

# The Journal Register

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SCHOOLS

## Winter CARNIVAL

Junior Class wins at Monson High this past week

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
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MONSON – Every year, the students at the high school get to participate in a Winter Carnival to kick off the February vacation. “I thought it went really well,” said Coach Eric Degnan. “The student body had good time, it’s a nice way to get into vacation week.”

Degnan praised the work of the Student Council and their advisor, Georgia Perrault, who put “a lot of time and effort” into arranging the events.

“That’s something we’ve done for well beyond 40 years,” Degnan said. “It’s rare, there aren’t a lot of schools that do that. We always tell the kids that we keep doing it because they do a great job with it.”

The overall Winter Carnival involves dress-up days, a poster contest, and decorations in the hallway, along with the athletic events held in the gymnasium. On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the school held an evening volleyball competition from 6-8:30 p.m., followed by the events in the gymnasium in the afternoon of Feb. 14, which included eight different competitions, including an obstacle course designed by the faculty.

“The obstacle course is something we’ve done for a number of years,” Degnan said. “That’s the biggest event there, the kids have one person on the floor. A lot of the other activities have six, eight, 10, 12 kids out there. The kids that were part of that did a really good job.”



Faculty members faced off against the junior class in the final event of the Winter Carnival.



Students dashed across the gymnasium to compete against their classmates in the three-legged race.

All that practice paid off when it was time for these Class of 2025 students to participate in the three-legged race.

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SCHOOLS

## Supt. updates School Comm. on evaluation goals

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER - At its Feb. 12 meeting, the School Committee heard updates on the district’s Evaluation Goals from the Superintendent.

After receiving student reports from the High School and Old Mill Pond, the committee heard Superintendent Matthew Francis’s report on the school’s Evaluation Goals.

“Being halfway through the school year, I thought it was an appropriate time to go through where I’m at with the evaluation goals that were approved in September,” Francis said. “This mid-cycle update is in regards to those three goals.”

Francis reiterated the three goals that the district

and building administrators established prior to the start of the school year, related to providing a baseline data point, and then one following later in the year,” Francis



File photo

student learning, professional practice, and school and district improvement.

Francis said that the Student Learning Goal was to conduct two learning walks across the district’s two buildings.

“I went through in September to go over the benefits of learning walks,

said. “By the end of October of 2024, teams from both buildings had been selected and trained on learning walk-through protocols.

The first key action was to select dates and a focus of inquiries for both of the buildings. By the end of February, two learning walkthroughs for each building will have

been completed.

“We conducted our first on Oct. 24, and our next one is scheduled for Feb. 27,” Francis said. “By the end of May 2025, a summary of findings will be reported back, and we do a summary of findings to staff after each learning walk; that is, we spend the afternoon of that day compiling all of our data, looking for trends, and then the group compiles the findings to be reported out.”

This ties in with the district’s professional development goal throughout the year as well. The Professional Practice Goal has to do with the New Superintendent Induction program, which is in its second year and is put on by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

Key actions for this are to attend four day-long in-person sessions, as well as five

EVALUATION | page 14

PALMER

## Fire Dept. projects offering ALS services

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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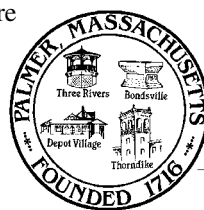
PALMER – At last week’s Town Council meeting, the Fire Department presented a proposition to meet the town’s need for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

The Feb. 10 meeting began with a history of the Palmer Ambulance Service from Bob Haveles. Following that, Town Manager Brad Brothers reviewed the situation, going back to the town receiving notification on Oct. 24, 2024, that Palmer Ambulance would no longer be able to service medical emergencies.

“I reached out to both the Fire Department, because they had just added on BLS service, maybe about 30 days before that date, so they were live for about a month,” Brothers said, “and also the Police Department, to see what the Fire Department could do to pick up

what was going to be lost by Palmer Ambulance.”

Brothers highlighted that the department has 24/7 coverage at the Basic Life Support level as of Nov. 1, 2024, but that Advanced Life Support requires different resources and certifications.



“Under each community, there needs to be a Service Zone Plan that basically says what the primary ambulance is throughout the town”

— Lieutenant John Fitzgerald

“I started having conversations with three different ALS service providers

AMBULANCE | page 8

CONSERVATION

## Commission convenes about summer camp expansion

Tessa Quinn  
Correspondent

PALMER— On Feb. 5, Palmer’s Conservation Commission heard about a proposed expansion to Camp Ramah.

The Jewish Summer camp is hoping to expand their facilities with a 5,000 square foot building in an area off Bennett Street, just north of Pattaquatic Pond. According to the civil engineer working on the project, Jeff Labeau, the building will be used as a new Health Center for the camp.

During the meeting,

Labeau informed commission members that the proposed plan was approved by the Planning Board on Jan. 27.

The commission did not have any further questions regarding the camp’s plan, and the public hearing regarding the proposed construction was closed. Members approved to issue the order of conditions for the project.

In addition to hearing about plans for Camp Ramah, the commission also heard about a Fuller Road homeowner looking to



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MONSON

## Board reviews policy updates from Town Counsel

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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MONSON - At last week’s Select Board meeting, the members reviewed policy updates with the Town Administrator.

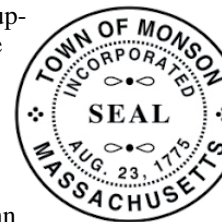
The Feb. 11 Select Board meeting began with Chair John Morrell offering an apology to Roxanne Gunther.

“My reaction while she was speaking was not correct, and I apologize to her for that” Morrell said.

Though it was listed as an agenda item, Town Administrator Jennifer

Wolowicz did not provide a Town Administrator’s Report for the meeting, instead highlighting “two or three” storms that were oncoming for this month, including the snowstorm from last week, and outlined what to expect from town departments during that time.

“Sometimes there are going to be times where the Town Offices, the library, and the Council on Aging need to have limited hours, are closed for the day, or delayed opening depending on what the track of the storm is,” Wolowicz said. “We try to make that decision sooner rather than



MONSON | page 3



# Pet of the Week



**LAGATHA**

Lagatha is a rescue dog. 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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).



Submitted photo

Peter Izyk shows a Scout from East Longmeadow how to make a bird seed cake.

## Scouts collaborate on Backyard Bird Count

PALMER – At Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures this past Saturday, the Council Conservation Committee tied their event in with the Cornell Back Yard Bird Count.

Steve Scannell, Committee Chair, helped Scouts identify and count birds. Steve had the Cornell web site live on a computer so Scouts could watch the bird counts being updated.

Bird feeders were put out a week earlier to attract birds. All day, plenty of birds were coming to the feeders. At the end of the day, dropping duplicate counts, the total bird count was 74 birds from 14 species plus one hawk. These totals were added to the Cornell web site.

Scouts also made bird seed cakes they could take home.

## QHD blood drive Feb. 24

*Give blood, save a life*

BELCHERTOWN— Blood Drive hosted by Quabbin Health District from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 24, 2025 at the Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium.

To sign up contact Kirsten Krieger, RN at (413) 967-9648 ext 112.

Eligible Donors will also receive a \$10.00 gift card from either Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks Coffee, Big Y, Amazon, Panera or Chipotle.

## Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

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

## 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.

## CONSERVATION | from page 1

make improvements to their land. They sought a Request for Determination of Applicability. According to the state of Massachusetts' website, an RDA is used to determine whether the Wetlands Protection Act applies to a proposed plan for a piece of property.

In this case, the landowner proposes to remove invasive species which includes oriental bittersweet. The owner also explained he hopes to attract pollinators by planting apple trees, blueberry bushes, and adding bird and bat houses.

No heavy machinery is planned to be used. The landowner also told the commission no fertilizer will be spread as per the property's order of conditions.

Commission members were impressed with the homeowner's plan and research on the topic of improving his property and the ecosystem around it.

"You have done your research and this is really impressive. This is the best I've ever seen, thank you guys for caring this much," said the commission's Vice-Chair Elizabeth O'Connor.

The homeowner focused much of his report on removing and managing invasive species around this property, which, according to commission member

Nicholas Zeo is something many gardeners don't take into account.

"It wipes out a lot of native species, pollinators, milkweed, and things that attract a lot of very useful insects and birds," said Zeo.

Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin brought up the Hampden-Hampshire County Conservation District. She said the group is currently running workshops to teach people about native plants.

Ladin said people can sign up for a consultation, where experts will come to your property and help determine which native plants would thrive there.

"Then they give you a gift certificate to buy some of those plants as well, so it's all free, it's really cool," said Ladin, and she advised the homeowner to look into the group.

According to Ladin, Town Hall has new initiatives in the works with the conservation district.

The commission voted to close the public hearing regarding the RDA for the Fuller Road property. Members determined the proposed work did not require any further filings and the property owner is free to continue with his plans.

The conservation committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 4.



## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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# QHMA invites public to Bingo

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 AM-VETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

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

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

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

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

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

## Garden club meeting

WILBRAHAM— The March meeting of the Wilbraham Garden Club will be held at noon on Thursday, March 6, in the Parish Hall at St. Cecilia's Church on Main St. A luncheon of sandwiches and desserts will be served.

The speaker for the day will be Gretel Anspach, Trustee of the MA Horticultural Society, Lifetime Master Gardener with the MA Master Gardeners Association. Anspach will discuss how growing plants native to the region are easier to maintain, better able to withstand the New England weather and may offer better resistance to deer and rabbits.

# Relay for Life looking for participants for May 31

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 fund-raise 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 fund-raising, 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 ctellie@juno.com.

## MONSON | from page 1

later, and we do it to assist the highway staff to plow the parking lots and the sidewalks and make sure it's safe for the residents and the employees.”

In the event that the community needs to access the town during such a storm, Wolowicz directed the residents to the town website.

“I wanted to remind everyone that we have online services that are available to the residents, to apply for permits online, they can pay bills online,” Wolowicz said. “We have the drop box out front, if someone wants to drop a check into the box, with an envelope and their tax invoice.”

“We try to promote those things that we are paying for; we've bought the softwares and we have seen a large increase of people using the online services,” Wolowicz said.

The board reviewed the policy on soliciting signatures on petitions and nomination papers, the current version of which was done in March of 2023.

“If it's early voting, getting signatures is already off the table, it already happened,” Warren said.

Wolowicz added that the early voting clause is more related to petitions than nomination papers.

“For open public areas, where/when voting is not

taking place, there is a right to solicit signatures on petitions, referendum petitions, and nomination papers, in a reasonable and unobtrusive manner,” Wolowicz read. “This includes the public areas of municipal property. For municipal buildings, people soliciting signatures may not go into individual offices, but may be in areas that are considered ‘public forums,’ i.e. areas that are open for anyone to go, like a hallway. Any such activities must be carried on in a manner as not to interfere with other public business and by a person physically collecting the signatures.”

The policy specified that nomination papers and other ballot question petitions must not be left unattended in any public building, “as it could be construed as using public funds to support a candidate or question.”

Wolowicz said that this policy was looked at by the town's new law firm, who provided edits and updates for the board to consider. Select Board Member Pat noted that there were only a few grammatical and language changes, and Wolowicz agreed that this was very easy, with only a few edits.

“It's timely, with our local election coming around the corner in a couple of months,” Wolowicz

# Spaghetti dinner held to raise money for Richard Frydryk Scholarship



By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER – This past Saturday, the St. Stanislaus Polish Lyceum held a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the club's annual scholarship.

“We are happy that so many braved the snow to come out,” said a representative of the club.

“It's for the Richard Frydryk Scholarship,” said Sara Labier. “We do it annually to help support students from Palmer High School and Pathfinder Technical Vocational School.”

The spaghetti dinner included salad and bread with the spaghetti and tomato sauce, which was served from 5-8 p.m. The club also had live music by Steven George, who performed from 7-10 p.m.

St. Stan's has been contributing the Richard Frydryk Scholarship for the past eight

years. The Scholarship Committee decides how to fund-raise and how to allocate the funds, and a group from St. Stan's works the event.

“The students submit their essays and whatever information we're looking for,” Labier said. “They send them to us, and then the Scholarship Committee decides. Typically, everyone that applies receives something, because there haven't been tons of applicants.”

The decision process for applications starts in May, and will require a transcript of grades, along with volunteer and community services, and a letter of acceptance to college or trade school. These must be received by May 1, at which point the committee will be able to determine who will receive the funds.

The St. Stanislaus Lyceum is located at 2114 Main St. If you would like to contact them, you can call at 413-283-4596.

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## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Account

Dear Rusty

I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles, which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A.

This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an Health Savings Account. I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by six months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago.

If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on Jan. 1 each year. We can live without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me.

**Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned)**

Dear Wanting to Claim

I'm afraid that what you've read is correct – it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account will be affected because, as you

have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by six months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date and you'll need to pay income tax on those contributions.

What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits. You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim SS.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## Leave it to fate

I never thought I would say this, but I am out of ideas for this week's column.

Every topic I come up with has been covered at one time or another. So, as the snow falls every so furiously outside, I am going to resort to the "stick your finger in the gardening encyclopedia, and see where it lands" trick.

I'll leave the topics of the week to fate.

Here goes: For the first topic, my finger landed on a funny picture of geranium plants with their rootballs wrapped in newspaper hanging from the beams in someone's basement. I have written before about my success in bringing my geranium plants inside for the winter and placing them in a south facing window.

Just yesterday I was looking at the plants more closely, knowing that soon enough, I will be snipping the tips to take some cuttings. But I digress, the picture I saw is just another way to overwinter your geranium plants, especially if you don't have a sunny window or a lot of indoor gardening space.

Many old timers used to talk of this method a lot and had great success with it. You could either try and pot the plants up ahead of time or go right from the basement to the outdoors after the threat of frost has passed and after a thorough hardening off process, of course.

Second topic: My finger landed on the herb Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*). I have started lovage from seed nearly every year for the last 30 years.

This celery substitute is always on the list of transplants needed for the herb garden at Old Sturbridge

Village. Lovage seed is not viable for long, so new seed is needed each year, or germination will be sparse.

The plant is considered a perennial, meaning it will return year after year, but in my experience, the best foliage production will be in the first year. The flowers are "umbrella" like dill and fennel but flowers only take away from foliage production, so they

gray! Some are variegated or splashed with color.

Leaf sizes range from minuscule to huge! One pest that loves Hosta leaves is the slug. To lessen their interest in the plant, be sure to remove decomposing foliage.

Use any number of traps, homemade or otherwise to keep your plants damage free.

And the last fate-filled topic is: Chile peppers! There are all kinds of hot peppers out there for the gardener to experiment with. You might think that growing instructions may differ for fire-hot peppers, but they are grown in the same manner as regular bell peppers.

Start the seeds inside, or purchase transplants. Warm the soil ahead of installing the plants, and don't overdue it fertility-wise. Provide supplemental water if the summer gets droughty.

Harvest when the peppers turn color, and do so wearing gloves being ever mindful not to touch your eyes. I had always heard that a milk bath should help ease the sting of an accidental burn; others say ingesting starchy food does the trick.

Well, I hope this unconventional column was an enjoyable read. It's never too late to pull out a reference book or two for some interesting factoids.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



are best snipped off.

The hollow stems are used in place of celery in soups and stews. My mom always enjoyed drying the leaves for use during the winter months.

Topic three: Hostas! I was never a big fan of Hostas until I had a yard that had substantial amounts of shade. These versatile plants are a perfect companion for many shade loving perennials, especially if they are planted in fertile soil with ample moisture.

Like other perennials, Hostas need a period of dormancy to succeed, so they will do well in our climate, and down to Zone 8 or so. Most varieties are grown for their foliage only; I find it funny that some gardeners snip off the flowers as they begin to form, saying that it actually takes away from the look of the plant.

There are so many types to choose from and in colors ranging from grass-green to yellow and even blue-

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

## Government alone can't fix health care

If you're among those hoping that, as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. becomes secretary of Health and Human Services, the American health-care system will be fixed, don't hold your breath. Government has been trying to "fix" health care at least since the 1950s, when Sen. Estes Kefauver held hearings on the high cost of pharmaceuticals.

Under President Lyndon Johnson, Medicare and Medicaid were established in 1965. Both programs have done much to improve the health of older and poorer Americans, but the systems are also unwieldy and ex-

remely costly. Medicare alone consumes 13 percent of the federal budget.

Fast forward to 2010 and passage of the Affordable Care Act. It did some good things, such as requiring insurers to pay for certain preventive care and letting children stay on their parents' insurance until age 26. Nearly 44 million Americans are enrolled in ACA insurance programs and expanded Medicaid programs in states where it's available.

But I became a professional patient advocate be-

YOUR HEALTH | page 5

## THIS WEEK IN History

### Week History Feb. 19

During World War II, soldiers raised the American flag in Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945.

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

On Feb. 19, in 1945, in World War II, U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima to wrest control of the strategically important island from the Japanese.

On Feb. 20, in 1962, John H. Glenn, Jr., became the first American to orbit Earth, doing so three times.

On Feb. 21, in 1965, Malcolm X, who articulated concepts of racial pride and black nationalism in the United States, was assassinated.

On Feb. 22, in 1997, a team of British scientists working under the direction

of Ian Wilmut at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh announced the birth of Dolly the sheep, the first clone of an adult mammal.

On Feb. 23, in 1905, the first Rotary Club was founded by Chicago attorney Paul P. Harris.

On Feb. 24, in 1991, U.S. ground operations began in the Persian Gulf War, more than a month after an air war was launched against Iraq to free Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

Finally, on Feb. 25, in 1986, Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, under pressure from the United States, fled his country for Hawaii after a fraudulent electoral victory over Corazon Aquino, who replaced him as president.

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

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Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)  
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

# Education

## CAMPUS NOTES

### Pascale name to President's List at Clemson University

Carmelia Rose Pascale was named to the Fall 2024 President's List at Clemson University, in South Carolina. What an amazing accomplishment.

Earning a perfect 4.0 for the semester places Carmelia in a very select group of Clemson students to achieve this status.

### Dean's List honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD—Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Dean's list

honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

**Ruby Tumusiime**, Class of 2025, of Palmer  
**Arielle Chechile**, Class of 2028, of Palmer

### Peritz named to Salve Regina University's Fall 2024 Dean's List

NEWPORT, RI—Morgan Peritz of Bondsville was named to the Dean's List during the Fall 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

### Dean's List at Saint Anselm College announced

MANCHESTER, NH—Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. A total of 622 students representing 23 states and four countries received this honor.

*Brimfield*  
**Samantha McGlinchy**,  
Politics Major  
**Caraline Stewart**,  
Mathematics Major

## MSB scholarship for high school seniors

MONSON—Every year Monson Savings Bank proudly provides \$28,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The Bank aims to support the attainment of higher education for students who reside within the communities that the Bank serves. Monson Savings Bank's 2025 Scholarships are now available to high school seniors enrolled in the Monson, Ware, Hampden-Wilbraham, and East Longmeadow School Districts.

"Monson Savings Bank supports our neighbors in reaching their goals," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank president and CEO. "Providing our local high school graduates with scholarship money to offset the cost of continuing their education is something we are excited to do. We are pleased to have the chance to assist these hardworking young people in continuing their education and finding success in this next stage of life."

To qualify, graduating seniors must be planning to attend an accredited college, technical school, or certification program. Scholarship awards will be based on a variety of factors, which may include the applicant's financial need, academic performance, and extracurricular activities. A candidate for this scholarship should have demonstrated a commitment to their community.

How to apply: Students interested in applying for the Monson Savings Bank Scholarship should contact their high school guidance department for an application.

The deadline for application acceptance varies by school, please contact your school's Guidance Department for more information.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank's community commitment, please visit: <https://www.monson-savings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>.

## YOUR HEALTH

from page 4

cause I saw what was happening as hospitals were getting ready for the ACA form of medicine. Let's be clear: there's nothing affordable about the ACA. Health-care and insurance costs have skyrocketed, but worse still, patient safety has declined and 41 percent of Americans have some form of medical debt.

The government went to hospital administrators in 2010 and convinced them that this was going to be a great thing for them because they would at least be getting some reimbursement, whereas before they had to write off millions of dollars a year for the uninsured who had no ability to pay.

What they did not foresee was how the glut of Medicaid patients was going to affect doctor's practices. Doctors were going to lose money taking on more Medicare and Medicaid patients because of low reimbursement rates. Many physicians chose to retire early or become employees of big health-care organizations.

Meanwhile, hospitals were more focused on profits than patients, creating untenable work situations for burned-out doctors and nurses. They began losing staff, a situation that was made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, when we saw an unprecedented exodus of

doctors and nurses from the field of medicine.

Although about two-thirds of Americans think the U.S. health-care system is broken, sweeping reforms such as Medicare for All or an unregulated insurance industry have not gained traction. I think this is because we're worried about trying to fix something and only making it worse.

There are solutions, though not sweeping, that could make things work better for Americans and the health-care system.

### Education

What I have seen over the last 15 years from inside the hospital, outside the hospital, and working with clients in nursing homes, rehab centers and long-term care facilities of many different types is that patients and families are lost confused, frustrated and not really health literate enough to navigate the modern world of health care.

As a private patient advocate, I spend a lot of time educating clients about the health-care system and how best to navigate it. Sometimes even doctors hire us for their families because they cannot figure out the tangled web of bureaucracy for their own loved ones.

Patients need to understand their insurance coverage. They need to understand prior approvals. They need to understand what their

doctors are saying, and they need to always have someone by their side as they navigate the system.

### Communication

Poor medical outcomes are not inevitable, but they are often the result of poor communication and coordination among different specialists and between the hospital and primary care doctors.

Studies show that 75 percent of the discharge instructions given to patients when they are shuttled out the door are not even read. A patient advocate with a medical background has the know-how to facilitate communication between patients and health-care professionals, reducing the chances of hospital readmission and improving outcomes.

Patient advocates reduce hospital readmissions more than any other health care specialty; over 13 years, my advocacy company's readmission rate was 0.08 percent, compared to an average of 14.5 percent nationwide. We understand health care because we've been there.

### Follow-up

Transitional care teams don't really understand how the social determinants of health affect people when they get home. Education, income and social factors all impact a person's health

outcomes. Patients lie about their support system just so they don't have to go to nursing home, or they are embarrassed that they can't afford the prescribed medications.

Patient advocates help people get funding for those expensive drugs and make sure at-home care supports recovery.

I believe that the answer to more high quality health care is for every hospital in America to make a concerted effort to develop their own real advocacy programs, change inefficient systems and cut time-wasting activities. We need to work closely with medical staff who see patients outside the hospital, communicate, collaborate and problem solve using our best clinical judgment.

Most of all, we need to care for patients one by one, especially those with complex conditions. This is where the miracle happens.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com)

## Preschool and Kindergarten screenings

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.



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# Winter CARNIVAL



Coach Eric Degnan has spent the last few years fine-tuning parts of the obstacle course to be safer and more entertaining for the students.



A student threw a frisbee at a hula hoop that was hanging off the wall.

Coach Degnan and the other teachers announced a student's time as they finished the obstacle course.



Monson High's Sophomore Class of 2027 cheered on their classmates from the bleachers.



Students shot basketballs through the hoop during the Winter Carnival festivities on Friday.



Monson High students gathered around to watch their colleagues shoot hoops in the gymnasium.

## CARNIVAL | from page 1

Degnan said that the obstacle course has been a part of the Winter Carnival for over 30 years, and that the staff has made small revisions to make it safer for the participants.

Participants were able to see the school's amenities, including a screen donated by the town's Parks and Recreation Department.

"That was not part of the original plan of the building, we had that added in maybe four years ago or so," Degnan said. "That's a nice option if there's an event in the gym where they need the screen;

most people would use an auditorium."

Degnan thanked the work of Georgia Perrault, the Health Teacher as well as Student Council Advisor.

"She's done a great job with those kids, so shout out from me to them," Degnan said. "The student body was great, they had a great time. We do the Winter Carnival because the students continue to do a good job with it. It's kind of unique, and it's one of the highlights of their school year, so we're happy to do it for them."



One student ran the obstacle course, accompanied by an aide who ran alongside them.



Before shooting a hoop, the students had to spin around on a baseball bat until they were dizzy.



The winning junior class got to play a volleyball match against the school's faculty.



The bleachers were packed with students and onlookers watching the Winter Carnival events.



Two students trained for the three-legged race by tying their legs together and walking around.



Coach Eric Degnan directed students to gather in the corner of the gym to prepare for the next event.



A student propels himself along the floor of the gymnasium to finish the obstacle course.



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# Winter CARNIVAL



Students helped by keeping track of scores from behind the screen that was donated by Parks and Recreation.



Students finished the obstacle course by scooting backwards across the gym and over the finish line.



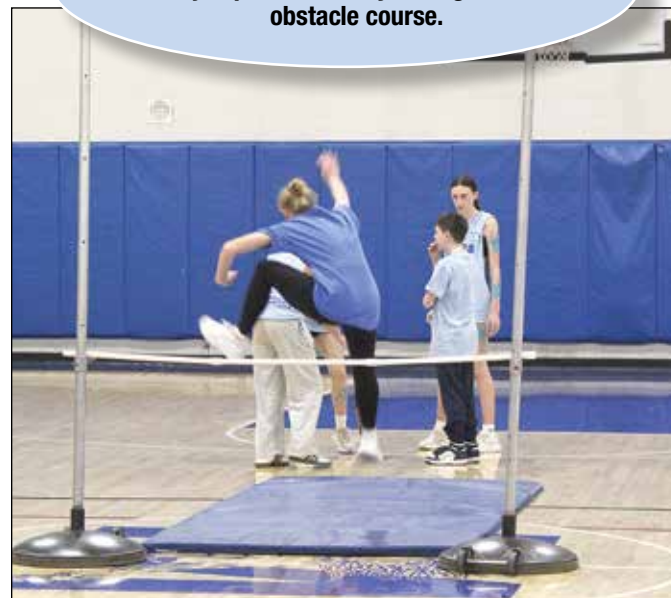
A bar was set for the students to jump over midway through the obstacle course.



Students cheered on their classmates as they tied their legs together to compete in the three-legged race.



Two students fell over while trying to reach the finish line during the three-legged race.



A student vaults over the bar after completing the first half of the obstacle course.



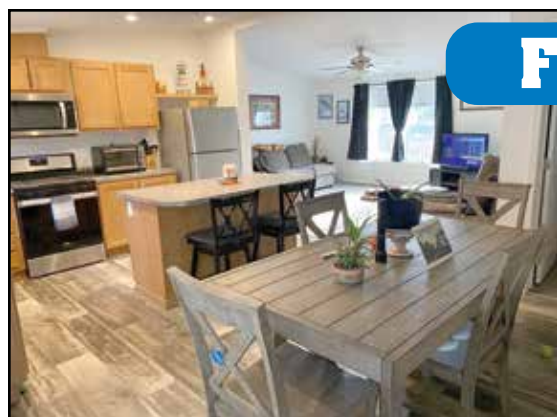
School staff were waiting to catch the students as they scooted over the obstacle course's finish line.



The obstacle course began with students running and jumping over several obstacles.



Students vaulted two barriers and then stepped over several hula hoops at the start of the obstacle course.



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One student receives the basketball in order to shoot a hoop as part of the obstacle course.

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# Glenda's

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# OSV announces free admission for teachers

STURBRIDGE— Old Sturbridge Village is celebrating educators by offering free admission for teachers Feb. 19 through Feb. 21. This special opportunity allows teachers to explore New England's largest living history museum and discover firsthand the immersive, hands-on learning experiences available for students.

Teachers visiting on these dates can engage with costumed historians, experience historic trade demonstrations, and explore the Village's interactive exhibits, all while gaining inspiration for their classrooms. OSV offers a variety of educational programs designed to bring history to life for students of all ages.

"We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of educators," said Elizabeth O'Grady, director of Museum Education, Field Trips and Youth Programs. "This event is our way of saying thank you while also showcasing the ways Old Sturbridge Village can support classroom learning with engaging, real-world connections to history."

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. This is a great opportunity for teachers to acquaint themselves with all that the Village has to offer and explore how they might plan a field trip to the Village for their students.

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.

This school year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Museum Education Center at Old Sturbridge Village. Since then, hundreds of thousands of students have visited on a field trip, participated in hands-on activities in the Museum Education Center, and made lasting memories at the Village. Experience the magic that has made an Old Sturbridge Village field trip the cornerstone of education for half a century. Special thanks to Cornerstone Bank for supporting field trips at Old Sturbridge Village and the celebration of Museum Education's 50th Anniversary.

For more details visit [osv.org](http://osv.org).

## AMBULANCE | from page 1

that are locally in the area," Brothers said. "They have different oversight on a few different towns, but they're in our local area and we started the conversation by saying, 'hey, Palmer's in need for ALS coverage, what can you provide?'"

The town has continued these discussions into the new year to sort out problems involving where to house an ALS vehicle. Brothers said that initial quotes have ranged from \$150-320,000 per year, representing a potentially significant cost to the \$500,000 remaining in the town's budget.

"Anything we add on now, because this came out of a zero-dollar cost to us from Palmer Ambulance, is right off that \$500,000 that's available," Brothers said. "That just comes right off the top, because this is a service we have to provide."

Brothers has been in conversations with the Fire Department about what it will take to bring the department up to be able to offer ALS services. Captain William Bernat and Lieutenant John Fitzgerald presented a proposal for a three-year plan to build up this service.

"We propose a three-year contract, with the town paying \$132,000 in fiscal year 2026, then \$120,000 in FY27, and \$110,000 in FY28," said Bernat. "Starting FY26, we would upgrade our staffing; we'd pretty much add a paramedic to each (of the) four groups of firefighters right now. We cover 24/7, so we're going to add a paramedic to each group, so that will help get us to the ALS level."

Fitzgerald provided

some information on what the department will need to do to upgrade from Basic to Advanced Life Support services.

"One of the first steps is, every ambulance service in Massachusetts has to be affiliated with a hospital. For example, we're affiliated with Wing Hospital at BayState, so it'll work as an EMS service which will actually work under a doctor's license, this would be Doctor Knowles from Baystate."

After Baystate professionals have reviewed and made revisions to the department's ALS policies, the department will be able to obtain its ALS affiliation, which is separate from a license, and would affiliate the ambulance with a hospital. Fitzgerald said that while initial projections said this wouldn't be ready until May, it seems to be moving forward next month.

"Right now, we have an outdated Service Zone Plan," Fitzgerald said. "Under each community, there needs to be a Service Zone Plan that basically says what the primary ambulance is throughout the town, what are the backup services, and, obviously, the one we have right now is very outdated, so that needs to be updated."

Once the Service Zone Plan has been updated, Fitzgerald projected that the department will be able to start interviewing for full-time medics in the spring, and those hires can receive their orientation over the summer.

"Just because you have an EMT card or a paramedic card in your wallet doesn't mean you can just go out and start practicing," Fitzgerald

said. "You have to obtain what's called an Authorization to Practice, and that's obtained under Baystate Hospital."

Fitzgerald hoped that the department will be able to hire experienced paramedics, which would streamline this process. Councilor Matthew Lemieux noted that there are paramedics employed by the town in other departments.

"Why can't you put together a quick response vehicle at this time and have ALS coverage, just through quick response?" Lemieux asked. "Why can't we fast track just the quick response vehicle?"

Bernat said that the state requires them to be employed by the Fire Department.

"When we submit our application to the state, we have to have a roster saying these are the paramedics, they're in good standing, they've been trained by Palmer Fire, they have authorization to practice through Baystate," Fitzgerald said. "The Office of Emergency Medical Services wants to see that list."

The department is also looking into converting a former chief's vehicle into what would be called an ALS Quick Response Vehicle.

"It would have everything a paramedic needs to operate, besides, pretty much, a stretcher," Fitzgerald said. "So we'd have our two BLS ambulances and that ALS fly car as well, so we'd be able to basically staff two ambulances and also have this ALS quick response vehicle to provide to the community."

Fitzgerald said that the department will be able to apply for the license late summer, but projects delays asso-

ciated with the Department of Public Health's summer schedule.

"Hopefully by late August we'll have delivery of the cardiac monitor and our ALS equipment," Fitzgerald said. "Again, it would probably go back and forth between DPH, OEMS, and us. It would basically be a one- to two-month turnaround when OEMS is reviewing our license, making recommended changes."

Fitzgerald was hopeful that by early fall, OEMS would inspect the department, and, pending the office's approval, would be able to start offering ALS services.

A concern highlighted by the Council was the cost and sustainability for the town. Bernat said that the department projects to break even by charging patients.

"I look at it as hiring a contractor," said Councilor Mark Caci. "Their financials are their financials."

Council Vice President Jessica Sizer disagreed, and asked where the department would make up the shortfall in the event that the ambulance services don't break even.

"\$132,000 spread across however many tax bills we issue and whatever impact to the rate that will be, that's one thing," Sizer said. "If there's a gap in revenue, where do you guys make up for that gap, and do you end up going and spreading the burden onto a much smaller part of the tax base, which is District 1 rate-payers?"

Bernat agreed that making up a potential deficit would probably have to come from the district's taxpayers.

"Down the road, if we could look into working with the other districts as time goes on, that would be an option, too," Bernat said.

There was some discussion as to whether the service would work as an enterprise fund, but the language in the proposal does not outline that. Sizer mentioned that it's not the best practice to have three Fire Departments operating in the same town, and said that it would behoove the departments to work toward combining into a unified municipal Fire Department.

"That's one thing I will note that's a little bit different about this proposal than the other three I have," Brothers said. "If they're short above what we pay them, that's on the company."

Brothers added that a company could walk away from a contract if they decide the service is not profitable for them. Caci also mentioned that these companies could raise their rates, once the contract expires.

"What the decision of the council is right now, is that we're going to support a local service, that is a very good quality service, that won't necessarily be looking for profits," Sizer said, "or if we're going for a privately run corporation that is looking for profits, there's going to be, potentially, a different level of service to our community."

"This is kind of the one chance for us to support the Palmer Fire Department," Sizer said. "If we go down the private route, then that's kind of it."

Brothers suggested provisions in case the service ends up costing the town too much money, so that the department can sever the contract before the three years are up. The department agreed that this would be an acceptable arrangement.

After the discussion, the Council recommended that the department continue to pursue the proposal, and asked that the draft contract be presented to the Council before being signed. The Chief said that there will be monthly reports to keep the Council and the public informed.




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# SPORTS

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## BASKETBALL

### Palmer prevails over visiting Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Holding onto a lead has been an issue for the Ware girls' basketball team this season.

The Lady Indians held a slim 19-18 advantage against archrival Palmer with 2:50 left in the third quarter.

The Lady Panthers managed to score the final five points of the quarter, and they also added 14 more points during the fourth quarter for a 37-24 home victory on senior night, last Tuesday.

"We've had a hard time holding onto leads this season," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We struggled offensively in the second half of tonight's game. We missed a bunch of inside shots. We also gave up some easy shots defensively. It's a very frustrating loss."

While neither team qualified for the Western Mass. Class C tournament,



Double up on this defensive maneuver. Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

the Lady Indians (10-8), who lost their fourth game in a row, did qualify for the Division 5 state tournament because they finished the

regular season with a .500 or better record. They were ranked 35th in the MIAA power rankings.

"We haven't played very

well in two weeks," Orszulak added. "Hopefully, we can play better in the state tournament."

PALMER | page 10



Loretta Petrashewicz breaks to the paint.



Madison Rathbone has her eyes on the net.



Anabelle Ladue shoots the jumper.

### Pioneers finish with one of best records in team history



Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop with a low dribble.



Addison Doktor passes out of the paint. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Megan Clark looks to shoot.



Greenly Lagimoniere passes as she clears midcourt.

PALMER—Last week, despite a setback against Sci-Tech, the Pathfinder girls basketball team rebounded to defeat Hampden Charter 52-36 and finish with an overall record of 15-3. Its one of the best marks the girls basketball team has ever had. Earlier this week, the Pioneers were set to participate in the Western Mass. Class C Tournament, taking on Lee High School on the road in the quarterfinals. The Pioneers will also get to take part in the state tournament, which begins next week.



Taylor Allen fights to keep the ball.

## BASKETBALL



Jake Beaupre gets ready to cross midcourt. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Shane Szado grabs a pass.



Trey Dillahunt works around a Ludlow guard. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

### Dillahunt, Meacham led Mustangs to win

MONSON – Last Tuesday night, Monson High School boys basketball defeated Ludlow 66-44. Trey Dillahunt and Austin Meacham both led the offense in a big way. Dillahunt finished

with a game-high 28 points while Meacham sank 25 points. Monson entered the Western Mass. Class D Tournament, facing Smith Academy earlier this week.



Austin Meacham makes an off-balance rebound.

## ICE HOCKEY

### Amherst hockey gets top seed in tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – This week, the Amherst Regional High School ice hockey team will participate in the Western Mass Class B Tournament. The tournament, which will be held at Olympia Ice Center, will feature the top four teams in each class. Amherst, which co-ops with Pathfinder, will have the No. 1 seed, facing McCann Tech in the semifinals early this week. If the Hurricanes are successful, the Hurricanes would then face the winner

of league rivals Agawam and Easthampton.

Amherst closed out its regular season with a 3-1 win against Taconic last Thursday evening at Orr Rink. All three goals in the game came from Benjamin Remensnyder. Amherst only allowed one first period goal to the Braves. The Hurricanes entered the tournament 11-5-1 and will be in action on next week in the state tournament. Seeds for that tournament will be announced this weekend.

# Tantasqua girls fall to Holyoke

FISKDALE – Last Wednesday night, the Tantasqua Regional High School girls basketball team was defeated by Holyoke 41-36. The Warriors season finished at 5-13. The Warriors will not make the state tournament this season.



Violet Spooner fakes, then makes a pass.



Tessa Sheldon rushes toward the hoop.



Maggie Johnson holds the ball up before making a pass.



Laney Powell chases down a loose ball.



Abbie Wotton looks to drive to the hoop.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jules Petersen looks for an open teammate.

# Railers take care of Americans

ALLEN, TX – The Worcester Railers HC (23-20-2-4 52pts) beat the Allen Americans (13-27-7-2, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 3,144 at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the North Charleston Coliseum taking on the South Carolina Stingrays on Wednesday, February 16th at 10:30 a.m. EST.

Worcester got the scoring started as they tacked on the first three goals of the game in the first period. The first came from Jordan Kaplan (1-0-1), followed by Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) and it was Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) who finished off the first period trifecta. Brayden Watts

(1-0-1) scored the first goal for Allen on the power play 11:35 into the second period making it 3-1. Neither team would net one in the third period leading us to the 3-1 Worcester win.

For the second time in the weekend series the Railers jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead. Jordan Kaplan (16th) started the scoring party 11:21 into the first period. Tyler Kobryn (4th) followed up Kaplan 15:06 into the first, and it was Lincoln Hatten (5th) who scored the third Worcester goal in the period giving them a commanding 3-0 lead heading into the second. Shots favored Worcester 16-4 in the first period.

Allen had three power play opportunities in the

second period, it was not until the third power play that they grabbed their first goal of the night. It was Brayden Watts (17th) who cut the Railers lead to two. Watts had the only goal of the period, giving Worcester a 3-1 lead heading into the third period. Shots favored Allen 17-10 in the second period.

Despite a 5-on-3 power play chance for Worcester as well as an Allen power play chance neither team was able to cash in on their respective opportunities. The scoreless period led to a 3-1 final, with Worcester walking away with the series sweep over the Allen Americans. Allen outshot Worcester 16-8 in the third, and 37-34 in the game.

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# Turleysports

*Athlete of the Week*

**Austin Meacham**  
*Monson High School*

**M**eacham turned in a huge game at Ludlow High School last week, scoring 25 points for the Mustangs in their final regular season game.

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

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# T-Birds suffer one-goal loss to Rockford

ROCKFORD, ILL. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (23-19-2-3) suffered a second straight gut-wrenching loss in the closing moments, falling 4-3 to the Rockford IceHogs (19-22-5-1) on Saturday night inside the BMO Center.

Things got off to a rocky start for the T-Birds, who fell behind 1-0 just 64 seconds into the game after a mis-played puck wound up on the tape of Joey Anderson inside the right-wing circle. Anderson made no mistake in snapping it through Colten Ellis on the stick side, giving Rockford the 1-0 advantage.

Ellis solidified things over the next 15 minutes, turning away the next nine IceHogs attempts while the T-Birds struggled to find offense. Finally, a pair of Rockford penalties afforded Springfield a 4-on-3 power play, and Matt Luff unleashed a perfect wrist shot that squeaked past Ben Gaudreau's blocker to tie the

game, 1-1, at 18:17.

Springfield's momentum would not last long, though, and just 32 seconds later, Brett Seney picked off a loose puck in the high slot and quickly wristed a try under the crossbar to restore the IceHogs lead, 2-1, heading into the intermission.

Anderson's hot hand carried over into the early stages of the second, as he found a gap through the five-hole of Ellis to make it a 3-1 score at 5:19 of the middle stanza.

Through the opening 30 minutes of play, the T-Birds had managed just six shots on goal. However, the visitors clawed their way back, beginning with Illinois native Hugh McGing tucking home a rebound outside the blue paint at 12:55 to cut the Rockford lead to 3-2.

Dylan Peterson thought he had brought the T-Birds back even when he shuffled a loose puck across the goal

line just over a minute later, but the call was changed to no-goal after the referees congregated. Nevertheless, Springfield pressed on, and on the next shift, Matthew Peca punched home a rebound off an Alek Kaskimaki shot, and the game was deadlocked at the 14:56 mark of the second.

Ellis and Gaudreau did their part to lock things down from that point, as the two netminders kept the score locked in the 3-3 stalemate into the game's final minutes.

Unfortunately for Springfield, they succumbed to a late game-winner for a second straight game when Andreas Athanasiou broke up the ice in a 2-on-1 with Anderson and tucked a backhand around Ellis to win it for Rockford with just 1:59 left in the third. Ellis suffered only his second loss in his last 11 starts, and the Springfield goalie also saw his five-game win streak get snapped in the process.

## PALMER | from page 9

Freshman Amelia Orzulak scored eight of her team-leading nine points in the first half. Sophomore Reese McKeever checked in with five points and no other Ware player scored more than two points.

The only two seniors listed on the Lady Indians roster are Shelby Hogan and Tory Finocchio, who's sidelined with an injury.

Despite finishing the regular season with a 4-14 overall record, Palmer was ranked 32 in the latest MIAA Division 5 power rankings. The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualifies for the state tournament.

"We're a young team this year and we really haven't paid very much attention to the power rankings," said Palmer co-varsity coach Denise Lavoisier, who shares the coaching duties with Amanda Theriault. "We won't be playing in the Western Mass. tournament, but we're still hoping to make the state tournament. You never know what's going to happen in the postseason tournament."

The four Lady Panthers seniors, who were honored in a pregame ceremony, are Jayda Pardo, Madison Rathbone, Nevaeh Solis, and Loretta Pe-



Nevaeh Solis looks for an open teammate as she brings the ball down.

The Lady Panthers took an 8-7 lead at the end of the opening quarter when 7th grader Anna King hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

With 2:25 remaining in the first half, a McKeever inside hoop gave the visiting team a 14-11 advantage.

The Lady Panthers responded with a free throw from 8th grader Anabelle Ladue (4 points) and a lay-up from Addyson Petrashevicz, which tied the score, 14-14, at halftime.

Ware took the lead for the final time at 19-18 following an inside basket from junior Madisyn Slattery.

Then Ladue made a 3-pointer from the right side and a lay-up by Loretta Petrashevicz gave the home team a 23-19 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers led by as many as 15 points (37-22) in the fourth quarter, as they outscored the Lady Indians, 14-5. Rathbone and Loretta Petrashevicz combined to score nine of those points.

The two rivals are scheduled to battle each other in a non-playoff game at Ware High School at 5:30 pm on Thursday night.



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- 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.)

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**DEATH NOTICES**

**Kenneth A. Klisiewicz**  
Died Feb. 9, 2025  
Services are private  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Linda Jane Lamay**  
Died Feb. 8, 2025  
Services are private  
Cebula Funeral Home

**Kendrick Leigh Prater, Sr.**  
Died Feb. 6, 2025  
Services Feb. 22, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**John N. Theofane Jr.**  
Died Feb. 15, 2025  
Services March 1, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Kenneth A. Klisiewicz ~ 1951-2025**

MONSON—Kenneth A. Klisiewicz, 73, passed away on Feb. 9, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. Ken was born on May 22, 1951 in Palmer, MA. Ken was a lifelong resident of Monson.



Ken dedicated much of his professional life to the hospitality industry, serving as a former Human Resources Director of Fine Hotels in Wellesley, MA. His career was distinguished by his commitment to excellence and his ability to cultivate a positive work environment for all those he worked with. In addition to his role in human resources, he was the proud owner and operator of the Christmas Studio in Monson for over 50 years. Through his craftsmanship, he created original design ornaments that delighted customers both locally and globally.

Ken was a graduate of Monson High School, and he furthered his education by earning a Master's Degree in Psychology from Springfield College. His academic pursuits complemented his professional life and fostered a deeper understanding of human behavior that benefitted both his career and personal relationships. Ken was a beloved figure, known for his love of family, kind nature, and fun-loving spirit. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and he worked diligently to create lasting memories for those he cherished.

His legacy is carried on by his surviv-

ing family members, including his brother Richard Klisiewicz; his sister Deborah (Klisiewicz) Beyor and her husband Steven; sister-in-law Nancy (Putnam) Klisiewicz; nieces Lindsey Beyor (Dan), Sara (Klisiewicz) Slozak (Christopher), and Jessica Klisiewicz (Angelo); nephews Garrett Beyor (Ashley), Jeremy Beyor (Mary), and Dan Putnam as well as numerous great nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ken also leaves behind his long-life friends William and Susan Dominik and Maxine Jolie. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Adella (Janulewicz) Klisiewicz; his brother, Stanley Klisiewicz and nephew Donny Putnam.

Ken's contributions to both his community and his family will be cherished and remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff at Baystate Medical Center.

Services are private at the convenience of the family and will be held in the Spring. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial contribution in Ken's name to the Monson Fire Department Ambulance Fund P.O. Box 335 Monson, MA 01057.

**Linda Jane Lamay ~ 1944-2025**

BONDSVILLE—Linda Jane Lamay, age 80, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025 at East Longmeadow Nursing Center after a period of declining health. Linda was born in Ware, Massachusetts on Dec. 12, 1944 beloved daughter of the late Francis H. Lamay and Helen (Piszczek) Lamay. She was raised and educated in Ware and was a 1962 graduate of Ware High School. She was employed for many years at AMPAD in Holyoke. After retirement Linda worked at the Palmer Senior Center for a number of years, until her recent illness. Linda leaves behind



her wife, Judith McMahon, sisters-in-law Susan Magee and Sally Hawley, and a godson, James Quink, several cousins and friends. A Private Graveside Service will be held at the convenience of her wife in New St. William Cemetery, Ware. Memorial Donations may be made to the Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., Palmer, MA 01069. Funeral Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

**Oliveira leads call for urgent review of energy rate increases**

BOSTON – In response to unprecedented spikes in energy bills across Massachusetts, State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) is leading a coalition of state legislators to jointly call on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to immediately reassess recent rate hikes approved for investor-owned utility companies, including Eversource and National Grid. In a letter addressed to DPU Chair James Van Nostrand, Oliveira was joined by more than eighty legislators who expressed grave concern over the financial strain these increases place on households and small businesses.

"Residents across our districts have reported alarming increases in their utility bills, with some seeing their costs double," said Oliveira in the joint letter. "A senior constituent of mine's Eversource bill jumped to \$449.91 in January, nearly \$300 of which was due to supply costs alone. These excessive rate hikes are unsustainable for working families, seniors, and small business owners who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.

The letter highlighted the burden on vulnerable residents, including seniors on fixed incomes who are

experiencing an astonishing 27% increase in their heating costs. Despite claims from Eversource that the spikes are due to colder temperatures and increased usage, many ratepayers who have maintained consistent energy consumption are still seeing drastic hikes.

"Families are having to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table and heating their homes. This is unacceptable."

Oliveira and the legislators are demanding that the DPU conduct a comprehensive and transparent review of Eversource's pricing structure to determine whether these

rate increases are justified.

"Time and again, we see profits prioritized over the well-being of Massachusetts families," said Oliveira. "We cannot allow utility companies to impose unpredictable and excessive financial burdens on ratepayers without proper oversight. The DPU must act now to protect consumers and ensure fairness in energy pricing."

As winter continues, Oliveira and the legislators are calling on the DPU to take immediate action to hold Eversource accountable and implement measures that prioritize affordability for all Massachusetts residents.

**Kendrick Leigh Prater, Sr.**

It is with heavy hearts and a profound sense of loss that we announce the passing of Kendrick Leigh Prater, Sr. He departed this life on Feb. 6, 2025, at the age of 73, in Palmer, MA. Born on March 2, 1951, in Providence, RI, Kendrick was the beloved son of the late Virginia (Bacon) and Robert H. Prater. He spent his formative years in New York, where he graduated from Queensberry High School, before attending Gordon College and later graduating from STCC. Kendrick's professional life was largely dedicated to his work as a computer hardware technician for QS1 at JM Smith Corp. However, it was his role as a Ride Captain for the Patriot Guard where he truly left an indelible mark, showing deep commitment and passion alongside his dear friends, Steve Joyce and Rollie Gratton. As part of the "Three Musketeers," they proudly rode the grounds of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, offering support and honor to those who served in the military. Equally important to him was his involvement with Once Call Away, an organization he cherished. His beloved Harley was more than just a mode of transport; it was a symbol of freedom and adventure for Kendrick. Through his personality, marked by hard work and goodwill, he was a pillar of support to all those around him. He was consistently known to be the first to lend a



hand and the last to leave when help was needed. Kendrick's family was his pride and joy. He is survived by his devoted wife, Paula C. (Penders), his loving son Kendrick Prater, Jr., his cherished daughter Marra Ann Prater, and his dear granddaughter, Savannah Leigh Prater, lovingly known as "Little Rebel." He also leaves behind his sisters Beverly Prater and Barbara Stanley and her children Robert and Erica, his sister-in-law Priscilla Foster, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins who adored him. The visitation is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with words of remembrance to conclude at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. As a tribute to Kendrick's legacy, the Patriot Rider Honor Guard will express condolences, a testament to the honor he unfailingly extended to others. Kendrick will forever be remembered for his unwavering dedication as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. His spirit continues to ride alongside those who knew him. Many thanks for the care and compassion from Dr. Norris, Dr. Cengarazzo and Victoria Madden along with Dr. Patnich and staff at the Baystate Wing Wound Care Center. The family was so very thankful for the doctors, and sitters, Jade and Edward who were so very patient and kind with him until his last hours.

"Ride on Dear One" - Paula

**John N. Theofane Jr.**

It is with deep respect and solemn hearts that we announce the passing of John N. Theofane Jr., who departed this life on Feb. 15, 2025, at the age of 79. Born on Nov. 16, 1945, in Springfield, MA, John was a beloved figure who left an indelible mark on his family, friends, and community. John was raised in Springfield and spent the majority of his life residing in Palmer, where he pursued an accomplished career as an engineer at Mestek. Recognized for his commitment to excellence and integrity, his professional life was noteworthy, yet it was his personal qualities and passions that truly defined him. John's love for his family was immeasurable. He shared 60 cherished years with his devoted wife, Cheryl J. (Mackenzie). Together, they created a legacy of love and humor, characterized by numerous joyful moments spent with their children, John N. Theofane III and his wife, Shelley and Rebecca Tripp and her husband, Dennis. John particularly treasured every moment with his grandchildren—Chelsea & Casey Boyle, Matthew & Hillary Theofane, Derek Tripp & Mari Barcomb, and Ciara Tripp—and reveled in the antics of his great-grandsons, Owen, Conor, and Hudson. Known for his much-admired



humor, John had a remarkable ability to bring smiles with his jokes, leaving an impression on all who had the privilege to know him. His interests were diverse and brought him immense joy; whether it was casting a line while fishing, enjoying the tranquility of hunting, experiencing the thrill of motorcycle rides with Cheryl, or exploring new horizons through travel. A man of service, John held an active presence in the church community at the Second Congregational Church, participating in numerous committees and generously lending his culinary skills for Lenten lunches. His leadership was also evident as a past president of the Lions Club in Palmer, where he was known for cooking up meals for their function events. John was preceded in death by his parents, John N. Theofane Sr and Evelyn (Andrews) Theofane, and his brother, Arthur Theofane. He will be remembered at a ceremony held at the Second Congregational Church on March 1 at 10:30 a.m. In a gesture honoring John's selfless spirit, the family kindly asks for donations to be made to the church or Shriner's Hospital in lieu of flowers.



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## HELP WANTED

**COA COORDINATOR** for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at [www.westhamptonma.gov](http://www.westhamptonma.gov). Applications accepted until position filled.

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### Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**. Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to: **Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098** Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us** Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.  
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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**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 H.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD02P157588TPI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of MARY CHEEVER of Palmer, Hampden County, MA a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the Thirty-Second Account(s) inclusive of Bank of America, N.A. and Wendy Cheever, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said MARY CHEEVER have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the 24th day of April, 2025 the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 7th day of February, 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD02P157588TPI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of MARY CHEEVER of Palmer, Hampden County, MA a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the Thirty-Third through Thirty-Seventh Account(s) inclusive of Bank of America, N.A. and Wendy Cheever, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said MARY CHEEVER have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the 24th day of April, 2025 the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 7th day of February, 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0304PM In the matter of: Hazel Ablicki Of: Palmer, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor) CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF

CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Tiffany Ablicki of Palmer, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Hazel Ablicki is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Tiffany Ablicki of Palmer, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/13/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 13, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0194GD In the matter of: Peyton Michael Findlay Of: Three Rivers, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Nichole A Findlay of Three Rivers, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Peyton Michael Findlay is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Nichole A Findlay of Three Rivers, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 03/06/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceed-

ing may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 30, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 02/20/2025

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. on the application for a transfer of license from American Pride, Inc. D/B/A One Stop Liquors located at 1458 N. Main St Palmer MA 01069. to Vakrattund Inc.

Licensing Commission, Town of Palmer 02/20/2025

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent application for the construction of a house and associated driveway, porch, and septic system within the 200-foot Riverfront Area. The project location is Main Street, Palmer, MA, referred to as Assessor's Map 91, Lot 47. The applicant making the request is Goddard Consulting, LLC, on behalf of James Manning.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. 02/20/2025

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS Wales Elementary School Partial Roofing Replacement Project Design Services Board of Selectmen

The Town of Wales (the "Town") seeks proposals from qualified and duly registered architectural and engineering persons or firms for service design, bidding, and construction administration services for the WALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOFING REPLACEMENT PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES. Fees will be negotiated and not to exceed \$90,000.

Request for Qualifications and Proposal Forms may be obtained online from the Town of Wales website, https://www.townofwales.net. Sealed proposals clearly marked "WALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOFING REPLACEMENT PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES" must be received at the Office of the Board of Selectmen, Wales Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA 01081 by March 6, 2025 at 11:00AM.

There will be a pre proposal site visit at Wales Elementary School, 41 Main Street, Wales, MA on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 10:00AM.

The Town's Evaluation Committee for the project will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for award of the contract. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, wholly or in part, and make such award as it determines to be in the best interest of the Town.

This RFQ is issued in accordance with, and subject to, M.G.L. c. 7C, §§44-58, inclusive (the Massachusetts Designer Selection Law), and otherwise in accordance with the Town of Wales Designer Selection Procedures. The award of any contract awarded hereunder is subject to

the appropriation and availability of funds.

Town of Wales Pamela A. Leduc, Chief Procurement Officer 02/20/2025

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 Norman L. Whitman and W. Alexandra Pietrowski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Popular Financial Services, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated July 9, 2004 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 14336, Page 130, subsequently assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon F/K/A The Bank of New York as Successor Trustee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for The Benefit of The Certificate Holders of Popular ABS, Inc. Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-5 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Popular Financial Services, LLC, by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19866, Page 197, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Trustee for The NRZ Pass-Through Trust IX-B by The Bank of New York Mellon F/K/A The Bank of New York as Successor Trustee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for The Benefit of The Certificate Holders of Popular ABS, Inc. Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-5 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22854, Page 28, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-NPL2 by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee of NRZ Pass-Through Trust IX-B by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 23957, Page 411, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-NPL2 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25305, Page 135 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on March 13, 2025 at 198 Union Road, Wales, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: the real estate located in said Wales on the westerly side of Union Road about one quarter (1/4) of a mile

northerly of the Holland Stafford Road, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the westerly line of Union Road, six hundred twenty (620) feet southerly, measuring along said westerly line, from a stone fence at land now or formerly of William Braman, and thence running S. 2° 05' E. two hundred (200) feet along said Union Road to an iron pin; thence turning and running S. 80° 55' W. two hundred eighty (280) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running N. 2° 05' W. two hundred (200) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running N. 80° 55' E. two hundred eighty (280) feet to the point of BEGINNING, the last three courses being along land now or formerly of Julius A. Aarons et ux.

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 FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) 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 Mortgagee, 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 Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 21-004521 02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2025

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:45 PM on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent application for proposed work at 276 Flynt Street, Palmer (Map 8, Parcel 45). The project consists primarily of maintenance of existing facilities on the property, including sediment removal from two ponds. Work is proposed to occur within wetlands, bank, land under waterbodies, and 50-foot No Disturb Zone. The applicant making the request is Sherman & Frydryk, on behalf of Patricia Poehler.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission.

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. 02/20/2025

OPPORTUNITY newspaper correspondent Journal Register seeks Experienced Writers/ Journalists to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities. Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines. Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo. Send writing samples with resume to Deanna Sloat 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or email directly to dsloat@turley.com

NAT FALK offers best men's clothing for 88 years. NOW we are OPEN - support local businesses - THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a reduced rate! Business profile - 250 words, Photo - yourself, employees or building, Advertisement - 3 column x 6". 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

## Police/Fire

## Police Logs

## Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 427 incidents on its logs from Feb. 4 through Feb 10.

## Feb. 4

At 9:10 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on High Street.

At 4:28 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Thorndike Street.

At 5:21 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the Mass Pike.

## Feb. 5

At 2:29 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Palmer Street.

At 3:10 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Belchertown Street and Norbell Street.

At 8:11 p.m. police arrested Franchelisse Rivera, 34, of 97 Windsor St., for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding rate of speed exceeding posted limit.

## Feb. 6

At 5:50 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Boston Road.

At 11:23 a.m. police responded to an accident with N. Main Street.

At 4:33 p.m. police gave summons to Cody R. Jarvis, 37, 300 Old West Warren Road, West Warren, for unlicensed and unregistered motor vehicle.

At 5 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on River Street.

At 6:01 p.m. police responded to an accident with

personal injury on Thorndike Street.

At 7:17 p.m. police arrested Stanislav P. Cross, 34, of 81 W. Main St., Ware, for trespass, disorderly conduct, assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, vandalize property and assault.

At 7:32 p.m. police arrested Angel Francisco Quiles Negron, 35, of 53 Church St., Springfield, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and possession of an open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.

At 8:56 p.m. police gave summons to Noah Scott Randall, 19, of 84 Three River Road, Wilbraham, for larceny from building and shoplifting by asportation.

## Feb. 7

At 2:46 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 6:51 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the corner of Thorndike Street and Main Street.

## Feb. 8

At 5:09 p.m. police arrested Raymond D. Mack III, 36, of 198 Godwin St., Indian Orchard, operating motor vehicle with suspended license, speeding and no inspection sticker.

At 7:08 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 11:07 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the corner of S. Main Street. And Church Street.

## Feb. 9

At 12:47 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Boston Road and Old

Warren Road.

At 10:08 a.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Bourne Street.

At 5:30 p.m. police gave summons to Rachel Anne Smus, 22, of 156 Bourne St., Three River, for unlawful conspiracy to wiretap. Georgia Bousquet, 19, of 16 Orchard St., Palmer, was also given a summons for unlawful conspiracy to wiretap and Antonio Joseph Strain, 23, of 25 Canal St., Ware, also received a summons for unlawful conspiracy to wiretap.

At 8:18 p.m. police gave summons to Nicholas Benjamin Beniot, 46, 26 Rockview St., Palmer, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and unregistered motor vehicle.

## Feb. 10

At 7:28 a.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Wilbraham Street.

At 7:43 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 10:36 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on High Street.

At 1:12 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Beacon Drive.

At 4:54 p.m. police arrested Dennis Marsh, 41, of 72 Flynt St., Palmer, for no inspection sticker, OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

At 8:26 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 11:17 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Boston Road.

## Parish Announces Gift Shop Inventory Reduction Sale

FISKDALE—St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is excited to announce a special "Inventory Reduction Sale" at its gift shop and a new 50/50 community raffle.

The gift shop sale will begin on Sunday, Feb. 23, and the last day of the sale day will be Sunday, March 23. During this limited-time event, items will be marked down by 20%, offering a unique opportunity to purchase faith-inspired gifts, books, home decor, and more at a great discount. The gift shop is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is also offering a new 50/50 community raffle. The raffle gives people a chance to win big while supporting

the parish. Tickets go on sale on Tuesday, March 5, and will be available through Sunday, April 21. Each ticket costs \$10 or participants can purchase three tickets for \$20 for even more chances to win!

The grand prize winner will receive 50% of the total raffle proceeds, with the drawing set to take place on Easter Monday, April 21 in St. Anne St. Patrick Parish's new Rendezvous reception space located inside St. Anne St. Patrick Parish Center.

Tickets can be purchased at Stop and Shop on Saturday, March 15, at Big Bunny Market and Shaw's Supermarket on Saturday, March 15, and Saturday, March 29. Tickets will also

be sold after Mass and at the gift shop.

Proceeds from the gift shop sale and the raffle help fund various St. Anne St. Patrick Parish ministries and programs.

For more information about the 50/50 Community Raffle, please contact Margaret Farrand, St. Anne St. Patrick Parish Fundraising Committee Chair at 774-230-6072 or James Blanchette Co-Chair at 860-550-5372 or St. Anne St. Patrick Parish Business Office at 508-347-7338.

To learn more about St. Anne St. Patrick Parish, please visit <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>.

## EVALUATION | from page 1

remote sessions.

"To date," said Francis, "I have done two of the in-person and three remote sessions have been attended."

Francis added that he's attended seven remote meetings via Zoom, as well as five site visits, which are typically held on Fridays.

In addition to the aforementioned key actions, Francis said he's been completing all the NSIP assignments and keeping up with the readings that occur, as well as working on the instructional strategy and the strategic plan, and meeting with the assigned coach to fill out all the allotted hours.

Francis then moved on to the School Improvement Goal.

"Back in September, I designed this around our evaluation rubric," Francis said. "I went into some detail talking about the current rubric that educators are evaluated on in the chronological order, and the design of that, which, if you recall, started back in 2012." The Department of Early and Secondary Education revised the rubric a few times and released its new model rubric in 2023.

"That was our goal, to get us up to date," Francis said.

The key action by the

end of September 2024 was to form a committee that included key stakeholders. Francis described this as a joint committee of both labor and management, with three individuals from the labor side and three individuals on the management side.

"By the end of November, the first meeting was held, norms were adopted, and then future meeting dates have been selected," Francis said. "By the end of the year, the key action item was to draft a model rubric, created and brought forth for adoption and implementation to start the fall of 2025."

According to Francis, the day before the meeting, the Teacher's Association ratified a Memorandum of Understanding to recommend the adoption of the Model Teacher Rubric.

"This committee is also recommending and bringing forward another rubric that is for Specialized Instructional Support Personnel," Francis said. "That is for specialized personnel, so those personnel like school counselors and related service providers." Francis said that the model DESE teacher rubric isn't applicable to the work done by those positions, and commended the committee for taking them into account.

Francis named the mem-

bers of the committee, including Principal Susan North, Assistant Principal Kerry Lynch representing Old Mill Pond, Assistant Principal Amy Herring representing the High School, and several teachers, including Erica Lavelle from OMP, and Christina Dobecki-Holloway and Melissa Messing from the High School.

"I really want to thank that committee and Ms. North for facilitating that work," Francis said.

Francis said that he will bring the MOU and show both rubrics after March's meeting, completing this goal. The committee members had no commentary on the evaluations, but praised Francis's work. "Looks like you're right on time with everything here, and possibly getting things done before the time limit," said Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone.

Tony Braden said he expected nothing less from Superintendent Francis.

During Public Comments, Committee Member Erica Nadeau said that she was approached about where an individual could find the dates for the School Committee meetings, and the committee said that the schedule is on the school district's website, and can be found through the town's website as well.

## Fire Logs

## MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two fire calls and 18 emergency medical calls for the week of Feb. 10-16.

On Monday, Feb. 10 at 8:07 a.m., the department responded to Bradway Road to assist EMS, and returned to service at 1:10 p.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:27 a.m., the department responded to Stebbins Road for a furnace malfunction, and returned to service at 8:12 a.m.

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