

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 13, 2025 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 3 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

MONSON

School Comm. evaluating potential policies

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week’s School Committee meeting, members discussed new policies being developed by policy subcommittee, and heard commendations from the Interim Superintendent about the recent Disney trip and grants awarded to the district.

Committee Member Jamie Murphy reported on the policy subcommittee meeting that was held earlier that day.

“As of right now, the MCAS Graduation Requirement will go to the attorney for review,” Murphy said, adding that she was “hoping to have that for first read for next meeting.”

Murphy then turned to the therapy dog policy, and provided two waiver forms associated with the policy, one for parents and students, and one for the staff. This policy will also be up for first read at the next meeting, as well as the dress code policy.

Murphy asked that the committee consider going over the district’s handbook earlier in the year.

“We probably will have to wait for the new Superintendent to make any decisions on it,” said Committee Chair Alison Morgan. “I don’t see why the principals couldn’t start with their building-based updates prior to that, in June.”

“I think we should wait until the new superintendent starts prior to approving any handbook,” Morgan said, “just so they can review it and have a say in it.”

The committee did agree that it could move the item up to July by having the principals update their part, so that there will be less of a rush.

“It makes sense to wait for the permanent superintendent for approval,” said Committee Member Karen Nothe-Valley, “but I agree that we should have a little bit more time to spend on it.”

As for the crowd-funding policy, Murphy said that it was “still in the works,” and that it likely will not be ready for first read at the next meeting.

Interim Superintendent Roland Joyal started the Feb. 5 meeting with announcements and recognitions.

“Congratulations to all of our

SCHOOL COMM. | page 3

Chrzan makes 2000



Turley photos by Greg Scibelli
Monson High School senior, Olivia Chrzan, scores her 2,000 point of her high school career against Taconic High School last week. Olivia’s family and friends were there to cheer her on and celebrate this great achievement. See more on page 9.

PALMER

Council appoints Standing Personnel Sub-Committee

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This week, the Town Council met to form the Standing Personnel Sub-Committee, as directed by the town charter and town counsel, and to appoint a seat to the Conservation Commission.

At the Feb. 10 meeting, the Council was introduced to Courtney Guidry, who was seeking an appointment for an interim seat on the Conservation Commission. Town Manager Brad Brothers described her as “a great fit for the position.”

Guidry moved to Palmer in April of 2024 from Texas, where she worked as a geospatial analyst in Austin, specifically the Watershed Protection Department. She moved here after receiving a job offer for full-time position as a GIS Administrator in West Springfield.

“Largely, I want to learn a little bit about my new town and my new home,” Guidry said.

Guidry highlighted the topical focuses of her background, including an education in Environmental Geosciences from Texas A&M University, and her work in watershed science and analytics, specifically floodplains science and hydrology.

Council President Barbara Barry observed that Guidry’s background was great for the position, and voted unanimously to appoint

her to the commission with a term ending June 30, 2027.

The Council then moved on to appoint a Standing Personnel Sub-Committee to go over personnel matters involving certain department heads, as detailed in the town charter under Section 2-10B. Long-standing councilors noted they were unfamiliar with this subcommittee.

“We should have been doing this all along as part of our annual subcommittee appointments,” said Barry. “What I’m going to recommend is that instead of putting people in the position, we do it as positions, so that the standing committee every year would be the President, the Vice President, and the Clerk.”

Barry said that by appointing the officers to that subcommittee, it would retain consistency in the event that one member were to step down or otherwise be unable to continue their responsibilities to the subcommittee.

The Council voted unanimously to appoint these positions to the subcommittee, making Barry, Vice President Jessica Sizer, and Clerk Mark Caci the Standing Committee.

Barry then moved that any matters within the scope of the Standing Committee, as defined by the town charter, be directed to the Standing Committee without first having to come before Town

PALMER | page 7

BUSINESS

Chamber presents Recognition Awards at annual dinner

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Last week, the Chamber of Commerce held its annual Chamber Dinner at Villa Rose Restaurant.

The event started with a cocktail hour before the dinner meeting, which involved reports from the Treasurer and Secretary, and the announcement of the Nominating Committee officers for 2025. Chamber President Matthew Lemieux reported that the Grant Committee announced four grant submissions, and is expecting a decision in time for the next meeting in March.

At this year’s dinner, the Chamber brought back the Recognition Awards, which honor the members with a token of appreciation.

“It should be no surprise that without amazing members and non-members volunteering, we would not be able to do all that we accomplish,” Lemieux said. “In years past, the Chamber would give out several awards of appreciation at our annual dinner meeting, and we intend to resume that tradition.”

Three awards were presented at the event: the Volunteer Ambassador Award, the Distinguished Member Award, or Member of the Year, and the Legacy Award.

The awards began with the Chamber recognizing Retiring Treasurer Maryann Duguay and

CHAMBER | page 6



Staff photos
Enjoying the evening were (from left) Mike Matthieu, Town Manager Brad Brothers, Council Vice President Jessica Sizer, Council President Barbara Barry, and Senator Jake Oliveira (standing).

COMMUNITY

Residents brighten seniors’ Valentine’s Day with Letter Project

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – This Valentine’s Day, residents are invited to visit the Better Bean, where they can take part in the Letter Project.

Atlantis Castro is a barista at Better Bean, who was approved this year to set up a table for the Letter Project.

“Cards can be sent in from out-of-state, or in-state to my P.O. box at the post office in town,” Castro said, “or cards can be made at home. A lot



of cards were made at Better Bean at the table we had set up there.”

After the cards were made, Castro put them in envelopes and stamped them, and will be delivering them to the Senior Center, as well as dropping them off in surrounding towns.

“It’s in honor of my dad,” Castro said. “He passed away two years ago in March from cancer, and his birthday is on Valentine’s Day. One of his biggest fears was entering a nursing home in last stages of his

life and potentially being forgotten; he never got to that point because he entered hospice, but this is a way for me to honor his memory.”

Castro said that she read some of the letters, and described them as “really sweet.”

“Some are brief, just saying ‘have a good day’ or ‘happy v-day,’ while some have written things that aren’t related to the holiday, like words of encouragement and kindness, or general things to give someone a smile and make them happy,” Castro said.

Castro said that it’s been amazing to hear seniors in the community get excited to have something done for them.

LETTER PROJECT | page 8

Submitted photos

Police Chief Steve Kozloski stopped at the Better Bean to write out a letter to a senior citizen.





COMET

This is Comet, who lives with Jennifer in Monson. Comet is a Golden Retriever, and is just 12 weeks old. He enjoys exploring the world around him and chewing anything and everything he can get in his mouth. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Three Rivers Fire Chief completes state's Chief Officer Class

STOW – Three Rivers Fire Department announced that Stephen P. Nodurf, Chief of Department, completed and graduated from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' Chief Fire Officer Class.

The program is time intensive and requires candidates to complete assignments meant to enhance the capabilities required of chief officers in the contemporary Fire Service.

While studying as a participant in this class, Chief Nodurf worked alongside chiefs from across the Commonwealth. Integrating the class this way allowed for the chiefs to learn not only from the De-



partment of Fire Services, but from each other.

This time intensive program ensures that Chief Nodurf returns to Three

Rivers, directing the Department on an aggressive and progressive trajectory to best serve the community.

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

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

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

"The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to provide a fun filled and inclusive night out for all, while highlighting local businesses who

sponsor the grand prizes," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer for the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber was poised to launch its first bingo event in 2020 until COVID related gathering restrictions caused the Chamber to postpone its plans, which has given us a chance to regroup and put together an even bigger and better event than originally planned."

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

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred mem-

ber businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

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

DEADLINE

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

Corrections

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

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Marcello Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

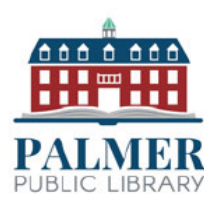
\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

WEB
www.journalregister.turley.com

Facebook
@ The Journal Register

The Journal Register is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

WHAT IS IT?

Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

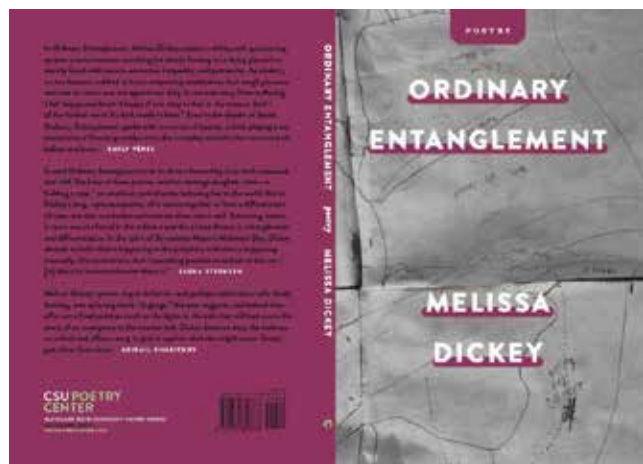
To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month
3:00pm-4:30pm
at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:
(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.



Palmer Library offers Poetry Month Event

“Ordinary Entanglement”: A National Poetry Month Reading and Workshop with Mass Book Award-Honoree Melissa Dickey

PALMER—Join the Palmer Public Library for a special National Poetry Month event with Melissa Dickey at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29. Melissa will read from her acclaimed collection, *Ordinary Entanglement*, and lead a short, generative writing workshop.

In defiant and rapturous poems, Melissa Dickey captures unexpected moments of beauty and resilience, probing the power dynamics that underlie women’s private lives, as mothers, daughters, and lovers. Set against a backdrop of violence, racism, and environmental collapse, the poems of *Ordinary Entanglement* expertly braid inner and outer conflict into registers of jagged, perfect exchange, finding a syntax commensurate to the complex sayings of an inner voice. In seamy (sometimes steamy) poems that are not afraid to be spiky at moments, we receive a record of genuine thinking, of how one can’t help but think, in the knotted and gnarled realities of now.



Melissa Dickey

This program is sponsored by the Mass Book Awards Speakers Bureau and is presented in collaboration with the Massachusetts Center for the Book.

Melissa Dickey is a poet, writer, and teacher. She is the author of the poetry collections *Dragons* and *The Lily Will*, and *Ordinary Entanglement*, which was selected as a Massachusetts Book Awards Poetry Honors title. Her poetry and essays have appeared in *Bennington Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, and the anthology *The Anatomy of Silence*, among other places. Born and raised in New Orleans, she currently lives in Western Massachusetts with her partner and their four children. She teaches literature and writing at an independent high school.



Submitted photo

Several Pack 180 Cub Scouts pay attention as Cubmaster Phil Brodeur helps them create a faster Pinewood Derby car. STEM projects are a breeze as P180 leadership has a few leaders well versed in rocketry and engineering.

Happy Birthday to the Scouts

REGION—Did you know every year Scouts celebrate the February 8th anniversary of Scouting in the United States?

The story is remarkable: in 1909 London, William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, lost his way. It is said a British Scout approached, saluted, and offered to help Mr. Boyce get to his destination. Upon reaching the address, Boyce tried to tip the youth who refused, stating it was his Good Turn. Impressed, Mr. Boyce brought the idea of this program home and began to develop it.

Throughout the week you may see Scouts in uniform here, there, everywhere and quite possibly in the midst of a Good Turn. The program lives on complete with the 12 Points of the Scout Law listing characteristics of a good person, the motto, Do a good turn daily, and the Scout Oath. All value centric sprinkled with skills, events and activities.

Pack 180 Cub Scouts and Combined Scouting Troop 180 are thankful for our families, leaders, and committee members as well as our chartered organization – Saint Elizabeth Parish – for stepping forward to keep this youth program alive and thriving. Further information about these 180 Scout units can be found at Info@Scouts180.org and thank you all.

SCHOOL COMM. | from page 1

students and the faculty who went on the Disney trip,” Joyal said. “We have heard great reports that it was a very good success.”

Joyal said that the next meeting will include a report on the trip, and discuss the possibility of another trip next year. He thanked the chaperones, saying “we appreciate everything they did on doing that.”

Joyal also commended the students from Monson High who scored 1,000 points and 2,000 points, respectively. He also congratulated the principals who secured two Mass Cultural Grants for the district, amounting to \$5,000 each.

“Granite Valley received \$5,000 for a field trip to the Story Barn, they’ll be able to do that,” Joyal said. “Monson High School received \$5,000 as well, from the Mass Cultural Council, for an after-school drama club that is starting. Thank you to both principals for doing that, we appreciate that.”

The School Committee will meet again on Feb. 26.

Winter workshops at Hitchcock Academy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Relay for Life looking for participants

BELCHERTOWN—Relay for Life Kick Off event from 1-3 p.m. on Feb.23 at Hope Church on Main Street in Belchertown. This is a fun and educational gathering. Information will be given out regarding our Relay for Life event.



Quaboag Valley Relay for Life is on May 31 on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Everyone has been effected with Cancer so now is the time to form a few friends and family so you can fundraise and spread awareness of this dreaded disease. You do not have to have a large team or lots of money collected. A few new teams getting some in donations is a big help to the American Cancer Society. After we are done doing all our fundraising, the Relay is a way to unwind and celebrate our accomplishments.

If you are thinking about starting a team or joining a team, this gathering can help you. For additional info please email tellie@juno.com.

Send Us Your Event Listings

We will gladly accept event listings from the community to publish in the *Journal Register*. Please submit to us by Monday at noon, for that weeks publication. We will do our best to include in that weeks paper, space permitting.

Please email to journalregister@turley.com.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Public Auction

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH at 11:00 A.M.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
• PALMER •

★ POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ★
±4¾ ACRE
VACANT INDUSTRIAL LAND
“LOCATED ON CHAMBER ROAD CUL-DE-SAC”

0 Chamber Road f/k/a 8 Chamber Road
PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
To be sold on the Premises

- Features:
- ±4¾ Acres of Vacant Industrial Land •
 - ±315 Ft. Frontage on Chamber Road •
 - Public Water • Private Septic Required •
 - Assessor's Map ID: 18/49 •

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee
Attorney Steven Weiss
Of the firm of Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C.
1441 Main Street, Springfield, MA
Attorney for Mortgagee

Terms of Sale: \$15,000.00 Initial Deposit by Certified Funds.
Deposit to be increased to 10% of Purchase Price within 5 Business Days.
5% Buyer's Premium Applies.
Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

Aaron Posnik
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS

West Springfield, MA • Philadelphia, PA
413-733-5238 • 610-853-6655
TOLL FREE 1-877-POSNIK-1 (767-6451)
MA Auc. Lic. #161 • PA Auc. Lic. #AY000241L

www.posnik.com • E-mail: info@posnik.com

Public Auction

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH at 11:00 A.M.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
• MONSON •

5 ROOM / 3 BEDROOM
SINGLE STORY
RANCH STYLE HOME
ON
1/2 ACRE
“CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALL AMENITIES”

95 Upper Palmer Road MONSON, MA
To be sold on the Premises

- Features:
- Single Story Ranch Style Home • ±½ Acre of Land •
 - Total of (5) Rooms w/ (3) Bedrooms & (1) Bath •
 - ±1,456 S/F of Living Area • Oil Baseboard Heat •
 - Full Basement • Fireplace • Private Water • Private Septic •
 - Parcel ID: 069-013 • Zoned: RR •

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee
Attorney David A. Lavenburg
Of the firm of Bacon Wilson, P.C.
33 State Street Springfield MA
Attorney for Mortgagee

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 Deposit Certified or Bank Funds.
5% Buyer's Premium Applies.
Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

Aaron Posnik
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS

West Springfield, MA • Philadelphia, PA
413-733-5238 • 610-853-6655
TOLL FREE 1-877-POSNIK-1 (767-6451)
MA Auc. Lic. #161 • PA Auc. Lic. #AY000241L

www.posnik.com • E-mail: info@posnik.com

JOIN OUR LOYALTY PROGRAM AND EARN 500 POINTS!

SHOP WITH US ONLINE & HAVE YOUR ORDER WITHIN 2 HOURS OF PLACING IT! JUST SCAN THE QR CODE TO START SHOPPING!

Adams

MARKET

MONSON, MA LOCATION

115 MAIN STREET

SUNDAY - SATURDAY

7 A.M. - 9 P.M.

(413)-267-3144

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why was Social Security money moved to the General Treasury?

Dear Rusty:

Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government?

Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401,000 and savings and the original amount made me money during the Trump years and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security.

Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen

Dear Questioning Senior:

I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund; this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many times over the years. For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

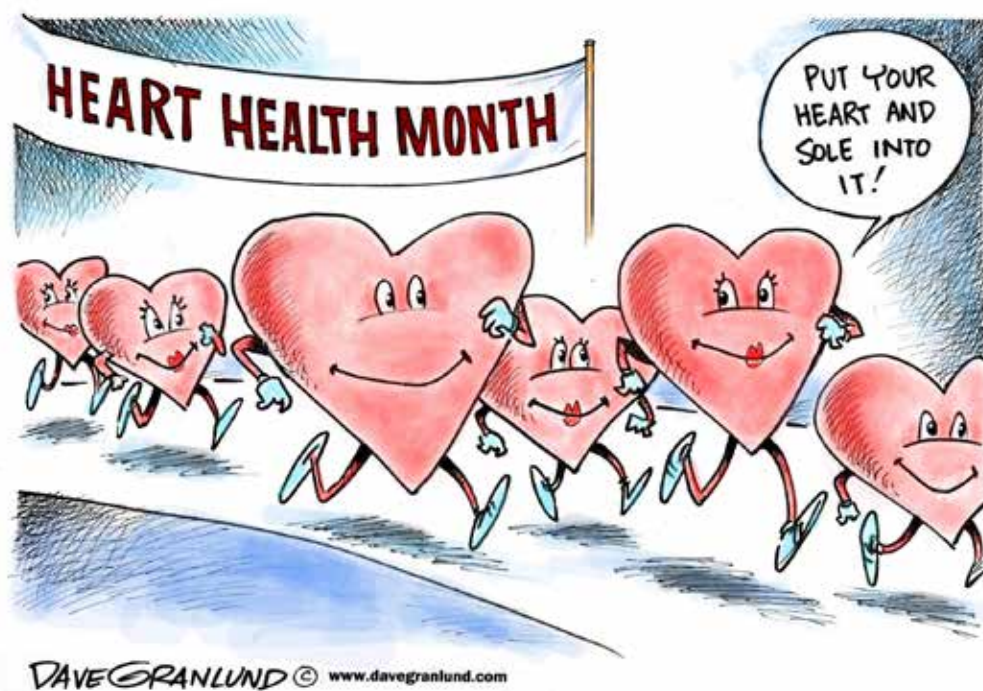
Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds, a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem.

Association of Mature American Citizens has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress, which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on Jan. 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

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



Roses or carnations, you choose



With St. Valentine's Day coming up, my thoughts turn to flowers.

I am not a "rose girl" so to speak. It is probably because I am frugal and roses cost an arm and a leg this time of year.

Get me a carnation and I am happy. They don't bend at the neck or pick you with thorns. They even smell nice, to me the fragrance is that of cloves.

So this will be a combo column. First, it will give our rose lovers out there the best chance of keeping their admirer's big investment healthy for the longest possible time. Then, I will do the same for the humble carnation.

Perhaps you will be the lucky recipient of roses on Friday. I have a couple tricks up my sleeve to help you increase their vase-life. First, remove the roses from their box and give each one a fresh cut on a forty-five degree angle.

If you can do this under water, all the better to prevent what I call "bent head" or "limp neck" syndrome- an air bubble clogging the stem.

You should also remove any foliage that will be underwater - it will rot and make the water stinky and full of bacteria. Leaves on the top third of the stem can remain as long as they look pretty; unbeknownst to me, these will continue to photosynthesize, making food to help the rose color up to its full potential.

We all have had a few "bent heads" or "limp necks" in our day - a shame, considering how expensive roses are, especially when purchased on a holiday. If you catch this situation early there is a way to remedy it: recut the stem of the rose or roses in question and soak them horizontally, under water for a half-hour or so.

This technique is contrary to what one might think is good for a many-petaled flower. I would argue that water trapped within the petals would breed fungi and shorten vase-life, but I guess if the rose is doomed to the fate of a bent head, it's worth a shot. Regular folks have tried it in the bathtub and have been successful.

How about those carnations? They aren't as fussy as their more expensive counterparts, but here are a few helpful hints. Recut their stems to just above a node (the bump where leaves come from) and place in floral preservative.

If you don't have floral preservative, you can make your own. Here is a recipe that, just like the professional blends, contain the three necessary components for fresh flower health and longevity: carbohydrates, a biocide and pH adjuster.

1t sugar
1t bleach
2t lemon or lime juice (strained)
1 quart water

Alternate version:
1-12 ounce can decaf lemon/lime soda
3 cans water
1T bleach
Mix and stir to flatten

Each of these preservatives should be stored in the refrigerator with contents labeled.

Sometimes, carnations come very tightly budded. If you want them to open quickly, without waiting days, you can up the sugar content in the preservative to force bloom.

Do expect that you won't get to enjoy them as long in the vase if you do this, though, since their energy will be spent.

Cut flowers are sensitive to ethylene gas, and carnations are especially sensitive. Rotting foliage, ripening fruit, cigarette smoke and exhaust all release ethylene gas, which acts like a hormone that triggers maturation and death. For that reason we avoid storing flowers in the household fridge.

I had my own firsthand experience. I had arrangements to make at work, but had jury duty the day they were needed. I made them a day early and cleared out one of the coolers. Wouldn't you know it that someone put an apple inside without my knowing. Sure enough everything was ruined.

Whether you are a rose lover or a carnation lover, or enjoy any flower in between, I hope that you either treat yourself, or are treated by someone else, either on St. Valentine's Day or sometime soon!

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

The Journal Register TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.comSTAFF WRITER
Marcelo Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.comADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.comSPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Journal Register

WEB

www.journalregister.turley.comPATRICK H. TURLEY
CEOKEITH TURLEY
PresidentDEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Letters to the editor policy

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



By Ellenor Downer



Male and female hooded merganser

My daughter saw a pair of hooded mergansers on the Ware River on two different occasions.

She said, "They were riding those rapids to the bridge and looked like they were having a blast. Then they just hung out under the bridge."

The hooded merganser is the smallest of the mergansers at 18 inches long. It has a short thin bill and crested head. The male has a black head, white fan shaped patch within the crest, which is only visible when the crest is raised. The flanks are

brown and the back black. It also has black vertical lines on its white breast. The female is plain brown with a darker back and red brown crest. The immature female looks like the adult female and the immature male similar to the female, but they some white in the crest.

Hooded mergansers dive underwater and eat small fish, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic insects. Courtship begins in mid winter. Females do head bobbing and pumping. Most male displays involve crest raising. The male makes a frog like note and the female makes a hoarse "gak."

The female lays six to eight white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed in a tree cavity or nest box. Mergansers summer on wooded rivers and lakes and winters on similar locations as well as along the coast.

Ludlow birds

On Saturday, Jan. 25 a Ludlow resident emailed about the birds in her backyard. She said, "The usual visitors are purple finches, white-throated sparrows, juncos, titmice, nuthatches,

bluejays, mourning doves, cardinals and red bellied woodpeckers. Yesterday Jan. 24, we had a cowbird at the feeder. We haven't had any visit us in the five years we've fed the birds in winter. Just wondering if others in the area have seen a cowbird this early."

Bluebirds and northern flicker

I received an email on Sunday, Jan 26 from a North Brookfield resident, She said, "I live in North Brookfield, down on Lake Lashaway. I had five blue birds and a northern flicker on my feeders this morning along with the usual birds. Early Spring?"

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 21. He said, "Today in the yard all the usual birds were about however the junco flock has increased to about 65 birds. Other not so commonly seen birds were a Carolina wren, and a white-throated and a tree sparrows."

In another email he wrote, "Yes the blue jays sure do like the peanuts. The titmice also get their share. And once in awhile a

red-bellied woodpecker with show up and take a peanut. When I walk around the yard there are a couple of places under a tree or shrub where the ground is littered with empty peanut shells."

Birds in my yard

I continue to have the usual birds at my feeders and suet feeder such as black capped chickadees, titmice, white breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, mourning doves and blue jays. Now that it is February, I expect to see male red-winged blackbirds.

I received a state of the art bird feeder equipped with a camera for my birthday. I have not set it up yet. I will take it down once bears come out of hibernation because I would not want it destroyed.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Monson High School announces honor roll

Grade 7

Braydon Cooper Allsop, Brian Thomas Bannon, Mackenzie Ava Brooke, Declan Earl Chaffee, Emily Elizabeth DeCarli, Madelyn Rose Donovan, Caleb James Lee Duggan, Logan Donald Durham, Ariana Grace Esposito, Hailey Jordyn Fournier, Callie-Marie Purcell Gallion, Caden Gonzalez, Sebastian James Groleau, Piper Linn Miller, Jeremy Bernard Moran, Lukas James Morgan, Thomas Patrick Murphy, Daniella Liz Pagan, Jackson Ellis Pignone, Elijah Alexander Reardon, Eli Gregory Roberge, Emma Laura Mae Rollet, Heinalis Sanchez, Jordyn Mae Szado, Wyatt Henry Tunstall, and Zackary Mitchel Ziobrowski.

Grade 8

Joel Christopher Biadasz, James Lamont Bridges, Noah Daniel Joseph Brown, Michael Strong Caron, Henry Michael Caswell, Cole Paton Chlebus, Houston Daniel Dionne, Aubrey Lynn Edmonds-Martinez, Benjamin Joseph Escoto, Maria Lee Ferreira, Cristiano Paul Garcia, Yeriel Gonzalez, Elliott William Greene, Olivia Belle Harvey, Charles Edward Hastings, Mia Elizabeth Hudak, Emile Lawrence Kites, Maxxum Anthony Kowal, Landon Paul LaCroix, Zachary Hunter Latourelle, Teegan Louise Maleshefski, Mason James Murphy, Desmond Reed Newland, Noella Grace Parker, Evangeline Elaine Renana, Evangeline Iliana Reyes, Elle Leah Somers, Lucas Robert Stebbins, Jaylin Elizabeth Tower, Crosby Edward Turner, Mai Anne Uliana and Shane Stephen Vaillancourt.

Grade 9

Emma Riley Bannon, Grace Adeline Berry, Richard Vincent Blain, Madelynn Marie Caron, Kreslen Luzmar Casseus, Cadence Bailey Crum, Charles Dillahunt, Nathan Jon Galarneau, Abigail Raena Gallion, Elliana Josephine Garneau, Madigan Rose Graves-Harrison, Zoey Estelle Hastings, Sophia Eloise Leonard, Gemma Patricia Maleshefski, Lola Jaine Miller, Jahiley Euniece Padilla, Jayliani Evangeliz Padilla, Anna Faye Soucy, Madilyn Marie Stone, Maya Lynn Summers, Matteo Andrew Teixeira, Anthony David Tulloch, Jolie Marlena Wallace, and Cali Joan Zielinski.

Grade 10

Daniel Joel Alicea, Bryce Cullen Allsop, Kyle Dean Beaudry, Lylia Kate Ellis, Ella Rose Foisy, Benjamin Norman Forest, Samuel Andrew Hudak, Chelsea Ann Hull, Riley John Kszywinski, Serena Venice Mackenzie, Nikolas Gerard Matthieu, Emma Riley Maziarz, Emmalyn Virginia McGrath, Madelyn Rose Moreau, Anthony James Patalano, Lucas Bryan Pignone, Alyanna Ramos Potter, Benjamin Donald Priest, Caitlyn Ann Saunders, Mackayla Alice St. George, Lyla Jane Strycharz, Charlie Arthur Wahlund and Claire Christine Wahlund.

Grade 11

Sindy Andino Zeledon, Brady Louis Bartolomei, Jake William Beaupre, Mya Faith Bridges, Landon Alfred Couture, Olivia Doris Ann Davis, Sophia Jean Galarneau, Jason Charles Harris, Emma Rose Hebert, Ma'niya Marie Kelly-Griffin, Lillian Marie Lamb-McGorry, Adam Walter Laverty, Hannah Marie Murphy, Tyler James Norling, Benjamin Samuel Pignone, Brady Robert Ronaldson, Julia Grace Royce, Shane Michael Szado, Julia Johanna Tassinari, Annabelle Marie Tulloch and Kassidy Layla Wallace.

Grade 12

Emma Sofia Alban, Hailey Michelle Bibbo, Nevaeh Jeanine Chiaccchia, Olivia Grace Chrzan, Ella Marie Corthell, Mausam Darjee, Nicholas Thomas DeCasse, Racheal Ann Harris, Natalie Elizabeth Hull, Rachelle Elizabeth Morse, Kayla Ashlyn Murphy, Vanessa Anne Romeo and Molly Elizabeth Szado.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

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

“Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!”

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

CAMPUS NOTES

Elms College announces Dean's list for fall 2024

CHICOPEE —The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list:

- Haley Dulmaine** from Holland
- Samantha Moyer, Camrynn Lemon** from Monson
- Ava Denault, Jennifer Dejoinville** from Palmer
- Abigail Sutton** from Thorndike
- Olivia Morin** from Wales

Moyer graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE—**Samantha Moyer** of Monson received a Bachelor of Arts from Elms College following the conclusion of the Fall 2024 semester. Moyer was among 79 students who received their degrees in December.

Students Named to Fall 2024 Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT—The following students have been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the Fall 2024 semester.

- Riley Szenda** of Palmer, MA, majoring in Psychology.
- Layne Holcomb** of Wales, MA, majoring in Writing and Publishing.

Hedspeth graduates from University of Tampa

TAMPA, FL—**Liam Hedspeth**, of Monson, graduated from University of Tampa on Dec. 13. Hedspeth received a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity BS.

The commencement ceremony honored 982 undergraduate and grad-

uate candidates and included remarks by President Teresa Abi-Nader Dahlberg, Eric Freundt, professor of biology, and the student challenge speaker.

Local residents named to Clark University's Fall 2024 Deans List

WORCESTER—Clark University announced students named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield, was named to first honors.

Maya E. Senquiz, of Monson, was named to first honors.

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.

Preschool and Kindergarten screenings for Monson residents

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

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



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 in 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

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS \$2.22 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN PORK LOIN END CHOPS \$1.79 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI MONTEREY JACK CHEESE \$4.44 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHANK \$3.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN GOAT MEAT \$6.99 lb</p>	<p>VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR 2</p> <p>2 FROZEN TENDERLOIN STEAKS 4 JUMBO SHRIMP CHEESECAKE FOR 2 2/13-2/15 \$19.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$8.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77¢ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN WINGS TRAY PAK..... \$1.88 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HANDMADE CHICKEN EMPANADAS FULLY COOKED \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP EASY PEELED 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea</p>	<p>SOUP'S ON!</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHANK \$3.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN GOAT MEAT \$6.99 lb</p> <p>SALE DATES: 2/13/25-2/19/25</p> <p>90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities.</p> <p>HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3</p> <p>BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE</p>
---	---	---	--

HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

TOWNS OF BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

The towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales, with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is applying for funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes. In order to be eligible for assistance, total household income shall not exceed current federal income guidelines based on the number of people residing in a household. (See table below).

If you need to make improvements to your roof, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical, lead paint/ asbestos removal, heating system, septic system repair/ replacement and/or other program eligible improvements, please fill out the following form and return to Joe Hagopian at the PVPC (address appears below). ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Senior Planner Joe Hagopian, at (413) 781-6045.

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Mailing Address/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One) _____

Type of improvements needed: _____

For PVPC. use only

Date Received: _____

Staff Initials: _____

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):							
1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$61,350	\$70,100	\$78,850	\$87,600	\$94,650	\$101,650	\$108,650	\$115,650



Matt and Sharon Lemieux (front) sat with staff members from Monson Savings Bank.

Staff photos



Members of the St. Stanislaus Polish Club joined the Chamber of Commerce for its annual dinner.



Members of the community and business owners enjoyed a dinner at Villa Rose Restaurant during the annual Chamber meeting.

CHAMBER | from page 1

thanking her for her service to the organization.

“Her dedication in managing our finances and making sure our organization was fiscally responsible was certainly not unnoticed,” the Chamber said. “You were always prepared to answer questions, offer us guidance, and engage in discussions regarding our finances and as a board member. You never complained, even when faced with writing all those reimbursements for the cancelled fair last August. You were an asset to our team and will be missed.”

After presenting Duguay with a token of the Chamber’s appreciation, she was urged to enjoy her retirement.

The Volunteer Ambassador Award was given to Vicki Miner. The award is presented to a member that has volunteered, and continues to volunteer, their time and talents to the Chamber and the community, improving the quality of both.

Miner was described as “always willing to lend a helping hand,” and has served the Chamber on the Board of Directors, as Treasurer, and now a Trustee. She has participated in many committees for the Chamber over the years, and currently sits on the Finance Committee, Annual Dinner Committee, and Holiday Harvest Fair Committee.

Miner was described as “instrumental” in the summer markets and Holiday Harvest Fair for the past four years, serving as Vice President Carol Seaver’s second-in-command. Outside the Chamber, Miner has

worked on the Special Olympics, Quabbin Fishermen’s Association, the Michael J. Fox Foundation, and is the state appointee for the Palmer Housing Authority.

The Distinguished Member Award, otherwise known as the Member of the Year Award, was presented to Fred Orszulak. The award recognizes and celebrates an inspiring individual for contributions that continue to have an impact on the Chamber and community.

A member of the Chamber for 27 years, Orszulak has served as President, Vice President, Auditor, Trustee, and a member of the Board of Directors, as well as serving on committees such as the Park and Playground Committee, Downtown Beautification Committee, and as the Chair of the Christmas Decorating Committee. Orszulak currently sits on the Fiance Committee, Nomination Committee, and Bylaw Committee, as well as the Annual Dinner Committee that arranged the evening’s festivities.

Fred has been a chamber member for the past 27 years, during that time he has held positions as Vice President, President, board of director, auditor, and trustee. He has served on committees throughout the years including Chair of the Christmas Decorating Committee, Park & Playground committee, and downtown beautification committee. He currently sits on the finance committee, nomination committee, annual dinner committee, and bi-law committee.

“He is our go-to person when we have any questions on the by-laws, and is called upon during

many meetings to answer questions,” the Chamber said. “Outside the chamber Fred donates his time to his church and community. Please accept these tokens of our sincere appreciation for all you have done that inspires us to do more for our organization and community.”

Finally, the Legacy Award was voted by the Annual Dinner Committee to be renamed to the Richard Rondeau Legacy Award in honor of Rondeau’s dedication and 44 years of active service to the Chamber and community. The award was presented by the Rondeau Family to John Sasur.

“The Richard Rondeau Legacy Award is the highest honor award given out by the chamber,” the Chamber said. “The recipient must have served on the Chamber for a period of more than 15 years and still be active in the Chamber. It honors a longtime active member for their outstanding contributions to the chamber and commitment to enhance the quality of life in the community.”

Sasur has been a member of the Chamber for 42 years, and has served on the Board of Directors for 37 years. He has served as the office of Vice President, as well as on the Golf Committee, Park and Playground Committee, and Traffic Light Committee, among others.

Sasur currently works as a Trustee and on the Christmas Decorating Committee, chairs the Nominating Committee, and is still on the Bylaw Committee after 29 years. Sasur was described as “instrumental” in helping the Chamber secure office space and a meeting room, and is recognized as the Chamber’s unofficial historian.

“If you want to know about any of our history, he is the person to ask – and trust me, we do,” Lemieux said. “Since early 2000, he has been at the forefront of the Chamber trying to attract new business and retain business in town, which we still do today.”

Sasur is also formerly the Three Rivers Water Superintendent and served on the Fire Department, has been a Board Member of Palmer Ambulance and PHCC.

“We applauded the determination and devotion you have given to the chamber and the great many

things you accomplish for the community and look forward to all you will do in the future,” the Chamber said. “Thank you for being such a valuable member of our chamber and community.”

The Chamber also hopes to give out a Business of the Year Award next year for the business that has done the most to benefit the chamber and community.

The Chamber also recognized several special guests who attended the meeting, including Three Rivers Fire Chief Stephen Nodurf,

Palmer Police Chief Christopher Burns, Bondsville Fire Chief Mike Germaine, Town Councillors Jessica Sizer and Barbara Barry, Senator Jake Oliveira, and Town Manager Brad Brothers, as well as all the Chamber members and their guests.

The Chamber of Commerce is an organization focused on the commercial and social growth and prosperity of Three Rivers. If you’d like to learn more, you can visit their website at ThreeRiversMACHamber.com, or send an email to ThreeRiversMACHamber@GMail.com.



Members of the Chamber of Commerce get to network with other businesses, connect with the local market, and can utilize the Mini-Grant Program that supports businesses in the region.



John Sasur (right) and his wife Heather, enjoyed the dinner where he was honored with the Richard Rondeau Legacy Award.



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional And Educational Goals

TUTORS NEEDED

For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors: English, Writing & Math

Low cost tutoring & scholarships are available!

We’re a private, non-profit organization at the Palmer Public Library, here to help you meet your educational and professional goals.

**1455 N. Main St
3rd Floor
Palmer, MA
01069**

We’re on Facebook!



Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Contact Us

For More Information

413-283-2329

email:

info@topfloorlearning.org




NESCO SALES INC.

COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER

Your Safety is Our Top Priority



- All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs
- Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available
- Collision Specialists

RS #1688

Call Us to Arrange a **Free Estimate** following Social Distancing Guidelines

We Handle ALL Insurance Claims

91 State St., Bondsville, MA **283-6403** www.nescoautobody.com

Smola announces FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that five fire departments within his district were awarded fiscal year 2025 Firefighter Safety Equipment grants.

The recipients and their award amounts are as follows: Town of Brimfield, \$12,500; Palmer Fire District No. 1, \$15,500; Bondsville Fire District, \$12,500; Town of Sturbridge, \$15,499.99; Town of Wales, \$10,436.79; Town of Ware, \$15,408.54; and the Town of Warren, \$11,043.75

Out of 789 individual fire stations in Massachusetts, 273 were

named as grantees and share more than \$4.5 million in funding, with awards ranging from \$4,502.88 to \$50,000. All fire departments in Smola's district that applied and attended the mandatory program webinar received FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment grant funding.

Smola stated, "This grant funding is a crucial investment into the maintenance and improvement of our fire departments." He continued, "Firefighters risk their lives for the well-being of our communities. It is vital that the legislature continue to support our firefighters and care for their safety, as they so often do for us."

Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants were made possible by the Healy-Driscoll administration, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and the legislature.

Fire departments can use this funding to purchase equipment improvements, such as protective gear, thermal imaging cameras, portable radios, hazardous gas detectors, and personnel accountability systems. The grant program also provides reimbursement for over 100 types of eligible equipment including purchase of essential firefighter turnout gear, hoses, nozzles, communication equipment, hand tools and more.

Second Chance urges pet owners to protect dogs from heartworm

EAST BROOKFIELD – Heartworm disease is a devastating but entirely preventable condition, and Second Chance Animal Services is urging dog owners to take proactive steps to protect their pets.

The organization recently took in Buddy, a sweet but timid 10-month-old Mini Australian Shepherd who tested positive for heartworm. Now, before he can find his forever home, Buddy must undergo months of difficult and costly treatment—an outcome that could have been avoided with proper preventive care.

"This is completely avoidable and heartbreaking," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer at Second Chance. "Buddy has a potential adopter waiting for him, but his heartworm diagnosis stands in the way of his happily-ever-after. A simple monthly preventative could have saved Buddy from this ordeal, and we want to use his story to encourage all dog owners to talk to their veterinarian about heartworm prevention."

Buddy's treatment will cost approximately \$900, and Second

Chance is asking for help from the community to cover these expenses. Every donation, big or small, will go directly toward his treatment and recovery. Donations can be made through the organization's website to support Buddy and other pets in need of critical medical care.

Heartworm disease is transmitted by infected mosquitoes and can be fatal if left untreated. Prevention is key, and Second Chance is committed to ensuring that every pet has access to affordable veterinary care. The organization operates four Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Worcester, Springfield, and Southbridge, offering affordable veterinary care including heartworm testing and preventatives.

Second Chance encourages all dog owners to consult their veterinarian about heartworm prevention and ensure their pets are protected year-round. To schedule an appointment for your pet at one of Second Chance's hospitals, visit SecondChanceAnimals.org/Vet-Care. If you would like to donate to

help Buddy, visit SecondChanceAnimals.org/Buddy. Checks can also be mailed to Second Chance, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

Second Chance Animal Services is a nonprofit animal welfare organization founded in 1999. Second Chance began as an animal shelter and grew to help more pets in need.

Today, Second Chance operates Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester providing access to the highest-quality veterinary care for all. Subsidized rates are provided to underserved communities to ensure access to care for all pets in need.

Last year, Second Chance helped over 56,000 pets live better lives through full-service veterinary care, spay/neuter services, adoption services, community & educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance's website at SecondChanceAnimals.org.

PALMER | from page 1

Council, as recommended by town counsel.

"We go to the Standing Committee, and then the decision of the Standing Committee would then be brought to the whole Council," Barry said.

The Council unanimously approved this motion.

The Council also voted to approve loan authorizations, first for \$2,720,000 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV improvements, and then for \$273,500 as an amendment to a previous authorization for dewatering improvements to the plant.

"The original appropriation that went out didn't include the design, I believe," Brothers said. "We had paid that, and now we need to recoup that money. There's already a dollar amount approved for it, this just represents the design money behind it."

During Public Comments, resident Bob Haveles spoke about the history of the Palmer Ambulance Service, for which he was the Vice

President of the Board of Directors. He was followed by Bonny Rathbone, who advised residents to read the letter included with the bill from the Palmer Water District.



Chamber of Commerce dinners are a great opportunity for conversation and great food, provided by Villa Rose.



Villa Rose Restaurant and Lounge hosted the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce for its annual dinner and Recognition Awards Ceremony.



Visiting the J. Stolar table, (from left) Renee Niedziela, Rachel Slozak, Christopher Stolar, and Will Huber.



Mandie Burns and her husband, Police Chief Christopher Burns (right) attended the Chamber's ceremonial dinner.

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

Locally owned
businesses
here to
serve you!

COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONNECTION

Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!

Think Spring!

April 27Some Like it Hot at PPAC.....	\$120
May 237-Night Bermuda Cruise.....	from \$1699
June 10-12....Hampton Beach Getaway	\$529
June 28.....Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise.....	\$175
July 12Escape to Rockport.....	\$110

Share the Adventure with us soon!

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

46 Years and Counting...

✓ Interior/Exterior Paint	✓ Wallpaper
✓ Hardwood Flooring	✓ Carpeting
✓ Tile & Vinyl Flooring	✓ Window Treatments
✓ Interior/Exterior Stains	✓ ...and more

Everything You Need to
Complete Your Project

JohnsPaintStore.com • 413-283-9427

Pioneer Plaza: 1240 Park Street, Palmer
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm - Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm

The Optical Shop

at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most
Advanced Lens
Designs Available

Frames to Fit Any Budget

Large Selection of
Designer Frames
For All Ages

SUNGLASSES

Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA
413-283-3511

362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA
413-589-1806

Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit
& lenses for every lifestyle.

Advertise Your Business Here Contact Dan Flynn at (413) 297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com



Atlantis Castro set up a table at the Better Bean so visitors could write cards and letters to be delivered to local seniors.



Officer Ethier was one of many town employees participating in the letter project at the Better Bean.



Kids were able to make cards at the Better Bean with help from their parents. Submitted photos

LETTER PROJECT | from page 1

“Even seniors that don’t live in senior housing have been so inspired by it,” Castro said. “It’s really great to hear that people are thinking about them and that they have a little extra love being sent their way.”

Castro said five classrooms are making letters on their own, and estimated well over 500 between the cards made by the classes, letters written at Better Bean, and what she’s received in her P.O. box.

“I’ve had to buy several packs of

cards,” Castro said. “I was actually donated several cards from the community and the teachers, as well as people from out of state. My aunt handmakes her own cards every year and she sent 25 cards to put towards the project.”

Castro said that any member of the public can stop by the Better Bean and make a card, with markers, pens, sticker books, and stamps provided to create a special message.

“We had to put a sign saying ‘Happy Valentine’s Day’ on the table, because

many kids – and adults included – were asking how to spell ‘Valentine’s,’” Castro said. “It was very cute.”

On Monday morning, Castro’s mother and her boss from Better Bean went to the school to make cards, on a day when she was sick and couldn’t make it herself.

“It made me so emotional that, even without me being there, so many people have stepped up,” Castro said.

The program has been running since Feb. 2, and Castro said that it has been a great way to honor her father’s memory by preventing seniors from experiencing the loneliness he was afraid he would feel in a senior home.

“A lot of seniors feel a little unloved and forgotten about in their Centers without having visitation,” Castro said. “I’m really excited for them to see the support from our community and other communities out of state.”

Castro said that she hopes to expand this program beyond Valentine’s Day. She said that she will be looking to arrange a similar Christmas card program, and was looking to get a list of birthdays from the Council on Aging in order to send out birthday cards.

The Better Bean is located at 186 Main St. in Monson. For more information, you can visit BetterBeanCafe.com.



Over 500 cards were compiled between the high school classes, the table at Better Bean, and out-of-state mailings.



Seated around the Letter Project table to help people write their notes, (from left) Cheri Torres, Atlantis Castro, and Ryan Jancaitis.



Standing in front of Memorial Hall, Atlantis Castro showed off the sweater and sign she made for the Letter Project.

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU card \$25 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: February 22, 2025
Location: Tantasqua Jr High School (320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tryout # 2: March 1, 2025
Location: Oxford High School (100 Caruncle Drive, Oxford, MA)

- Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th (9 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th (10:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.)
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th (12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com
 Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548
 AAU affiliated club for over 25 years!

QUABOAG SCHOOL CHOICE

Now Open 2025-2026 Grades K-12

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT
SILVER AWARD RECOGNITION
AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
FOR 8 YEARS!

Form Available at www.quaboagrdsd.org > Resources

IMMERSIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ CNA, Phlebotomy & EKG
- ✓ Fire & EMT Academy
- ✓ Early Childhood Education Ch. 74
- ✓ Biomedical Innovation Pathway
- ✓ Computer Science/Tech Innovation Pathway

(413)-436-9256 | 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren, MA 01083

ROADHOUSE C.A.F.E

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

Open extended hours Tues.-Sun. 7am-1pm

Check our Facebook & Instagram pages for updates

Bay Road & Rt. 9, Belchertown
413.323.6175
www.roadhouse.cafe.net

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

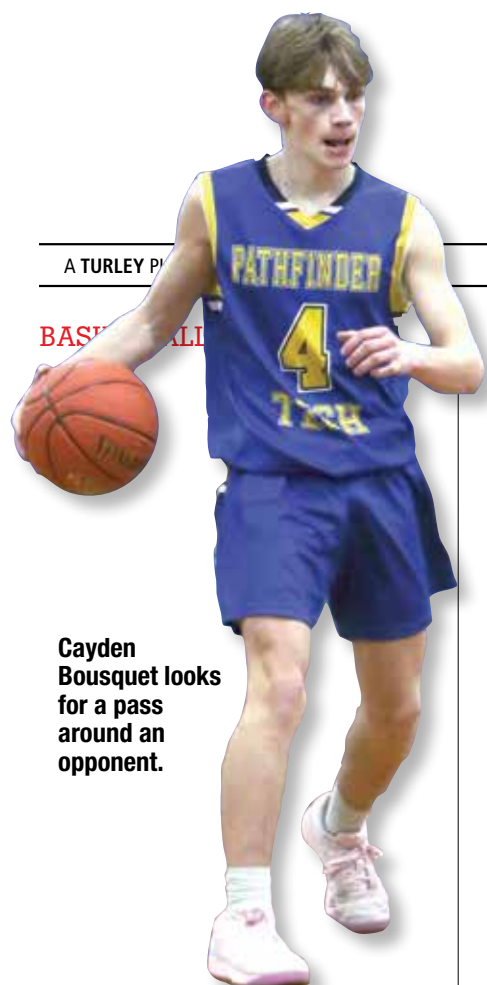
facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PHOTO

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Cayden Bousquet looks for a pass around an opponent.

Pioneers fall to rival Panthers



Dylan Doherty goes for the layup.

PALMER – In a battle of the Palmer boys basketball squads, Palmer High beat Pathfinder last Wednesday night 55-42. Stephen Fredette led all scorers with 18 points. Dylan Doherty added 14 points for the Panthers. Cayden Bousquet had a big game for the Pioneers with 15 points. Cassian Kowalik had 10 points. The Panthers improved to 12-4 while the Pioneers are 2-14.



Gavin Smola shoots in traffic.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cassian Kowalik gets to the foul line. More photos on page 10.

Chrzan notches 2K



Monson High School's Olivia Chrzan scored her 2,000th point last week.

Submitted photos

MONSON – While it is a major milestone for an individual basketball player to score 1,000 points across a high school career, Monson's Olivia Chrzan has doubled down on that achievement. Last Monday night on the road at Taconic High School, Chrzan notched her 2,000th career point. The achievement came in a big win for Monson over the host Beavers. Chrzan, who has continued to be a scoring threat all season for the Mustangs, scored 28 points in the win. She has not slowed down, scoring 19 against Agawam last week and 22 against South Hadley later in the week. Despite a sub-.500 record, the Mustangs are in prime position to make the state tournament, allowing Chrzan to add to her huge career total.



Chrzan scored the milestone in a matchup last Monday against Taconic, her family and friends were in attendance to see her hit this goal.

BASKETBALL

Tired Monson squad suffers loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM—Playing their fifth game in a span of six days, the Monson Lady Mustangs ran out of gas against the Agawam Brownies.

The Brownies, who held a 21-17 halftime advantage, outscored the Lady Mustangs, 31-13, during the second half enroute to a 52-30 non-league home victory, last Tuesday night.

"This was our fifth game during the past six days, so my players are exhausted," said Monson girls' varsity basketball coach Alyssa Darling. "We were able to keep the score close during the first half."

Monson senior Olivia Chrzan became the first boys or girls'



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Madigan Graves-Harrison passes the ball away.

basketball player in the history of Monson High School to score 2,000 career points in a 40-38 win at Taconic twenty-four hours earlier.

"Everybody was very excited to see Olivia score her 2,000th career point," Darling said. "I'm very glad that she was able to reach that milestone. She has put in a lot of hard work and really deserves it."

Despite having a 5-10 overall record, the Lady Mustangs were ranked 12th in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings. They were

also ranked second in the Western Mass. Class D rankings.

"It's nice to see that we're still in playoff concentration despite having a below .500 record," Darling added. "We're hoping to make a good run in both tournaments. We just want to keep playing for a little bit longer."

Chrzan, who scored a game-high 19 points against Agawam, is the only senior listed on the Lady Mustangs roster. Their other seven players are either eighth graders, freshmen, or sophomores.

MONSON | page 10



Lylia Ellis passes into the paint.

BASKETBALL



Madison Rathbone goes for the layup.

Panthers fall to Mahar

PALMER – In a close matchup last Monday night, Palmer High School girls basketball fell, 42-38 against Mahar Regional. Loretta Petraschewicz led the Panthers with 10 points while Jayda Pardo had eight points. Palmer is just 3-12 on the regular season and the Panthers will likely be involved in nonplayoff games next week. They are teetering on the state playoffs, ranked No. 33 as of Tuesday. If Palmer can crack the top 32, they would make the state tournament. Palmer will not finish at .500.



Anabelle Ladue passes along the perimeter.



Addyson Petraschewicz tries to avoid a block.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Loretta Petraschewicz is held, but goes for the layup.

Hurricanes edge out Pacers for win



Brach Applegate angles for a shot on goal.



Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney looks for a path to the Chicopee goal.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Noah Latulippe works the puck away from the wall.

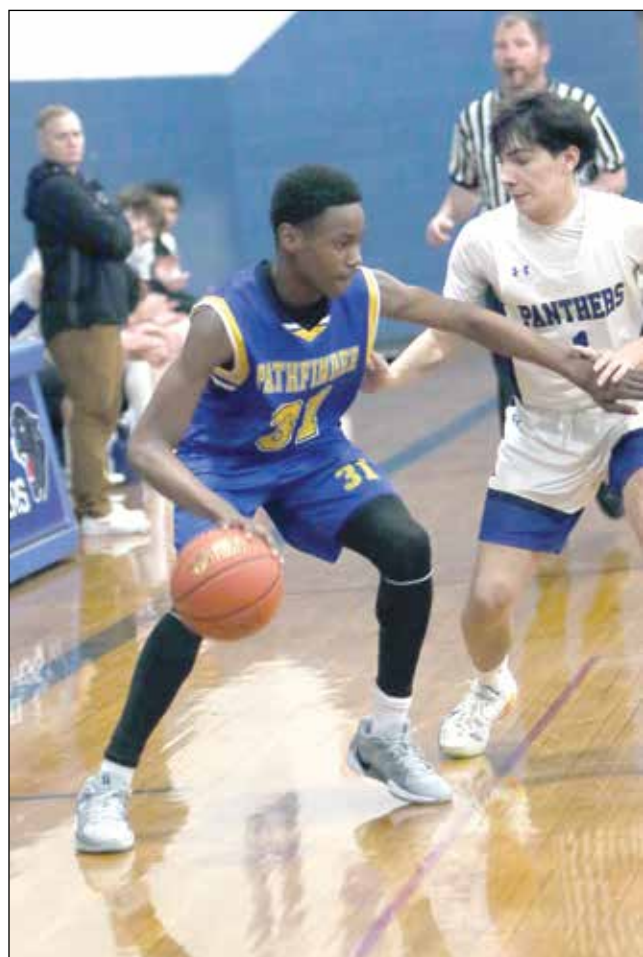


Eric Chen looks to get past an opponent.

HOLYOKE – Last Wednesday evening, Amherst ice hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder, defeated the Chicopee five-team co-op 3-2 at Fitzpatrick

Rink. Nate Desbien, Alex Marlin, and Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney all scored the goals for the Hurricanes. Chicopee got goals from Nate Robitaille and Ty-

ler Denison. Spencer McDonald made 21 saves in goal. Amherst 9-4-1 and is headed for tournament, while Chicopee is 3-8-2.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aiden Girard is closely guarded.

Railers drop finale to Atlanta Gladiators

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (20-20-2-4 46pts) lost to the Atlanta Gladiators (20-22-4-2, 46pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 7,094 at the DCU Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center taking on the Allen Americans on Friday, February 14th at 8:10 p.m. EST.

It was Atlanta who scored first tonight as Cody Sylvester (2-0-2) put the Gladiators up 1-0 19:26 into the first period. Just 31 seconds later Andrew Jarvis extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 heading into the second period. Worcester got their first on the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) 2:34 into the third period. Atlanta scored back-to-back empty-net goals in

the third period from Cody Sylvester and Ryan Cranford (1-0-1). The Railers then made it 4-2 with a goal from Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) 18:41 into the third to finish off the night's scoring.

It took nearly the entire first period for either team to score until Atlanta took the 1-0 lead. It was Cody Sylvester (17th) who put the Gladiators up 1-0. With just three seconds remaining in the first period Andrew Jarvis (4th) extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 with a low slap shot to beat Bullion down low. Shots favored Worcester 12-10 in the first period.

Despite power play chances for both sides neither team was able to net one in the second period. The Railers went to the power play twice in the period, first at the

10:02 mark into the second followed by another chance at the 13:38 mark. Atlanta got their power play opportunity 16:17 into second frame, but the Worcester penalty kill held strong keeping Atlanta from jumping out to a three-goal lead. Shots favored Worcester 14-7 in the second.

Worcester made it a 2-1 game early in the third following a goal from Matias Rajaniemi (3rd) 2:34 into the third period. The Railers went to the empty net in an effort to tie the game late, but Atlanta scored twice on the empty net, the first was Cody Sylvester (18th) followed by Ryan Cranford (9th). The Railers then got one back scored by Matt Ustaski (3rd) leading to a 4-2 final. Shots favored Worcester 15-5 in the third and 41-22 in the game.



Mia Hudek makes a pass.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Cali Zielinski gets around a pair of Agawam guards.



Mason Baer takes a free throw.

MONSON | from page 4

Six of the eight points that Chrzan scored in the first half came from the free throw line.

"I thought we did a very good job against Olivia in tonight's game," said Agawam head coach Tim Murphy. "She still made a bunch of free throws."

The Brownies were ranked 31st in the Division 2 power rankings and fifth in the Western Mass. Class A rankings.

"We do play a lot of Division 4 and 5 teams," Murphy said. "Even though a lot of those teams are very good, it really doesn't help our power rankings very much. I really liked how we played in the second half of tonight's game."

A total of eight players scored for the home team led by senior Emma LaCaresse with 10 points.

Senior Hannah Solitario scored four of her six points during the first four minutes of the first quarter.

With 3:30 left in the opening quarter, a fast-break lay-up by junior Isabella Laprise (9 points) gave Agawam a 6-0 advantage.

Monson battled back with a jumper from freshman Cali Zielinski and four



Emma Bannon tries to work her way out of pressure.

foul shots from Chrzan.

Another Monson freshman is Madigan Harrison-Graves. She made a 3-pointer from the right side of the key giving her team an 11-10 lead a minute into the second quarter.

The Brownies retook lead when senior Mia Canavan hit a foul-line jumper.

The Lady Mustangs answered back with a put-back hoop from sophomore Lylia Ellis (6 points) and a Chrzan lay-up.

Agawam then closed out the first half with a 9-2 run.

The Brownies, who outscored the Lady Mustangs, 13-5, during the third



Olivia Chrzan starts a play on offense.

quarter, held a 34-22 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The home team continued to pull away during the final eight minutes of the contest.

[@turleysports](https://twitter.com/turleysports) www.turleysports.com facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports



Athlete of the Week

Olivia Chrzan
Monson High School

Last week, Chrzan achieved a major milestone as she scored her 2,000th career point in a matchup last Monday night at Taconic High School.

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

MOULTON

Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

Our Family Cares About Your Family



ARBELLA
INSURANCE

Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks have concluded their second round of the candlepin league season.

Going into the final week, the standings had Team BK in the first-place position with a record of 22.5-13.5. The Daft Kings are in second place at 20.5-15.5. Daft Kings would have to win at least three points to win the round as long as BK doesn't win any points in the final week of round two. The remaining four teams are mathematically eliminated from winning the second round.

The winner of this round will join Gutter Mouths in the championship roll off at the end of the season. First round winners, Gutter Mouths, bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Gutter Mouths were victorious over Last in Line 340-325.

In game two, Gutter Mouths won again by a score of 361-335. Stephen Manolakis bowled a 108 in game two to go with his teammate Dino Tessicini's 105. The third and final game was close but Gutter Mouths won again 343-339 for a three-game sweep.

The final score was 1044-999 in favor of Gutter Mouths.

The top seed Team BK bowled against Compression in the final week of round two. In game one, Compression defeated BK by a score of 382-366. Jeff Whyte of BK bowled an excellent game of 113 in a losing effort. David Bowman of Compression bowled a 105.

In game two, Compression was victorious again, taking another win from BK 375-345. In the third and final game, Team BK won the last game, 376-361, to give themselves one point in the final week. Mark Fitzpatrick ended the match with a 108.

The final score was 1118-1087 in favor of Compression.

The pressure was on for Daft Kings who are two points out of first place as they bowled against the Mailmen. In game one, Daft Kings got a victory by a score of 377-371. Ken Trudel of Daft Kings lead his team to victory by bowling a 112. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 119 in a losing effort.

In game two, Daft Kings won another close game by a score of 393-392. Matt Bertelli of Daft Kings had the high single score of game two with a 116. Bryan Surprise has a 111 in game two.

In game three, it was another game with a single digit difference as Daft Kings won again 392-385. Dave Cobleigh of Daft Kings was the hero of game three with a 116. Bryan Surprise had the high series on his team with a 325. Matt Bertelli had the high series on his team with a 317.

The final score was 1162-1148 in favor of Daft Kings who won all four points in the final week. As a result, the Daft Kings pull ahead of Team BK and win the second round. Daft Kings will be competing in the championship roll off at the end of the season.

With one final round to go, the Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes will crown one more winning team to join Gutter Mouths and Daft Kings in the playoffs.

'Ice-O-Topes' score win over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Ice-O-Topes, née Thunderbirds, (22-17-2-3) rode a four-goal flourish in the final period to a 5-2 victory on Saturday night over the Providence Bruins (25-15-4-1) before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center. Springfield has still never lost as the Ice-O-Topes, improving to a perfect 5-0 record as their alter ego, while the team also extended its point streak to seven straight games.

It became evident in the early stages that goals would be scarce on this night, as Bruins All-Star netminder Michael DiPietro and Springfield stalwart Colten Ellis showed no signs of blinking in the opening 20 minutes. Matt Luff had two of the better chances for Springfield, but the iron rang on the veteran winger on one attempt, while DiPietro flashed terrific lateral agility to stonewall the Ice-O-Topes forward on another offering.

Not to be outdone, Ellis was timely in his own right, making his brightest save of the frame when he denied a breakaway backhand attempt from Max Jones.

The first three power plays of the night proved unsuccessful, but on their second attempt in the closing minutes of the middle period, the Bruins finally solved Ellis as Jones hit Riley Tuft on a slap feed in the right circle, where the big centerman lifted a shot under the crossbar to make it 1-0 Providence at 18:14 of period two.

In desperate need of a response, the 'Topes got just that in the final seconds of the stanza, as MacKenzie MacEachern and Dalibor Dvorsky combined to work the puck to the

edge of the blue paint on a 3-on-2 rush, with Nikita Alexandrov cashing in with just eight seconds separating the teams from the dressing room.

Alexandrov was far from finished, and at 4:01 of the third, with Leo Loof holding the puck at the left point, Alexandrov dashed to the blue paint, where he deflected Loof's pass in behind DiPietro to hand Springfield the 2-1 lead.

Just 1:41 later, the lead got a boost as Otto Stenberg filled the center lane, receiving a pass from Luff and firing it through DiPietro to make it a 3-1 game at 5:42. The tally snapped Stenberg's eight-game goal drought and also doubled as his first goal on home ice.

The Bruins would not go down easily, and Vinni Lettieri stepped in front from behind the goal line to lift a backhander home before Ellis could get across, shrinking the 'Topes' lead to 3-2 at 7:45.

Unlike the night before, the T-Birds would not let the Bruins get even this time around, killing off a Providence power play before adding onto their lead once again at 17:48 when Alexandrov fielded a pass out of his feed at the bottom of the right circle before slipping it into the blue paint. Before DiPietro could smother it, Matthew Peca arrived to jam it across the line for his team-leading 17th of the season, giving Springfield a 4-2 advantage.

Dvorsky joined Alexandrov with three-point nights when he threw a puck from center ice into an empty net with 1:29 to polish off a four-goal final period and earn Springfield three of a possible four points on the weekend.

Hall of Fame unveils schedule for 2025 enshrinement

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has unveiled its Enshrinement Weekend schedule for the Class of 2025. The celebratory weekend will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield—the Birthplace of Basketball. Finalists, as well as select award winners, will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, during NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be revealed on Saturday, April 5, at the Final Four in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2025 and returning Hall of Famers will then travel to Springfield, Mass., where they will participate in the weekend's traditional events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall.

First-time candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdsclaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

A limited number of VIP Packages for the 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at hoophall.com on the Hall of Fame's Enshrinement Ticket page or by calling the Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5513.

Individual tickets for the events will go on sale tentatively on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon.

Details of the current schedule of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

Friday, September 5, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

Enshrinement 2025 Autograph Session

An opportunity to meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event. A ticket to this event will give fans the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

Enshrinement 2025 Press Conference

The official media availability for the Hall of Fame Class of 2025. This availability is only open to credentialed members of the media, along with VIP Package ticket holders, and will be held at Mohegan Sun. The media credential application will open on Monday, July 21, at hoophall.com/media.

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala

The Class of 2025, along with the Hall's prestigious annual award winners, will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. During the event, the Class of 2025 will receive their Hall of Fame rings, courtesy of Baron Championship Rings, and their official Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will additionally highlight the presentation of the Hall's annual John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards.

Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield, Mass.

Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott

Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the official VIP Reception prior to the sport's ultimate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony. Shuttle service between the host location and Symphony Hall will be provided if needed. This exclusive party will set the stage for a memorable night on the Red Carpet and at the Ceremony.

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

The Class of 2025, legendary Hall of Famers, and some of basketball's biggest icons take center stage on the red carpet in a live TV broadcast outside Symphony Hall.

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

One of the most elite nights on the basketball calendar each year, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.


Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Joyce M. Bovat
Died Jan. 29, 2025
Services TBA
Beers & Story Funeral Home

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

Philip R Wallander
Died Feb. 8, 2025
Services Feb. 14, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Joyce M. Bovat



In loving memory, we announce the passing of Joyce M. Bovat, a cherished mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, on Jan. 29, 2025, in Palmer, MA. Joyce was born as the only child to the late Bertha and Fred Holcomb on April 1, 1942, in Ware, MA, and was a graduate of Palmer High School.

Joyce was predeceased by her beloved husband of 57 extraordinary years, Ralph Bovat, as well as her son, Scott Bovat, and daughter, Tina Skowrya. She is survived by her devoted daughter, Sheila, and son-in-law, John of Barre, MA, and son, Glen Bovat of Gardner. Joyce's legacy continues through her 8 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, each of whom she cherished deeply.

For over 30 years, Joyce dedicated herself to her career as a ward secretary at Wing Hospital and Medical Center, where her professionalism and kindness left a lasting impression on colleagues and patients alike. Her commitment to her work was evidenced by her enduring tenure, and she retired with fond memories of her time there.

Joyce was a former member of the

Mill Valley Snowmobile Club in Belchertown, where she enjoyed snowmobiling adventures with her children and grandchildren. She and her late husband, Ralph, also found joy in the peaceful settings of their second home at Camperama Campground in Townshend, VT, relishing shared moments of tranquility and the great outdoors.

In her leisure, Joyce loved playing Bingo at Amvets and always looked forward to her evening phone calls with her sister-in-law, Carol Leroux.

Joyce's family would like to thank the staff at the D'Amour Center, Baystate Medical Center, and Joyce's home health aids for the compassionate care that was provided to Joyce in the last few years.

In honor of Joyce's life, a graveside service will be scheduled in the spring, allowing family and friends a moment to celebrate a life beautifully lived. Those who wish to express their condolences are encouraged to donate to the American Cancer Society in her name, continuing Joyce's spirit of caring for others. Donations can be made by visiting www.donate.cancer.org.

Earl H. Chaffee



Earl H. Chaffee, 76, left this world on Feb. 3, 2025, in Springfield, MA. Born on Nov. 3, 1948, in Palmer, MA, Earl was a cherished member of the Monson and Palmer communities, where he lived a life marked by dedication, service, and love. Earl was the beloved son of the late Charles and Lorraine (Brouillette) Chaffee. He is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Kathleen M. (Backus), who shared with him a life full of love and companionship. Together, they raised two wonderful children, Jennifer (Christian) Young and Timothy (Shannon) Chaffee, who carry on his legacy. Earl took immense pride in his grandchildren—Jack, Alex, Aydan, Declan, and Tinsleigh—and was deeply involved in their lives, finding great joy in their presence. As a young man he enlisted in the Army and did a tour in Vietnam. He was a proud US Army Veteran and you would often find Earl wearing a VA shirt and hat, along with his patriotic suspenders. He marched in many Memorial Day Parades alongside fellow veterans. Professionally, Earl was a man of diligence and commitment. He worked as a bookkeeper at Palmer Trailer Sales for many years as well as plowing, doing landscaping work and construction. His work ethic was unmatched, and it was this dedication that later saw him maintain Bethany Cemetery with the utmost care and respect. Earl's contributions

extended beyond his work; he was actively involved in the American Legion, where he advocated for the community and honored his fellow veterans. Earl was known for his easy-going personality and generous spirit. He had a penchant for savoring every meal and every moment, embodying a patience rarely seen in today's fast-paced world. His greatest joy and hobby was spending time with his grandchildren, in whom he instilled his values of kindness and determination. He leaves behind his siblings, Judy (Joe) Hinchey, Marie (Ray) Stockwell, Donald (Joanne) Chaffee, and Philip (Jamie) Chaffee, as well as his sister-in-laws, Holly Chaffee and Mary Chaffee. Earl was predeceased by his brother, David Chaffee. He will also be missed by his many nephews and nieces. Family, friends, and those whose lives were touched by Earl were invited to celebrate his life during a visitation on Feb. 10 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. A Funeral Mass was at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, where military honors were rendered. A burial ceremony is planned for the spring at the parish cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to American Legion Post 241 or to a VA charity of choice, in honor of Earl's service and dedication to those who served alongside him.

Philip R Wallander, 1939-2025



MONSON—It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Philip Roy Wallander, who departed this life peacefully on Feb. 7, 2025 at the age of 85.

Phil was born on Feb. 28, 1939 in Los Angeles, California. He joined the US Air Force in 1956 and was stationed at Westover Air Force Base, where he served his country with honor while working as a jet mechanic on B-52s. In 1959 he met the love of his life, Dorothy, and they were married on Oct. 22, 1960. The following year they welcomed their daughter, Lori. They created a loving home in Springfield surrounded by family and good friends.

In 1979, Phil and Dottie built their dream house in the beautiful hills of Monson, Massachusetts. Phil worked as a machine repairman for Package Machinery and later Cincinnati Milacron, where he retired after 25 years.

Phil's love and pride was his family and friends and he especially enjoyed spending time with them at their charming beach cottage in Onset, Massachusetts. He was a loving and dedicated father and grandfather, never missing a game, concert, or special occasion in their lives. Phil was an avid sailor and found joy in captaining many boats throughout the years. In addition to sailing, Phil and Dottie also enjoyed walking, biking, hiking, gardening and listening to music, especially the Blues.

Phil and Dottie also traveled extensively. Some of their favorite destinations included Florida, St. Croix, Hawaii, Alaska, Italy, France, and many National Parks.

Phil is survived by his loving wife of 65 unforgettable years, Dorothy (Jarosz), his be-

loved daughter Lori Isler-Wallander and her husband Loren, and their children Russell Philip and Jessica Elizabeth. He was preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Kathryn Wallander, and his two younger brothers Gary and Melvin. Phil also was preceded in death by his daughter Sharon, and leaves behind her children Jillian, Brett, and Gregory. He also will be missed by cherished cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In 2021 Phil participated in a Triluminate Pivotal heart study at Beth Israel Hospital. He was the very first person in New England to receive their tricuspid valve clip. Thanks in part from his effort, the device was approved by the FDA in 2024 which expanded its use. We are so proud of his ground-breaking contribution to medical science and feel this device extended his life.

Phil's kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for his family and friends will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Family and friends are invited to gather at The Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery 1390 Main St Agawam MA on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025 at 2 p.m. for a Committal Service with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial, made in Phil's name, either to the Dakin Humane Society at DakinHumane.org or Dakin Humane Society, P.O. Box 6307 Springfield, MA 0110 or to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at BIDMC.org/giving. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Donate blood at Baystate Wing Hospital

PALMER—Blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year in 2025, on April 16, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 15, and Dec. 17. The community is invited to donate blood at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

"There is no substitute for human blood," said VanZandt. "Blood donations

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

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

support community journalism

1	2	3			4	5	6	7			
8			9			10					
11					12						
13			14		15						
16					17						
18				19	20						
			21			22					
			23			24					
		25			26						
	27				28		29	30	31	32	33
	34						35				
36							37				
38								39			
40									41		
42										43	

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 23. Swiss river | CLUES DOWN | 19. Empowering |
| 1. Racquet sport group (abbr.) | 24. Gymnast Raisman | 1. Type of bomb | 20. Space station |
| 4. Norse god of thunder | 25. Baby's dining accessory | 2. Polynesian island country | 23. Disorder |
| 8. Russian industrial city | 26. Canadian beer distributor | 3. Heavenly body | 24. State of fuss |
| 10. What's good for the ___ | 27. Iconic American tourist destination | 4. Hard workers | 25. Footwear for babies |
| 11. Round-ish shape | 34. More expansive | 5. Covered | 26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.) |
| 12. Baltimore MLBer | 35. Alert | 6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder | 27. Drove |
| 13. French modernist painter | 36. Popular boots | 7. Plant of the grass family | 28. Affirmative |
| 15. Burned with water | Doc ___ | 9. Island person of the Bering Sea | 29. Male parent |
| 16. Intestinal issue | 37. Showings | 10. Storehouse | 30. Utter obscenities |
| 17. Take the lead | 38. Conclusion | 12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub | 31. Type of verse |
| 18. Prove oneself worthy | 39. Share a common boundary | 14. A pituitary hormone | 32. Unpleasant person |
| 21. None | 40. Round sport | 15. Female sibling | 33. One who settles down |
| 22. Tax collector | 41. Popular side dish | 17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan | 34. Founder of source-based history |
| | 42. Global energy firm | | 36. A way to snarl |
| | 43. Chronicles (abbr.) | | |

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.
Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ◆ Benches ◆ Statues ◆ Monuments ◆ Custom Design Work
- ◆ Plot Maintenance ◆ Bronze Plaques ◆ Cleaning ◆ Markers ◆ Vases
- ◆ On-Site Lettering ◆ Restorations ◆ Cemetery Signage ◆ Granite Signs

201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ◆ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ◆ 413-589-7588 Fax ◆ 413-531-5360

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

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

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

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

A	T	P						T	H	O	R										
T	U	L	A					G	O	O	S	E									
O	V	A	L					O	R	I	O	L	E								
M	A	N	E	T				S	C	A	L	D	E	D							
I	L	E	U	S				P	I	O	N	E	E	R							
C	U	T	T	H	E	M	U	S	T	A	R	D									
								N	I	L	I	R	S								
								A	A	R	A	L	Y								
								B	I	B	B	D	L								
								H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	S	I	G	N	
								R	O	O	M	I	E	R			A	W	A	R	E
								M	A	R	T	E	N	S			D	E	M	O	S
								E	N	D	I	N	G				A	B	U	T	
								S	K	E	E	T					R	I	C	E	
								H	E	S	S							C	H	R	

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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

Region

Police/Fire

State Auditor's Medicaid audit identifies potential cost savings

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZogio's Office released an annual report of the recent work conducted by the office's Medicaid Audit Unit, from March 2, 2024, through Feb. 28, 2025.

Over the past year, the State Auditor's Office released three audit reports on the state's Medicaid program, known as MassHealth, and its compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and other applicable authoritative guidance. Combined, these three reports identified an estimated \$27,259,164 in potential cost savings and provided several recommendations to strengthen internal controls and oversight in MassHealth's program administration.

MassHealth provides access to health-care services annually to approximately two million eligible children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities, all with low and moderate incomes. In fiscal year 2024, MassHealth program expenditures totaled \$20.1 billion, of which approximately 39% was paid by the Commonwealth. Medicaid program expenditures represent approximately 33% of the Commonwealth's total annual budget.

The State Auditor's Office maintains ongoing independent oversight of the MassHealth program and its contracted service providers, with audit reports identifying ways MassHealth can strengthen its controls to prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the Massachusetts Medicaid program, as well as improper claims for Medicaid services.

The Office uses data analytics in all audits conducted by the Unit. By doing so, auditors can identify areas of high risk, isolate outlier providers, and in many cases perform reviews of 100% of the claims under audit, thus significantly improving the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of audits.

Moreover, in many cases, data analytics has enabled the Unit to fully quantify the financial effects of improper payments, whether they involve one claim or 10 million claims. The use of data analytics techniques has enabled the Unit to identify greater cost recoveries and savings; isolate weaknesses in claim-processing systems; and make recommendations regarding MassHealth's system and program regulations to promote future cost savings, improve service delivery, and make government work better.

Released on Dec. 31, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Capitation Payments with Multiple Identification Numbers revealed MassHealth made capitation payments on behalf of members with multiple IDs, with an estimated \$3,813,827 in improper billings.

The audit recommends MassHealth require that all members flagged by data matches submit documentation to confirm their identity. If the member does not provide documentation, then MassHealth should either pause the member's coverage or move the member to its fee-for-service model until it can determine whether the member's coverage should be terminated.

MassHealth should also investigate and resolve all instances where its data matches indicate that a member has been assigned more than one member ID. Moreover, MassHealth should implement a match criterion that focuses solely on Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Because an SSN should be unique to each individual, a targeted match criterion that only includes an SSN would reduce the prevalence of multiple IDs by 19%, based on sample testing.

Released on Oct. 1, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Payment for Telehealth Adult Day Health revealed MassHealth paid providers for ADH that it did not authorize and/or that did not have supporting documentation. MassHealth also paid providers for transportation to ADH that it did not authorize and/or that did not have supporting documentation.

Moreover, MassHealth paid providers \$11,797 for 109 claims for services allegedly rendered to 31 members who were proven to be deceased. In total, the audit identified \$465,683 in improper billings.

The audit recommends MassHealth should ensure system edits to prevent payments for ADH without prior authorization are properly implemented; investigate the paid claims identified by OSA and take corrective action as it deems appropriate; investigate for improper documentation of ADH claims from providers that OSA did not review; ensure that system edits to prevent payments for ADH without prior authorization are properly implemented; investigate the paid

claims identified by OSA and take corrective action as it deems appropriate; investigate ADH claims from providers outside the five OSA reviewed for improper documentation; establish monitoring controls to ensure that ADH claims are documented; update its algorithms to cross-reference members' dates of death with additional data sources and not rely solely on the Department of Public Health's Vital Statistics file when verifying members' dates of death; and establish a plan to recoup the \$11,797 in overpayments made on behalf of deceased members.

Finally, released on Sept. 4, 2024, an audit of the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) – Review of Payment for Telehealth Adult Foster Care and Group Adult Foster Care revealed a total of \$22,979,654 in improper billings.

The report found MassHealth did not ensure that AFC and GAFC registered nurses/licensed practical nurses and care managers conducted required oversight visits.

MassHealth also paid AFC and GAFC providers for services that did not have supporting caregiver/direct care aide log documentation. Moreover, MassHealth paid for AFC and GAFC caregiver/direct care aide services that were incorrectly coded as telehealth.

The audit recommends MassHealth establish effective monitoring controls to ensure that AFC and GAFC providers conduct the required oversight visits for MassHealth members and caregivers/direct care aides.

To establish effective monitoring controls, MassHealth should establish a goal for the number of AFC/GAFC providers it will audit each year. MassHealth should investigate and resolve all instances where its data matches indicate that a member is enrolled in another state's Medicaid program.

MassHealth should also establish an effective monitoring process to ensure that caregivers/direct care aides of AFC and GAFC providers properly document care in their logs. Moreover, MassHealth should add a system control in the Medicaid Management Information System to deny AFC and GAFC caregiver/direct care aide services in a telehealth setting.

The State Auditor's Office is currently in the process of several more audits of MassHealth's administration of the Medicaid program and Medicaid service providers' compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and other authoritative guidance.

This includes a review of MassHealth claims submitted by providers for durable medical equipment; a review of MassHealth claims submitted by Dental Arts; a review of MassHealth claims submitted for non-emergency transportation; and a review of MassHealth reimbursements for inpatient maternity services provided by University of Massachusetts Memorial Healthcare.

"Our MassHealth audits are designed to identify issues that will help improve programs, enhance delivery, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent properly," said DiZogio. "These reports over the past year have identified a number of critical issues that need to be addressed. Accordingly, we urge the Administration to swiftly implement our recommendations and will be revisiting these findings, roughly six months from the audit issuance dates, to track progress."

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 388 incidents on its logs from Jan. 28 through Feb. 3.

Jan. 28

At 1:26 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of S. Main Street and Depot Street.

At 3:59 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Park Street.

At 6:02 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 8:07 p.m. police gave summons to Ossiel L. Lopez, 26, of 127 Dewitt St., Springfield, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Jan. 29

At 5:17 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Gates Street and Ware Street.

Jan. 30

At 8:35 p.m. police re-

sponded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 10:09 p.m. police arrested Christine Marie Durling, 46, of 70 W. Glen St., Holyoke, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

Jan. 31

At 9:12 a.m. police gave summons to Autumn Ashley McHugh, 29, of 84 Three Rivers Road, Wilbraham, for uninsured motor vehicle and operating motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

At 10:28 a.m. police gave summons to Carole Lynn Singh, 67, of 32 Bunyan Road, Monson, for uninsured motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

At 2:45 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:22 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Gates Street.

Feb. 1

At 9:10 a.m. police re-

sponded to an accident with property damage on Old Ware Road.

At 12:53 p.m. police responded to an accident with a personal injury on Ware Street.

At 4:17 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 11:44 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

Feb. 2

At 10:58 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the corner of S. Main Street and Depot Street.

At 11:35 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Gates Street.

Feb. 3

At 5:26 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:56 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on corner of N. Main Street and Shearer Street.

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to four fire calls and 41 emergency medical calls for the week of Feb. 3-9.

On Monday, Feb. 3 at 11:00 a.m., the department responded to Bradway Road to assist EMS, and returned to service at 1:10 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 7 at 1:02 a.m., the department responded to Silver Street for fire alarms sounding, and returned to service at 1:43 a.m.

On Friday, Feb. 7 at 4:36 p.m., the department responded to Silver Street to assist EMS, and returned to service at 6:11 p.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 9 at 12:31 a.m., the department responded to Palmer Road to assist EMS, and returned to service at 12:53 a.m.

journalregister.turley.com

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Journal Register

STIHL @Husqvarna PARK SAW SHOP LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY 1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069 1-800-232-6132 (413) 544-9027 Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon Shipping Can Be Arranged RENTALS AVAILABLE

FC & P Ferrara Consulting & Properties Consulting all Matters of Real Estate Art Ferrara (413) 348-5827 www.fcpcconsult.com

WHITCO PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE! INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE! WE INSTALL TV'S, MICROWAVES AND DISHWASHERS! MATTRESS SALE! TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299) FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499) QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599) LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER \$1399.99 G.E. DELUXE COIL TOP STOVE \$499.99 SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 \$1299.99 DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE \$999.99 GE DELUXE DISHWASHER \$399.99 WHIRLPOOL WASHER & DRYER \$1299.99 G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE \$699.99 FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER \$299.99 SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER \$1099.99 G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR \$1499.99 5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$159.99 10 CU. FT. FREEZER \$399.99 WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR \$699.99 FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR \$599.99 FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE \$199.99 LG 24 CU. FT. BOTTOM MOUNT REFRIGERATOR \$1399.99 MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER \$549.99 LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR \$1299.99 WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE \$1099.99 INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000! 140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA 508.885.9343 SEE WHITCO SALES.COM FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

TAG SALE

VALENTINE'S DAY GARAGE SALE.
February 14-16,
8am-3pm.
16 Paradise Lake Road,
Monson.
No early birds please.
Moving, everything must go.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair, Drywall hanging, Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.
Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

HEATING & AIR COND.

KELLUM HEATING & COOLING LLC. Licensed, insured HVAC Technician, 30 years experience, repairs, full and 24 hour emergency service. **413-275-4408**.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS, REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

RLH ENTERPRISES
Home improvements, restorations, renovations. Fully insured. HIC license. **(413) 668-6685**.

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

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

SERVICES

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

RETIRED GUY

Will paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave **413-323-6858**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

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

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

PRESSMAN for local printer. Four-color, 19x25 size press, L528. Experience preferred. Call **413-478-6964** or **413-519-3321**.

STORAGE

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

REAL ESTATE



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

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

NOTICE

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS NOW ON FRIDAY AT 12 NOON.

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364 Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States
FAST TAX USA
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES
588 Center Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
www.ajefinancial.com
(413)589-1671
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
Trusted Experts Since 1995

TAX-TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE
Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!
413-283-8393

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Base Price \$26.00
Base Price \$27.50
Base Price \$29.50
Base Price \$31.50
Base Price \$33.50
Base Price \$35.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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

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

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

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4034, Page 251. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

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

the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

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

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the

right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0036CA

In the matter of: Ariana Nicole Guilmette CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Ariana Nicole Guilmette of Palmer, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ariana Nicole Eno IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/05/2025.

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

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

Date: February 05, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 02/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0182EA Estate of: Stanley Peter Hull Also Known As: Stanley Hull Date of Death: December 26, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Wayne Hull of Yorktown, VA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Wayne Hull of Yorktown, VA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 02/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P0126EA Estate of: Giovanna Renardson Date of Death: 09/10/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jim R Renardson of Chicopee, 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: Jim R Renardson of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

assets and expenses of administration

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

Date: January 23, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 02/13/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PASSAGE

On February 10, 2025, the Palmer Town Council passed Loan Authorization 2025-2, a Bond Order authorizing the borrowing of additional funds in the amount of \$273,500 for the costs of designing and reconstructing sludge dewatering facilities at the wastewater treatment plant. This amount is in addition to the \$2,225,000 previously appropriated for this project. A complete text of this loan authorization is available at the office of the Town Manager and Town Clerk, 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Town Council of Palmer, MA 02/13/2025

TOWN OF HOLLAND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Town of Holland, as lead community for the FY 2025 Tri-Towns Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, is seeking proposals from qualified social service organizations and agencies to include in the application. Activities eligible for funding include a range of social services that meet the needs of low and moderate-income residents in the Towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Agencies providing the following services are encouraged to submit proposals; adult education/GED preparation, literacy programs, job training, domestic violence prevention, services for seniors, emergency food, family/youth activities and other social service programs.

The Town of Holland may choose to fund all, any or none of the proposals submitted.

Agencies or organizations identified for inclusion in the Town's grant proposal will be required to submit additional information as part of the full CDBG application to be submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). Programs funded by EOHLC will begin in the summer of 2025. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is assisting the Town in the coordination and administration of its community development programs. Please contact Joseph Hagogian to receive a request form or with any questions regarding this program at (413) 781-6045 or jhagogian@pvpc.org.

All proposals must be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st

Floor, Springfield, MA 01104, fax 413-732-2593, or jhagogian@pvpc.org by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 6th, 2025. 02/13/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PASSAGE

On February 10, 2025, the Palmer Town Council passed Loan Authorization 2025-1, a Bond Order authorizing the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$2,720,000 for the costs of designing and making ultraviolet wastewater treatment facility improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. A complete text of this loan authorization is available at the office of the Town Manager and Town Clerk, 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Town Council of Palmer, MA 02/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0037CA

In the matter of: Karen Jo Ittner CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Karen Jo Ittner of Palmer, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Karen Jo Droy IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/06/2025.

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

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

Date: February 06, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 02/13/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Advertisement for Turley Publications. Includes a sign that says 'NOW we are OPEN - support local businesses -'. Text: 'THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a reduced rate!'. Features: Business profile - 250 words, Photo - yourself, employees or building, Advertisement - 3 column x 6". Price: ALL FOR ONLY \$275. This special section will run in the April 3rd issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News. Ad deadline: March 19, 2025. Quarter page ad with story (4.75"x8") \$275, Half page ad with story (9.75"x8") \$460, Full page ad with story (9.75"x15.75") \$650. Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today 413-297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Old Sturbridge Village Announces February Events and Programs

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village welcomes February with new events, a new exhibit, and many favorite programs returning this month.

Opening Friday, Feb. 14, Old Sturbridge Village is excited to present a new exhibit. Hands & Hearts: Courtship and Marriage in 19th-Century New England explores marriage and partnership by telling the stories of four couples from the 19th century. The new exhibit is located in the Visitor Center and is included with standard daytime admission. Hands & Hearts was made possible thanks to the generous support of Keith and Elaine Knowlton and the Felicia Fund.

On Feb. 15 and 16 Old Sturbridge Village celebrates Valentine's Weekend. Guests can learn about the history of love letters, view the process of preparing hot chocolate, hear a selection of comedic 19th-century love songs, shop for unique gifts, and

more. Married couples can make this celebratory weekend extra special by renewing their wedding vows with a Justice of the Peace. Registration in advance is required for vow renewal and a limited number of time slots are available.

A popular visitor favorite, Maple Days will return this year from Feb. 19 to March 9. Guests can learn about the history of maple sugar in 19th-century New England and watch the sugar-making process at OSV's sugar camp, from tapping the trees to "sugaring off".

Educators visit for free during school vacation week, Feb. 19 – 21. This is an opportunity for teachers to explore how they can plan a field trip for their students. Special programming for teachers includes drop-in, hands-on crafts, 19th-century school lessons, tours of the Village, and talks with members of the Collections and Research team on these dates. Teachers

must show a valid teacher ID card, paystub, or other proof of being a teacher, principal, or school aid at the Visitor Center to receive free admission. Offer valid for teachers only, not others in their party. Special thanks to Cornerstone Bank for supporting OSV and the celebration of Museum Education's 50th Anniversary.

February's Homeschool Day will be on Feb. 28. Homeschool Day is an educational opportunity for students to explore the Village and participate in hands-on workshops, scavenger hunts, and self-guided exploration. February's Homeschool Day celebrates Black History Month. Students will learn about the valuable contributions that people of color had in the 19th century on art, cooking, and written word.

For event details and tickets, and additional information, visit osv.org.

Opacum Land Trust welcomes new board member

STURBRIDGE— Opacum Land Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Toni Uliana to its Board of Directors. As the current Conservation Agent for the Town of Monson, Uliana brings extensive experience in land protection and conservation to the organization.

"We are thrilled to welcome Toni Uliana to our Board of Directors," said Leslie Duthie, president of Opacum Land Trust's Board. "Her thorough understanding of local conservation projects and clear vision of successful land protection needs will be invaluable to our mission."

Uliana is a proud Monson native with a lifelong connection to the outdoors. Growing up in an avid hunting family, she developed a deep appreciation for the natural world and the importance of responsible land stewardship.

Since 2022, Uliana has served as the Conservation Agent for the Town of Monson, where she plays a key role in land use planning and environmental preservation. She advocates for sustainable practices that protect the town's

natural beauty and ecological integrity. A graduate of Westfield State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Wetlands Planning and Management, Toni is deeply committed to education and community engagement. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of the natural world to inspire others to connect with and care for their environment.

Uliana has collaborated with Opacum Land Trust on numerous conservation initiatives throughout her time as Monson's Conservation Agent. Her appointment strengthens the existing partnership between the Town of Monson and Opacum Land Trust while bringing additional expertise to the organization's leadership.

Known for her boundless enthusiasm and dedication to conservation work, Uliana has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting the land, water, and wildlife of the region. Her background in land protection and firsthand experience working with local communities will enhance Opacum's ability to pursue its conservation goals.

1 Million meals donated to food banks

SPRINGFIELD— Big Y's annual Sack Hunger campaign provides funds for the four food banks within their two-state marketing area. In turn, these food banks support local soup kitchens, food pantries, senior food programs, daycare centers and many others of the 2,100-member agencies that they help every day. Their goal is to maximize access to nutritious food and other resources that support food security for those at risk of hunger.

Throughout this past holiday season, customers and employees generously supported Sack Hunger at Big Y supermarkets or Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors. Every \$5 donation brought 10 meals to those in need of support. Additionally, Big Y added even more ways to boost their efforts with specific proceeds from Produce, Floral and Meat departments, along with a portion of every one of Big Y's family of private label brands.

Big Y's Sack Hunger campaign started in 2010 where 740 meals were donated. With this year's 1 million meals, the program continues to expand its efforts to support those in need. Big Y's Sack Hunger donation is part of their ongoing support throughout the year including almost daily donations of meat, fresh produce and bakery along with grocery, frozen food and dairy items. The four regional food banks are The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Worcester County Food Bank, The Greater Boston Food Bank and Connecticut Foodshare.

"Each year, our customers and employees come together to support families across Massachusetts and Connecticut impacted by food insecurity during the holiday season. We are thankful for the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those in need, and we appreciate everyone involved in spreading hope throughout our communities," according to Michael P. D'Amour, president and CEO.

Psychic medium night Feb. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

CB supports its communities with 2024 donations exceeding \$900K

REGION—Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, proudly reported over \$900,000 in donations for 2024.

The bank's philanthropic efforts supported local non-profits across its communities, with 462 organizations receiving grants throughout the year.

In addition to financial contributions, Country Bank team members dedicated 1,958 hours of volunteer service, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to giving back. Furthermore, 39 team members served on 95 non-profit boards and committees, actively contributing their time and expertise to advance these organizations' missions.

Recognizing the importance of financial literacy, Country Bank hosted seven Credit for Life Fairs for more than 2,000 high school seniors, educating them on credit, budgeting, and the long-term impact of financial decisions. Additional classes were conducted at various schools across the region and Christina's House, a home for women and children who are homeless or near homelessness.

As part of its annual Season of Difference campaign, Country Bank partnered with the WonderFund to support those involved with the Department of Children and Families system throughout Central and Western Massachusetts. Through this collaboration, the bank contributed over \$20,000, reinforcing its commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Among the organizations receiving support were Junior Achievement, EcoTarium, Main South CDC, Venture Community Services, Why Me/Sherry's House, Boys & Girls Clubs, Behavioral Health Network, Way Finders, HomeFront Strong, United Way of Pioneer Valley and Central MA, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Worcester County Food Bank, Juniper Outreach, Square One, Friends of the Homeless, along with 22 senior centers and 23 food pantries across the region.

Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to its communities. "At Country Bank, our commitment to enriching the communities we serve is at the heart of everything we do. We take great pride in supporting organizations that make a meaningful impact, whether through financial contributions or the dedication of our team members. Giving back isn't just part of our mission—it's a responsibility we embrace to help strengthen the places we call home and make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

About Country Bank: Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Raising awareness during National Eating Disorders week

AMHERST— As Eating Disorders continue to rise, Happy Valley Nutrition, Western Massachusetts' only specialized eating disorder group practice of Registered Dietitians, is leading efforts to raise awareness during National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, which begins on Feb. 24, 2025.

With eight Registered Dietitians specializing in Eating Disorders, disordered eating, and body image concerns, Happy Valley Nutrition serves as the region's primary resource for specialized nutrition counseling. The practice offers both in-person services at their Amherst location and telehealth appointments throughout Massachusetts and beyond.

"Eating disorders are serious condi-

tions that can be life-threatening," says Amanda Mittman, Registered Dietitian and owner at Happy Valley Nutrition. "In our practice, we see that nobody is immune to eating disorders or disordered eating. From children to older adults, we see a wide range of people who are struggling with their relationship to food and their body."

Eating Disorders Awareness Week was established in the 1980s to bring attention to the prevalence of eating disorders, reduce stigma, and provide education on prevention and treatment.

Happy Valley Nutrition distinguishes itself through its client-focused approach and commitment to accessible care. The practice accepts most major

insurance plans, often resulting in no out-of-pocket costs for nutrition counseling services. They also offer sliding scale options. This commitment to accessibility ensures that individuals seeking treatment can receive professional care without financial barriers.

While the practice works with all types of eating disorders, their Registered Dietitians also have other specialties, such as diabetes and blood sugar management, gastrointestinal conditions, and menopause.

For more information about eating disorder treatment options or to schedule a consultation, contact Happy Valley Nutrition at 413-437-0278 or visit www.happyvalleynutrition.com



CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

40 E. Main Street, Ware, MA
(413) 967-4545

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

**DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 REPTILES 🐾 EXOTICS
AND NOW BIRDS!**

★ **Now offering same day urgent care appointments** ★
Monday - Friday

→ **Support**
Your Local ←
Newspaper



Clean Out Solutions
Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts
Shed, Pool & Arthur "Skip" Gervais
Hot Tub Removals (774)397-6500