

# The Journal Register

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**MONSON**

## Bake sale supports library programs

By Abigail McCoy  
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MONSON – The Friends of the Monson Free Library brought warmth, sweetness, and community spirit to the library on February 10 with a Valentine-themed bake sale, showcasing an array of homemade treats and highlighting the group’s ongoing efforts to support library programs and preserve the historic building.

The bake sale, held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featured a wide selection of creative, handcrafted baked goods prepared by members of the Friends group. From festive desserts to classic homemade favorites, every item reflected the dedication and talent of the volunteers who make the event possible.

“This is a bake sale that we put on several times a year,” said Joanne Sorreiro, a longtime supporter of the

library and member of the Friends of the Monson Free Library. “Today is Valentine-themed, and there are a lot of wonderful, creative baked goods, all homemade by our very active Friends group.”

Sorreiro, who has been a cardholder at the Monson Free Library for an impressive 68 years, said the bake sales have become a beloved tradition and an important source of fundraising for the organization.

The Friends typically host at least four bake sales annually, timed around key seasons and holidays. In addition to the Valentine’s event, sales are often held around Easter, Halloween, and Thanksgiving, providing recurring opportunities for residents to support the library while enjoying homemade treats.

Beyond bake sales, the Friends of the Monson Free

SALE | page 6



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Cute jars filled with heart shaped spritz cookies were for sale in the Monson Library DeSantis Room.

**PALMER**

## Council hears ADA plan

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The Palmer Town Council met Monday evening, Feb. 9, for a wide-ranging session that included the swearing-in of new police officers, public concerns over recreational facilities and safety, debate over nuclear risk advocacy, and sobering financial projections for the town’s fiscal year 2027 budget.

The meeting also featured discussion of zoning policy, enhanced code enforcement authority, and the town’s draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan.

### New Police Officers Sworn In

The council opened the meeting by welcoming three new members of the Palmer Police Department.

Ethan Roberts, a 2019 graduate of Pathfinder Technical High School and a U.S. Army veteran, recently completed the Municipal Police Training Council Police Academy and is currently undergoing field training. Roberts served three years as a forward observer in the Army and received combat action and commendation medals.

Baltazar Gonzalez, who holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and coaches youth mixed martial arts, is currently attending the Springfield Police Academy and is expected to graduate in April.

Mahayar St. Phard, a

PLAN | page 7

**PALMER**



Submitted photo

James Jiances, Jayden Riopel, and Lawrence Thompson with their certificates from the Crossover Ceremony.

## Scouts mark milestone at crossover ceremony

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – Three local Scouts took an important step in their Scouting journey during a crossover ceremony held Jan. 11 at the Second Congregational Church in Palmer, marking their transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA and the beginning of a new phase of independence, leadership, and personal growth.

Jayden Riopel, Lawrence Thompson, and James Jiances were formally recognized as they crossed over from Pack 164 to Cub Scout Pack 64, concluding several years of participation in the Cub Scout program and moving into a more challenging level of Scouting.

“They have been in

Scouting for several years,” said Holly Riopel, who helped organize the event. “Lawrence and Jayden were in it for five years. They started when they were in kindergarten, and James has been in for four years. He started in first grade.”

The crossover ceremony, a traditional rite of passage within Scouting, symbolizes both an achievement and a new responsibility. While Cub Scouts emphasizes family involvement and guided activities, the transition to Scouts BSA places greater responsibility on the youth themselves.

“When they’re Cub Scouts, it’s really a lot of family interaction,” Riopel explained. “When the boys cross over to the Boy Scouts, it really tests their indepen-

dence. They really need to take ownership in the programs, in earning their merit badges and earning ranks.”

According to Riopel, the shift represents a significant change in how Scouts approach their goals. Merit badges become more in-depth, and Scouts begin working with merit badge counselors while charting their own paths through the program.

“It’s really the growth of showing their independence,” she said. “Instead of having mom and dad helping you, they start to take on their own journey at that time.”

In addition to the crossover recognition, the ceremony also highlighted a

SCOUTS | page 6

**MONSON**

## Senior Center spreads Valentine’s Day love

By Abigail McCoy  
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MONSON – Residents gathered at the Monson Senior Center on Feb. 4 for an afternoon of Valentine’s Day crafts and community spirit, creating handmade decorations and cards while supporting local nursing home residents.

From 1 to 3 p.m., participants crafted festive slate signs and wooden wreaths, with each project costing \$5. Attendees could paint messages on slate displayed on easels with bows or decorate wooden wreaths with ribbons, stickers, and embellishments, with some choosing to make multiple projects.

In addition to the crafts, seniors signed Valentine’s Day cards for residents of the Palmer Healthcare Center, a nursing facility on Shearer Street in Palmer. Approximately 55 to 60 cards will be delivered to brighten the holiday for residents.

The event was organized with the help of Kelly Bergeron and highlighted the Senior Center’s ongoing efforts to provide creative and social opportunities for the community. Upcoming activ-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
Senior residents gathered at the senior center to sign Valentine’s Day cards and create a craft for themselves.

ities include the launch of a new dance program, “Move and Groove,” beginning Wednesday from 2 to 2:45 p.m., and a Valentine’s Day party on Feb. 12 featuring lunch and live jazz music.



One person made a beautiful multi-colored heart on a wood heart shaped panel.

**MONSON**

## FinCom hears school department budget

By Abigail McCoy  
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MONSON – The Monson Finance Committee met on Feb. 9 to review the School Department’s proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget, a discussion that revealed the growing complexity of funding public education amid shifting student needs, rising costs, and limited revenue growth.

The meeting began with routine administrative business, including the approval of previous minutes and review of correspondence, before shifting to an in-depth presentation by Superintendent Paul Foster on the district’s financial outlook and priorities.

Superintendent Paul Foster opened his presentation by urging committee members to view the budget within a broader context rather than as a simple year-to-year comparison. He explained that the district is navigating not only contractual obligations but also long-term demographic changes and increasing student needs.

Foster outlined two budget proposals. The level-ser-

vice request reflects a roughly three percent increase intended to cover contractual salary obligations while maintaining existing programs and staffing levels. The operating request represents a 6.5 percent increase and, according to Foster, more accurately reflects what the district believes is necessary to support student success and address pressing needs.

“There are things we know we need that aren’t even in these numbers,” Foster said, referring to priorities such as additional mental health staffing, expanded professional learning opportunities, curriculum updates, and the potential elimination of athletic and preschool fees. He noted that these initiatives would only be possible if additional revenue becomes available.

Foster then detailed the structural factors shaping the school budget. State aid under Chapter 70 accounts for roughly 60 percent of school

BUDGET | page 12



# Cookie decorating latest new program at WPL

By Abigail McCoy  
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WALES – The Wales Public Library was filled with creativity, conversation, and Valentine’s spirit on Saturday, Feb. 7, as residents of all ages gathered for the “Sweets for the Sweet!” cookie decorating workshop, a hands-on program that continues the library’s growing tradition of community-focused events.

The workshop, held at 1 p.m., invited participants to decorate Valentine’s-themed cookies under the guidance of local baker Elaine Mewhiney, owner of Laney Cakes, a home-based baking business located in Holland. The event was open to all ages and skill levels and was funded by the Wales Cultural Council, with advance registration required due to high demand.

“This is one of my favorite places to work,” Mewhiney said of the library. “I love working with the library.”

Mewhiney, who specializes in homemade desserts and custom cakes, said the Valentine’s cookie decorating program has become a recurring collaboration with the library. She previously led a similar workshop last February and hosted a whoopie pie-making event in October.

“We did whoopie pies in October, and then last February we did the same decorating with the Valentine’s cookies,” she said. When asked about future events, she added with a smile, “Anything that Kara wants.”

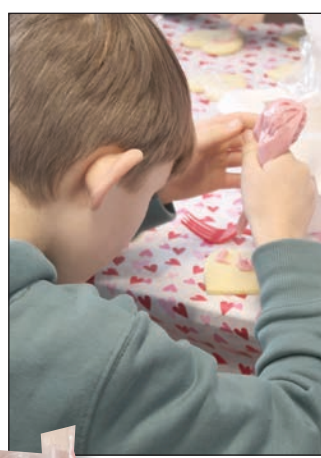
Operating out of what she described as her “tiny little cottage kitchen” in Holland, Mewhiney said customers can find Laney Cakes on Facebook, where she manages her orders and shares updates about her baking projects.

According to Wales Public Library Director Kara L. Jund, the cookie decorating workshop was one of the most popular programs on the library’s winter schedule.

“This one was full today,” Jund said. “We even had a family of four that couldn’t make it due to the weather but otherwise the turnout has been really impressive.”



Ollie B. and Maggie B. use lots of frosting as a base on their cookies.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Above, Hudson Roberts takes his time writing in icing on one of his cookies. Left, each decorating kit came with two types of sprinkles, pink and white frosting, and four plain cookies to decorate. Right, Young Ollie B. takes a massive bite of his freshly decorated cookie.



Even some adult residents of Wales joined in the cookie decorating fun.

Jund noted that the library recently applied for multiple grants through the Wales Cultural Council to support programming through November, and the response from the community has been enthusiastic.

“I put the whole schedule out through November, and we actually already have people signing up,” she said. “Our programs are really gaining steam, which is really exciting.”

While most of the library’s grant applications were approved, one program was not funded due to limited resources. Jund explained that the town received more than \$18,000 in applications but had only slightly more than \$5,000 to distribute.

In response, the Friends of the Wales Public Library stepped in to ensure the program could still move forward.

“The friends group stepped up and voted to go ahead and approve that,” Jund said. “So we’ll be adding that to our rotation of programs.”

The program, which will take place in December, will feature German paper cutting, a traditional folk art technique.

The cookie decorating workshop is just one part of a busy calendar at the Wales Public Library, which continues to expand its offerings for children, families, and adults.

Regular programs include:

- Friends of the Wales Public Library meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.
  - A book club meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m.
  - “Wales’ Tales” story time on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. during the school year with Miss Sarah.
  - Mom’s Morning on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
  - A kids’ after-school art program on the first Monday of the month at 4 p.m.
- Upcoming special events include a wool needle felting workshop on Saturday, Feb. 28, at noon, where participants will learn to create small wool projects, including a beehive design themed for spring.
- “She thought it would be great for spring and easy enough for beginners to do,” Jund said.
- In March, the Friends of the Wales Public Library will host a spring welcome sign painting fundraiser on Tuesday, March 19, from 6 to 8 p.m., in collaboration with

Walker Faith Creations. The event will have a participation fee of \$40.

Looking ahead, Jund highlighted several cultural and historical programs supported by grant funding, many of which connect to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding.

Among them is “Patriots and Potters,” a historical presentation exploring early American craftsmanship and history. A pottery-related program is scheduled for April, while a tote bag workshop is planned for November.

The library will also host a colonial reenactor who will present local history in an interactive program for all ages.

“He’ll bring some of his gear so people can see it and touch it,” Jund said. “He will concentrate on local history in his presentation.”

The library has also launched a Kids Advisory Board, which recently held its first meeting.

“It went really well,”

Jund said. “We got some great ideas and a lot of insight into what kids are more interested in.”

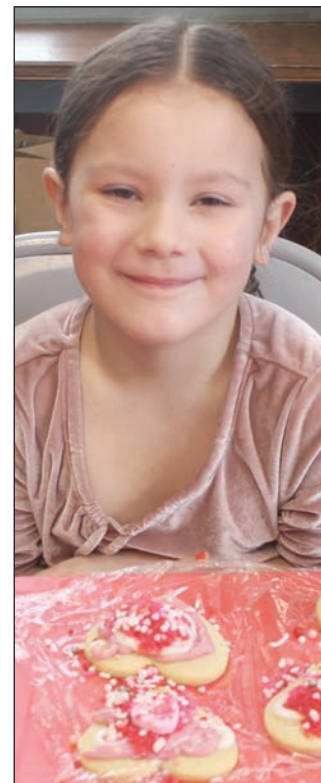
Parents and a representative from the Parent-Teacher Organization attended the meeting, helping strengthen connections between the library and the community.

Beyond programming, the Wales Public Library has seen recent facility upgrades, including new LED lighting and improved exterior lighting around the building.

“The cable company changed all of our lights in the library,” Jund said. “They added one over the stairs, and now the backyard is a whole new light.”

Jund said the improvements have enhanced both safety and the overall atmosphere of the building.

Looking to the future, she also expressed interest in expanding grant-writing efforts to secure additional



Maggie B. smiles and shows off all of her decorated cookies.

funding for library initiatives. “I’m hoping we can get more funds for the library to do more stuff,” she said.

As Saturday’s cookie decorating workshop demonstrated, the Wales Public Library continues to evolve as a vibrant community hub, blending creative programming, historical exploration, and family-friendly activities.

With strong community participation, growing partnerships with local artists and businesses, and support from the Cultural Council and Friends group, the library’s calendar reflects both tradition and innovation.

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# Holland Community Center hosts **FELTING CLASS**

By Abigail McCoy  
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HOLLAND – On a quiet Wednesday evening at the Holland Community Center, colorful wool fibers, small sculpted figures, and quiet conversation filled the lobby as residents gathered around tables to explore the art of felting: a simple but versatile craft that is quickly becoming a popular creative outlet in town.

The felting class, led by local resident Sanna Hart, began as an informal experiment last fall and has since grown into a welcoming space for creativity, conversation, and community connection.

“I think we started this last year in October before going to a conference, because we wanted to be able to do something in the lobby to attract people,” Hart explained. “It’s a networking thing. And so it brought people over to our table, where we got to meet them, and we just introduced it here and people like it.”

Felting is an art form that uses wool fibers and specialized needles to create shapes and images. Unlike many crafts that require extensive tools or training, felting is accessible to beginners and adaptable to a wide range of styles and skill levels.

“It’s a very simple art form. You don’t need a lot,” Hart said. “Literally, you could sit there watching TV or talking or doing this without a lot of thought.”

Despite her growing role in teaching others, Hart herself is relatively new to the craft.

“Just since last October,” she said when asked how long she had been felting.

The class’s origins trace back to a workshop held by a former schoolteacher in town, who introduced felting to the community through a library program.

“There is a lady in town, who was a school teacher, and she did the first kind of workshop at the library,” Hart said. “She did a pumpkin... and that’s how this all started.”

From that first pumpkin, the possibilities expanded. During the recent ses-



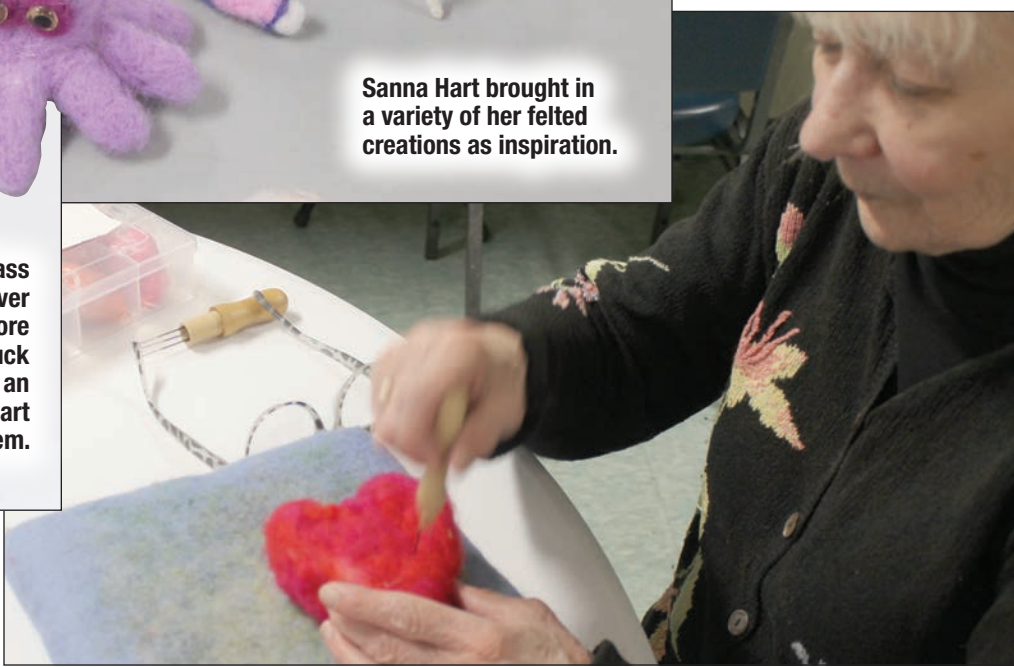
Sanna Hart brought in a variety of her felted creations as inspiration.



Hart begins the class by showing how felting works by creating the base of an octopus.



Half of the class have never felted before so they stuck with making an octopus like Hart showed them.



One felt artist was creating a heart for Valentine’s Day.

sion at the community center, participants worked on a variety of projects, ranging from whimsical three-dimensional figures to experimental designs.

“Today we’re doing gnomes, an octopus, or whatever you want,” Hart said. “A gnome maybe... whatever you particularly want to do.”

Around the room, creativity took many forms. Some participants focused on sculptural pieces, while others explored more unusual ideas.

“The woman over there, she’s doing crows,” Hart said with a laugh, pointing out the diverse interpretations that emerged during the session.

Felting’s flexibility also allows artists to move beyond sculpture into two-dimensional work.

“This could be not just a 3D form, but it could be a 2D form,” Hart explained. “Somebody else is coming tonight, and I know she works like painting. So instead of using watercolor or acrylics,

she’s pushing it into cloth. Then you would frame it, so it would be really cool.”

For participants, the class offers more than just a craft lesson. It provides a low-pressure environment where people can experiment, socialize, and discover new creative possibilities together.

What began as a small effort to draw people into a lobby space has evolved into a shared artistic experience; one



The class provides all the tools needed including needles, felt, and tools to avoid injury.

that reflects both the simplicity of felting and the power of community connection.

As Hart summed up with a smile, sometimes all it takes is a handful of wool, a needle, and a place to gather.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
Sanna Hart shows off the gnome she made as another example.

## The Library Loft

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## Happy Valentine’s Day To My One True Love Edward Pascale

*There will never be  
a moment to match  
the time that we knew.  
Until I hold you once again,  
I’ll be missing you.*

Love, Linda

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## Viewpoints



## Why is my Social Security Retirement benefit so small?

Dear Rusty:

Can you help me understand?

I have paid into Social Security since I started working in 1978. I did have a lot of tax deductions, but I don't understand why I only receive \$350 a month from Social Security.

**Signed: Befuddled Senior**

Dear Befuddled Senior:

Your Social Security benefit is based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 years over your lifetime that you earned the most while contributing to the Social Security program; however, your benefit isn't based on your contributions to SS. Your average lifetime earnings amount is called your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings," which are adjusted for inflation for years before you turn 60. Your earnings, your net earnings if self-employed, are provided to the SSA by the IRS.

Your AIME is subjected to a formula which calculates your "Primary Insurance Amount," which is the SS benefit you receive if you start benefits in the month you reach your full retirement age. Your personal Full Retirement Age depends on the year you were born which, if you were born in 1960 or later, is age 67. However, if you claim Social Security before reaching your FRA, you will get only a percentage of your PIA, reduced from what you would get if you claimed at your FRA.

For example, if you claimed at age 62, you would only get 70% of the amount you would have gotten had you waited until age 67, or if you claimed at age 63 you would get 75% of your age 67 benefit. The reduction is less as you get closer to your FRA; if you claimed at age 65, you'd get about 87% of your full retirement age amount.

You can see your lifetime Social Security earnings record at your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) (you will need to first create that online account), or you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to request an "Earnings Statement" be sent to you. That statement will show your lifetime earnings by year, the 35 highest of which were used to calculate your PIA (your Social Security benefit at your FRA). Generally, your Social Security FRA benefit will be about 40% or less of your average indexed monthly earnings.

So, to recap, your SS retirement benefit isn't based on your contributions to the program; it's based on your average monthly lifetime

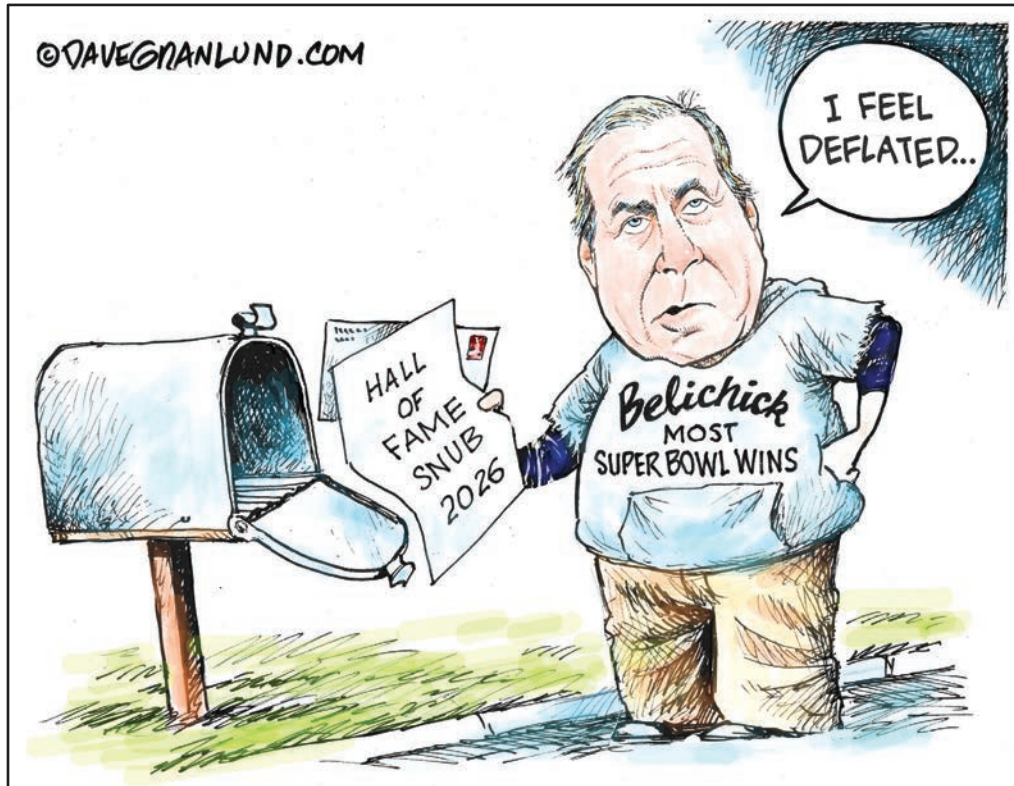
earnings. If you had less than 35 years contributing to the program, SS would still use 35 years in the benefit formula by using zero dollars in earnings for some number of years, which would result in a smaller AIME.

Thus, if you claimed before your full retirement age of 67, your SS benefit was reduced because you claimed early. And if you had less than 35 years of SS-covered employment, your AIME was less, resulting in a smaller PIA. And that is likely why your monthly Social Security retirement benefit is low.

One other thought to consider: if you are married and your spouse's monthly SS benefit is considerably more than yours (e.g., more than twice as much as yours), you may want to explore your options for spouse benefits.

I hope this explains how your SS benefit is calculated, but if you still question your monthly SS retirement amount, I suggest you first obtain your "Earnings Statement" to review the lifetime earnings SS has on file for you. If there are any discrepancies in your Social Security's earnings record, there are correction remedies available to you. If that is the case, please feel free to contact us again for more information.

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## Seed houses offer endless choices

It's been a fun couple of weeks in the realm of gardening! While I haven't yet gotten my hands into the soil yet, I have been on the hunt for all kinds of seeds for the Old Sturbridge Village gardens: those for obscure medicinal plants, unique heirlooms, and rare native plants.

That process has led me to some interesting mail order companies that I'd like to share with you.

My mail order "go to" for herb seeds has always been Richter's ([www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com)) but when I couldn't locate a few of the items on my list there, a simple internet search led me to Thyme Garden ([www.thymegarden.com](http://www.thymegarden.com)).

Their catalog boasts over 400 varieties of herb seeds and more. The text doubles as an herbal encyclopedia of sorts, providing the reader with cultural information in addition to loads of herbal lore.

A paper copy will set you back \$2.50, but you can get a digital download for free. It's noteworthy to mention that many of the seeds are harvested on the farm in Oregon. The company has been in business since 1989, and clearly knows their stuff.

I purchased both Jimsonweed and Cotton for the Paul Roger's Herb Garden from this company.

Prairie Moon Nursery ([www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com))

need a black flowered Hillycock known scientifically as *Alcea rosea nigra*, yet what I discover are cultivars called "Jet Black" or "Black Watchman." I want the original.

Here is where seed sales at Monticello ([www.monticelloshop.org](http://www.monticelloshop.org)) come in handy. Thomas Jefferson was an avid gardener, and the display gardens around his estate highlight many of his favorite plants.

I was also able to secure seeds for unimproved versions of Rusty Foxglove and Black Eyed Susan Vine. Because of this good fortune, you will see authentic 1830s gardens when you visit the Village.

There is no printed catalog to my knowledge, but the shop has its seed sales organized in a friendly manner online. Some seeds are even harvested on site.

Speaking of authenticity, it's also important that we utilize heirloom vegetable varieties within our gardens, so that you, the visitor, see the real deal, 1830s style. I've often ordered heirloom vegetable and flower seeds from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company ([www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)) and this year is no exception.

Their big, beautiful Rare Seed and Whole Seed Catalogs are free for the asking and seed shipping is

Sometimes the tricky part about searching out heirloom seeds in the issue of cultivars. For example, I

## In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



### POETRY CORNER

## ♥ A Valentine For Two Sisters ♥

### When Knights Rode on Scarlet Chargers

*This force of ice over fire -  
Takes up refuge in winter, as if  
The year had no further desire.*

*Please don't snuff out all the heat, just  
Cuz we seem statues on our feet,  
Fixt, - to get agoing, on ahead:*

*The frozen pond would awaken;  
And fringed margins do slacken;  
The mud itself will soften its bed.*

*And fields of February soon to open -  
Tho' riders in red always find  
Occasion, that it shall have central reason.*

*Once, blushes could be concealed under  
Armor, - when chivalry had its summer,  
And too much care, was hid in iron.*

*But fortunately there exists -  
Sanctuary where to enjoy it in;  
Which, this month is one.*

*I'd like to be a charger again, -  
Riding still, to once more win,  
That heart for me which, was everything.*

— Charles Barnes

### Warmth is Wanted February

*It may be stylish at this time,  
To wear embroidery in ice;  
A frigid exterior present,  
Giving cool expression to the face.  
As the earth now wrapt-around,  
And hard to see inside the lace.*

*Past February frozen-over;  
And cold runs the brook;  
The sun hardly in working order,  
Wherever one might look.*

*Except those resisting winter's outpost;  
There always looking to green;  
Even if uphill must flow,  
Words to nearest and futuremost time:  
That say in red when warmth is wanted  
Much moves still, my valentine.*

— Charles Barnes



## The Journal Register

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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.

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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# your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column



It's usually good news when the doctor says you or a loved one can come home from the hospital. Sometimes, though, it's a mixed blessing.

Hospital discharge sometimes means that further hospital care won't improve someone's health condition, and the hospital is eager to get someone else in that bed. People are discharged faster these days, often with significant lingering health issues that have to be seen to.

In the hospital, there's a staff of nurses, nurse aides, therapists and others to care for you or a loved one. When you get home, though, it's just you and maybe a spouse or other family member. That's why the home health industry is booming.

In 2020 (the most recent data available), approximately 3 million patients received home health care services in the U.S., often following a hospitalization or skilled nursing facility stay. They are being cared for by some 12,000 home health agencies, more than 80 percent of which are for-profit companies.

Home health is some-

thing patient advocates know a lot about – and there's a lot to know. Here are some of the things I've learned over my years as an RN and nurse advocate.

### Prepare in advance if you can

A best-case scenario is that you know you'll need some help when you get home. For every day you spend in a hospital, you lose a month of muscle tone and mobility, so depending on how long you've been hospitalized, you may need considerable help.

Will you need a walker or wheelchair? Shower chair? A first-floor sleeping arrangement? A bedside commode? These are all things that can be planned for if you know they're coming. Very often, hospitals have social workers who help patients navigate after-hospital care. Medicare has a thorough discharge planning guide on its website; search Medicare Publication No. 11376 in your browser.

Other things to think about are trip hazards like small pets and throw rugs and having some ready-made or frozen meals on hand.

## Care at home after the hospital suggestions

### Arrange for help in advance, too

A spouse may be standing by, but they may need help themselves. Adult children, friends or neighbors may be able to pitch in. If there's no one you can call on for help – and more than 50 million Americans over 50 are aging on their own – it's time to contact a home health agency. A patient advocate, who is likely familiar with the home health landscape in your area, is a good resource and go-between.

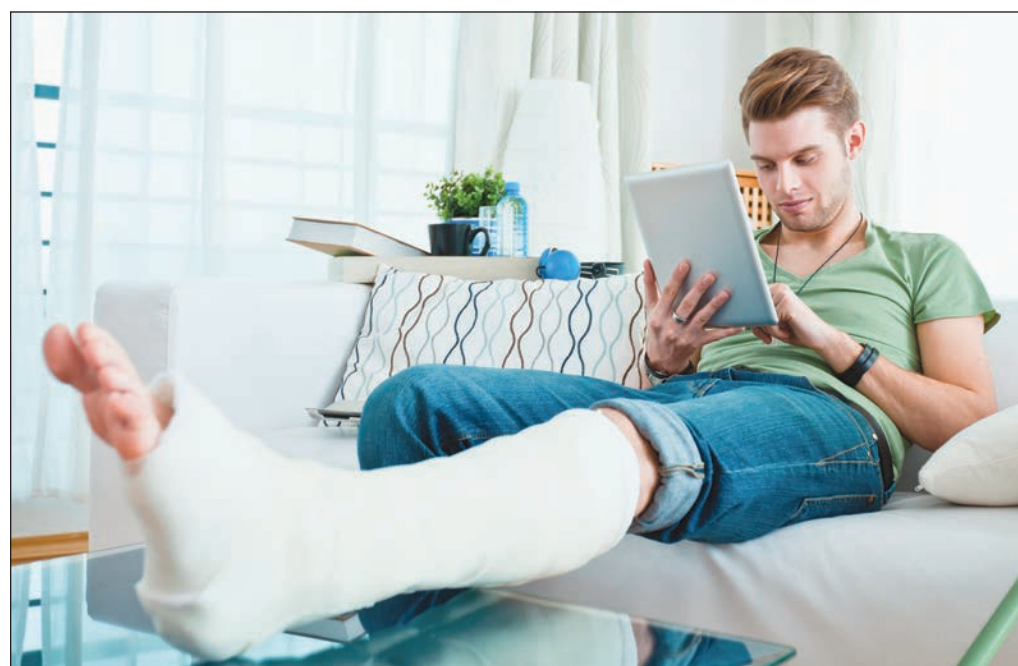
The cardinal rule is: Ask for assistance when you need it to avoid further complications from falls, lack of nourishment or lapses in personal care.

### Understand what Medicare covers

Home health care spending grew at an annual rate of more than 10% in 2024 and shows no signs of slowing down. A significant chunk of the spending in 2023 – \$148 billion – was by Medicare. But Medicare doesn't cover everything, so you may have out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare-covered home health services include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services when ordered by a doctor. Part-time or intermittent home health aide care is covered only if you're also getting those services at home.

Skilled nursing care can include wound care, injections, nutrition services and monitoring unstable



health conditions. Medicare also covers durable medical equipment when prescribed by a doctor, such as beds, walkers, wheelchairs, pumps and oxygen.

Medicare doesn't pay for 24-hour a day care, meal delivery, homemaker services or personal care services that help with bathing, dressing, grooming, etc.

### Questions to ask a home health agency

There are a zillion questions you could ask, but I think these are among the most important:

- How long has this agency been in business and is it licensed to perform home health care?
- Can you provide references, or can I speak with previous clients?
- Do you accept long-

term care insurance, Medicare or Medicaid? If so, do you bill insurance, or do clients pay you and then file for reimbursement?

- How do you recruit and select caregivers, and do you perform background checks?

- Are your caregivers employees or contractors? Are they bonded?

- Can I meet caregiver candidates and select the ones I want?

- What should I do if my caregiver doesn't show up as scheduled?

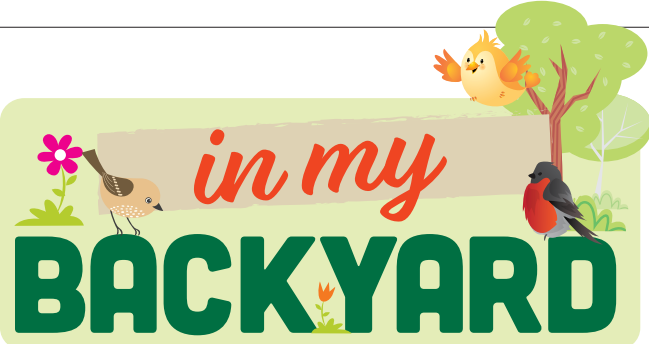
- How often is the care plan reviewed?

- How do I communicate concerns and questions to you?

Research has found that patients who recover at home have better outcomes, which

is why the hospital-at-home movement is growing. So if you're going to be recuperating at your place, don't go it alone.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.



By Ellenor Downer



Male gadwall

On Dec. 20, compilers at the Athol Christmas Bird Count recorded a total of 58 species including a Gadwall, a first time for this species during a Christmas count.

Male Gadwall have grayish-brown heads, sometimes showing cinnamon on the forehead and faint purplish iridescence on the crown. Females resemble female mallards, but they have a thinner, darker bill.

Gadwall nest in tall vegetation near water and show a preference for nesting on islands. Their choice of nesting location gives them some protection from predators. Female Gadwall produce an egg a day and lay a clutch of seven to 12 eggs. To meet their demand for protein during this stressful time, female Gadwall eat more

invertebrates than males during this period in addition to using reserves of nutrients they've stored in their bodies during the winter.

Their winter habitat is fresh and brackish wetlands with abundant aquatic vegetation on which they primarily forage. Gadwall often snatch food from diving ducks as they surface. Gadwall number have increased in North America since the 1980s. This is partly because of conservation of their habitat, wetlands and adjacent uplands.

The oldest known Gadwall was a male, and at least 19 years, 6 months old. He was banded in Saskatchewan in 1962 and shot during hunting season in Louisiana in 1981.

### Christmas Bird Count

The National Audu-

bon Society Christmas Bird Counts take place within a 22-day period, there are many state count circles and volunteers must be available. Despite snowy weather, compiler Jon Skinner said of the Groton-Ayer count on Dec. 14, "I was surprised that we were able to scratch our way to 81 species in such snowy conditions. It has to be a testament to the relentless nature of both our team and the birds." Two new species were added 13 black vultures soaring over Lancaster and a killdeer at Devens. Some of the other highlights were evening grosbeak in both Harvard and Groton, red crossbills in Townsend, Lapland longspur at Fitchburg Airport and in Ayer, chestnut-colored longspur at Fitchburg Airport, American kestrel in Groton, two Baltimore orioles in Groton, eastern Phoebe in Shirley, redpoll in Lancaster and a long-eared owl in Devens. Species seen three days before or after the actual count date and noted as such were chipping sparrow, brown-headed cowbird, Peregrine falcon and sandhill crane.

### Bluebird

I received an email on Jan. 26 from Jeffrey Landry. He had a visit from a blue-

bird on Friday, Jan. 23. He thought it was either the male parent or one of its offspring from a previous summer. He said, "For several years I have called him, 'Sunshine' and he arrived at my feeder on a bright beautiful winter's afternoon and this uncalled for visit was icing on my day's cake."

He offered to share this bluebird story. He said, "I was sitting on my meditation cushion yesterday watching my breath emerge from a deep silence and then gently return back into it. There was no counting, no manipulation, only watching, only flow. After some time had passed, I opened my eyes because I felt I was being closely watched."

"I have a bird feeder right outside of my window and sure enough a male bluebird or one of his offspring from a previous summer, was perched and staring directly at me. Two summers ago I named the parent bluebird, 'Sunshine' and last May he returned to the same nesting box in my front yard.

Quizzically, Sunshine leaned slightly forward. He was amazingly close."

"It was beautiful, glorious to see his blue rust colored body outlined by a

background of white snow still clinging to frozen lilacs and tall trees. The sight of this sent ripples of love, that became currents of joy, to course through me."

"I felt a smile stretch a mile wide across my whole being. It was like being visited by a long absent friend. Within minutes this made me get up and fill another feeder with dried mealworms because bluebirds aren't seed eaters like many of the other birds that seek nourishment here. Like my breath, the mealworms disappeared into a well of silence. A contented peaceful silence that then took flight."

### Evening grosbeaks

A Cummington resident sent a photo of evening grosbeaks at her feeder. She said they are part of a flock that come to visit the feeders often.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to *Barre Gazette*, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

## GARDEN | from page 4

free, also. Search over 1,300 seeds.

If you can't find what you are looking for there, hop on over to Victory Seeds ([www.victoryseeds.com](http://www.victoryseeds.com)) and there will be more heirloom, open pollinated, non GMO varieties to choose from. I love the concept of Victory Gardens, and the company does a great job of explaining and promoting it.

Victory Seeds offers free shipping on all orders over \$30 and their website provides "quick links" to each main category for easy online shopping. They also encourage seed saving practices, which is neat.

This summer, look for China Rose Radish, Tall Telephone Peas, Boston Marrow Squash and Long Green Cucumber growing in our gardens and used in our households. These were all purchased from Victory Seeds.

If you are bored one afternoon, why not take a look at what these or any number of reputable seed houses have to offer. You will no doubt expand your plant knowledge while you expand your garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Bluebirds



## Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee at 12:30 with drinks and popcorn

Feb. 13, "The Gift" Oscar and Golden Globe winner Cate Blanchett plays a fortune teller who helps solve a murder, action packed from beginning to end.

Feb. 20 "Only the Brave" based on a true story of the Granite Mountain

Hotshots, an elite fire-fighting crew from Prescott, Arizona, focusing on their training, brotherhood, and sacrifice during the devastating 2013.

Feb. 27 "The Reagans"

Two Golden Globe nominees, as one of America's most beloved Presidents, Reagan led the nation to astounding highs and lows, escaped scandals and assassination. The movie vividly captures the Reagan family.

Upcoming Events Thursday, Feb. 12 and

26 Sunshine Village will be here for their monthly craft and class.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 Lunch with Homestead Presentation

Evening Programs 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Join the center for a 4-part series "Introduction to the Quabbin on Monday, February 23, April 27, and May 18 (learn about clearing the valley, construction of the dam and history surrounding the cemetery.)

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# 'A Watershed Moment'

C4R promotes conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of rivers

By Keith Davies  
Coordinator,  
Chicopee 4Rivers  
Watershed Council  
Guest Contributor



**watershed** (w·a·t·e·r·s·h·e·d)  
*noun; watersheds plural noun*  
1. an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas.  
• an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water.  
2. an event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.  
*"these works mark a watershed in the history of music"*

*Editor's Note: This is the first part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.*

Just over a decade ago, a small group of people began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries should be better

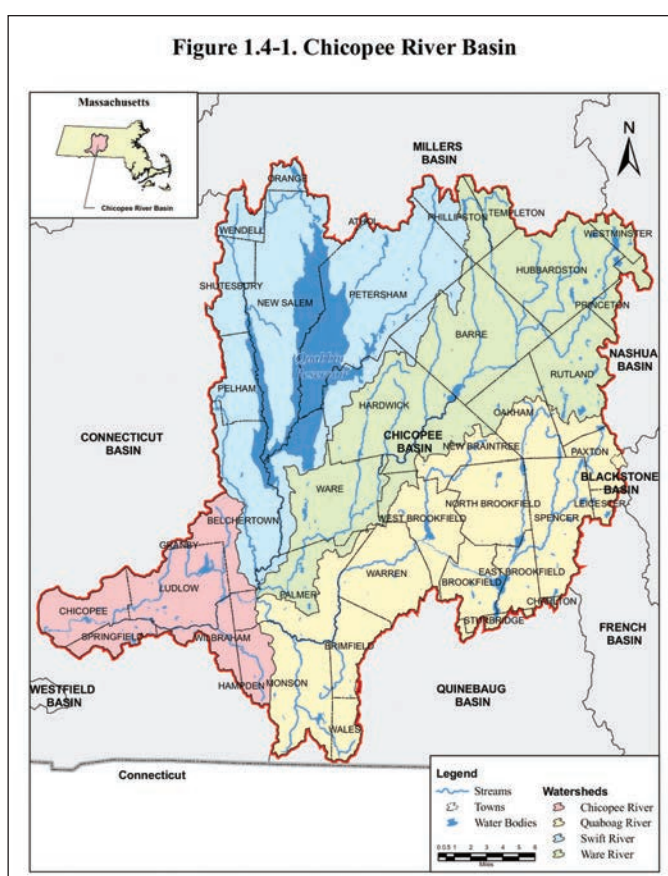
known and appreciated by local residents and even people beyond.

It was a watershed moment, meaning what happened could tip in one of two directions: either people engaged or did not. Fortunately enough people became involved.

The name of the idea was the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council because four rivers made up the watershed.

It was a slow but positive start, initial goals and actions were modest. C4R sponsored river area clean ups, fun paddles, and a modest six site sampling program on two rivers.

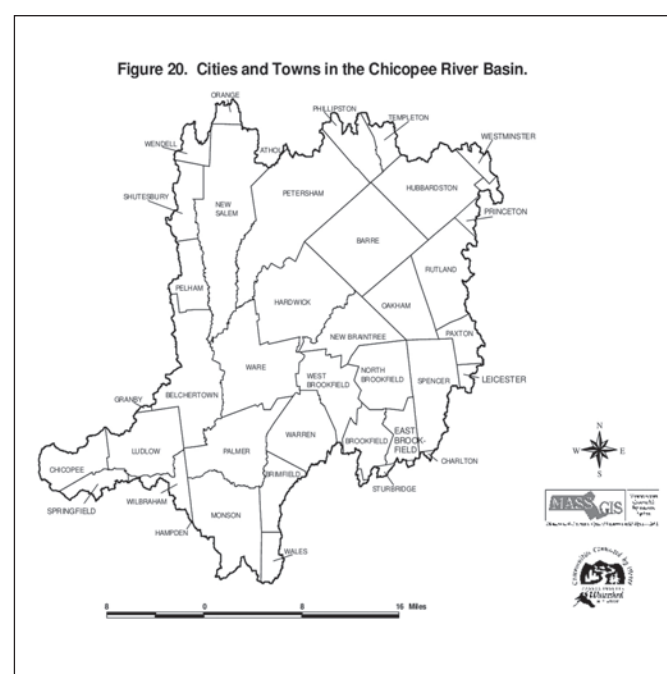
By 2017 C4R had expanded to 10 sites on all four rivers and began to lay out two paddling trails. Things were progressing.



This map shows the Chicopee River Basin.

C4R has sampled up to 25 sites and has developed two more Blue Trails. Yet to continue to serve, it needs help.

Then we hit some bumps: COVID stemmed momentum, how people volunteer and commit to things have changed and we have found



Cities and towns are shown within the Chicopee River Basin.

it more difficult to continue progress. The hope of maintaining C4R as a voice for the watershed and rivers has dimmed.

So, 2026 is a new watershed moment! Which way things tip will depend on if new and younger people step forward.

Over the next two issues, we will share C4R stories and

hopes to help people see what has been done and what the opportunities are for a vibrant watershed family.

For more information about C4R and to get involved, people may visit [www.c4rivers.org](http://www.c4rivers.org), email [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com), or mail C4RWC, P.O. Box 126, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

## SALE | from page 1

Library organize a variety of fundraisers and community events throughout the year. Raffles are a frequent feature, with donated items ranging from gift cards to handcrafted goods.

"We have a lot of donated items from friends," Sorreiro said. "Some are gift cards, and others are beautiful handmade items, like sweaters. Linda Brian is a fabric artist...she's an amazing quilter and very creative.

Her work is amazing."

The group also participates in major town events, including a large book sale held each year around Labor Day as part of Monson's annual town-wide tag sale weekend. In April, the Friends host a craft exchange, another community-oriented event that encourages creativity and reuse.

All of these efforts serve a larger purpose: supporting the library's programs and helping maintain its historic building.

"The Friends do a lot to support maintaining this historic building," Sorreiro said. "We contribute frequently. Basically, we contribute toward the programs the library offers."

Those programs include author talks, guest speakers, children's story times, and interactive activities for kids and teenagers. The Friends help fund many of these offerings, ensuring that the library remains a vibrant hub of learning and community engagement.

"The library has wonderful offerings here," Sorreiro added. "We fund those programs so the community can continue to enjoy them."

As residents stopped by the bake sale to browse tables of homemade treats and chat with volunteers, the event served as both a fundraiser and a reminder of the library's role at the heart of Monson's community life; supported by generations of patrons and volunteers committed to keeping it thriving.

## SCOUTS | from page 1

notable academic and leadership achievement within the Scouting program. Lawrence Thompson and James Janice were recognized for earning the Supernova Award, a demanding honor that reflects advanced achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

"Two of the Scouts were recognized for earning their Supernova, which is a pretty intense award,"

Riopel said. "That was Lawrence and James."

The ceremony served not only as a celebration of individual accomplishments but also as a reflection of the commitment and perseverance required in Scouting. For the three Scouts, the event marked both the culmination of years of participation in Cub Scouts and the beginning of new opportunities for leadership, skill-building, and personal responsibility within Scouts BSA.

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**Tryout # 1: Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**Location:** Tantasqua Jr High School (320 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school\*\*
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Tryout # 2: Sunday March 1, 2026**

**Location:** Oxford High School (100 Caruncle Dr., Oxford, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 5:45- 7 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school\*\*

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# In the classroom

## COLLEGE NOTES

### AIC Dean's List for fall 2025

SPRINGFIELD – American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 489 students have earned a place on the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester, including Kiersten Harvey of Three Rivers and Tanner Wenzel of Palmer.

These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students.

### Thomas named to the Fall 2025 BSC President's Honor Roll

BISMARCK, ND – Benjamin Thomas, Palmer, Mass., has been named to the President's Honor Roll for the Fall 2025 semester at Bismarck State College.

"Making the BSC President's Honor Roll reflects more than just strong grades. It reflects focus, commitment and prioritization of competing demands," says BSC Interim President Dan Leingang. "These are the same traits that will define these students as professionals and future leaders in the workforce."

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify for the BSC President's Honor Roll.

### Clark University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – The following local residents were named to Clark University's Fall 2025 Dean's List:

Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield, was named to first honors and Kayla R. Southworth, of Brimfield, was named to first honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

## PLAN | from page 1

2017 graduate of Springfield Central High School, brings experience in armed transport and de-escalation tactics, along with a background in mixed martial arts, having recently earned a welterweight title. He is enrolled in the Sixth Holyoke Police Academy, with graduation anticipated in August.

### Residents and Organizers Raise Concerns During Visitors' Comments

A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to public comments, with multiple speakers addressing the condition, safety, and scheduling of Lavalette Field and other town recreational facilities.

Jillian Crojatiere, speaking on behalf of the Palmer Soccer Association, described deteriorating conditions at Lavalette Field, which serves more than 250 children ranging from age two through the teenage years across 25 teams. She cited uneven ground, poor drainage, and rocks surfacing from the gravel base beneath the field.

"Coaches are regularly removing rocks and water from the field just to make it safe for kids," she said.

Karen Perry, president of the Palmer Soccer Association, emphasized the program's role in the community and its connection to high school athletics.

"Our program is a feeder for the high school and a way to build community," Perry said.

She explained that the installation of a walking path at Lavalette Field has reduced usable playing space and that high school junior varsity teams often displace youth soccer teams despite having access to other fields.

"Even though JV has access to Legion and Duke Fields, Lavalette is designated as their home field," Perry said, noting that this results in recreational teams being displaced eight to 10 times each season.

The association requested improvements to Lavalette Field, greater access to underutilized town fields such as Duke Field, and a shift of JV home games away from Lavalette to free up space for youth programs.

They also described ongoing challenges with field permitting.

"We apply early, but we're often superseded by other entities," Perry said.

Christine Camacho raised concerns about safety in the Lavalette Field parking area and pedestrian access.

Despite the installation of a new speed limit sign, she

said drivers frequently exceed the limit in the parking lot.

"We need a speed bump," Camacho said.

She also highlighted the lack of a safe crossing route from the overflow parking area at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center.

"Families with young children are forced to cross the road without a crosswalk," she said, calling for a new pedestrian crossing.

Council members acknowledged longstanding issues with field quality and scheduling, noting the absence of a dedicated recreation director and the prioritization of varsity and junior varsity teams when school facilities are unavailable.

They also pointed to underutilized town fields such as Burleigh Park and Chase Field as part of the broader challenge of balancing demand and resources.

### Draft ADA

**Transition Plan Presented**  
Community Development Director John Latour and consultant James Mazik presented the town's draft ADA transition plan, a requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act and a critical component for accessing state and federal grant funding.

The plan includes both policy recommendations and physical accessibility improvements.

Among the policy recommendations are the formation of a Commission on Disability, clearer designation of the town's ADA coordinator, formal non-discrimination and grievance procedures, and improved communication about accessibility accommodations.

Mazik also highlighted the need to review emergency preparedness plans and ensure accessible voting equipment is properly deployed.

The physical assessment identified numerous barriers across town facilities, recreational areas, sidewalks, and municipal buildings, including inadequate accessible parking, heavy doors, non-compliant railings, lack of tactile signage, inaccessible playground surfaces, and deteriorating sidewalks and curb ramps.

Latour said the plan will serve as a roadmap for future capital improvements.

"This is essentially a capital plan," he said, noting that upgrades would be prioritized based on usage and pursued through grants as funding becomes available.

### FY27 Budget Outlook Raises Alarms

One of the most significant discussions of the evening centered on the town's financial outlook for fiscal year 2027.

### WPI announces fall Dean's List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean's List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List: Aiden Custance of Brimfield, class of 2028, majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Catalina Mudgett of Palmer, class of 2026, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

### WNEU celebrates students named to President's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 600 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Tyler Paul of Monson, Kaylin Tietz of Brimfield, Natalie Bruneau of Monson, Haley Bronson of Monson, Ethan Griswold of Palmer, Colton Santarelli of Palmer, Alexandra Riley of Palmer, Domenick Romeo of Monson, Emily Moran of Holland, Jack Leland of Brimfield, Mason Ahlman of Palmer, Tess Chevalier of Brimfield, Priscilla Thornhill of Palmer, Noah Melnick of Thorndike, Olivia Chrzan of Monson, Gianna Perry of Palmer, Vanessa Romeo of Monson, Ludmilla Venades of Brimfield, Rachelle Morse of Monson, and Jared Yetts of Palmer have been named to Western New England University's President's List for the Fall 2025 semester.

## Public Safety

### Palmer Police Logs

#### Sunday, Feb. 1

9:22 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Palmer Public Library

8:54 p.m. – Water leak, Church St.

#### Monday, Feb. 2

7:29 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Park St.

9:28 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Thorndike St.

2:21 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage/Arrest – Michael Lawrence Peterson, 57, charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, operating with a suspended license, and operating with a suspended license.

3:36 p.m. – Trespass complaint, Thorndike St.

5:07 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Mass Turnpike, westbound

10:33 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Thorndike St.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 3

6:46 a.m. – Vandalism, Riverview Pkwy

7:34 a.m. – Accident, hit and run, Green St.

9:36 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Springfield St.

3:00 p.m. – Burglar alarm, River St.

3:37 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Wilbraham St.

4:18 p.m. – Accident w/

property damage, Wilbraham St.

7:54 p.m. – Arrest – Carlos Tabora Dubon, 23, charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, and number plate violation

7:54 p.m. – Arrest – Elder Alexander Dubon Villanaeuva, 33, charged with number plate violation

7:54 p.m. – Arrest – Winder David Tabora Dubon, 20, charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

8:07 p.m. – Accident w/ personal injury, Mass Turnpike, Westbound

9:05 p.m. – Arrest – Joseph Coronity, 27, charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, number plate violation, and unregistered motor vehicle.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 4

6:54 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Wright St.

10:34 a.m. – Animal complaint, Arrest – Elyzza Blatchley, 43, charged with two counts of animal cruelty.

1:30 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Springfield St.

4:32 p.m. – Structure fire, Boston Post Rd.

5:40 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Boston Rd.

#### Thursday, Feb. 5

10:36 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Sykes St.

5:12 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Springfield St.

#### Friday, Feb. 6

10:42 a.m. – Vandalism, N. Main St.

1:52 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Thorndike St.

2:05 p.m. – Structure fire, Shearer St.

2:54 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, S. Main St.

8:04 p.m. – Accident w/ personal injury, Arrest, Destiny Hersey, 23, charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop/yield

#### Saturday, Feb. 7

3:55 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Wilbraham St.

6:10 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Old Warren Rd.

8:48 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Wright St.

9:04 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, W. Ware St.

10:30 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Mass Turnpike

5:00 p.m. – Gas leak, N. Main St.

9:58 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Wilbraham St.

10:29 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Homestead St.

### Monson Fire Logs

**MONSON** – The Monson Fire Department responded to 9 fire calls, and 33 medical calls for the week of Monday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 8.

On **Monday, Feb. 2** at 10:21 a.m., the Department responded to Main Street for the vehicle fire. The Department returned back in service at 11:30 a.m. Palmer Fire Department assisted with the call.

On **Monday, Feb. 2** at 2:47 p.m., the Department responded to Stafford Hollow Road for the odor investigation. The Department returned back in service at 3:18 p.m.

On **Tuesday, Feb. 3** at

12:06 a.m., the Department responded to Flynt Avenue for the public assist. The Department returned back in service at 12:21 a.m.

On **Wednesday, Feb. 4** at 12:40 p.m., the Department responded to Bethany Road for the commercial fire alarm activation. The Department returned back in service at 1:12 p.m.

On **Wednesday, Feb. 4** at 2:39 p.m., the Department responded to Town Farm Road for the smoke investigation. The Department returned back in service at 3:28 p.m.

On **Wednesday, Feb. 4** at 6:59 p.m., the Department responded to Heritage Lane

for the odor investigation. The Department returned back in service at 7:50 p.m.

On **Friday, Feb. 6** at 11:57 p.m., the Department responded to Boston Road West for the commercial fire alarm activation. The Department returned back in service at 12:34 p.m.

On **Friday, Feb. 6** at 7:07 p.m., the Department responded to Stafford Road for the public assist. The Department returned back in service at 7:30 p.m.

On **Sunday, Feb. 8** at 2:37 p.m., the Department responded to Palmer Road for the public assist. The Department returned back in service at 2:47 p.m.



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# Monson High eighth graders participate in mock trial

MONSON – The cafeteria at Monson High School was transformed into a make-believe courtroom on Thursday, Jan. 29, as the eighth-grade class took part in a mock trial.

The mock trial is part of the Hampden District Attorney's Adopt-a-Class program and is the third and final visit the office will make to the school.

The reenactment began with Community Safety & Outreach Deputy Director Gina Anselmo reading the fact pattern to the students.

The case - which is based off a real one but includes fake names - is an Operating Under the Influence, or OUI, case.

After hearing the facts, the class of approximately 50 were split into groups. Four students volunteered to serve as the witnesses, and the rest of the students were divided into three sections: prosecution, defense, and jury.

Each group was led by

staff from the Hampden District Attorney's Office, including Assistant District Attorney Patrick Murphy with prosecution, Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Simonian with defense, Community Safety & Outreach Director Tony Simmons and Anselmo with the jury, and Victim Witness Advocate Cassidy Dill with the witnesses.

In their respective groups, the District Attorney's staff explained the goal of the prosecution, the goal of the defense, and the role and responsibilities of the jury, while Dill met with the witnesses to talk about what they can expect when they "take the stand," including the types of questions they may receive from each side.

After these small group discussions, the class came back together for Murphy to explain what an opening statement is. He said that he always tries to keep it "pretty straightforward" - starting



Submitted photos

Eighth graders at Monson High School recently took part in a mock trial as part of the Hampden District Attorney's Adopt-a-Class program.

by introducing himself, explaining the case everyone is present for, what people can expect to hear, and so on.

Next, Simonian gave her opening statement from the defense, and prosecution called their first witness to the stand. Students on both sides then had the opportunity to question three witnesses, which included two "troop-

ers," and one "passenger" that was in the vehicle when it was pulled over.

All three witnesses shared important information from the fact pattern as the jury listened closely. After a five-minute deliberation following the questioning, the jury found the defendant guilty.

Students were then no-

tified that in the real case the defendant was also found guilty.

"The Adopt-a-Class program is about giving students a fuller picture of the importance of the criminal justice system and how it incorporates and honors Constitutional rights," said District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. "The eighth graders at Monson

High have now experienced something that shapes their learning this year and, just might, influence their educational and career paths."

The Adopt-a-Class program will conclude with selected students spending half a day touring the Hampden County Hall of Justice as invited guests of the District Attorney.

## Monson Democrats to elect delegates

MONSON – On Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6 p.m., Democrats will convene at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss Street, Monson, to elect 4 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Monson at the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Monson, who are 16 years old by Saturday, Mar. 29, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), individuals with disabilities, people of color, veterans, and members of

the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting <https://www.massdems.org/caucus-and-convention>. The 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention will be in person at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30.

Those interested in getting involved with the Monson Democratic Committee should contact

Karen Nothe-Valley at [karen\\_monsondems@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_monsondems@yahoo.com) or (413) 846-3041.

## Brown Bag Speaker series at Hitchcock Academy

**"The Role of The Publick House in WWII"**

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m. \$10 per person, \$10 additional for optional lunch. Hitchcock Academy is located at 2 Brookfield Road

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock has lots to talk about this winter, and those interested in local history and healthy eating alike will delight in upcoming offerings, one its next Brown Bag Speaker Series installation on The Publick House's Role in WWII, and another sharing guidance on getting enough protein in a plant-based diet.

Local historian Wally Hersee will share his talk on The Publick House on

Wednesday, February 18th from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Registration is required and is \$10 per person. Attendees are welcome to arrive at noon to enjoy lunch prior to the talk - a bagged lunch may be brought in or lunch may be purchased ahead through Hitchcock for an additional \$10. The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

WWII saw American society rally behind the war effort as the nation geared up to be the "arsenal of democracy". All communities experienced changes as citizens and businesses did their part. Wally Hersee of the Sturbridge Historical Society will discuss

the role The Publick House of Sturbridge played in WWII. Initially, the Inn became the Defense Center for the training of civilians and the State Guard in October of 1941 just weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. In less than a year after it opened, it became the 1st Service Command Tactical School for the training of U.S. Army officers in guerrilla tactics. The presentation will also look at the 366th Regiment, the Women's Defense Corps, and the type of training they underwent. The second half of the program will be the showing of a newly enhanced film of the Sturbridge Defense Center's Dedication on October 25, 1941, including the "Battle of Sturbridge" that was

presented for the townspeople and dignitaries on that day.

Hersee grew up in Medfield where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge, it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history. A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, "Follow the Light," tells of his photographic journey. His most recent book, "To Defend All that Is Dear" was published in January.

Hersee retired as a critical care pediatric burn nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in Sturbridge with his wife, Mary, and is active on town boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes regularly for the Sturbridge Historic Society.

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## Panthers score win over rival Pioneers

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer Panthers won their previous five encounters on the hardwood with the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers by more than ten points.

The sole meeting of the 2025-26 regular season between the cross-town rivals was a tightly contested battle until the middle of the fourth quarter. The Panthers closed out the non-league game with a 10-1 run leading to a 52-41 victory before a large and enthusiastic crowd inside the Pathfinder Tech gym, last Monday night (Feb.2).

“We were finally able to pull away late in the game and it was a very gritty win for us,” said Palmer boys’ varsity basketball coach Missy Rocker. “It was a very aggressive game, and the referees allowed the players to play without calling many fouls. This is a rivalry game, and I was a little bit worried that it was going to get out of hand.”

Following the 11-point road win, Palmer had a 9-7 overall record.

The Panthers, who slipped to 35th place in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings, needed one more victory to qualify for the state tournament for the third consecutive year.

“We do have a very difficult regular season schedule,” Rocker said. “This is another tough week for us starting with tonight’s game against Pathfinder. We just need to find a way to win one more game.”

Palmer was scheduled to wrap-up the regular season by hosting Chicopee Comp

in another non-league game last Wednesday night and Bi-County East rival High School of Commerce last Friday night. It was also the Panthers senior night game.

Their six seniors are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Chris Stapleton, Adonis Dupre, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette.

“The seniors are very special players and they’re going to be very difficult to replace next year,” Rocker said. “They’re outstanding young men.”

Palmer should be able to qualify for the Western Mass. Class C tournament, which starts this week.

Depending on the results of the Class C quarterfinal game, the Panthers will either advance to the semifinals or



Cayden Bousquet takes a free throw.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Stephen Fredette heads down the court.

RIVAL | page 10



Dylan Doherty tries to shoot in traffic.



Taydem Haley takes an off-balance shot.



Grayson Griswold tries to get a shot up in traffic.



Maddox Baer holds the ball just inside the arc.



Dylan Holbrook tries to rein in a rebound.



Gavin Smola looks to get a shot off.



Dustyn Cook rushes for the hoop.



Ian Squi Nieves attempts the layup under pressure.

## A new look coming for Western Mass. hockey tournament this year

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The 2026 Western Massachusetts high school hockey tournament is scheduled to take place from Feb. 16-19.

Six of the seven Berry Division teams will qualify for the Class A tournament.

The Berry Division teams, who are looking to qualify for the Class A tournament, are Westfield, East Longmeadow,

Greenfield, Minnechaug Regional, Longmeadow, Ludlow, and West Springfield.

The Westfield Bombers are the two-time defending Class A champions. They defeated the Greenfield Green Wave, 7-3, in last year’s championship match.

All six of the teams in the Fay-Wright Division will be competing in this year’s Class B tournament.

Those six teams are Easthampton, McCann Tech,

Amherst, Taconic, Agawam, and Chicopee High School.

Agawam defeated Taconic, 6-1, in last year’s Class B championship match.

The top two teams in Class A & B will automatically advance into the semifinals.

Prior to playing the semifinal round, the top-seeded team in Class A will be facing the second-seeded team in Class B. The top-seeded team in Class B will also play the second-seeded Class A team.

Those games will boost the team’s state power rankings.

The other four teams in each of the classes will be playing in the quarterfinals on February 16.

The higher-seeded teams will be hosting the quarterfinal matches.

Any of the quarterfinal games played at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield will be held during the daytime. The game times on rink

1 will be 11am and 1:30pm. The games on rink 2 will be at noontime and 2:30pm.

The losers of the quarterfinals will be playing non-playoff games against each other.

The Class A semifinals are scheduled to be played at Olympia on Feb.17. The start times for those two games will be 11am and 1:30pm.

The Class B semifinals are scheduled for Olympia on Feb.18. The start times for

those two games will also be 11am and 1:30pm.

Both Western Mass. finals will be played on rink 1 at Olympia on Feb.19.

The Class B finals will be held at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Class A final at 8 pm.

The tickets prices for the semifinals and finals are \$8. Tickets are available through GoFan Only.

There is not a different price for students or senior citizens.

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*Athlete of the Week*

**Cassian Kowalik**  
*Pathfinder*

Kowalik had a big effort for Pathfinder in a loss to Palmer last Monday night with 16 points.

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



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## Mustangs defeat Duggan

Still in playoff hunt

MONSON – Last Friday night, Monson kept its state playoff hopes alive by defeating Duggan Academy 66-48. The Mustangs are now 8-10 and their playoff chances will depend on how they perform in their next two games. However, with the regular season ending, it's not known as of press time if the Mustangs will be in nonplayoff action or if they will make the Western Mass. Tournament. Regardless, the Mustangs will participate in at least two more games, having the opportunity to reach .500. Monson is currently ranked No. 53 in Division 5, making it a far cry for the Mustangs to finish in the top 32.

Turley photos by David Henry  
**Niko Matthieu follows through on a pass.**



Jake Beaupre sends a pass away.



Brennan Peterson crosses midcourt.

### RIVAL | from page 9

play a non-playoff game. Regardless of which path they take, those games will also contribute to their overall state power ranking.

Pathfinder Tech (6-7) entered the home contest against Palmer riding a five game winning streak. They were ranked 78th in the Division 5 power rankings

"I don't think that we've ever beaten Palmer in the past, but I was expecting my guys to give them a hard fought battle in tonight's game," said first-year Pathfinder Tech head coach Jeff Kularski. "I'm looking to build a culture here. I think we'll be a dangerous basketball team in a couple of years."

The Pioneers seniors are Aiden Girard (1 point), Dustyn Cook (2 points), and Angelo Rentas, who didn't play in the Palmer game.

Because they probably won't be one of the top 32 teams in the power rankings, the Pioneers will need to finish the regular season with a .500 record to clinch a berth in the state tournament for the first time in two years.

The mood of the varsity game was a little bit somber after Palmer freshman Abees Castillo suffered a serious leg injury during the second quarter of the junior varsity game. That game was delayed for about 30 minutes as Castillo was taken by ambulance to Wing Hospital.

"The varsity and J.V

teams normally practice together," Rocker said. "The players were very emotional when Abees was injured because the other players really care about their teammate. Abees is a swing player for us and it's an unfortunate injury."

Because of the long delay, the j.v. game ended at halftime, which allowed the varsity contest to start on time.

Rocker decided to make a couple of changes to the starting lineup.

Stapleton, along with sophomore Liam Mckee, and eighth grader T.J. Smola made their first career starts in a varsity game.

"Chris is a senior and I wanted to give him the oppor-

tunity to start a game," Rocker said. "I've also seen some good things from Liam and T.J. at practice. I wanted to see what they could do at the start of the game."

Doherty and junior Taydem Haley, who are normally starters for the Panthers led the way offensively.

Doherty scored 14 of his game-high 18 points during the second half. Haley scored 14 points, which gave him a total of 937 career points.

Sophomore Cassian Kowalik (16 points) and junior Cayden Bousquet (16 points) combined to score 32 of the Pioneers 41 points. No other Pathfinder player scored more than four points.

A Haley foul-line jumper gave Palmer a 3-0 lead with

6:30 left in the opening quarter before the Pioneers put together an impressive 14-2 run.

Kowalik and Bousquet scored five points apiece during that span. Sophomore Grayson Griswold (4 points) added a lay-up and sophomore Maddox Baer buried a jumper, which was his only points of the game.

Santos, Fredette (9 points), and Gavin Smola (5 points), who are the Panthers other three normal starters, were on the court at the start of the second quarter, along with Haley and Doherty.

The Panthers outscored the Pioneers, 18-9, during the second stanza and the contest was tied 23-23 at halftime.

After outscoring Path-

finder, 10-6, in a low scoring third quarter, Palmer entered the final eight minutes with a slim 33-29 lead.

A Bousquet lay-up closed the gap to 33-31 with 7:35 left in regulation.

With 4:28 remaining on the scoreboard clock, the Panthers built a 42-36 lead following a Doherty old fashion three point play.

The home team responded with a lay-up and put-back hoop by Kowalik making it a two point game again.

A minute later, Fredette made an inside hoop, and Doherty hit a short jumper, which helped the Panthers pull away down the stretch. They sealed the victory by making four of six shots from the free throw line.



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# Panthers pull away from Mustangs

MONSON – Last Thursday night, Palmer High School girls basketball defeated Monson 59-13. Palmer was able to take an early lead, and continued to pour on the offense as Monson could do little to answer. Harper

Brouillette had one her best efforts of the season with 23 points while Lainey Haley had 10 points. Audrey Gregoire and Heinails Sanchez had five points each for Monson. Monson is 1-15 while Palmer improved to 8-9.



Aria Nompleggi goes for the one-hand pass.



Harper Brouillette shoots in traffic.



Audrey Gregoire makes her way down the court.



Ava Durocher takes a free throw.



Grace Berry tries to get a shot off. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Molly Walker goes for the rebound.



Adelynn Allard goes for the layup.

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**BUDGET** | from page 1

funding, followed by town contributions at about 27 percent, state grants at 9 percent, federal grants at 3.5 percent, and fees representing less than one percent. On the expenditure side, special education now consumes nearly 35 percent of the district's total budget, a significant increase from FY2014. He noted that Quarry Hill's Pre-K program is included within the special education budget, further contributing to rising costs.

Although student enrollment has declined by approximately 300 students over the past decade, staffing levels have not decreased proportionally. Foster explained that general education positions have dropped by 23, while special education staffing has increased by nearly 10 positions, reflecting a shift in student needs rather than inefficiency. "This is not a story of fewer students and fewer staff," he said. "It's a story of more complex needs."

Foster emphasized that Monson has experienced a sharp rise in high-need students. Over the past ten years, the district has seen a 38 per-

cent increase in students from low-income households and a 31 percent increase in students with disabilities. Today, about half of Monson's students are classified as high-need by the state, compared to 30 percent a decade ago.

He also highlighted the financial impact of special education. The average additional cost per special education student in FY26 is approximately \$21,825 on top of general education expenses. Since the pre-pandemic period, the district has added 64 special education students, resulting in an estimated \$1.4 million in additional costs. Foster argued that state and federal funding have not kept pace with these obligations. "Special education has historically been underfunded," he said, adding that reductions in rural aid have further shifted financial responsibility onto local communities.

Looking ahead, Foster pointed to enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council indicating a potential 16 percent increase in student enrollment over the next decade, with modest growth in the K-8 population in the near

term. He cautioned that these projections do not account for potential housing developments that could further increase enrollment, complicating long-term planning.

Turning to the operating budget, Foster described proposed investments in staffing and infrastructure intended to address current needs. These include expanding business education and work-based learning opportunities, strengthening elementary-level counseling support, ensuring consistent classroom assistance in kindergarten, expanding Pre-K capacity, improving custodial coverage, enhancing special education coordination, supporting athletic administration, and modernizing business systems in response to a fraud risk assessment.

After accounting for state, federal, and grant funding, Foster said the School Department is requesting approximately \$3.7 million in local funding under the level-service budget and about \$4.1 million under the operating request.

Foster also addressed transportation and other education-related costs borne by the town. Transportation expenses have increased by roughly 33 percent over the past six years, employee benefits by about 17 percent, and Pathfinder vocational school

assessments by approximately 40 percent. With bus contracts scheduled for rebidding this spring, the town anticipates additional cost increases, with projections suggesting a roughly \$150,000 rise across transportation lines. Foster emphasized that these town-side costs compound the pressure on the overall education budget.

**Finance Committee Discussion and Concerns**  
Finance Committee members raised pointed questions about the sustainability of the proposed budget, particularly regarding administrative salaries. Several members expressed concern that proposed administrative increases ranging from six to 15 percent significantly exceed the three to four percent increases negotiated by unionized staff, especially in the context of Proposition 2½ limitations.

Foster defended the salary adjustments as a necessary step to remain competitive in the regional labor market. "We are not competitive in many cases," he said, warning that the district risks losing highly specialized administrators if compensation levels are not addressed.

Committee members also explored the possibility of consolidating elementary schools as a cost-saving measure. One member sug-

gested moving Granite Valley students to Quarry Hill, estimating potential savings of about \$150,000 through the elimination of certain administrative positions. Foster acknowledged that similar ideas have been discussed but outlined multiple concerns, including Quarry Hill's capacity under modern class-size standards, the potential costs of building repairs and upgrades, and the risk of de-commissioning a facility that might be needed if enrollment rises in the future.

"We have to be careful not to make decisions that solve a short-term problem and create long-term challenges," Foster said.

Beyond finances, committee members questioned the relationship between spending and educational outcomes. One member asked whether higher salaries necessarily translate into better teaching and called for more innovative approaches to student engagement, particularly in light of behavioral challenges following the pandemic.

Foster agreed that innovation and engagement are essential, pointing to new academic pathways in engineering, medical assisting, and business as examples of progress. He noted, however, that expanding such opportunities inevitably carries additional costs.

**Town Administrator's Financial Outlook**  
Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz described the school budget discussion as part of a broader fiscal challenge facing Monson. She explained that the town is grappling with a structural deficit driven by rising costs that outpace revenue growth, constrained by Proposition 2½ limits, uncertain state aid, and flat local receipts.

"Our costs are increasing faster than our revenues," Wolowicz said, pointing to rapidly rising expenses in health insurance, utilities, pensions, construction, and equipment. She cited the town library's \$2,700 monthly heating bill as one example of escalating operational costs beyond local control.

Wolowicz emphasized that Monson's municipal departments already operate with lean staffing compared to similar communities, making further reductions difficult without compromising essential services. She outlined three broad options facing the town: pursuing a tax override, implementing severe cuts across departments, or drawing on reserves.

"The reality is that there are no painless options," Wolowicz said.

Wolowicz said the Town Administrator's Office and department heads support bringing an override proposal before residents at the May Town Meeting. She warned that failure of the override would likely lead to significant reductions in staffing and services across multiple departments, including police, fire, highway, and schools.

"If the override fails, we are looking at major cuts across the board," Wolowicz warned.

As the meeting concluded, Finance Committee members noted that further discussions with other department heads and the Tri-Board are planned as the town continues its FY27 budget review process. The Feb. 9 meeting made clear that Monson's school budget debate extends beyond numbers on a spreadsheet, touching on questions of educational equity, fiscal sustainability, and the community's long-term priorities.



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**Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69**

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**Sewer Plant Operator / Mechanic:** This position is responsible for operating, maintaining, and cleaning machinery, equipment, and generators. Performs building and grounds maintenance. This is a full-time, Town benefited position, with required on-call and overtime hours. Candidate must possess a Grade 4 or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment.

**Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69**

**Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week**

**Full-Time Police Officer:** Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays. It is also preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. The Patrolmen's contract provides for an education incentive. Please send resumes and cover letters to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

**Hourly wage range: \$28.64 - \$34.24 Overtime Available**

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**Part-Time COA Custodian:** This position is responsible for all aspects of cleaning, light maintenance of the building and Senior Center grounds. Must have scheduling flexibility to meet the daily operational needs of the Senior Center. Prior custodial experience preferred.

**Hourly wage range: \$17.70 - \$18.05**

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Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

For a complete job description of any of these positions please visit the Town's website [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).

All positions will be open until filled.

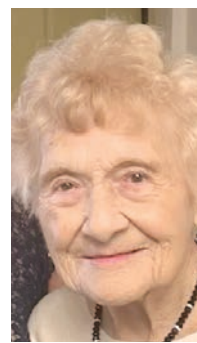
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## Obituary

### Stella Eurkus

1928-2026

Stella Eurkus, 97, former longtime resident of Bondsville, Mass., died on Jan. 24, 2026 at her home in North Carolina surrounded by her family. She was born Dec. 7, 1928 in Ware to the late Albert and Marya "Ciosek" Kusek. She was predeceased by her husband of 67 years, Joseph Eurkus, as well as her twin sister Stephanie Clark, sisters Tillie Salamon, Kay Czechowski, Sophie Cloutier, Mary Kos, Louise Kusek and Brothers Louis, Stanley and John.



Stella worked for the former Diamond International for 30 years before retiring. She was a creative and talented seamstress who will be remembered for her beautiful Raggedy Anne dolls and uniquely styled clothes and shoes that matched her vibrant personality. She loved spending her summers at her son's house on the Swift River, cooking her favorite Polish foods and special breakfast scrambles for family and friends. She also enjoyed playing bingo, the

lottery, word search puzzles and trips to the casino with her nieces.

She will be deeply missed by her daughter, Debbie, her husband, Dan and grandson Nick Rogers of North Carolina, her son Bill, his wife, Karen, and grandson Kash Eurkus of Ware, granddaughter Sierra and great grandchildren, Brianna and Kruz Kiablick of Palmer granddaughter Summer, her husband, Mike, and great granddaughter Sage Marie Horrigan of Ware as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

A celebration of her life will be held for family and friends at a later date.

### 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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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# Public notices

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Denise M. Trombly to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated October 4, 2004 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14556, Page 354, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Ameriquest Mortgage Company to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on January 26, 2009, in Book No. 17617, at Page 533 Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on January 26, 2009, in Book No. 17617, at Page 533 Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2015-6, U.S. Bank National Association as Indenture Trustee, recorded on June 13, 2025, in Book No. 25900, at Page 500 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **9:00 AM on March 16, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 205 Breckenridge Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Beginning at an iron pin on the Easterly side of Breckenridge Street, at the Northwesterly corner of land of Charles E. Norris et ux, said iron pin is N. 15° 34' E. three hundred two and 00/100 (302.00) feet from an iron pin on the Easterly side of Breckenridge Street and the Northerly side of Reservoir Street,

thence N.15° 34' E. one hundred and 00/100 (100.00) feet along the easterly side of Breckenridge Street to an iron pin at remaining land of H. and L. Builders and Developers, Inc.,

thence turning and running S. 77° 16' E. two hundred and 24/100 (200.24) feet along said last named land to an iron pin at land of Palmer Fire District No. I;

thence turning and running S. 15° 34' W. one hundred and 00/100 (100.00) feet along said last named land to an iron pin at land of the aforesaid Norris;

thence turning and running N. 77° 16' W. two hundred and 24/100 (200.24) feet along said last named land to the point of beginning. Containing about 20,000 square feet.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 12802, Page 26.

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.**

TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2015-6, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

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TOWN OF PALMER  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 6 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at 6:30PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Richard Rock, is requesting a Finding under §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an addition eight feet into the setback. The property is located at 121 Ford Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 67, Lot 57.

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

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

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

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
02/12, 02/19/2026

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.  
HD26P0204EA

Estate of:

Frederick G Dileone

Date of Death: 12/14/2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Heidi Dileone of Charlton, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Heidi Dileone of Charlton, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/02/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stouedemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 02, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,  
Register of Probate  
02/12/2026

(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
26 SM 000397  
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Rosemarie A. Dubuque a/k/a  
Rosemarie Dubuque

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

**PennyMac Loan Services, LLC**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Palmer, numbered 31 Searle Street**, given by **Edith A Benoit and Rosemarie Dubuque to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB**, dated **October 15, 2008**, and recorded at **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17527, Page 52**, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 4, 2021 and recorded at said Registry in Book 24284, Page 404, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **March 23, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIP-ER**, Chief Justice of said Court on February 3, 2026.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
02/12/2026

## TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on **Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

### Shaw Road

**Reason:** Shaw Road – Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Shaw Rd beginning at a point approximately 896 ft southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Little Alum Rd.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly  
Select Board, Chairperson  
Town of Brimfield  
02/05, 02/12/2026

## Town of Holland RFQ May Brook Road Improvement Project Engineering Design

The Town of Holland has been awarded funds from the FY22/23 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Community Development Block Grant Program. The Town of Holland is seeking responses for design engineering services for infrastructure improvements to May Brook Road. The project area includes May Brook Road beginning at the intersection of Union Rd and continues for approximately 1600 feet towards the intersection of Stagecoach Drive. Services requested include engineering design to construct a new storm water drainage basin, improved stormwater management, and full depth roadway grading and pavement reclamation. This is a two-phase project. The Phase 1 engineering services sought through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will include right of way and utility research, site survey and base plan development, identification of all required easements, preparation of preliminary design plans, final design plans and specifications, preparation of bid documents, and preparation of an opinion of construction costs. Phase 2 is contingent upon funding and will include bidding services, construction administration services, resident engineering services, and construction close-out services.

The fee for services sought

for phase 1 will be negotiated and shall not exceed \$90,000. In the event project construction funding is procured in the future, the engineer shall provide Phase 2 services to be negotiated according to Chapter 7C of the Massachusetts General Laws. A more detailed RFQ is available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. To request an electronic copy of the RFQ, please contact Sue Ortiz at [sortiz@pvpc.org](mailto:sortiz@pvpc.org). The RFQ will be available from February 11, 2026, until the due date specified below. The Town of Holland reserves the right to reject any and all responses if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so. The Holland Selectboard will be the awarding and contracting authority.

**Completed proposals are to be submitted no later than 2:00 PM, Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104.**  
02/12, 02/19/2026

## ADVERTISEMENT

The Monson Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Family 705-1, Development for the Monson Housing Authority in Monson Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCE Architecture**.

The Project consists of: **Replace windows and exterior doors and remediate lead materials.**

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 81,800.00 and Alternate #1 is estimated to cost \$-11,000.00**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **1:00 p.m., Friday, February 27, 2026** and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be delivered to: [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) online. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. E-Bid tutorials and instructions are available within the specifications and online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at (978)499-9014, M-F 8:30AM-5PM and received no later than the date & time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **Monson Housing Authority**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at: [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc., 18 Graf Road, Suite 8, Newburyport, MA 978-499-9014 (M-F 8:30AM-5PM). **Enter Project Code 872459 beginning February 4, 2026** in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD.

Contractors requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$25 per set, payable to the Awarding Authority, to cover mail handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between 10 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. on **Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 290 Main Street, Monson**. Parking is limited.

For an appointment call: **no appointments.**  
01/29, 02/05, 02/12/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN

[seal] No. 97 TL 114681

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN and to Filomena Renna, deceased, formerly of Southbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Arnold V. Renna, deceased, formerly of Charlton, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Louise Dupuis and Lucien J. Dupuis, both deceased, both formerly of Southbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Marion E. Renna and Paul A. Renna, both now or formerly of Charlton, Worcester County, and said

Commonwealth; Brian J. Dupuis, Kevin J. Dupuis and Tammy A. Edmonds, all now or formerly of Southbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Dana A. Dupuis, now or formerly of Chicopee, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees or legal representatives:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Holland. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about one parcel of land located in the Town of Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

Property Location: Leno Road R17- A- 01 Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 37,034 SQ FT being described as MAP: R17 LOT: 01 BLOCK: A in the office of the assessors of the town of HOLLAND identified in BOOK 2968 on PAGE 335at the HAMPDEN county registry of deeds.

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is March 30, 2026.**

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default. You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in The Journal Register a newspaper published in Town of Holland.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIP-ER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this thirtieth day of January in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Attest with Seal of said Court.  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Amy J. Megliola, Esq.  
1350 Main Street,  
Suite 210,  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Tel: (413) 732-3600  
02/12/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN

[seal] No. 23 TL 000878

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to Catherine J. Wesson, deceased, formerly of Springfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Jason Wesson, also known as Jason Allen "Jay" Wesson, deceased, formerly of East Longmeadow, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; David A. Benoit, now or formerly of Springfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Jacob Reno Focosi, formerly known as Jacob Reno

Wesson, now or formerly of East Longmeadow, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees or legal representatives:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Holland. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about a parcel of land located in the Town of Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 11500 Square Feet located and known as UNION RD shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier R30/A/03 and being the premises recorded in book 10973 on page 285 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds. Assessed to BENOIT DAVID A & CATHERINE J WESSON.

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is the thirtieth day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-six.**

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default. You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in The Journal Register a newspaper published in Town of Holland.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIP-ER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this thirtieth day of January in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Attest with Seal of said Court.  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Amy J. Megliola Esq  
1350 Main Street, Suite 210  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Tel: (413)732-3600.  
02/12/2026

## Town of Wales Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A Section 11 and Wales Zoning By-laws Sections 8.4 the **Wales Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on February 26, 2026, at the Wales Senior Center, 85 Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA 01081 at 5:30 PM**, on the application submitted by Corrine & William Matchett III, for modification to existing conditions issued for a Class II Car Dealers License located at 45 Union Rd in Wales. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website ([www.townofwales.net](http://www.townofwales.net)) under planning board agenda, if you have any questions or concerns please email [planning@townofwales.net](mailto:planning@townofwales.net)  
02/05, 02/12/2026

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

# Hitchcock introduces beginners **WEAVING CLASS**

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – The Hitchcock Free Academy is weaving new creative opportunities into its adult education programming with a four-week beginner weaving class led by artist and retired art educator Trisha O'Brien, offering participants a chance to explore one of the world's oldest and most meditative crafts.

The beginner-level class, open to ages 16 and up, meets on Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, and March 3, with no session scheduled for Feb. 17. Designed for newcomers to fiber arts, the course introduces students to the fundamentals of weaving on a flat loom while encouraging personal expression through yarn, color, and design.

"We decided to start weaving programs because we have a lot of looms available, and it didn't seem like something people normally had access to," O'Brien explained. "They started in December with a small Christmas tree weaving workshop, and that sold out. People expressed interest in more, so I decided to offer something more in depth."

Unlike the earlier workshop, which O'Brien described as a short introductory experience, the new class provides a more comprehen-

sive exploration of weaving techniques. Over four weeks, students will learn how to warp and finish a loom, practice beginner tapestry techniques, and design and complete a simple landscape or abstract woven piece. Looms and materials are provided, though participants are encouraged to bring their own yarn if they wish to personalize their projects.

Weaving, O'Brien noted, has often been described as "painting with yarn," a phrase that reflects the artistic potential of tapestry techniques. She also emphasized the mindful nature of the craft.

"Weaving can be very relaxing," she said. "It's one of the oldest crafts known, and it's very doable, especially for beginners. If you have a curiosity about it, then go ahead and sign up."

O'Brien brings decades of experience to the program. A retired high school art teacher, she taught fiber arts, weaving, pottery, small metals, sculpture, and drawing during her career, including at Tantasqua Regional High School. Her passion for weaving began during her studies at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, where she specialized in fiber arts and discovered what she described as an "amazing weaving studio."

"I really found my home



Trisha O'Brien completes her own version of the project so she is at the same stage as the students if they have any issues.



A table full of wool and yarn for people to use.

there," she said. "I started weaving in the mid-1990s, took a break, and then came back to it. I just wanted to introduce weaving here and see how people respond—and so far, the response has been really good."

In addition to the flat loom class, Hitchcock Free Academy has begun offering other weaving opportunities, including an Inkle weaving workshop, which uses a different type of loom and technique. O'Brien hopes that

continued interest will allow the program to expand.

"If these programs go well and are popular, I definitely plan on doing more in the future," she said. "We can have up to 10 people in these workshops, and even five is a good minimum to start with. It's exciting to see people discovering how simple weaving can be and how amazing the results can be."

With growing enthusiasm for hands-on creative experiences, the weaving class-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Weaving can be accomplished in many different ways but flat looms are easiest for beginners.



People were allowed to choose their own colors for this first project.

es reflect Hitchcock Free Academy's broader mission to provide accessible, enriching educational opportunities for the community. For O'Brien, the goal is not only to teach technical skills but

also to invite participants into a tradition that blends history, art, and personal expression.

"I just hope people feel welcome to try it," she said. "Weaving is something anyone can learn."

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

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

## UPCOMING

### Wales Public Library February Events

- Feb. 16 – Closed
- Feb. 17 – Drop-In Craft 2 to 3 p.m.
- Feb. 18 – Drop-In Craft 2 to 3 p.m.
- Feb. 19 – Drop-In Craft 2 to 3 p.m.
- Feb. 25 – Story Time 12:15 p.m.
- Feb. 28 – Wool Needle Felting 12 p.m.

### Vendors for the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shoppe February Vendors

- Feb. 12 - Weleful Weavers
- Feb. 13 - Cork Elegance
- Feb. 26 - Weleful Weavers
- March Vendors**
- March 4 - Generations of Cookies
- March 10 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- March 11 - Weleful Weavers
- March 12 - Jewelry for Diane
- March 18 - How Charming
- March 26 - Weleful Weavers
- March 30 - Wicked Good Treats
- March 31 - Geriations & Sew On

## ONGOING

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check [brimfieldwinery.com](http://brimfieldwinery.com) for any variations.

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month

in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

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

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.



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## COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONNECTION

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

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PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
 LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call

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