Second Congregational Church, participated in the church's Rally Day.

REGION — Scout Anniversary Week starts with Scout Sunday and ends with the Scout Sabbath. Every year, it's held in whatever week that the anniversary date of Feb. 8 falls.

Feb. 8 is the 115th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization has announced that it will rebrand to Scouting America.

Scouting America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and value-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared For Life."

Scouting America welcomes all of America's youth into its programs. The goal is to give them fantastic experiences in the outdoors, and elsewhere, where they can grow with us in a safe environment.

Giant robot animals at the Springfield Museums

SPRINGFIELD—The Springfield Museums is excited to announce the upcoming arrival of The Robot Zoo at the Springfield Science Museum. On view Jan. 18 through May 4, this special exhibition features three enormous robot animals that illustrate fascinating real-life animal characteristics, revealing the magic of nature as a master engineer.

"Natural science and technology are the perfect combination to bring in new kinds of learning and delight visitors of all ages," says Science Museum Director Jenny Powers. "The Robot Zoo will be as fun and popular as it is educational."

The larger-than-life-size animated robots include a chameleon, a platypus, and a house fly with a 3-foot wingspread. Machinery in the robots simulates the body parts of their real-life counterparts. In these robot animals, muscles become pistons, intestines become filtering pipes and brains become computers. By comparing anatomy, environments, and size of the actual creatures to their mechanical counterparts, The Robot Zoo provides fantastic new insights into how animals work.

Hands-on sensory activities include "Swat the Fly," a test of visitor reaction time (one-twelfth as fast as a house fly's), and "Sticky Feet," where visitors using special hand pads can try to stick like flies to a sloped surface. Triggering the "Tongue Gun" demonstrates how a real chameleon shoots out its long, sticky-tipped tongue to reel in a meal.

At the exhibit opening celebration on Saturday, Jan. 18, visitors can practice beginner coding skills, learn about animal adaptations with museum educators, create animal masks, and see demonstrations by a FIRST Lego League team. Opening day activities are presented free with museum admission.

"We are excited to welcome families and school groups to The Robot Zoo," says Director of Educator Larissa Murray. "The comparisons made between biology and engineering provide many engaging learning opportunities."

The exhibit is based on the book "The Robot Zoo" which was conceived, edited, and designed by Marshall Editions of London, England; and toured by Evergreen Exhibitions. MassMutual is the season supporter of the Springfield Museums.

Glenda's

Saturday, February 8 ~ 8pm-12am

0-7 Band

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm

Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm

Karaoke

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BIG GAME SUNDAY

February 9

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Saturday, February 22
7pm-11pm

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EVERY SUNDAY

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Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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