

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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COMMUNITY

Cub Scouts graduate at Blue & Gold Banquet

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This Sunday, the Second Congregational Church hosted the Blue and Gold Banquet and a Crossover ceremony for two graduating Cub Scouts.

Blue and Gold Banquets are a tradition in Cub Scout packs to celebrate the anni-

versary of the founding of Scouting America on Feb. 8, 1910, and are traditionally held around the February pack meeting. After rescheduling due to the recent snowstorm, Pack 164 held its celebration on Feb. 23.

Two Cub Scouts had their Crossover ceremony on Sunday, Lincoln Quinn and

SCOUTS | page 6



Zachary Champagne and Lincoln Quinn were honored with a Crossover Ceremony to celebrate their graduation from Cub Scouts.



Senator Jake Oliveira (right) presented citations to graduating Cub Scouts (from left) Zachary Champagne and Lincoln Quinn.

MONSON

Expansion will improve stormwater treatment

By Tessa Quinn
Correspondent

MONSON— The Fire Department has received approval to expand the fire station located on Main Street.

The Planning Board held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss the proposed addition to the building. According to the project's public notice, read aloud during the meeting by Craig Sweitzer, the expansion is to "optimize the area by improving traffic flow, which will ensure staff and pedestrian safety."

The building is located in a water supply protection area, which means the expansion project needs a special permit to build in the protected region. According to Katie Gagnon from Lagnan Engineering, the property currently complies with water supply protection regulations, and that will not change throughout the duration of the project.

Gagnon explains that, to ensure the fire station continues to have sufficient groundwater recharge and not degrade the groundwater

quality, the project proposes to install an underground detection system with an upstream stormwater treatment train.

"These proposed systems will promote ground water recharge, improve water quality, and remove sediment and pollutants prior to infiltrating the runoff into the ground and downstream receiving waters," said Gagnon.

The firehouse currently does not have any water improvement systems in place. According to Gagnon, this proposal would improve the area.

The plan also intends to put in place soil erosion and sediment controls to limit the loss of sediment. Gagnon says the project includes a restoration and enhancement program to the property.

Gagnon went on to explain to the board that the project will adhere to building codes, submit applications for all required permits, and seek approval from the conservation commission.

New parking areas for

EXPANSION | page 5

MONSON

Recent snowstorms put highway dept. over budget

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Select Board updated the public about the high school's Vocational Independence Program, the Highway Department's needs to address the recent snowstorms, and an update about the General Bylaw Committee.

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz presented a report featuring updates on projects in town.

"We had a great morning welcoming the students and the staff from the Monson High Vocational Independence Program," Wolowicz

said. "They came a few weeks ago to tour and meet staff in the town offices here and learn about what services are provided to residents."

Wolowicz said the students had a sign-off sheet to mark who they spoke with, and joked that the downstairs departments of the Police and Parks and Recreation outperformed the rest of Town Hall with toys and stickers to give away.

Wolowicz read a statement from Highway Surveyor and Driveway Inspector Ben Murphy about funding for the Highway Department.

"This year, we have had a total of 14 snow and/or ice

BUDGET | page 12

SCHOOLS

Webber honored with Teaching Award

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – A local teacher was recently given the Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award, and will be recognized with a banquet in April.

Melissa Webber has been a teacher for 28 years, teaching kindergarten and first grade at Old Mill Pond School.

"I always liked working with kids," Webber said.

Webber was surprised when Superin-

"The biggest thing with teaching kindergarten is the amount of growth children make during that time,"

— Melissa Webber

WEBBER | page 3



Teacher Melissa Webber, center, is seen here with Principal Holly Riopel and Palmer Superintendent Matthew Francis when she was presented with her award.

Mustangs make Western Mass. finals



The Western Mass. runners up was Monson girls basketball. Please see page 9.

MONSON

FinCom discusses budget with Building and Highway Departments

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Finance Committee met this week with representatives from the Building Department and Highway Department.

Highway Director Ben Murphy spoke at the Monday, Feb. 24 meeting about

"The town's been running out of salt," Murphy said. "Four of our truckloads are running out, and this last storm about a week ago literally put us to the back wall."

Murphy said the town's usual salt supplier won't arrive until March 10, but the department was able to purchase some salt. He said that,

unless there is another big storm, the department anticipates having enough salt to last the rest of the winter, but

"This year, already, we've used 255 tons more than we did all last year," Murphy said. "We've used 1835 tons so far, compared to 1600 tons last year."

It was estimated that, due to the increased snowfall and the need to hire plow drivers, the Highway Department has a deficit of approximately \$80,000.

Murphy described one item that would represent a change in staffing to the cemetery. For fiscal year 2025, the department elected not to refill a vacant position at the cemetery to meet last

year's budget cuts.

"The workload was distributed across multiple departments with approximately \$10-15,000 allocated from the Parks and Recreation budget and \$10,000 from the Highway budget to fund seasonal labor," Murphy said. "This approach allowed the town to maintain its services while exploring a more cost-effective staffing solution."

"For 2026, we're proposing creating a shared position between Highway, Cemetery, and Parks and Rec to provide

FINCOM | page 12



Open Mic Night



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão
David Butler performed all original music at Seven Railroads Brewery this past week.



Shane Campbell played guitar to the weekday crowd during the Seven Railroads open mic night.

Monson nomination papers available

MONSON—The Monson Town Clerk's Office announces that nomination papers are now available for any voter wishing to be on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on June 10, 2025.

Nomination papers may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office located at 110 Main St. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays closed to public but available by phone for pick up. Call the office at 413-267-4115

The deadline for obtaining nomination papers is Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

The following slate of offices will appear on the

- ballot (1 SEAT):
- Select Board-3 Years
 - Moderator-3 Years
 - Board Of Assessors-3 Years
 - Water/Sewer Commission- 3 Years
 - Cemetery Commission-3 Years
 - Parks & Recreation Commission-3 Years
 - School Committee-3 Years (2 Seats)
 - Housing Authority-5 Years

Questions may be directed to the Clerk's office at 413-267-4115. All elections will take place at Memorial Hall located at 198 Main St., Monson from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

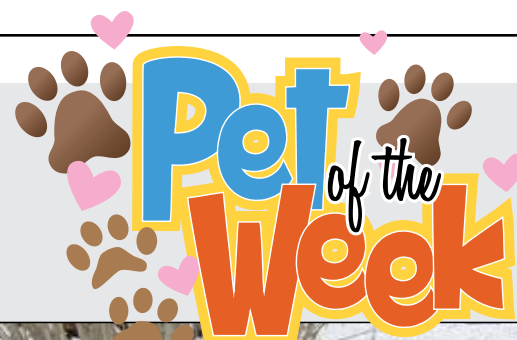


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Corrections

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



LAYLA

This is Layla. She is a very sweet girl. She lives in Three Rivers with John and Coral Gilbert and her two sisters. 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.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

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For More Information

413-283-2329

email:

info@topfloorlearning.org

WEBBER | from page 1

tendent Matthew Francis, Principal Holly Riopel, and Special Education Services Director Monique Dubuque walked into her classroom and announced the award to her class. Webber said that fellow teacher Karyn Marciniac was the one who nominated her, and included a letter praising Webber's work as an educator.

"I was honored that she felt that way," Webber said. "She's also been teaching for about 27-28 years - I think it's even more than that, because she worked at St. Mary's."

"It was an honor that she felt that way about me, as I look up to her as well," Webber said. "We work together closely, we're on the same team."

The award comes with a few gifts, including an engraved plaque, \$250 to all Teacher Awardees, graduate course tuition incentives from local colleges and universities, a three-month membership at local YMCA, three-month membership at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, and a \$250 Classroom Innovator Prize.

"I think the biggest thing with teaching kindergarten is the amount of growth children make during that time," Webber said. "They come in - some of them having no school experience, some with preschool experience - and the amount of social, emotional, and academic growth that they make is just amazing. In 10 months, they go from learning the letters of the alphabet to blending words together and being able to read."

"It's the most exciting, and everything's new for them too," Webber said. "Everything is exciting about school at kindergarten age."

Webber will be honored with an in-person banquet at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on April 30. The program will feature an awards presentation honoring the winners.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 22nd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the American International College, Arrha Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

"Teachers are some of the hardest working people. We are privileged to honor and celebrate these extraordinary individuals whose dedication and impact reaches far beyond the classroom and who deserve all our appreciation and acknowledgement," said Uli Nagel, Program Director of Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

For further information about the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program, contact Program Coordinator Michelle Roberts by email at MRoberts@HGF.org.

'Friday Night Rocks' at PHCC

PALMER — Torie Jock & Damage Control will be hosting FRIDAY NIGHT ROCKS. A rock band series occurring every other Friday at PHCC.

Bring your own beverages and ID's are required, there is a \$10 entry fee.

Bands for March 14th are The Blares and TueTewsday, the special guest is Jonas Cain.

Email toriejockmusic@gmail.com for more

info and for band booking.

"The Blares" are playing opening night at Friday Night Rocks at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center. A band composed of young adults and teenagers some being PHS alumni and one of the band mates currently attends PHS.

We cover artists like Weezer, Jeff Buckley, The Backseat Lovers, etc... TueTewsday is a local punk rock band.

St. Joe's membership meeting

THORNDIKE—St Joseph's Club will hold their annual membership meeting on Sunday, March 2 at 18 Commercial St. in Thorndike.

Voting will take place at noon and a meeting will follow at 1 p.m. If you have questions call Steve at 413-687-4585.

DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

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

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

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

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

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



Hitchcock Hosts Historical Talk on the Brimfield Hotel

The second installment in the revived Brown Bag Speaker Series will take place on March 5

BRIMFIELD— The Hitchcock Brown Bag Speaker Series returns with a talk about The Brimfield Hotel presented by Mike DeFalco on Wednesday, March 5 at 12 p.m.

For over 130 years, the Brimfield Hotel was the focal point of activity in town, serving the local community as well as weary travelers traipsing the Boston Post Road. Whether it was hosting dinner dances, sleigh rides, Hitchcock graduations or

summer guests, the hotel accommodated everyone. Sadly, in 1941, the last of the 3 hotels on the site of what is today Hitchcock Academy's parking lot came to an end as fire ravaged the structure and burned it to the ground. It was a resource that contributed to the social and financial well-being of Brimfield and was greatly missed by her residents.

The individuals who built, owned, and operated the Hotel over the years represented a who's who of the Brimfield community. Attendees will learn about their contributions to the town's history, the temperance movement and police raids, the fires that twice destroyed the building, and the indomitable spirit of residents that

kept it alive for 133 years. An optional lunch will include a half sandwich from the deli at Micknuck's Fresh Marketplace, soup, and a beverage. Participants may also bring in their own lunch. After lunch, the talk will begin at 12:30pm and run approximately an hour.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$20 with lunch. Reservations are required (lunch registration closes Mar 4 at noon).

For more information or to register, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Marcello Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com


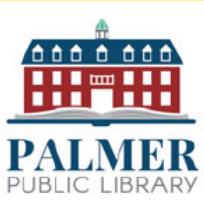
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PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

WHAT IS IT?

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

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

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

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

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

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

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WHEN & WHERE
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3:00pm-4:30pm
at The Palmer Public Library

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

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

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I get extra Social Security for my military service?

Dear Rusty:

Please help, I served from 1964 to 1966 in the US Army.

I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording and you never get to speak to anyone. The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble?

Signed:
Disabled American
Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

My profound thanks for your service to our country.

FYI, the "special extra credit for military service" you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may or may not affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I've written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read at this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case, serving between 1964 and 1966, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years).

However, whether those special extra credits would affect your SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earnings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your SS full retirement age.

If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than what you earned while serving, Social Security would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn't affect your benefit. If, however, any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating

your benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your post-service earnings history. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service.

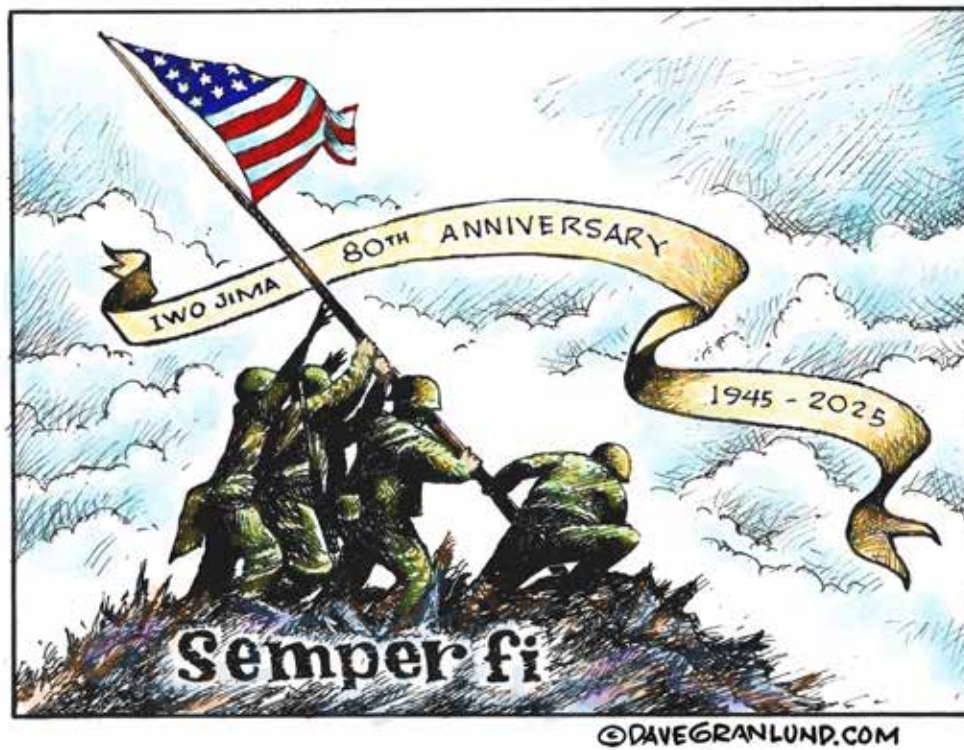
Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't advise SS of your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" when you applied. However, if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those "special extra credits" for your military service years.

FYI, we know it is often difficult to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment, which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits "by appointment only" and you can call the above number to schedule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I've said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the "special extra credits for military service," are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is "yes" then it is likely worth it; if "no" then perhaps not.

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

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Backyard sugaring a fond memory to revisit

It has been a few years since we tapped our maple trees and boiled down the sap.

My husband and I agreed that with the upcoming forecast of cold nights and warm days it was time to get out our supplies and give it another go 'round.

Our backyard syringing days go back to the dating phase of our relationship. Enjoying homesteading activities together made me certain that he was a "keeper."

I'm pulling this column straight from the archives and rereading it to be sure we get off to a good start.

Maybe you too will give sugaring a try!

Although the sap from most native species of maple can be used to make syrup, sugar maple sap is most desirable because it has a high sugar content. Sugar maples also bud out later than other species, a good feature considering sap from trees that have begun to break bud will produce syrup with an off-taste.

The trees you tap should be at least 10-12 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet off the ground. One tap is sufficient for healthy maples that size, three for those over 25" in diameter and two for those that fall in between.

Tapholes are usually made 3-4 feet from the ground for ease of maintenance. You'll want to drill slightly upward 2.5-3 inches into healthy sapwood (not dark heartwood).

Space taps evenly around the tree. The metal spout or spile is inserted into the taphole and set in place with a gentle tap.

For small scale production, clean water or milk jugs

with work great to collect the sap—simply cut a small hole to accommodate the spout. Over the years we have upgraded to plastic spiles that attach to

here, but just enough to show my nephew how it's done!

I kept notes from the last time we tapped our trees. Once we had collected 21 gallons of sap to boil down. My husband started with about 15 gallons of sap in the pan and as the water evaporated he added more — there is a careful balance between scorching and adding too much, not easily explained unless you've had the experience and monitored the candy thermometer.

Finish your syrup by no longer adding sap and waiting until the syrup is 7.1 degrees higher than boiling water. Then, syrup can be filtered and stored in sterile containers at 185 degrees or higher for proper seal.

Forty-three gallons of sap are needed to make 1 gallon of syrup. It takes about 7 hours of boiling to get that precious gallon if you use a rectangular pan 2 foot wide by 1 foot deep.

Let these statistics be your guide so that you won't get in over your head the first time you try it. Nothing is worse than having sap go to waste because you are too darn tired to boil into the late hours of the night.

Nothing is better, however, than the first bite of maple syrup drenched blueberry pancakes the following morning!

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

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

tubing inserted into a hole in a five gallon food-safe plastic container.

Whatever containers you use, be sure to make sure they are covered to prevent rain and debris from getting inside.

When the weather is perfect, i.e. warm days and below freezing nights, sap will flow. On really good days I remember dumping the gallon jug mid-afternoon to make room for more!

With our new set-up we usually collect 3-4 gallons per tree on a good day. When my kids were little they would grasp just how much each tree produced!

Don't let too many days go by before you begin to boil down your sap, though, or it will spoil.

For our evaporator we rigged up a commercial stainless steel pan that fits over a stone outdoor barbecue that came with the property. It has worked out quite well for us.

Whatever you decide to use, be wary of boiling indoors — I have heard horror stories of the sticky steam doing a great job of lifting kitchen wallpaper!

As I recall, my urban sister-in-law once boiled sap down on a gas camp stove out on her deck. We weren't talking hundreds of gallons



I received an email from an Oakham resident said he and a friend on Feb. 12 startled a flock of about eight snow buntings as they dove along Adams Road in New Braintree.

He said, "The buntings are seen here every winter." On Feb. 18, I drove over Adams Road and saw the same flock of snow buntings. Their white bellies will be visible as they flew up from the side of the road.

The snow bunting is seven inches long with a plumpish body. In winter, snow buntings are streaked with buff and black. The ear patch and the back is streaked with buff as well as the flanks and breast. The belly is white and the bill



Snow bunting

yellow-orange. The male's crown is black and the female's buff.

The male in summer is a striking white and black. The head and breast are white and the back, tail and bill are black. The female in summer plumage is a more subdued version of the male with her head a gray

The Journal Register TEAM

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

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



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEOKEITH TURLEY
PresidentDEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

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

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

color.

Snow buntings summer on the tundra and rocky shores, their breeding grounds. The female lays three to nine creamy blue or gray eggs in a nest of moss, grasses and earth placed on rocky ground. Their song is a musical warble and calls include "tew" and soft, buzzy notes.

In winter, they inhabit open fields, roadsides and beaches in the southern Canada and the United States.

Brown creeper

Last week, I saw a brown creeper moving up a tree near one of my bird feeders and suet cakes. When they get near the top of the tree, they fly down to the base and climb up the tree in a different spot on the tree.

Birds and more at my feeder

Sunday during the storm, I spotted an opossum under my feeder digging in the snow for seeds. At this point, it switched to rain and the opossum had wet fur. Besides the opossum,

Around town



Submitted photos

Inspirational Concert at St. Paul's Church

Free community event showcases talented musicians with unique abilities

PALMER—St. Paul's Church of Palmer is delighted to welcome the Berkshire Hills Music Academy Classical Ensemble for a special concert on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m.

This free community event promises an afternoon of extraordinary music performed by talented graduates of Berkshire Hills Music Academy, a renowned post-secondary program for

young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The concert will feature Franklin Nichols, an accomplished pianist and vocalist whose gift for music is nothing short of remarkable. Blind and autistic, Franklin has an exceptional ability to learn by ear and master multiple instruments, including flute, saxophone, accordion, and harmonica. His performances captivate audiences with their technical brilliance and heartfelt expression.

"We invite everyone to join us for this inspiring afternoon of music," says Rev. Steven Sousa of St. Paul's.

"The Berkshire Hills musicians bring not only their talent but also their deep love of music, which resonates with all who hear them. This event is a celebration of inclusivity, creativity, and the joy that music brings to our lives."

BHMA, based in South Hadley, integrates music into its curriculum to foster independence, social engagement, and vocational skills for its students. Their Classical Ensemble performs intricate compositions, showcasing both technical skill and emotional depth.

The concert will be held in the St. Paul's Church

Sanctuary at 1060 Central Street, Palmer, Mass. While admission is free, a freewill donation will be accepted to support the musicians and the Academy.

For more information, please contact St. Paul's Church at 413-283-8185 or StPaulsUUChurch@gmail.com.

Since 1937, St. Paul's has been a beacon of grace, acceptance, and love in the Palmer community. The church offers Sunday worship at 10 a.m. and is committed to providing spiritual enrichment, outreach programs, and welcoming events for all.

Public Invited to Opacum Land Trust Meeting Breakfast

PALMER—Do you enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, or other outdoor recreation?

Are you interested in protecting local land, water, and wildlife? Are you curious about Opacum Land Trust, land conservation, or how you could get involved? Join Opacum Land Trust for our 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting Breakfast – All are welcome to this free event!

The breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 15th at Pathfinder High School, Panek St, Palmer, MA from 10 a.m. to noon. At noon, Opacum Directors Glenn Colburn and Toni Uliana will lead an optional walk at the Stephen and June Skorupski Woodland Preserve on Silver Street in Monson.

Come for the delicious breakfast and stay for the celebration as Opacum Land Trust commemorates a quarter century of local land conservation. Reflect on 25 years of protecting the land, water, and wildlife of south-central Massachusetts and learn more about Opacum Land

Trust's plans for 2025 and beyond.

REMEMBER TO RSVP – Please RSVP by March 6. You can RSVP on our website at <https://www.opacum-lt.org/events/annual-meeting-breakfast/>, by scanning the QR code below or call the Opacum Land Trust office at (508) 347-9144.

About Opacum Land Trust:

Opacum Land Trust is a regional, non-profit land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects over 4,050 acres of land and is actively working to protect more land across south-central Massachusetts.

Reach out to us at Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566; info@opacumlt.org, (508) 347-9144 and check out our website for events, properties you can visit, and ways to get involved at www.OpacumLT.org

BACKYARD | from page 4

I had squirrels and the usual black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, dark eyed juncos, bluejays and mourning doves.

Bald eagle

An Oakham resident saw a bald eagle land on the ice on Lake Dean. Late last month, fishing derby participants saw an eagle at Lake Dean.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee newsletter mentioned facts about the first migration and acquiring breeding territory. Each fall, juvenile loons undertake their first migration to their wintering grounds. The article said, "First, they have to manage the energetic costs of migration—sadly, not all survive the trip from their lakes to their wintering grounds. Those that make it to the ocean encounter a new and unfamiliar world, filled with prey species that they have no experience catching and predator species like

sharks and seals that they have no experience evading. Without their parents to show them the ropes, they have to quickly learn where to forage and how to evade these new predators. And carry-over effects resulting from the environmental conditions they experienced on their lakes during development can also influence their survival – those juvenile loons that were raised on lower quality territories may start off in worse shape than others, which can reduce their chance of survival. All of these factors combine to mean that there is a 53% chance that a loon will survive from hatch to adulthood (age three)."

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

EXPANSION | from page 1

fire staff and visiting civilians will be added to the site along with concrete sidewalks and curbs for pedestrian safety. The new parking plan along with the physical building addition will add about 10,720sq/ft to the site.

Following Gagnon's presentation on the proposal's adherence to codes, members of the board asked questions about specifics for the building, including color pallets for the addition.

Members of the board asked about the sixth apparatus bay of the firehouse, wondering which area of the building the color scheme would match. Officials with the project explained that the sixth, taller bay would match

the office area of the building.

The project is currently preparing all the necessary documents for construction, and is about to bid out the project. The bid is scheduled to be posted on March 5.

As soon as the ground thaws, officials say they plan to break ground.

While board members did not have any concerns about the proposed plan in regards to hazardous waste from construction, during the hearing it was brought up that the fire department does not currently have an oil protocol for disposing of waste during oil changes on the firetrucks.

Fire Chief Brian Harris

told the board a mechanic comes to the firehouse and changes oil when it's necessary for truck maintenance. He empties the oil from the trucks into a bucket and removes it from the property that day, recycling it.

During the hearing, board member Paul Hatch suggested a protocol be developed in case of an oil spill since the property is in a water supply protection area.

In response, Chief Harris said "There are four floor drains in the building, which

go to an oil water separator, which will be replaced by a bigger, better one through the process."

Harris then offered to talk with other town department heads to develop a protocol outside of the plan for the proposed construction.

At the end of the hearing, members of the Planning Board approved the proposal for the firehouse construction without conditions unanimously.

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Cub Scouts graduate at Blue & Gold Banquet



Lincoln Quinn and his parents received a plaque to commemorate his qualifying for Order of the Arrow.



Senator and former Cub Scout Jake Oliveira praised the graduating Cub Scouts for their work and dedication.



Pastor James Lumsden read a psalm at the beginning of the ceremony.



The scouts and assembled audience stood together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Zachary Champagne was joined by his parents as he crossed the threshold from Cub Scout to Scout.



Senator Jake Oliveira shook hands with graduating Cub Scouts Lincoln Quinn and Zachary Champagne.



Holly Riopel, Principal of Old Mill Pond School, presided over the ceremony on Sunday.

SCOUTS | from page 1

Zachary Champagne. They were each accompanied by their parents, and recognized by local scoutmasters and pack leaders.

Holly Riopel, Principal of Old Mill Pond School, announced the speakers for the meeting. After a reading by Pastor James, Senator Jake Oliveira presented a citation to the two scouts on behalf of himself and State Representa-

tive Todd Smola.

"From a personal level, you're doing something that I never had the opportunity to do," Oliveira said. "I was a Cub Scout, but I never crossed over to make it to become a full Scout."

After the ceremony, the guests were invited for refreshments provided by the church.



Pierre Chevalier led the Scouts of Troop 64, joined by the new graduates, in their "troop yell."

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55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Play a role
- River in Georgia and Alabama
- Water in the solid state
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Fleece
- Writer/actress Dunham
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Conceits
- Slowed down
- Nourishment
- Midway between east and southeast
- Fights
- Comedienne Tyler
- Standing operating procedure
- Locks
- Old
- Song sung to one's lover
- Whale ship captain
- Moved quickly on foot
- Volcanic craters
- Large musical instrument
- Liquefied natural gas
- Ethiopian town
- Not closed
- A team's best pitcher
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Disfigure
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Sleep
- S. American plant
- Soul and calypso song
- Fruit of the service tree
- Continent
- Albania's capital
- Poisonous plant
- Argues
- Assists
- Town in Galilee
- Russian leader
- Promotional materials
- Wings
- Not odd
- Expression of creativity
- Conceptualize
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Peyton's little brother
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- Difference in potential
- Owner
- I (German)
- Chinese conception of poetry
- The world of the dead
- Sign language
- Coincide
- Religious observance
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Polite interruption sound
- Texas ballplayer
- Type of sword
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Basic unit of a chemical element
- Native American people in California
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- Easily swindled person
- One point south of southwest
- Small island (British)

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CAMPUS NOTES

Olivia Sloat named to the fall 2024 Dean's List at Emmanuel College

BOSTON— Olivia Sloat, of Palmer (01069), has been named to Emmanuel College's Fall 2024 Dean's List in recognition of academic excellence. Sloat is a Biology - Health Sciences major.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

UMass Amherst announces fall 2024 Dean's List

AMHERST—The following students were named to the Fall 2024

Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

BRIMFIELD

Ethan Eroh, Ella Kozyra, Ella Petersen, Elizabeth Shaw, Libby Sheldon, Abigail Stattenfield

HOLLAND

Alexis Carson, Clement Carson, Abigail Grillo

MONSON

John Daly, Madison Farquhar, Nicholas Farquhar, Dante Jones, Madeline Ladew, Zheng Lin, Ciara Monaghan

PALMER

Chelsea Bigos, Charlotte Kaiser, Grace Kaiser, Sharon Newton, Tiye Ngachoko, Sara O'Connor, Lindsay Thomson

WALES

Joseph Adams, May Adams, Claire Godek, Jillian Pourmand

Local residents make Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON—The following local students have made the dean's list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2024 semester.

Raissa Buckley of Hampden, Mass.
Noah Huckins of Wales, Mass.



Lincoln Quinn made a procession of his career as a Cub Scout, leading up to his graduation to Scout.



Peter Izyk showed his collection of Scouting badges, including some unique ones.



Lincoln Quinn built and carved this wooden box as one of his Cub Scout activities.

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

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

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

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

chance to regroup and put together an even bigger and better event than originally planned.”

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

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

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.

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.monsonavings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>.

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'Infrared Obsessions' by Bruce Arnold opens March 1

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery announces the March 1 opening of "Infrared Obsessions," an exhibition of infrared photography by Bruce Arnold of North Brookfield.

This exhibition will be on display from March 1-31 at ArtWorks Gallery, located at 69 Main St, Ware, MA. It will open with a reception on Saturday, March 1 from 1-4 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

"Infrared Obsessions" presents the unique view of the everyday world when seen in the invisible infrared

spectrum. This exhibition showcases the creative applications of infrared photography, featuring landscapes and architectural scenes.

The body of work in this exhibition represents the culmination of years of Arnold's exploration and experimentation using digital infrared photography. The exhibition highlights how this unique photographic technique is used in fine art, and the overall effect illustrates the expressive potential within this little-known but powerful artistic medium.

About ArtWorks Gallery

and Workshop13

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our com-

munity through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.



"Chagnon" by Bruce Arnold.



"Shore Road" by Bruce Arnold.

Submitted Photos



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BASKETBALL

Surprise Mustangs make Western Mass. finals

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Alyssa Darling was hired as the girls' varsity basketball coach at Monson High School a couple of weeks before the start of the regular season.

At that time, Darling was just hoping to have enough players to fill out the varsity roster. She never expected to be coaching in the Western Mass. Class D finals on the fourth Saturday of February.

After dispatching Pioneer Valley Regional, 55-31, in the quarterfinals and Pioneer Valley Christian Academy, 44-34, in the semifinals, the second-seeded Lady Mustangs faced the top-seeded Hoosac Valley Hurricanes in the Class D championship game.

It was the third meeting of the 2024-25 campaign between the two Suburban League rivals.

The Hurricanes, who swept the regular season series against the Lady Mustangs for the third consecutive year, took home the Class D championship trophy for the fourth year in a row following a 68-41 victory at Westfield High School.

"When I was hired for this coaching position, we

only had three players on the girls' basketball team," Darling said. "We now have eight players on our roster, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of players to coach in my first season as the Monson girls' basketball coach. The kids have put in a lot of hard work this season. It has been a very special season."

The Lady Mustangs entered the Division 5 state tournament with an 8-13 overall record.



Cali Zielinski goes for the three-pointer.

The victory improved the Hurricanes overall record to 18-3.

The only senior listed on Lady Mustangs varsity roster



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Grace Berry goes for a bank shot.

is Olivia Chrzan, who scored her 2,000th career point during the regular season. She'll finish her outstanding high school basketball career as the school's all-time leading scorer.

"It's a milestone that I've

been chasing for a while," said Chrzan, who hasn't made her college decision yet. "I honestly didn't think I would score 2,000 points and it was a very special night for me

MUSTANGS | page 11

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jake Beaupre pushes a pass toward the corner.

Monson boys lose in WMass quarterfinals

MONSON – Last Monday night, Monson boys basketball was defeated by Smith Academy 53-50 in the quarterfinals of the Class D Western Mass. Tournament.

Brennan Peterson had 11 points. Monson finished the regular season 13-7 and next plays at home Thursday, Feb. 27 in the first round of the Division 5 State Tournament.



Brennan Peterson sends a pass along the perimeter.

BASKETBALL

Pioneers fall in tournament quarterfinals

LEE – Last Tuesday night, the 15-3 Pathfinder girls basketball team participated in its first Western Mass. Class D Tournament since the tournament changed formats. The Pioneers, however, had their offense shut down in a tough matchup at Lee High School, losing 59-21 in the matchup. Greenly Lagimoniere was limited to just eight points in the game. The Pioneers then went to nonplayoff action for their final game before the state playoffs.

Pioneers would suffer another defeat, losing 53-25 against Mahar Regional.

The Pioneers were scheduled to enter the state tournament and had a preliminary round matchup with Boston United earlier this week.

BASKETBALL

Warriors take loss in matchup with Holyoke

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—When the Tantasqua Regional boys' basketball team faced the Holyoke Purple Knights at John 'Jinx' O'Connor Gymnasium two years ago, they celebrated a 17-point victory.

The Warriors made another trip to Holyoke High School on Feb. 12 and it was a much closer game this time.

Holyoke junior Aden Cabrera made a 3-pointer and a lay-up during the final seconds of regulation, as the Purple Knights escaped with an exciting 59-52 home victory on senior night.

"It felt very good when I made the 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter," said Cabrera, who finished the non-league contest with a game-high 20

points. "I just had an open look, and I had to take it. If I didn't make that shot, who knows what would've happened. It just feels great, especially for the seniors."

The six Holyoke seniors, who were honored prior to the start of the game, are Calvin Godbolt (9 points), Jaycob Andujar (5 points), Cameron Tejada, Avantaey Rivera, Astin Chapman, and Chauncey Rivera (9 points).

"The six seniors have been our leaders all season long," said Holyoke assistant varsity/J.V. coach Omar Almodovar. "They're very good basketball players and they've made key contributions."

Almodovar took over the coaching duties from varsity coach Juan Maldonado, who missed the game due to an illness.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

James Sciaraffa goes for a shot.

"Coach Maldonado sent us the scouting report for tonight's game," Almodovar said. "He watched the game

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Austin Meacham goes for a three-pointer.



Trey Dillahunt gets the open layup.

Top-seeded Hurricanes upset in semifinals by Taconic

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—It's very difficult to defeat the same team three times in one season.

During the regular season, Amherst squeaked out a pair of 3-2 and 3-1 victories against Fay-Wright Division rival Taconic.

The two hockey teams met for the third time in the Western Mass. Class B semifinal match.

After falling behind 2-0 at the end of the first period, the top-seeded Hurricanes battled back in the second and third periods to tie the score at 2-2.

The fourth-seeded Thunder, who are the defending Class B champions, ended the match with an overtime goal

which gave them a 3-2 upset victory at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Thursday night.

"One of the hardest things to do in sports is beat the same team three times in a season," said Amherst hockey coach Michael Rousseau. "The two teams know each other very well."

Prior to 2020, Amherst's (11-6-1) season would've been over following a loss in the Western Mass. tournament. Under the new MIAA playoff system, the Hurricanes will be one of the teams competing in the Division 3 state tournament, which starts this week.

"What we did this season is special. I would have been pleased with a .500 record," Rousseau said. "We also finished as league champions



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Noah Latulippe, a Pathfinder member of Amherst hockey, works away from the wall.

with a 10-1-1 record."

Amherst's only league loss was to Agawam, who was

scheduled to face the Thunder (8-6-2) in the Class B finals, last Saturday afternoon. They



Benjamin Remesnyder heads up the ice.

also tied Chicopee, 2-2, in the second game of the regular season.

The Hurricanes, who co-op with Pathfinder Tech and Hopkins Academy, play their home matches at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College

campus. They lost all three times that they played at the Olympia Ice Center this winter.

The four players from Pathfinder Tech listed on the

ICE HOCKEY | page 10

T-Birds get big win in shootout

BRIDGEPORT — The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-19-2-3) walked a tight-rope and escaped with a 3-2 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (12-33-3-3) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

From the game's onset, T-Birds starting netminder Vadim Zherenko was dialed in, as he fended off a ferocious first-period barrage as the Isles launched 15 shots at the Springfield net. Despite managing only five attempts at the opposite end, the T-Birds kept the game even heading into the second.

For a second straight day, the T-Birds offense came to life in the back end of the middle frame, beginning with Otto Stenberg cashing in for the game's opening marker at 11:05. Hugh McGing gathered the puck behind the goal line and slipped it into the left circle for a pinching Anton Malmstrom. The Springfield defenseman's shot glanced off Henrik Tikkanen before coming to rest in the crease for Stenberg, who tapped it into the yawning net to give Springfield the 1-0 lead.

Both teams exchanged unsuccessful power plays

during second-period action, but a strange sequence of events at 5-on-5 resulted in the next key moment in the game. It began at the 17:27 mark when Matthew Peca one-timed a pass from MacKenzie MacEachern from the right-wing circle. The captain immediately celebrated what he believed to be a goal, but referees deemed it hit the crossbar, and play continued. Just seconds later, Brian Pinho beat Zherenko on a break-away at the opposite end of the rink, and the Isles believed they had tied the game, 1-1.

After a replay review, the officials determined that Peca's shot did, indeed, find the back of the net, and as a result, the Pinho goal was wiped away, and Springfield had the 2-0 lead heading into the third.

Despite what has been a difficult season, the last-place Islanders refused to waver in the third. Eetu Liukas finally solved Zherenko with a perfectly placed wrist shot from the left side at 10:13 of the final period, setting the stage for a chaotic finish to regulation in a 2-1 game.

After Springfield killed off one Islander power play,

Tikkanen raced to the bench in the final minute, and with a cavalcade of bodies around the slot, Sam Bolduc found a home for a point wrist shot at 19:07, and the game was tied heading into overtime, 2-2.

The Islanders had most of the high-danger chances in the 3-on-3 period, but Zherenko locked back in and answered the bell on three Bridgeport attempts while getting a break as Bolduc rang a shot off the post.

Peca got the T-Birds off on the right foot in the shootout, beating Tikkanen through the right armpit to give Springfield the edge. Zherenko took care of matters from there, stopping Matt Maggio and William Dufour before getting an assist from the post on Chris Terry's attempt to push the shootout into a fourth round. The shootout triumph was Springfield's first away from home since Dec. 31, 2022.

Winners of three straight, the T-Birds continue their five-game road swing on Friday night when they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:00 p.m. puck drop at the XL Center.

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Amherst roster are freshman Landon Lukasuk, freshman Nolan MacTavish, freshman Noah Latulippe, and junior Ethan Mooney, who's an assistant captain.

A couple of minutes into the opening period, a Mooney shot attempt deflected off the stick of Taconic senior goalie Hunter Shepardson (21 saves).

The Thunder took a 1-0 lead at the 3:29 mark of the first period when junior Eric Harrington fired a low line-drive shot from the blue line that snuck into the net past Amherst senior goalie Spencer McDonald (21 saves).

Another goal by sophomore Owen Odermatt, who assisted on Taconic's first goal, made the score 2-0 with 11.2 seconds left in the opening period.

"We didn't play very well in the first period," Rousseau said. "I don't care what the team's record is, you give a playoff hockey team a 2-0 lead, that's a tough hill to climb."

Ten minutes into the second period, Amherst senior Brach Applegate blasted a shot into the net, which sliced their deficit in half. The assist was given to senior Stephen Rich.

The Hurricanes had several shots on goal during a 5-on-3 power-play, but the score remained the same entering the final 15 minutes of the contest.

Amherst, who also lost to Belchertown in the Class B semifinals two years ago, netted the game tying goal with 2:31 remaining in regulation.

The play began with a shot from senior Nate Ziornek. The puck deflected in the air off the Thunder goalie. Applegate was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot for his second goal of the match.

"Brach showed up in tonight's game and that's what a senior does," Rousseau said. "His game was spot-on, spot-on tonight. He gave us a chance to win."

A little more than a minute into the overtime session, a slap shot by Harrington found its way into the net for the game winning goal.

The Hurricanes were hoping to capture the Western Mass. title for the first time since 2016 when they defeated Chicopee Comp, 3-2, in overtime in the Division 3 A finals. They're now hoping to make a run in the Division 3 state tournament.

The Blue Devils, who defeated Greenfield, 58-45, in the 2023 Class C title, game took a 47-37 lead against the Rams with 3:06 left in regulation when sophomore Jorge Bond (17 points) made a pair



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Sawyer Ferro sets to pass up the ice.



Eric Shen recovers the puck on defense.

of free throws.

A little more than a minute later, Colon, who scored all his points after halftime, buried his second 3-pointer of the fourth quarter, closing the gap to 49-43.

With 1:08 on the scoreboard clock, the Blue Devils held a 54-47 advantage after sophomore Zane Kaley made two more free throws.

At that point, Drury had made 15 of their 16 foul shots in the fourth quarter. They would only make one of their eight shots from the line during the final five minutes of regulation, which enabled the Rams to make a comeback.

Fernandez made a lay-up and a pair of free throws slicing the Rams deficit to 55-53 with 24.4 seconds remaining in regulation.

After Drury missed two shots from the line, Colon pulled down the rebound leading to a Goodhind layup tying the score at 55-55 with ten seconds left in regulation.

Then Colon stole the ball at midcourt, but Fernandez missed a 3-pointer from the top of the key at the buzzer, sending the contest into overtime.

The Rams took their first lead since the second quarter at 57-55 when Clarke hit a jumper with 2:55 left in OT.

Twenty seconds later, Goodhind made a foul shot pushing the Rams lead to three points.

Drury answered back with a pair of inside hoops from junior Connor Hinkell (8 points). Senior Sam Moorman (14 points) also made a foul shot, and the Rams found themselves trailing 60-58 with 15 seconds left.

Colon was fouled while making an off balance baseline lay-up. He made the bonus free throw completing the old fashion three point play giving his team a 61-60 lead with 5.8 seconds remaining.

Fernandez sealed the deal by making a foul shot with two seconds left before his younger brother, Zavier, who's a junior, stole the inbounds pass at the buzzer sending the Rams players and their fans into a frenzy.

The Rams held a 15-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Drury outscored Granby, 17-11, during the second quarter and headed into the locker room with a 29-26 advantage.

The third quarter was a defensive battle as both teams only scored five points.

Holding a ten point lead with three minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils players probably thought they would be taking the championship trophy for the second time in the past three years.

The Rams players never gave up and they wound up taking it home for the first time in twenty years.

Granby will now be looking to make another successful run in the Division 5 state tournament.

The third-seed Rams are scheduled to host either Bartlett High School of Webster or Brooke Charter School in the round of 32.

Turleysports



Athlete of the Week

Cali Zielinski
Monson

Zielinski had a good performance in the Western Mass. finals with 15 points.

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

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – It is now week two of the final round of the season for the Commercial Elks League.

After week one, the Daft Kings, Team BK and Gutter Moutns began the round with a record of 3-1. Daft Kings and Gutter Moutns are the two teams who already qualified for the championship roll off by winning a round. The Mailmen, Compression and Last in Line have a record of 1-3 to begin round three.

In week two, Last in Line defeated the Mailmen in all three games and receive four points. The winners of round

one, Gutter Moutns, bowled against Team BK in week two.

In game one, Gutter Moutns defeated Team BK by a score of 403-395. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Moutns lead his team to a win with a 115. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK bowled a 117 in a losing effort.

In game two, it was another close match as Gutter Moutns won the second game 372-368. In game three, Team BK came up with a big win by a score of 389-355. The substitute bowler for Team BK finished with a 122 to go with his scores of 118 and 113.

With the 34-point victory in game three, Team BK manage to win total pinfall by a final score of 1152-1130. Both Gutter Moutns and Team BK won two points and advanced their records to 5-3.

Daft Kings, the winning team of round two, bowled against Compression. In game one, Compression defeated Daft Kings by a score of 391-376. David Bowman of Compression had a score of 105 to help his team take the first game.

In game two, Compression defeated Daft Kings again by a score of 379-352. Compression does not have a playoff berth and are trying to win the final round. In game three, Compression won for a three-game sweep over Daft Kings, 379-348.

With a sweep and total pinfall, Compression win four big points to better their chances at making the championship roll off at the end of the season. The final score was 1149-1076 in favor of Compression.

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at home and sent text messages."

The Purple Knights, who finished the regular season with a 14-4 overall record, entered the Western Mass. Class A tournament as the third seed. They were scheduled to host sixth-seeded Chicopee Comp in a quarterfinal game on Monday night.

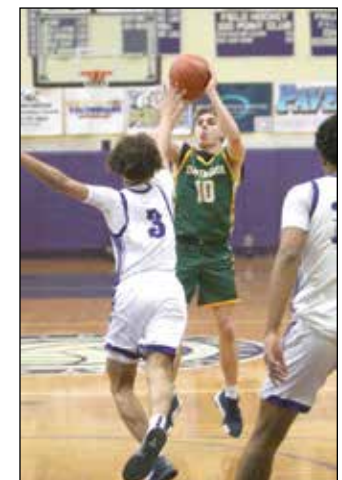
Longtime Tantasqua varsity coach Scott Dion said Holyoke was one of the best teams that his squad has faced this season.

"Holyoke is very similar to Doherty. If they face each other in the Division 2 state tournament, it would probably be an awesome basketball game," Dion said. "I thought tonight's game was a very good experience for my guys to prepare for the postseason tournament."

The Warriors (13-5) lost at Doherty, 62-44, in the season opener. They also lost to Nipmuc Regional, 54-51, in a large school quarterfinal game of the prestigious Clark Tournament last Saturday afternoon.

The three Tantasqua double digit scorers against Holyoke were senior James Sciaraffa (17 points), senior Adam Howe (16 points), and junior Sam Pieczynski (14 points).

With 5:30 left in the fourth quarter, the Purple Knights took a 51-41 lead when junior Julian Fasoli (8 points) made a



Adam Howe shoots over a block attempt.

3-pointer from the right side.

Less than twenty seconds later, Sciaraffa buried a 3-pointer from the left corner. Howe and Pieczynski also made shots from beyond the three point line, which closed the gap to 51-50 with three minutes remaining in regulation.

The home team responded with a Godbolt jumper and a free throw from junior Jordan King-Perilli (6 points).

Then Sciaraffa made a lay-up slicing the Warriors deficit to 54-52 with 40 seconds left in regulation.

That's when Cabrera took over the spotlight for the home team.

"Aden is our starting point guard, and he controls every-



Sam Pieczynski heads for the hoop.

thing on the court," Almodovar said. "He made a very big shot during the closing seconds of the game. He also made a lay-up which sealed our victory."

After the Warriors took a 10-3 lead in the middle of the opening quarter, the Purple Knights put-together a 15-5 run.

The home team, who entered the second stanza holding an 18-15 lead, headed into the locker room at halftime with a 33-27 advantage.

The third quarter was evenly played.

The Warriors fell behind by double digits early in the fourth quarter before making a comeback.

Cabrera didn't allow the visiting team to take the lead.

Hodgdon looks for big impact in NAPA Duel qualifying race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Since beginning his racing career at Stafford Speedway in the Legend Cars division in 2014, Danbury, CT native Teddy Hodgdon has enjoyed more than just a small amount of success. Hodgdon won 5 races in the Legend Cars division before moving into the SK Light division, where he won 6 races in 2 seasons along with the 2019 track championship. Hodgdon began racing his family owned #55 Montanari Fuel open modified car in 2022 and in 17 starts at Stafford, Hodgdon has 8 top-5 and 10 top-10 finishes. But with finishes of 16th, 16th, and 24th in his 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts, he has yet to taste success in “The Greatest Race in the History of Spring.”

“It’s really just how things have played out for

us,” said Hodgdon. “The first year we raced the Sizzler® it was one of our first races with the open style car so you can chalk that up to beginner’s luck and then the last couple races have just been wrong place, wrong time for us with incidents or we had a bad pit stop. The cards have definitely not fallen our way the last couple years so hopefully we can get that turned around this season.”

Hodgdon appeared to have his Sizzler® luck turn for the better in the 2024 edition of the race by winning his 40-lap NAPA Duel qualifying race that put him on pole position for the 100-lap main event. A mid-race incident that collected Hodgdon relegated him to a 24th place effort after running in the top-10 for the first half of the race. “It definitely stinks not

having a good showing at the Sizzler®, especially last season when we won the Duel race,” said Hodgdon. “We thought we were going to have a good shot at winning the race last season, but for whatever reason we can’t seem to capitalize on the big races at Stafford like we can with the races in the summer months. We have a little different game plan on what we’re going to do this year and with the Sizzler® format changed from the last couple years, the race will be more like a standard show and we’re better at those.”

The 2025 edition of the NAPA Spring Sizzler® will see the race format go back to being a one-day event with qualifying heat races setting the starting grid. Hodgdon thinks going back to the one-day format will be a benefit

for him and his team as well as other drivers who will make up the starting field as well as the fact that he and his team skipped out on traveling to New Smyrna in Florida to concentrate on their northern racing efforts.

“With the old race format, you had to focus on the Duel race one day and then the Sizzler® on the second day where this new format is just one day with standard heat races and then go feature racing,” said Hodgdon. “I think the newer format works a lot better for a lot of the drivers, myself included. I think this year by not going to Speedweeks and focusing on the northern part of our schedule, we won’t be rushing anything and we’ll be able to pinpoint some details in order for us to have success at the start of the season.”

Like much of the field, Hodgdon has an extensive background at Stafford that he can lean on in terms of putting the correct setup in his #55 car. While Hodgdon and the #55 team have showed that their car is quick at Stafford, they’re still searching for ways to make their car even faster while trying to eliminate an issue they had with long run speed.

“Everyone is striving to be better and we certainly are hoping we can make the car better,” said Hodgdon. “It seems like our long run speed last year didn’t seem quite as right as it had the last couple seasons at Stafford, so that’s what we’re working on. If we can have a good long run car, then we should be right there at the end of the race. We were great in time trials and in heat races, but it would

seem like always right around lap-40 the car would start to fall on its face. Stafford has been my home track forever and I have a million laps there and I love the place, it’s just getting there and executing on all fronts. We need to make sure the setup and the tires on the car are good and our pit stops are where they need to be. Hopefully everything can come together for us and we can knock one out this year.”

The 53rd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® is set for April 26-27. The NAPA Spring Sizzler® kicks off on Saturday, April 26, with feature events for the Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock divisions, along with SK Light qualifying duel races that will set the field for an extra-distance 30-lap feature event on Sunday, April 27.



Mia Hudak sails a pass into the paint.



Olivia Chrzan works under the hoop.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

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when it did happen.”

Chrzan scored a team-high 22 points in the Class D finals. She has scored 20 or more points in all but one game this season.

“Olivia is an outstanding athlete and is the leader of our team,” said Darling, who was Chrzan’s AAU basketball coach when she was in the sixth grade. “We’re definitely going to miss her next year, but we did have some younger players step up.”

Chrzan has really enjoyed being coached again by Darling, who scored 1,000th career points as a member of the Palmer girls’ basketball team.

“Having Alyssa as our basketball coach this year has been great,” Chrzan said. “She always pushes us very hard at practice. We’re very comfortable having her as our coach.”

Freshman Cali Zielinski scored 15 points in the Class D finals with the help of three 3-pointers.

“Cali has improved a lot during the last half of the season,” Chrzan added. “She has gained a lot of confidence. She can become an outstanding basketball player if she continues to work very hard.”

Sophomore Lylia Ellis and freshman Grace Berry chipped in with two points apiece.

The other members of the Lady Mustangs basketball team are freshman Madigan Graves-Harrison, freshman Emma Bannon, eighth grader Nylah Jagodowski, and eighth grader Mia Hudak.

When she was in the seventh grade, Chrzan scored 16 points as the Lady

Mustangs defeated the Lenox Millionaires, 71-52, in the Western Mass. Division 4 championship game.

“When I was in the seventh grade, we had four or five seniors on the team and the rest of the players were juniors. It was a very special season,” Chrzan said. “We’re a very young team this year and it’s the first year some of the players have played basketball. It was very nice to play in the Western Mass. finals again as a senior.”

The Monson fans who made the trek to Westfield didn’t have very much to cheer about during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Trailing, 18-0, at the end of the first quarter, the Lady Mustangs managed to slice their deficit to 28-23 at half-time, as they outscored the Hurricanes, 23-10, during the second quarter.

“The first quarter was very stressful for us,” Darling said. “It’s the first time that a lot of these kids have played in a championship game. It’s a much different atmosphere than a normal regular season game. We did play a lot better in the second quarter, but we ran out of gas in the second half.”

The Lady Mustangs finally broke the ice following a basket by Ellis less than a minute into the second quarter.

The duo of Zielinski and Chrzan then combined to score 19 of the Lady Mustangs next 21 points.

Their other two points were a Berry lay-up following a steal three minutes into the quarter.

Chrzan buried a 3-point-er at the buzzer as the Lady Mustangs headed into the locker room only trailing by



Lylia Ellis hustles down the court.

five points. She began the second half with a lay-up which forced Hoosac Valley head coach Jon Frederick to call an early time-out.

Then senior Ashlyn Lesure, who only had six points in the first half, scored the next eight points, as the Hurricanes retook a double digit lead (36-25).

Lesure wound up scoring a game-high 25 points.

Hoosac’s other double digit scorers were senior Emma Meczyuwor (18 points), freshman Genevieve Lagess (13 points), and sophomore Reagan Shea (11 points).

The Hurricanes, who entered the fourth quarter holding a 53-34 lead, continued to pull away with the help of a 15-2 run.

The Lady Mustangs are scheduled to host a round of 32 game in the Division 5 state tournament at 5pm on Thursday night. The Mustangs boys’ team will also be playing a round of 32 home game on the same night.

Railers get shutout win in road finale

CHARLESTON, SC – The Worcester Railers HC (24-23-2-4 54pts) lost to the South Carolina Stingrays (33-13-3-2, 71pts) on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-0 in front of a crowd of 4,503 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Bloomington Bison on Friday, February 28th, at 7:05 p.m. for Monkey Wrenches weekend.

Jamie Engelbert (1-0-1) opened up the scoring with a goal for the Stingrays early in the second period, 8:35 into the third period Alexander Suzdalev(1-0-1) netted another

goal for the Stingrays increasing their lead to 2-0. The Stingrays kept their momentum going with a goal late in the third period by Tyler Weiss (1-0-1) which would be the final goal of the game to give the Stingrays a 3-0 win over Worcester.

Neither team was able to get the puck in the net in the first period. Hugo Ollas had 11 saves on 11 shots while Garin Bjorklund had 7 saves on 7 shots. The score was 0-0 going into the second period.

The Stingrays struck first with a goal from Jamie Engelbert (14th) just 2:18 into the second period, placing a shot perfectly over the glove hand

of Ollas to score what would eventually be the game-winner. This was the only action in the second period, while South Carolina out shot the Railers 15-4 in the second.

Alexander Suzdalev (10th) gave the Stingrays a 2-0 lead over the Railers in the third period. The Stingrays continued their scoring with a goal by Tyler Weiss (14th) who finished off a rebound along the far side on a wide open net. Weiss’ goal was the final goal of the game giving the Stingrays a 3-0 victory over the Railers. The Railers outshot the Stingrays 12-11 in the third period.

UMASS Amherst opens registration for annual 5K Dash and Dine

AMHERST— University of Massachusetts Dining Services invites the community to participate in their 14th annual UMass 5K Dash & Dine on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m., with the goal to promote health and wellness at UMass Amherst while raising funds for the Amherst Survival Center.

UMass Dining’s focus is on quality ingredients and meals, customer service, student health and wellness, customization options and appreciation of global influences. Over the past 13 years, UMass Dining has raised over \$50,000 that has been proudly donated to the Amherst Survival Center. It is with the help of all donors, runners and walkers of the UMass 5K Dash & Dine that this run can continue its legacy every year.

Schedule of events:
9 a.m. – Check-in at the Southwest Horseshoe
10 a.m. – Free Fun Run for children 8 years old and under
11 a.m. – Race begins
11:30 a.m. – Award ceremony
Noon – Lunch in Berkshire Dining Commons
The race fee is \$15 for all Five-College students, \$25

for UMass Amherst faculty and staff, and \$30 for the general public. Children 8 years old and under are free to participate. The race fee includes registration, and a complimentary meal at the university’s award-winning



dining facilities in the Berkshire Dining Commons.

Donations can be made and participants can register on the UMass 5K Dash & Dine website. Online registration will end April 24 at midnight. Walk-up registration will be available on race day.

“The UMass 5K Dash & Dine is an annual effort made to support the community in increasing awareness of personal wellness while addressing food security on and off campus,” said Ken Toong, Associate Vice Chancellor Auxiliary Enterprises, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. “Our goal is to create exciting initiatives that simultaneously support individuals’ personal

wellness goals and help our neighbors in need. Our vision of success is built on being a true partner to the community, and working together to create meaningful and lasting impact.”

Along with media partners WWLP-TV and Rock 102, UMass Dining is thrilled to bring an incredible course to runners and walkers alike, while supporting the ASC food and nutrition programs.

Media is invited to attend. If interested, or for questions regarding the UMass 5K Dash & Dine, please contact Meghan Rothschild at Meghan@chikmedia.us or (413) 218-4994, or Melinda Rose at melindarose@umass.edu.

UMass Dining is the largest collegiate dining program in America and is a recognized leader among college dining programs because of its focus on quality ingredients and meals, customer service, student health and wellness, customization options, an appreciation of global influences and modern eating trends, and creating community on campus. Their mission is to support and improve the student experience at UMass Amherst.

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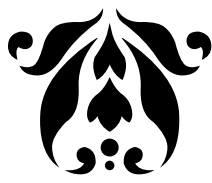


Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

James A. Jasiukiewicz
Died Feb. 11, 2025
Services private

Sandra L. Moriarty
Died Feb. 19, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home



James A. Jasiukiewicz ~ 1962-2025

It is with profound sorrow that the family of James "Jazz" Jasiukiewicz announces the sudden and unexpected passing of Jim on Feb. 11, 2025 at the age of 62.

Jim was born in Palmer on Dec. 30, 1962 to the late Anthony and Sophie (Nurek) Jasiukiewicz. He was a graduate of Palmer High School and New England Tractor

Trailer. Jim was employed by Englehard in Connecticut for 25 years. He had his crosses to bear but had a kind heart and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He loved animals, nature and traveling to Vermont and New Hampshire.

Jim is survived by his son, Jake Jasiukiewicz of Conn.; two sisters, Sandra Topor of

Palmer and Toni Mackenzie (John) of Three Rivers; a devoted nephew, Peter Topor of Palmer, who spent endless time with him helping navigate through life. He will also be missed by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family. He will be laid to rest with his dad and mom.

Sandra L. Moriarty

MONSON—Sandra L. Moriarty, affectionately known as "Sandy," was born on June 5, 1943, in Palmer. She passed peacefully at home on Feb. 19, 2025. Sandy graduated from Monson High School and dedicated her career to the Menasha Corporation, formerly Thermotech, where she worked diligently as a secretary before retiring.

Throughout her life, Sandy was known for her caring nature and her enjoyment of helping others. She had a passion for gardening, spending many joyful hours nurturing

plants and flowers.

Sandy leaves behind her loving siblings: Elizabeth Eavsius of Monson, Mary Jane Eaton of Monson, Diane Ouellet of Monson, Donald G. Moriarty and his wife Pam of Brimfield, and Robert E. Moriarty of Monson. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved mother, Mary (Daly) Moriarty, her father, Harold Moriarty, and her sis-



ters Patricia Robert and Alice Jean Jacobs. Sandy's kind heart and warm spirit will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Services will be held at the convenience of the family. For online condolences please visit www.Lombardfuneral-home.com

Brimfield presents "The UFO Phenomenon"

BRIMFIELD—Join Ronny Leblanc, globally recognized figure in the world of paranormal, Bigfoot and UFOs will present "The UFO Phenomenon" at the Brimfield Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 14.

Ronny stars in Travel Channel's Hit Series Expedition Bigfoot on the Travel Channel, Discovery, and Warner Bros Discovery. He also stars in Paranormal Caught On Camera.

Ronny is an independent researcher, screenwriter and author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling book Monster-

land: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot and Orange Orbs which details the history and connection between the various phenomena, highlighting his experience and a research area called Monsterland in Central Massachusetts. Ronny was the first person ever to cast a Bigfoot print in the Leominster State Forest in the summer of 2010. He is a regular speaker at the Exeter UFO Festival, New England UFO Conference and ParaFest.

Learn about the history of UFO sightings in Massachusetts & Bigfoot sightings that continue to this day in and

around Leominster State Forest.

What Ronny suggests...is controversial. What if all these phenomena are connected? What if it has something to do with the area itself and its history? People have heard about the Bridgewater Triangle of Southeastern Mass.

Learn about this strange place within Central Massachusetts from someone that believes that there is more than meets the eye.

A light lunch will be served immediately after the program.

FINCOM | from page 1

consistent staffing throughout the year," Murphy said. "This position will support cemetery maintenance, parks and grounds upkeep, and assist the Highway Department, particularly with snowplowing in winter months."

The proposal states that this structured approach will address ongoing challenges in hiring and retaining seasonal help, and provide stability while reducing the reliance on more expensive private plowing contractors.

Earlier in the meeting, Building Commissioner Justin Larivee presented changes

to the Building Department budget. This included new line items for tools for the maintenance division, contractual salary increases, and changes to the department's elevator contract.

"That went up to \$4,000," Larivee said. "Their contract is coming to an end, and that's what the vendor said the increase would be."

Larivee said that this increase is expected to carry for the next year or two before it sees another increase. He also mentioned that the cost for photocopy service has been moved to the town's technol-

ogy budget.

One highlighted item was janitorial supplies, including paper towels and cleaning supplies. Larivee said that paper products for janitorial services have seen a 30-40% price increase over the last year.

Larivee also described increases to technology, and the purchase of books featuring updated building codes.

The Finance Committee will continue to review department budgets as the town prepares the budget for the next fiscal year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

ONGOING

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call

413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required - just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

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

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to four fire calls and 22 emergency medical calls for the week of Feb. 17-23.

On Monday, Feb. 17 at 11:49 a.m., the department

responded to Main Street for burnt food on the stove, and returned to service at 12:05 p.m.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 10:53 p.m., the department responded to Butler Road for a public assist, and returned to service at 11:22 p.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 20

at 8:46 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for an illegal burn, and returned to service at 9:10 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 21 at 6:00 a.m., the department responded to Bogan Road for alarms sounding, and returned to service at 6:56 a.m.

BUDGET | from page 1

events that they have had to plow and treat, and currently that has brought a total of 36 inches of snow," Wolowicz said. "The last storm was a two-day consecutive plow and treat event, and with that comes more cost to materials and personnel."

Wolowicz said the Highway Department has asked for two separate items of \$50,000 each for the additional snow and ice, and Wolowicz estimated that the department is between \$80-90,000 overspent in that budget.

"This season, the Highway has used 255 more tons than last winter season, and currently at a total tonnage of 1,835," Wolowicz said. "With cold weather come the frost heaves that they're dealing with, adding signage to the areas."

Wolowicz said that

Murphy and Administrative Assistant Amy Hersey will do a training on the bidding process for the pavement bids that will be going out. Wolowicz added that Highway works to clear Main Street for the safety of pedestrians, and thanked local businesses for their cooperation in removing snow from the walkways.

Wolowicz submitted a letter of interest for a grant for reconstruction and infrastructure improvements for the state hospital road bridge, totaling \$5 million.

"We received an award letter from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission," Wolowicz said. "We received a \$10,000 grant award for the submission that we put in earlier this year. That's going to be for the comprehensive zoning review of the town's zoning bylaw and map."

Wolowicz said that the town is meeting with Town Hall staff and Town Counsel regarding the Omega property.

"We had a meeting the other day about the Omega property," Wolowicz said. "We're still trying to make some progress on getting the Department of Environmental Protection to come in and do some site work and, hopefully, bring some money in to get the site work taken care of."

Fire Chief Brian Harris added that the drums that were left on the property were "potentially filled" with contaminated soil.

"Our Tax Title Attorney started speaking with our Town Counsel, and then town counsel is who we had a meeting with yesterday," Wolowicz said.

In addition to this, Wolowicz said that the town has continued work on the budget for next fiscal year.

Select Board Member Pat Oney updated the board on the work of the General Bylaw Committee.

"The committee has completed its work insofar as it has come up with a final draft," Oney said. "Town Counsel has reviewed it."

Oney described a request for the board to send the draft to Town Meeting for a vote. She said there will be two meetings of the committee before Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, and on Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. This will give residents the opportunity to meet with the bylaw committee to ask questions.

"In the meantime, the committee is planning on posting it to the town website," Oney added, "so people will have a chance to review those, if they would like to do that."

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The Journal Register
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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HELP WANTED

LOCAL TREE SERVICE looking for climber and ground person. Must have driver's license in good standing. Call **413-507-1949**.

SCHOCHET IS CURRENTLY HIRING!

We are currently accepting resumes for an **Experienced Property Manager or Asst Property Manager** at Weldon House in Greenfield, MA. Weldon House is a 105-unit elderly/disabled apartment community with a Section 8 project based subsidy program. 3+ years of prior multifamily property management experience, strong knowledge of Section 8 program. COS designation required and ARM designation preferred. Able to motivate and manage property management staff and have excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. Excellent benefits package and competitive salary. Interested and qualified candidates, please submit resume to: **careers@schochet.com**. Pre-employment background check & drug test required. EOE
For more information on this position please contact **Robin @ 617-398-5144 schochet.com**

The **Town of Russell Sewer/Water Department** is accepting resumes for the full time position of **SEWER/ WATER OPERATOR** at **Town of Russell WWTP, 200 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071-0131** or email **russellwandw@townofrussell.us**. Applicants will need a Grade 4 Wastewater, 1T Water, and a 1D Water licenses or the ability to acquire them.
Inquire at office or thru email.

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**
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Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
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Public notices

Town of Wales

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch 40A §10 & §11, the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **March 20th, 2025, at the Wales Senior Center at 5:15 p.m.** on the application submitted by Joel Jette regarding the property at 70 Union Rd. in Wales. The applicant has applied for a special permit on behalf of the property owner Lisa Ohr, in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.2 states "A pre-existing non-conforming use or structure may not be extended, altered or changed except by a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals." Specifically, the applicant wishes to construct a 24 x 48 single family home. Any person interested and wishing to be heard of this application should refer to March 20th, 2025, agenda on the Zoning Board of Appeals page on the town website (www.townofwales.net). If you have any questions or concerns, please email planning@townofwales.net
02/27, 03/06/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD25P0255EA Estate of: Sharon Ann Allen Date of Death: 01/06/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Brian Allen of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Brian Allen of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/07/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 07, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
02/27/2025

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St., Monson, MA. Under consideration is an Ecological Restoration Limited Project

Notice of Intent for the property located at Bethany Road & Route 32, Monson Assessors Map 111, Parcel 072A, for the removal of the manmade portions of the Church Manufacturing Company Dam to restore the free-flowing riverine conditions in a segment of Chicopee Brook and to reconnect and restore the river floodplain along the left side of the dam area. The applicant and property owner is RJA Realty Holdings, Inc.

Submitted by:

Monson Conservation
Commission
02/27/2025

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 Elyzza F. Blatchley to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated October 27, 2017 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 21921, Page 7, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24349, Page 524, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25319, Page 491 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 20, 2025 at 70 Ruggles Street, Palmer (Three Rivers), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situate on Ruggles Street in Three Rivers, in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning in the westerly line of Ruggles Street, at a point one hundred (100) feet northerly from the northerly line of Lafayette Avenue, and thence running westerly in a line parallel with said Lafayette Avenue one hundred (100) feet;

thence northerly in a line parallel with Ruggles Street, fifty (50) feet;

thence easterly in a line parallel with said first mentioned line, one hundred (100) feet to said Ruggles Street;

thence southerly along said Ruggles Street fifty (50) feet to the place of beginning being lot #17 (seventeen) on Plan of Riverside Terrace made by F. T. Westcott, C. E. dated July 1909, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, File 290, Plan No. 2, to which plan and record reference is hereby made for further description.

This conveyance is made subject to the conditions and restrictions described in deed of Charles E. Collins, Trustee, to Charles H. Giroux, dated April 11, 1912, and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 843, Page 397. 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 announce-

ment 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.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of said
Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
23-011759
02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2025

TOWN OF PALMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT Request For Proposals for Public Social Service Programs

The Town of Palmer is seeking proposals from qualified public social service organizations that need funding assistance to provide needed services to Palmer residents. Proposals may be included as part of an application through the FY25 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Eligible activities include a wide range of public social services that build economic security and self-sufficiency as well as activities that address homelessness and workforce development and seek to build social capital, increase economic mobility, and enhance civic engagement. Any proposed project or activity must also primarily benefit low to moderate-income residents of the town.

Palmer may choose to fund all, any, or none of the proposals submitted and only review the most responsive and responsible proposals. The Town reserves the right to reject any proposal that is not in the best interest of the Town or the CDBG program. Agencies or organizations identified for inclusion in the grant will be required to submit additional information as part of the full FY25 CDBG application to be submitted by April 14, 2025. Programs funded by the MA EOHLC are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2025. For more information or to receive a proposal request form, please contact John LaTour at (413) 283-2614 or email, jlatur@townofpalmer.com.

Proposals must be submitted to the Palmer Community Development Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 by **Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 11:00 AM.**

02/27/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD25P0288EA Estate of: Linda May Day Date of Death: 10/23/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jeffrey A Day of Hampden, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Jeffrey A Day of Hampden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/20/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but

a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: February 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
02/27/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage dated December 6, 2011 from Regina Ann Gagne to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., its successors and assigns, recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19095, Page 42, the undersigned U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of the Truman 2021 SC9 Title Trust being the present holder of said mortgage by Assignment of Mortgage dated January 22, 2014 from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., its successors and assigns, to Bank of America N.A. recorded in Book 20175, Page 261, Assignment of Mortgage dated April 28, 2018 from Bank of America N.A. to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. recorded in Book 22151, Page 130, and Assignment of Mortgage dated May 24, 2022 from Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of the Truman 2021 SC9 Title Trust recorded in Book 24582, Page 348, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at:

1:00 P.M., Monday, March 24, 2025

upon the hereinafter-described premises, known as and numbered as 2140 Palmer Road, Three Rivers (Palmer), Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singularly the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon, situate on the Southwesterly side of Palmer Road, so-called, in the Village of Three Rivers, Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the ground in the Southwesterly line of said Palmer Road, and at the Northeastly corner of land formerly of John Szczygel, now of one Zalazo, said iron pin being located at a distance of one hundred thirty-two (132) feet from the Northwesterly corner of said Zalazo's land;

thence South 42 degrees 0' West along said Zalazo line, three hundred thirty and 25/100 (330.25) feet to an iron pin in the ground;

Thence South 50 degrees 04' East along said last named land, sixty-six (66) feet to an Iron pin in the ground in line of land of one Amelia Baldyga;

Thence North 42 degrees 0' East along said land of Amelia Baldyga about three hundred thirty (330) feet to an Iron pin in the ground in the Southwesterly line of said Palmer Road;

Thence Northwesterly along the Southwesterly line of said Palmer Road, sixty-six (66) feet to the point of beginning.

Being the same parcel conveyed to Regina Ann Gagne from Walter P. Kozik and Mary A. Kozik, by virtue of a Deed Dated 3/31/1989, Recorded 3/31/1989, in Deed Book 7131, Page 3, as Instrument No. 17426

County of Hampden, State of Massachusetts.

Assessor's Parcel No: M:0067 L:000022

The above-described premises shall be subject to all easements, restrictions, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, outstanding tax titles, building, zoning and other land use laws and all permits and approvals issued pursuant thereto, including, without limitation, orders of conditions, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to said Mortgage, if there be any. Said premises are to be sold subject to the right of redemption of the United States of America, if any there be.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder shall be required to make a deposit of \$10,000.00 to the holder of said Mortgage, in cash or by certified or bank cashier's check at the time and place of said sale of said premises. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid to said holder in cash, by certified check or bank cashier's check, and thereupon the deed shall be delivered, in thirty (30) days from the date of sale at the firm of Cunningham, Machanic, Cetlin, Johnson, Harney & Tenney, LLP, Attorneys for said holder, 220 North Main Street, Suite 301, Natick, Massachusetts. The successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale. The description of the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of an error in publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of the Truman 2021 SC9 Title Trust,
By its Attorneys,
CUNNINGHAM, MACHANIC,
CETLIN,
JOHNSON, HARNEY &
TENNEY, LLP
220 North Main Street,
Suite 301
Natick, MA 01760
(508) 651-7524

02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD25C0046CA In the matter of: Samantha Kate Hatch CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Samantha Kate Hatch of Monson, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Samantha Kate Brennan
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/19/2025.**

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

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

Date: February 19, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
02/27/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD25P0262EA Estate of: Randy N Miller Date of Death: 05/31/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Monica Ann Miller of Plymouth, PA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Monica Ann Miller of Plym-

outh, PA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/13/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: February 10, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
02/27/2025

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Holland, Brimfield, and Wales Public Hearing Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:00 PM in the Holland Town Hall 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521 FY25 Community Development Block Grant Application Proposed FY25 CDBG Application

The Holland Select Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Town Hall located at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA regarding its proposed FY25 application by the Town of Holland to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for up to \$1,250,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. The projects under consideration include:

- Infrastructure Improvement Project(s): Park Rd, Amber Rd, Hill Rd, Lakeview Rd, Brook Rd, Maybrook Rd.

- ADA Municipal Self-Assessment

- Lead applicant on the Brimfield, Holland, and Wales application to include a Housing Rehabilitation Program, and Social Services – Wales Food Pantry.

- Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application.

If awarded, the Town of Holland will be responsible for administration of the grant program, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town several days prior to the hearing date at (413)-245-7108 ext. 101. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Holland Town Administrator, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521, Attn: Stacy Stout.

For further information contact Sarah Maroney at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or smaroney@pvpc.org.
02/27, 03/06/2025



Public notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P0256PM
In the matter of:
Donna R. Pappas
Of: Brimfield, 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 Christine L. Pappas of Brimfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Donna R. Pappas** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Christine L. Pappas of Brimfield, 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 03/25/2025.** 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 21, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/27/2025

**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 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 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

WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital

Inspiring Stories Share Impact of Care

SPRINGFIELD—The public is invited to join in the fun at the 24th annual 94.7 WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on March 4 and 5 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Broadcasting live from the 94.7 WMAS studios, the Kellogg Krew will connect listeners with stories from patients, team members, and community members that are filled with hope, miracles, and the impact of Baystate Children's Hospital. Among the many stories shared will be Emilia Cecchetti's, the 2025 Children's Miracle Network Ambassador for Baystate Children's Hospital. Four-year-old Emilia was born at 26 weeks and spent 143 days in the Davis Neonatal Intensive Care Unit fighting chronic lung disease and Craniosynostosis, a condition which causes problems with normal brain and skull growth. Listeners will hear how she's doing today and

how the care at Baystate Children's Hospital played a critical role in her life.

Attendees of the Radiothon will be able to have their photo taken on the red carpet, make a donation, and get a sneak peek of the Kel-

what our community can accomplish when we come together for an important cause," said Interim Vice President of Philanthropy, Baystate Health, and Executive Director, Baystate Health Foundation, Kathy Tobin. "As the only accredited, full-service children's hospital in western Massachusetts, the Radiothon helps provide vital funding for care that spans our region."

Baystate Children's Hospital is one of 170 fundraising Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the country. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are unique in that 100% of all money raised locally goes directly to Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield in support of children's health programs and services.

Major sponsors for the Radiothon include Hyundai Hope on Wheels, Lia Auto Group, Pioneer Valley Credit Union, Eversource, M&T Bank, City Tire, and PeoplesBank.

To make a donation online today, visit WMASKIDS.com, or for more information, email Event Manager Heather Clark at Heather.Clark2@BaystateHealth.org.



logg Krew broadcasting live.

"Each year, I feel so inspired by the stories we are able to share and the families we are able to meet," said 94.7 WMAS' Chris Kellogg. "Baystate Children's Hospital plays such a critical role in our community, and we are happy to support it in any way we can."

There are many ways to donate. Listeners can visit WMASKIDS.com, text [WMASKIDS](text) to 51555, or call the Lia Auto Group Phone Bank at 413-794-1111 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 4 and 5.

"It really is incredible

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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

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Palmer Senior Center

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Monday, March 3
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Therapy Dog

Tuesday, March 4
12 p.m. Lunch Bunch
Francesco's Restaurant in Brimfield

Wednesday, March 5
9:30 a.m. Fruit & Veggies
1 p.m. Wii Bowling

Thursday, March 6
9:30 a.m. Foot Care by appt.
10 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Charlie Hayden Comedy/Magic Show

Friday, March 7
10 a.m. Writing Group New Activity all welcome
12:30 p.m. Movie "You're Cordially Invited"

Monday, March 10
12:30 p.m. Let's learn together Watercolor Painting
5 p.m. Meatloaf & Pour painting pots

Tuesday, March 11
1:20 p.m. showtime Movie @ Cinemark "Rule Breakers" (leave center at 12:30 p.m.) space limited/self drive

Wednesday, March 12
9:30 a.m. Fruit & Veggies
1 p.m. CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR LINDA LAMAY

Thursday, March 13
10:30 a.m. Empower Hour
1 p.m. Sunshine Village Craft

Friday, March 14
1-3 p.m. Brown Bag Pick-up
*Pictures due for Baby Photo Contest

Wednesday, March 19
9:30 a.m. Fruit & Veggies
12:15 p.m. COA Board Meeting
1 p.m. Wii Bowling

Thursday, March 20
10 a.m. Tai Chi
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Memory Café Trivia

Friday, March 21
11:30 a.m. GSSSI cooking demo

12:30 p.m. Movie "My Old Ass"

Monday, March 24
10:30 a.m. Marathon Bingo
5:30 p.m. Cheese and Chocolate Paring

Wednesday, March 26
9:30 a.m. Fruit & Veggies
11:30 a.m. Red Cross Disaster Preparedness

Thursday, March 27
10:30 a.m. Empower Hour
1 p.m. Sunshine Village Paint

Friday, March 28
12:30 p.m. Top Floor Learning How to use your smartphone - Cost \$5

MENUS

Monday, March 3
Hamburger w/cheese, onions & mushrooms, roasted red potatoes, Wheat burger bun, mandarin oranges

Tuesday, March 4
Egg, sausage, cheese croissant

Wednesday, March 5
Soup & sandwich, dilly egg salad, chicken vegetable soup, three bean salad, club roll, pudding w/topping

Thursday, March 6
Bacon, egg, cheese, bagel

Friday, March 7
Pierogis, sauteed cabbage, parslid carrots, 12 grain bread, cookies

Monday, March 10
Ham w/pineapple sauce, green beans, 1/2 bk sweet potato, wheat roll, fresh fruit

Tuesday, March 11
Egg, bacon, cheese croissant

Wednesday, March 12
Chicken marsala, California blend veggies, penne noodles, Italian bread, chilled applesauce

Thursday, March 13
Egg, sausage, cheese croissant

Friday, March 14
Mac & Cheese, stewed tomatoes, WW bread, cranberry juice, mixed fruit

Monday, March 17
Corned beef, cabbage & carrots, red bliss potatoes, rye bread, pistachio cake

Tuesday, March 18
Egg, bacon, cheese croissant

Wednesday, March 19
BBQ pulled pork, broccoli slaw, 1/2 baked sweet potato, WW burger bun, cookies

Thursday, March 20
Egg, sausage, cheese croissant

Friday, March 21
Butter crumb fish, steamed peas, rice pilaf, WW bread, mandarin oranges

Monday, March 24
American chop suey, roman blend veg, wheat roll, Rice Krispie treat

Tuesday, March 25
Egg, ham, cheese croissant

Wednesday, March 26
Jamaican jerk chicken, collard greens coconut rice, oatnut bread, mixed fruit

Thursday, March 27
Egg, sausage, cheese croissant

Friday, March 28
Fish chowder, green beans, oyster crackers, applesauce

Monday, March 31
Meatloaf w/mushroom gravy, steamed peas, mashed potatoes, WW bread, birthday cake

Please note:
Breakfast cost is \$3.00
Please note: you must sign up for breakfast. If you don't no meal will be ordered for you. Lunch \$3.00 suggested donation, please note the suggested donation has increased.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

MacDuffie offers fun summer camp

Camp MacDuffie is an exciting summer day camp for rising 1st to 8th graders.

Participants spend the morning engaged in a program area of their choosing, enjoy lunch by Sage Dining Services (included), and then stay active with various outdoor/indoor activities and field trips throughout the week.

Their program leaders are passionate and experienced, and they all look forward to creating a fun and supportive environment for your child to thrive in this summer.

Come along and join Camp MacDuffie this summer.

MacDuffie Hoops Basketball Camp
MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp available with Coach Steiner.

Are you ready to take your game to the next level? This summer, join Coach Steiner and the MacDuffie coaching staff for an elite basketball experience at MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp!

- What to Expect:
- Skill development & fundamentals
 - Game strategy & IQ training
 - Conditioning & foot-work drills
 - Competitive games & scrimmages

• Hands-on coaching from Coach Steiner & MacDuffie's top coaches

This camp is for players who are serious about improving and want to sharpen their skills, build confidence, and grow their game.

The MacDuffie School is located in Granby, MA. Limited spots are available - Register today!

Don't miss your chance to train with Coach Steiner! Sign up now and get ready to work hard, compete, and have fun!

#MacDuffieHoops
#TrainWithCoachSteiner
#SummerBasketball
#GetBetter

Day and overnight camp for girls

It's in our DNA. Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. Today, Girl Scouts honors her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) summer camps offer a wide variety of programs for all different interests.

Summer camp is a great way for girls to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation for nature. In a girl-led environment, all campers are able to challenge themselves and take healthy risks while

surrounded by supportive friends and camp staff. No prior Girl Scout experience needed to attend Girl Scout camp!

Camping has been a cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience for more than a century. While girls are swimming, hiking, and honing their skills on the archery range, they're also achieving valuable life skills whether at Day Camp at Lewis Perkins in South Hadley or Overnight Camp at Bonnie Brae in Otis. Girl Scouts' dedication to progression in outdoor programming means campers practice age-appropriate skills and gain experience

they need to feel confident taking the next step in their outdoor journey.

No matter which camp you choose or whether the stay is a few days, a week, or longer, your camper will have a ton of fun making new friends, trying new things, practicing new-found skills, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Financial assistance is available.

Camp Lewis Perkins and Camp Bonnie Brae are American Camp Association Accredited. More information and sign up here: <https://www.gscwm.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/camp-and-outdoors/summer-camp.html>.

The Hartsbrook School SUMMER CAMPS

FARM CAMP | WILDERNESS CAMP | CREATIVITY CAMP

CODING CAMP | COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT)

JUNE 23 TO AUGUST 1

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Fun all summer long for ages 4-14!
hartsbrook.org/summer-programs

PACKARD MOUNTAIN Learning Center

We have summer enrollment options for school age children.

Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$350/wk. Accepting vouchers.

Structured daily schedule to include curricular content, free play, and arts and crafts.

Lots of outdoor and weather permitting water play.

www.packardmountain.com

Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org

SIGN UP NOW
for a Summer of Fun

Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

April Vacation Riding Camp - April 22-24

2025 Summer Riding Sessions

June 23-27 • July 14-18
July 28 - August 1 • August 18-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291
53 Ware Road, Belchertown
Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com

Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS

KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 23RD-AUGUST 22ND
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!
*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439
belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com

Follow Us

ECC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

THE MACDUFFIE SCHOOL
VERITAS
1890

Co-ed • Grades 1-8
June 30 - August 15

Race Into Summer at Camp MacDuffie!

Space is limited so don't wait!

Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:

Week 1: June 30 - July 3
Week 2: July 7 - 11
Week 3: July 14 - 18

Week 4: July 21 - 25
Week 5: July 28 - August 1

Week 6: August 4-8
Week 7: August 11-15

• Arts • Athletics • Coding • Science • Dance • Lego's
• Creative Writing • Theater • Science • And More!

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included
Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

Register now for summertime fun at MacDuffie.org/summer-camp

The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.103