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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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CELEBRATION



State Sen. Jake Oliveira presented Amelia "Millie" Dominik with a citation from the State House.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Sto lat, sto lat

Amelia "Millie" Dominik celebrates 100th birthday

By Paula Ouimette
 pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Family and friends came from coast to coast to raise their glass and say “na zdrowie” to Amelia “Millie” Dominik as she celebrated her 100th birthday last week at Christopher Heights of Belchertown.

On Feb. 21, Millie was joined by 18 family members, her lifelong friend Dottie, and her new friends

and staff at Christopher Heights of Belchertown, where she has resided since January of this year.

“They came from all over to be here to celebrate today,” said Lorna Stone, Director of Marketing/Admissions at Christopher Heights of Belchertown.

Millie was born in Three Rivers on Feb. 21, 1924, graduating from Palmer High School. She lived all of her life in Three Rivers before moving to Belchertown this year.

Millie was also a real life “Rosie the Riveter,” working as both a riveter and Heliarc welder at White Aircraft during World War II.

She married her husband Joe in 1946, and enjoyed 35 years of marriage before his death in 1981.

Millie’s son Richard said his mother has always had a strong work ethic, working at Grants department store on Main Street in Palmer as a secretary, as well as Monson State Hospital as a medical secretary for three doctors. She also worked at Spencer Wickwire in welding and shipping.

For 50 years, Millie was the office manager for Crimmins-Graveline Insurance Agency in Palmer.

“She was the devoted assistant to Bob Graveline, who entrusted his business to her expertise and attention to detail,” said Stone.

Millie enjoys travelling, having visited California, Nevada, Florida, New Hampshire and even Canada. In addition to making Polish food, she enjoys baking cookies, as well as going for walks, playing cards and Bingo, reading and music.

Richard said one of his most cherished childhood memories was his mother’s fantastic cooking, especially her pierogis. A skill she has passed on to her grandchildren.

“The grandkids made a photo book with her showing them how to make the dough,” Richard said. “She did a lot of gourmet cooking.”

Richard said his mother is in

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PALMER

Town Council eyes Brad Brothers for Town Manager

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – At its Feb. 26 meeting, Town Council voted to make an offer to a potential full-time Town Manager.

On Feb. 22, the council met with two finalists for the position of Town Manager, Carolyn Brennan and Brad Brothers. Though the council described both candidates as well qualified, a vote was passed to offer the position to Brothers, pending contract negotiations.

“For what we need right now, I think Brothers is the stronger candidate,” said Council President Barbara Barry.

Brothers grew up in town, graduating from the Palmer Public Schools in 2008, before going to American International College for his undergraduate degree, where he got into the field of management as a School Business Manager.

“I actually lucked out where Palmer opened up right when I was graduating college,” Brothers said. “I was able to continue on and start my professional career here in Palmer.”

When he was 26 years old, Brothers had the opportunity to move to Carver, a town on the south shore with a similar population and total students at the three schools at the time. From there, Brothers moved to the neighboring town of Plymouth, a very different school

system with 13 different school buildings and an operating budget of \$109 million.

“It was my first jump, and it was a good opportunity for me to take the next step in my career,” Brothers said.

While working with school administration, Brothers was often encouraged to go over to the municipal side. Even while working in other parts of the state, Brothers said that he always had hopes of coming back to the town he grew up in.

“I built a lot of good relationships here in Palmer, with folks that are still employed here today,” Brothers said.

Through conversations with current department heads, Brothers said that his vision aligned with theirs for what they envision for the town.

At the subsequent Town Council meeting, members expressed support for both candidates, but the consensus swayed them to Brothers for the role. Members praised him for his rich experience and passion for his hometown.

Council members mentioned that they saw Brothers’ history, as a former resident of the town, as an asset to the position.

Some members expressed concern over Brothers getting burnt out moving from a big town to a town with a smaller budget or that he

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COMMUNITY



Turley photos by Harrison Giza

Shoppers and volunteers going through bundles of donated clothes.

Domestic Violence Task Force holds Clothing Swap

By Harrison Giza
 Staff Writer
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PALMER - The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force held their Clothing Swap event this past Saturday at the Palmer Public Library. The room was buzzing with shoppers all afternoon, each looking over the wide variety of adult women’s items the group showcased.

“The turnout has been fantastic,” said Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator Crystal Rondeau. “I don’t know exactly how many people have come, but I brought 65 bags of clothes myself that were dropped off over the last couple of weeks and then even more came in today.”

There was an immense assortment of donated clothing for each shopper to choose from, with long lines of women throughout the Palmer Public Library.

“There were people waiting at the door as we were setting up,” Rondeau said. “It has been a huge success, and we will definitely be doing it again in the future. I work in the field of domestic violence

full-time, plus I am the Palmer Domestic Task Force Coordinator. This was suggested by a few of my survivors, that they would like an opportunity and be able to get things for themselves without feeling like they are taking. So, we were open to the whole community, and quite a few people have come in, smiled and just greeted me by saying, ‘I’m doing well.’ I’m glad to see them here and see everyone leaving with a smile.”

Rondeau continued to express her feelings regarding how the event went.

“We have had a lot of great conversations today,” said Rondeau. “A lot of women supporting each other and a lot of conversations of ‘oh, I brought that in’ and saying, ‘I have the perfect piece to match with that and I’ve never worn it other than that one time.’ I’m so excited when someone is happy to get what they’re looking for.”

Rondeau began to detail her plans for what would happen after the Palmer DVTF Clothes Swap.

“Dress For Success is going to

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | page 2

TOWN HALL



Turley Publications photo by Marcelo Gusmão

The property on Springfield Street was noted as having some unauthorized alterations, for which the commission issued an enforcement order.

Conservation Comm. issues enforcement order against unauthorized alterations

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – Last week, the Conservation Commission met to discuss several routine matters, including issuing extensions, emergency certifications and enforcement orders.

Middlebrook Condo Association
 Colin Goslin with Water and

Wetland appeared before the commission on behalf of the Middlebrook Condo Association to request an extension.

“We’re requesting a three-year extension with the current Order of Conditions issued three years ago,” Goslin said.

Goslin described a monitoring program of the two ponds onsite, where W&W checks monthly from May through September.

“There’s mostly nuisance pondweeds and algae at the ponds,” Goslin said. “It’s a very shallow, man-made pond, so we’re

MONSON

Fire station project costs rise \$4.2 million

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – At this Monday’s Finance Committee meeting, there was a discussion about the unpleasant surprise relating to a sudden spike in cost for the fire station project.

“The project that was projected to be \$6.6 million is now projected to be \$10.8 million,” said the town’s Financial Advisor, Jamie Farnum, “so it’s about a \$4.2 million increase.”

Farnum provided a draft narrative and directed the attention of the committee to the part that will affect the Fiscal Year 2025 operational budget.

She said that when waiting for bids to come back, she had noted that short-term borrowing for the project would increase the short term interest line by \$42,000, based on the estimates of borrowing of \$2 million based on cash flow projections and interest rates for a ban.

When bids came back \$4.2 million higher than had been previously approved, the financial advisor advised to hold off on short term borrowing in order to avoid paying short term interest expenses until a path forward had been discussed.

“Outstanding invoices could

be paid from the Fire Station Stabilization Account, which holds \$100,000 and/or the previously appropriated \$200,000 that is withheld in a capital account. Currently there’s \$200,000 in outstanding invoices relating to the project that the short-term borrowing was going to cover, and then more updates to come.

“We are going to have to go back to the drawing board,” Farnum said. “The Select Board is going to have to discuss to see how the town feels about moving forward.”

The committee was very concerned over the sudden increase in price, asking how the estimate by Tecton Architects had been wrong by such a large margin.

“The \$6.6 million that you talked about that increased to \$10.8 million, where did that number come from?” asked Committee Member James Pennington. “If those people are paid to do this, how can they be \$4 million off?”

“Those are the questions they’ll be asked tomorrow night by the Select Board,” Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz said.

Wolowicz reminded the committee that Tecton has been working with the town for four to five

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CONSERVATION | page 7

Pet of the Week



CHARLIE

Charlie is a Jack Russell/Pekinese mix. Her hobbies are avoiding Loki the cat, barking at everyone, and laying in the sun, usually when her friend Krystin can't stay outside. 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.

Top Floor learning hosting a fundraiser

MONSON— Top Floor Learning is excited to announce a special fundraiser to support the low cost and free tutoring programs. On Feb. 29, Main Street Tavern will be donating 10 percent of all food and beverage sales to help Top Floor Learning continue to provide one on one tutoring, workshops, and computer classes to the community.

This event provides a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy delicious food and drinks, and make a difference. Every purchase will contribute to supporting Top Floor Learning. For more information, please contact Top Floor Learning at 413-283-2329. Top Floor Learning provides

low cost or free tutoring and classes for adults. From high school equivalency to English Language learning to technology, we are here to help. Top Floor Learning is dedicated to helping everyone make the most out of their life. Learn more at Topfloorlearning.org.

St. Joseph's Club Annual Meeting March 3

St. Joseph's Club Annual meeting will take place on Sunday, March 3. Voting starts at 12 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 1 p.m. St. Joseph's Club is located at 18 Commercial St., Thorndike.



Fashion aficionados, Maeve and Suzanne Shea, figuring out what items to take home.



Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator Crystal Rondeau flexing her muscles alongside volunteers Emma Savageau and Pam Prouty.

One injury in Shearer Street traffic collision

PALMER – A routine traffic stop resulted in one resident being injured and an arrest for drunk driving.

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, at about 5:30 p.m. a police officer was involved in a traffic stop on Shearer Street.

The officer was out of his vehicle speaking with the driver of the stopped vehicle. A vehicle went to pass the traffic stop when another vehicle traveling the opposite direction at a high rate of speed collided with this vehicle.

The collision sent the passing vehicle into the rear end of the stopped police car. The police car, the passing vehicle, and offending vehicle all sustained significant damage.

Fortunately, no one was seriously injured in the collision, with one person being transported to the hospital for a potential minor injury. The officer was uninjured in the collision.

The driver of the speeding vehicle was arrested for OUI Liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, texting, and failure to slow for a stationary emergency vehicle.

They will be arraigned at Palmer District Court on Wednesday, Feb. 28.



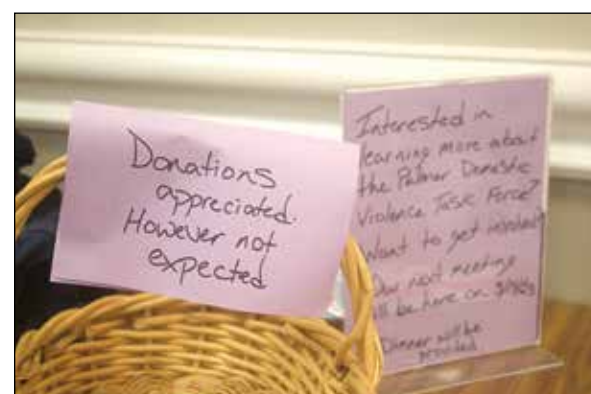
Volunteer Emma Savageau modeling her possible "court dress" at the DVTF event.



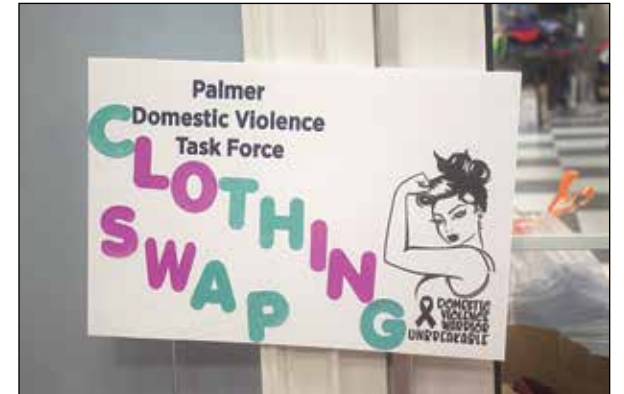
Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator Crystal Rondeau, smiling in her event t-shirt.



Volunteer Pam Prouty smiles while folding clothes for attendees to look over.



Donations were accepted but far from requested this weekend.



This poster was hung just outside of the event, helping shoppers find the location in the busy Palmer Public Library.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

from page 1

be taking some things," Rondeau said. "Second Times The Charm is going to be taking some of our fancier dresses, and then we will be donating to the Monson Community Center and the Stafford Thrift Store. Some things we will re-

storing in whatever space we can find so that we can have another one of these in a few months. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it. A ton of stuff is gone but people are coming in with 3 to 5 bags and replenishing what we had in the last hour. They are leaving with trash bags full of different items and it is great."

Rondeau was not alone in her beneficial endeavors, with volunteers Emma Savageau and Pam Prouty at her side throughout the day. Hopefully, they will continue to help Rondeau moving forward as she starts to plan future events.

"We may choose a bigger space next time," Rondeau said. "We are possibly looking into using one of the schools. We had such an interest, and people also in-

quired about children and mental health, so to have an event for the whole family would be great. We do plan on doing a children's one in probably August to help out with back-to-school stuff, but before then we will probably do one more event for women."

Rondeau then talked about her experiences with the Palmer Domestic Task Force since taking it over. Her focus is to expand the already growing task force.

"I have tried to create a different community and events that definitely assist domestic violence victims," Rondeau said. "But we aim to assist the community as a whole. I've had parents or people pull me aside at children's events and say, 'Hey, I've got this new neighbor

that moved in, and we hear screaming, and I do not know what to do,' or, 'I do not know if this is domestic violence, but husband does this and that' you know," so I'm able to answer questions or give them resources so they know the options that they have... just to make that connection. Most of the people on the Task Force have personally experienced some form of abuse and that is why they are so passionate."

All leftover pieces of unwanted women's clothing, shoes and accessories will be donated to Domestic Violence Survivors and local area charities. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force office is located at 4417 Main St. Suite #3 in Palmer.

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MAR | PM

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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 \$225, 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, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

FIRE STATION | from page 1

years and has been working closely with the Building Committee.

"They do estimates throughout the whole process," Wolowicz said. "They did an estimate before we were going to Town Meeting. That's where we were given that number of \$6.6 million, and that also included some of the monies that we also had available from other appropriations and the Stabilization Fund that we created.

"Now their estimate has come in at \$10.8 million, and it's not what anyone was hoping for or looking for and expecting," Wolowicz continued. "Now, Tecton has to come in and answer those questions."

Wolowicz said that because the Select Board was adamant when this process started that the town would not be going back to ask for more money, there will not be a request for any additional money above \$6.6 million.

"This type of estimate coming in, I think, was a rude awakening to what is going on out there in the world as far as the economy," Wolowicz said.

Wolowicz confirmed that cost of materials is a factor in the price increase and said that at the subsequent meeting with the Select Board it would be decided if the town will continue working with Tecton Architects.



Community Development Department discusses projects

By **Harrison Giza**
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Community Development Department had an open forum this past Wednesday at the Palmer Historical And Cultural Center, to discuss projects being advanced by the department.

"What brings us here today is to talk about the Community Development Block Grant program," said Principal Planner of Community Development of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Chris Dunphy. "The types of projects that are eligible for it, the past projects that we have done, and future projects we hope to do in this area."

One location that the Community Development Block Grant has funded recently is Hryniewicz Park, right down

the street from the Palmer Historical And Cultural Center.

"The infrastructure and the public works surrounding that park are key right now," Dunphy said. "We have plans focused on Maple Street and Maple Terrace, but we are looking out well into the future of hopefully rehabilitating that entire neighborhood."

Dunphy said over next few years, he hopes the funding can be used for streets throughout the area.

"It is important to me that we do not want to change the character of these nice neighborhoods," said Dunphy. "But we also have to take in the reality of making things easier for the town to maintain."

Dunphy said a public hearing is going to be held in March regarding the grant application, and he encouraged residents to share their input.



Turley Photos by Harrison Giza
Principal Planner of Community Development of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Chris Dunphy takes a look at future plans alongside, Robert Haveles, John Latour and David Golden

"As a planner, I can only help to facilitate the wishes of the community," he said.

Dunphy explained that the Community Development

Grant Program is a federal program that is managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the money can be used for housing re-

habilitation, social services and infrastructure improvements.

"In the last grant, we applied for engineering design for both streets, Maple Terrace and Maple Street, and also construction funds for Maple Street," Dunphy said. "This year we are asking for construction funds for Maple Terrace, so it is sort of a phase project, and we are in phase one of doing the design engineering. Phase two we will be doing Maple Street improvements."

The purpose of the Community Development Department is to revitalize Palmer through meeting the housing and service needs and to build and repair infrastructure deemed vital to the health and safety of the residents, as well as supporting business development and local retention.

School counselor receives Excellence in Teaching Award

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Last week, the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award was awarded to Old Mill Pond Elementary School Counselor Angela Craig.

Craig has been a counselor at Old Mill Pond for four years, first starting in January of 2020.

"It was kind of difficult to start part-way through the school year and two months before a pandemic shut everything down," Craig said.

Craig said that she really likes working at the school, loves all the staff there and loves getting to know the kids and their families. She was nominated by her co-workers at the school who had written about the work she does and the way she supports students.

"I'm still processing it," Craig said. "It's a really prestigious award to be acknowledged with, so I feel really honored that I was considered for it."

Craig shared her experience hearing the announcement of the award during the school's Kindness Week.

"It was pajama day on the day that they had announced it," Craig said. "It was during our Kindness Week; the week before February vacation is sort of a Spirit Week, and every day had a different theme. That one happened to be pajama day, so I was dressed in pajamas to go along with the theme."

Craig described listening to the morning announcements with her co-workers when the special announcement was made.

"I was honestly surprised to hear my name called when they announced it," Craig said. "I was standing with two of my coworkers, and we were trying to guess who it was going to be. I had a teacher in mind, but I was wrong, turns out it was me."

Craig said that because the award is usually given to teachers, she had barely considered that it might be awarded to a member of the administration.

"I was very surprised," Craig said. "I went up to front of the building, Superintendent (Matthew) Francis was there with all the administration, and of course I had to take a photo with all of these people in my pajamas."

Craig added that the experience was very nice and that the other staff made her feel very special.

"There's no typical day as a school counselor," Craig said. "It's a lot about building relationships with the kids, getting to know the families, supporting teachers and how, in turn, they can support the students."

Craig described her job as including teaching social skills to students, both in small groups and individual style lessons. She said she does a lot of Lunch Bunch activities, as well as individual check-ins with students, developing behavior plans for kids that have individualized needs and sometimes providing in-the-moment interventions.

"If a student is struggling or has experienced something they're still trying to process,

we step in and help the kiddos work with it," Craig said. "We consult with teachers a lot in terms of classroom management too; there's a lot, I could talk for a long time about what this job entails."

When asked what the highlight of her job is, Craig said that she loves to see students making progress with coping skills and self-regulation, though she doesn't always get to see the kids recognize their own progress.

"Seeing a student make progress and then recognizing that they're making progress, that's not always something that you get to see working in a school system, especially at elementary age," Craig said.

"Sometimes you do," Craig added. "I had a moment today where I was with a student, and we went through and counted out the number of coping skills he had tried. After we did, he got this goofy little smile on his face because he was proud of himself for being able to do that. I didn't have to prompt him all that much and he was able to

reflect on what he did and how he was able to self-regulate and get himself back on track."

As stated on Harold Grinspoon's website, this awards program was designed to honor local school employees every year, with a goal to motivate school staff at every level of their careers to aspire to excellence.

"Teachers are so important to the development of our children," Grinspoon said. "Anything we can do to support them, show our deep gratitude and nurture them is incredibly valuable."

The program annually honors more than 100 outstanding educators in our commonwealth in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties. Since its inception, over 2,000 educators have been recognized.

Today, the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation partners with the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation to make the Excellence in Teaching Awards possible.

The Recovery Center of HOPE

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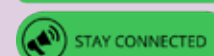
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- Flapjack Fridays
- Art Hour
- Game Nights
- Holiday events
- Wellness planning
- Recovery Coaching

Coming soon..

- Recovery Dharma
- Yoga
- Nutrition in Recovery
- Meeting exploration trips
- ...and more!



For current hours and offerings:



Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

About Medicare's sreaded 'IRMAA' provision

Dear Rusty

My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it. We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. And since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation? We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment, our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise?

Signed: Frustrated Homeowner

Dear Frustrated

Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium, coverage for outpatient healthcare, is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior. IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage.

Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60, instead of the standard \$174.70; if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559 and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594. If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for 2025 will, if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold, revert to the standard 2025 premium.

For Your Information, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

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



Get a head start the old-fashioned way

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space – it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame – if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow

well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame – they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate – "stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early – mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Foreign policy rises in public attention

Americans seem to be more interested in foreign policy than usual.

Four in 10 U.S. adults named it as an important issue to address in 2024, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's twice as many as a year earlier.

That sounds right to me. From what I can tell, Americans are paying closer attention to foreign policy than they have for some time.

Part of it, no doubt, is driven by media coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. When the media pay attention to a topic, the public pays attention; and when the public pays attention, the media pay attention.

It works both ways.

Of course, what really captures the public eye is the prospect of U.S. casualties, as we saw in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which killed thousands of Americans. There's been nothing like that yet in the current conflicts, although about 30 U.S. citizens were killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and an estimated 300 Americans were stranded in Gaza by the fighting.

In the AP-NORC poll, 20% of respondents said they were concerned about U.S. involvement overseas, up from 5% a year earlier. That's a significant increase, and it's reflected by debates in Congress over helping fund the wars.

But whether foreign policy has much of an impact on the 2024 elections is an open question.

Even if Americans follow foreign policy, I don't have the sense that they vote on those issues. Problems at home are more meaningful to most voters, by far.

They're worried about inflation, affordable health care, gas prices and the cost of housing and food. They are concerned about crime and public safety. They pay attention to interest rates, jobs and other economic indicators.

Many Americans are deeply concerned about immigration, especially at the southern border. Immigration is a domestic matter, but it's entwined with foreign policy.

Immigrants and refugees often are fleeing dire conditions in their home countries. We need to work with those regions to address the issue.

I learned early in my time in Congress that foreign policy wasn't something most constituents were eager to discuss. I rarely spoke about foreign policy on visits to the district, where people were more likely to want to know about a local dam project or government actions that directly affected them.

Interestingly, I was most likely to get questions about foreign policy when I spoke at high schools. High school students were well prepared for my visits, and they would zero in on foreign policy issues.

With current issues, most Americans were outraged by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and inspired by Ukraine's brave resistance. But, as the war dragged on, it receded from the headlines, and interest in the U.S. has flagged.

Recently, center stage has gone to Hamas' attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, and Israel's response, which has reportedly killed 25,000 people in Gaza. The Middle East is almost in a category by itself for public attention.

Many Americans feel strongly about Israel's importance in U.S. foreign policy. Conflicts in the Middle East, and relations between Israel and its neighbors, get more coverage in U.S. news media than news from Asia, Africa or even from Europe.

Wars and conflicts draw news coverage, but other foreign policy issues also matter a lot. Our relationship with China is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and problems there can have a global impact.

Climate change is an existential issue that transcends national borders. Trade, terrorism, cybersecurity and global migration require multinational cooperation.

Foreign policy issues may not rise to the top of the public's concerns, but voters – and politicians – should pay attention to them in this election year.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

The Journal Register

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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.

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CAMPUS NOTES

Fall 2023 Assumption University's Dean's List

Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

- Ethan Beauchemin of Palmer
- Mason Dumas of Monson
- Jillian Johnson of Holland
- Emily Lebel of Monson

Gloster Awarded Degree from Wilkes University

Sarah Gloster of Monson, MA, received the MSN degree in Nursing from Wilkes University. The degree was one of 339 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees awarded to winter graduates.

A commencement ceremony featuring winter and spring graduates will be held in May 2024. More information can be found at www.wilkes.edu/commencement.

Dean's list at Tufts University

Ruby Tumusiime, Class of 2025, of Palmer, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the Fall 2023 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Bryant University Fall 2023 Deans' List

Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students named to the Fall 2023 Deans' List. To earn a place on the Deans' List, students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

- Samuel Bachand of Brimfield
- Shayla Hulbert of Monson
- Dev Patel of Brimfield

AIC Athletic Director's 3.0 Club - Fall 2023

American International College (AIC) congratulates its student-athletes who have been inducted into the Athletic Director's 3.0 Club for the Fall 2023 semester.

- Ryan Nodell of Monson MA, majoring in Health Science.
- Gabriel Zippin of Monson MA, majoring in Criminal Justice.
- Byron Peabody of Bondsville MA, majoring in Exercise Science.
- Alivia Skowrya of Monson MA, majoring in Health Science.



How to find the right fit for summer camp

Many adults fondly recall their days at summer camp. The increase in households with two working parents has made it more important than ever to find a camp to accommodate youngsters who need to remain engaged and entertained throughout over summer vacation. That reality has led to more summer camp options, but it's not always so easy finding one that's the right fit for a child.

No two children are the same and kids change quite a bit as they grow up. So a camp that worked for an older child or even one that accommodated a younger camper may not make the perfect fit this summer. With that in mind, parents can consider these tips to find the right summer camp for their children.

• Ask around. Even if no two campers are the same, it can benefit parents to ask around when shopping for a summer camp. Summer camp spots are limited and it's not uncommon for competition for available spaces to develop, which

can make it more difficult to gather information. However, ask neighbors whose children have outgrown summer camp if there's one they might recommend (or would not recommend).

• Pursue a package deal. Though package deals might not result in lower rates, approaching a camp with the parents of your child's friend or friends may work in your favor. Kids undoubtedly

will be more excited about camp if their friends will be there as well. Camp officials may see these quasi-package deals as beneficial and a quick and easy way to fill spots.

• Ask kids how they want to spend summer. Specialized camps run the gamut from sports camps focusing on a particular sport to general outdoor recreation camps to camps that cater to young musicians. More general camps offer a wide range of activities throughout the summer, and that might appeal to children less interested in specialized camps. Ask youngsters for their input before making a final decision. Involve kids in the search by showing them websites of prospective camps and asking them what they think of each one. If attending an in-person consultation, bring kids along so they can form their own impression.

• Make sure the camp suits your schedule. Kids' preferences are not the only opinions to consider. In households with two working parents, moms and dads must find a camp that aligns with their work schedule. Many camps offer half-day sessions and/or full-day sessions, but some offer just one or the other. If parents need full-day sessions, they might need to begin their search early to ensure they can secure a spot before they fill up.

• Identify what you can afford. Camp costs vary significantly, so parents should identify how much they can afford before they begin their search. Doing so may

eliminate various camps right off the bat, saving parents precious time as they try to find a camp for their children before spots fill up. Many towns offer local camps at schools, and these may be an affordable option. Parents also should know that many camps allow them to pick certain weeks or days of the week a child will attend rather than insisting kids attend camp for the duration of the summer.

Summer camp season is right around the corner. Parents and children can work together to identify a camp that will ensure this summer is filled with fun.



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Amelia "Millie" Dominik gives a toast to 100 years. Dominik celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at Christopher Heights of Belchertown last week.



State Rep. Aaron Saunders presented a citation to Amelia "Millie" Dominik. Turley Photos by Paula Ouintette



Jo-Anne Dominik spoke about her mother-in-law, Millie, while her husband Richard (Millie's son) looks on.



Select Board members Lesa Lessard Pearson and Peg Louraine congratulated Amelia "Millie" Dominik on her 100th birthday and presented her with a citation from the Select Board.

Flowers and photos decorated the room to celebrate Amelia "Millie" Dominik's 100th birthday on Feb. 21.



MILLIE | from page 1

remarkable health, which he credited to her cooking skills.

"That's all from scratch cooking," he said.

The number one thing he has learned from his mother, is patience, which is something she had a lot of throughout his formative years and continues to have today.

Richard's wife Jo-Anne said the decades she's spent with her mother-in-law have been wonderful, and she shared a book her daughters made to document Millie's special pierogi recipe. They took photos of each step of the process, making sure to follow her "2, 4, 6" instructions for the perfect dough.

The secret to Millie's dough, is sour cream, Richard said.

Even though Millie has only been at Christopher Heights of Belchertown for just over a month, Jo-Anne said the staff and residents have quickly become more than just that.

"They are all friends now," she said.

Stone said when a resident comes to Christopher Heights of Belchertown, they are welcomed in as friends; and that friends there become family.

Stone introduced a number of state and local dignitaries who joined the party to celebrate Millie's birthday, in-

cluding state Sen. Jake Oliveira, state Rep. Aaron Saunders and Select Board members Lesa Lessard Pearson and Peg Louraine.

Oliveira, who is just as proud of his Polish heritage as Millie and her family, presented a citation to Millie from the State House.

"We don't often get to celebrate 100th birthday parties," he said. "It's an honor to be in your presence."

Saunders also presented a citation to Millie to recognize this significant milestone in her life.

"When you think about the Greatest Generation and the sacrifice that was made, we're incredibly indebted," he said.

Millie now joins a number of Christopher Heights of Belchertown residents who have reached the 100th Club, including Ann and Stanley who will both turn 103 this year and Rolland who will turn 101.

A luncheon of Millie's famous pierogis was served along with homemade kielbasa and rye bread. Those present joined in a singing of the traditional Polish birthday song, "Sto Lat" before giving a toast and the cheer "na zdrowie."

Millie's Pierogi Dough Recipe

- 6 cups of flour
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups of sour cream
- 1 teaspoon of salt

In large bowl, mix the eggs, sour cream, salt and five cups of flour. Stir well with a wooden spoon. Gradually add another cup of flour. Don't be afraid to mix the pierogi dough by hand.

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Palmer Senior Center

PALMER— The Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., has many activities for seniors Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to reserve a meal please call 413-283-2670.

March events always on Mondays- Zumba at 8:30 a.m., Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Lunch 11:30 and Pool table at 12:15 p.m. Always on Tuesdays- Knit/crochet group at 9 a.m., walking group at 9 a.m., Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Arthritis/ROM at 10 a.m. and painting group at 1 p.m. Always on Wednesdays- Strength training at 10 a.m., Reiki by appt. from 11:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Lunch. Always on Thursdays- Walking group at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi at 10 a.m., pool table at 12:15 p.m. and Big Y at 1 p.m. Always on Fridays - Gentle stretch at 10 a.m., Dancing mind body and soul at 10 a.m. and Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Special events for February:

- Friday, March 1-** showing the movie "Broken Bridges"
- Monday, March 4 -** Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 6-** Wii bowling at 1 p.m.
- Thursday, March 7-** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. massage by appt.
- Friday, March 8-** from 1 to 3 p.m. brown bag pick-up.
- Monday, March 11-** Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. Wii Jeopardy.
- Wednesday, March 13-** Lunch and learn Triad Hampden County "Fall Risk"
- Thursday, March 14 -** Sunshine Craft at 1 p.m.
- Monday, March 18-** Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.,
- Thursday, March 21-** Massage by appt from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Memory Café from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Drumming by Steve Benedetto.
- Friday, March 22-** At 1 p.m. showing the movie "Queen Bees".
- Monday, March 25-** Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 27-** 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Footcare by appt. and 1 p.m. Wii Bowling.
- Thursday, March 28-** Sunshine Village Paint at 1 p.m.
- Friday, March 29-** Closing at noon for Good Friday.

Menu

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670. Individuals must sign up for breakfast, otherwise a meal will not be ordered for them.

- Friday, March 1-** Fish chowder, green beans, mini cornbread and mandarin oranges.
- Monday, March 4-** Beef Chili, mixed veggies, half a baked potato, mini cornbread and fresh fruit.
- Tuesday, March 5-** TBD
- Wednesday, March 6-** Chicken Cordon Blue, steamed broccoli, half a baked potato, Italian bread and cupcake.
- Thursday, March 7-** TBD
- Friday, March 8-** Cheddar baked fish, California blend veggies, lemon rice, tartar sauce, ww bread, and cookies.
- Monday, March 11-** Turkey sloppy joe, coleslaw, tortilla chips, wheat hamburger bun, and chilled pears.
- Tuesday, March 12-** TBD
- Wednesday, March 13-** Corn Beef, cabbage and carrots, red bliss potatoes, rye bread, mustard, pistachio pudding with topping.
- Thursday, March 14-** TBD
- Friday, March 15-** Potato Pollock with tartar sauce, steamed broccoli, lemon rice, ww bread and cookies.
- Monday, March 18-** Chicken with Dijon sauce, steamed broccoli, roasted red potatoes, ww bread and chilled applesauce.
- Tuesday, March 19-** TBD
- Wednesday, March 20-** Taco plate, tossed salad with ranch, yellow rice, tortilla chips, and chilled pineapple.
- Thursday, March 21-** TBD
- Friday, March 22-** Butter crumb fish, California blend veggies, rice pilaf, ww roll, and Jello with topping.
- Monday, March 25-** Korean meatballs, oriental blend veggies, white rice, oatnut bread and chilled applesauce.
- Tuesday, March 26-** TBD
- Wednesday, March 27-** Ham with pineapple, herbed green beans, au gratin potatoes, ww bread and pound cake with berries.
- Thursday, March 28-** TBD
- Friday March 29-** No Lunch, closing early for Good Friday.

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CONSERVATION | from page 1

going there and monitoring oxygen levels, seeing vegetation, seeing if there are any new invasives popping up.”

Goslin said that W&W performed two treatments last year in early May and June and have been checking oxygen for the rest of the year.

“It’s pretty routine that a manmade pond of this size can have some issues,” Goslin said. “Last year we found a little bit of phragmites, and there’s some purple loose strife, but that’s about it. There’s nothing in-pond that’s been invasive, luckily. Mark Booth, who kind of manages the property, he also lives there; he’s got a good eye, keeps a good buffer around the pond, has an aeration system around the pond.”

Goslin said he’s been happy to work with Conservation Agent Justin Enright for site meetings to keep the commission informed. The commission voted to approve the extension request.

WPA Emergency Certification

Following this, the commission voted on the ratification of the Wetlands Protection Act Emergency Certification Form for a site at 20 West Ware St., relating to the excavation and/or removal and replacement of a previously failed culvert within the resource area.

“This was a collapse call right on a private egress that, due to aging infrastructure combined with outside factors such as stormwater, had inevitably collapsed with the excessive precipitative events that we’ve encountered as a community this past year,” Enright said.

Enright described reviewing the case with other commissioners, after which he contacted the homeowner and contractor to see how they would be able to get up to standard, applying the best management practices as possible.

“A lot of the best management practices were followed,” Enright said, “such as a 25% embedded feature to the culvert, and the contractor being able to implement a bypass system so as to not interfere with active flow during the process of the excavation removal and then replacement of the culvert.”

Enright said that the only variable that wasn’t changed was the size of the culvert, which will remain at 24 inches diameter. He also confirmed that the homeowners were satisfied with the conclusion.

The commission voted unanimously to ratify the WPA Emergency Certification for West Ware Street.

“From the date on the packet when it was issued, the property owner and their contractor have a 30-day time window from when it starts and stops,” Enright said. “They’ll be able to get the majority of the work done before spring... The only thing that might not be done in time is the repaving of the driveway. Because of the timeline as to when the work’s getting done, the proper facilities that will supplement the asphalt for it might not be open in time. However, because it’s a preexisting driveway, it will still be monitored.”

Enforcement order

The commission also ratified an enforcement order for 352 Springfield St. for unauthorized alterations to the land that caused a disturbance within 200 feet of the riverfront area.

Enright described getting a call from a neighbor about the property back in January about the unauthorized parking of heavy equipment in potentially close proximity to the wetland resource area.

“I informed the owner of the concern that came across the desk,” Enright said, “before joining the Town Planner on a kind of drive-by visit, to minimize intrusiveness but still get a view of what might be happening at the property.”

Enright said that at the time, there was nothing of concern from a conservation perspective, but when he called the property owner, they asked about putting fill in their backyard, to which Enright requested a rough drawing of where on the property the fill would be implemented.

“I had not received follow-up from that until roughly last week or the week before,” Enright said. “The homeowner had presented two photographs in close proximity to where I had originally estimated the 200-foot riverfront area to be.”

Enright noted an amount of disturbed soil and erosion control in the form of a silt fence that he noticed was not properly implemented and asked for an in-person site visit.

“That same afternoon, I went and conducted an in-person site visit on the property to which I took my own photographs as comparison to see the larger picture and larger scope of work,” Enright said.

Over the summer, this property owner had come before the commission for another concern about altering the property near the bank of the river. Enright said that the Conservation Agent at the time, Heidi Mannarino, had noted that the homeowner used a form of tailings to remediate what was described as preventing erosion.

“Between then and my visit, there were some trees that were also brought up for potential removal,” Enright said. “(Mannarino) had stated upon administrative approval that trees could potentially be removed as a result, however no follow-up was done in light of that, and the homeowner had admitted to removing some trees that were in close proximity to that 200-foot zone.”

Enright contacted Mark Stinson from the Department of Environmental Protection and showed him the photos. Stinson recommended that an enforcement order be drawn up in order to make proper remediating efforts to the alterations that were made within the 200-foot zone.

The motion to ratify the enforcement order for the property for unauthorized alterations was approved by the commission.

Opacum Land Trust receives grant

BRIMFIELD — For half a century, generations of local youth spent their childhood making memories on the 86-acre Sleepy Hollow property, situated between Wales Road and Paige Hill Road in Brimfield. Though its popularity waxed and waned over the years, groups of Boy Scouts were still camping on the property right up until access was cut off due to damage from the June 2011 tornado. Thanks to an \$85,000 grant from an anonymous foundation, Opacum Land Trust is poised to move ahead with a multi-year plan to reopen and revitalize Sleepy Hollow and will be working to permanently protect and preserve it for current and future generations.

The first phase of this ambitious

project includes transferring ownership of the property from current owners, Brimfield Trail Association, to Opacum, developing and implementing forest management plans, and working on securing funds to assist with replacing damaged infrastructure to allow safe access to the property.

Future phases of the plan include reopening of hiking trails, youth camping areas, and picnicking areas, as well as the installation of an accessible trail system. The addition of an immersive accessible trail is a particularly exciting step towards ensuring that the legacy of Sleepy Hollow lives on and that everyone in the community, regardless of physical ability, can experience its unique history

and natural beauty.

In addition to reopening and revitalizing the existing trail network, including camping and picnicking areas, Opacum plans to install an accessible trail loop at Sleepy Hollow. This final phase of the project, which is in the early planning stages, is a proposed accessible loop that will take visitors on an immersive experience in nature. Creating an accessible trail system on this property will allow trail users with limited mobility a chance to experience the unique and uncommon native little bluestem meadows and early successional forest habitat, along with scenic views of a wetland complex and beaver pond and views of the surrounding area including scenic views of down-

town Brimfield and the eastern side of Brimfield State Forest.

Opacum Land Trust is a regional non-profit land conservation organization that protects local land, water, and wildlife in south-central Massachusetts. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects 3,852 acres of land and is actively working to conserve more land for current and future generations. For more information about Opacum Land Trust, reach out to us at PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566, visit our website at www.opacumlt.org, or email info@OpacumLT.org.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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MSB Ware team members transfer to Wilbraham Branch

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank has announced that Vicki Baldyga, former Ware Branch Manager, and Amber Messer, former Assistant Ware Branch Manager, have transferred to Monson Savings Bank's Wilbraham Branch to take the helm as the new management team of the 100 Post Office Park location.

"At Monson Savings Bank, we strive to offer our team members new opportunities. Whether it be a transfer to a new location, a role in a different department, or something else that better suits their professional goals, we're happy to support our team members throughout their journey with us," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO in a press release. "I am confident in Vicki and Amber's leadership based on the years of dedication and support they have provided our customers up to today. I know that they will help to make this a smooth transition and provide our customers with the same amazing service as the previous management of the Wilbraham Branch."

Baldyga is a resident of Bondsville. She has 25 years of experience in the banking industry, 17 of which have been in branch management.

Baldyga has been employed with Monson Savings Bank for five years.

Baldyga is always committed to expanding her knowledge and skillset. She is currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Bankers Association New England School for Financial Studies and holds several diplomas and certificates from the Center for Financial Training.

In her role as Wilbraham Branch Manager, Baldyga will be responsible for planning, organizing, and directing branch operations. She will foster an environment of teamwork and provide a high level of leadership to her team.

Baldyga will provide a high level of customer service with a positive, respectful, and courteous attitude.

Baldyga is very involved in the local community. When she is not at work, you can likely find her volunteering at Crossway Community Clothing Outreach, serving on the Board of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, or donating blood to the Red Cross.

"I have always strived to help others grow and achieve their goals, both personally and professionally. I have a servant's heart and do my best to help others," said Baldyga. "Whether it is a new couple looking for their first home, a small business owner looking for the best products and services, a teen going off to college that needs financial literacy, or an elderly person that has just lost their spouse and needs help navigating their bank accounts - I truly love to help others and see them smile as they achieve their goals! I am so grateful for this opportunity to help people in the Wilbraham community reach their banking goals!"

To contact Baldyga for your banking needs, please call her at 413-267-1281 or email her at vbaldyga@monsionsavings.com.

Messer is a Monson resident. She began her banking career as a Customer Service Representative/Teller at Monson Savings Bank six and a half years ago.

Throughout her career she has proven to be an asset to the Bank and has achieved several promotions, ultimately attaining the position of Assistant Branch Manager.

In 2023, Messer was a nom-

inee for Monson Savings Bank's President's Award. She was recognized by a peer for her commitment to customer and community service, teamwork, and excellence.

She has also received several customer service excellence awards during her time with Monson Savings Bank for going above and beyond.

As the Assistant Wilbraham Branch Manager, Messer will be supporting Baldyga to manage the Branch. Additionally, Messer will assist customers with their banking transactions, drawing on her extensive knowledge of Bank products and services, while also promoting an atmosphere filled positive staff morale by inspiring trust and respect.

"As I continue my career journey with Monson Savings Bank, I am looking forward to becoming an active member of the Wilbraham community and forming deeper relationships with our Wilbraham customers. I have enjoyed advancing my leadership skills and contributing to our overall team efforts. Through my patient and empathic personality, I can provide the highest level of customer service to help individuals achieve their financial goals. I like looking for opportunities to provide our customers with products and services that will make their banking easier," said Messer. "I am excited to expand on my skillset and continue to do my part to lead the Bank to success."

To contact Messer for your banking needs, please call her at 413-267-1283 or email her at amesser@monsionsavings.com.



Vicki Baldyga



Amber Messer

Joint meeting discusses Mary Lane Hospital property

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Hospital Review Committee and the Historical Commission held a joint meeting to discuss updates to the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property, and the steps going forward during the nine-month demolition delay.

At the Feb. 21 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley gave an overview of the demolition delay that was enacted by the Historical Commission back in January.

The delay applies to the hospital and one house. The delay does not prevent the demolition of a house on Marjorie Street.

During the demolition delay hearing, Baystate Health representatives said they would not be providing information to the Historical Commission about any potential buyers they had contact with, due to nondisclosure agreements. Baystate Health's Attorney Ryan Barry has been assigned to act as a liaison.

Westmass Area Development Corporation, which has been working with Baystate Health to find potential reuse or development of the property, has removed itself from the project for the duration of the demolition delay.

"It's supposed to be a symbiotic relationship," Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said of Westmass Development's involvement with a town.

Beckley said Baystate Health indicated that the phase two study had been completed, including the environmental assessment. He said the environmental assessment showed there was "nothing major on site," aside from underground storage tanks.

Representing Baystate Health at the joint meeting was Attorney Peter Barry, who was filling in on behalf of Attorney Ryan Barry. Barry said Baystate Health will provide a copy of the phase two study to the town.

Beckley said residents have

expressed concern about the condition of the hospital, with many noting that windows have been left open, exposing the building to the elements. He said the windows of the hospital were opened to remove contaminants.

A crane was recently seen on the property to remove Verizon Wireless equipment from the top of the building. The dirt on site is fill for future demolition.

Building Commissioner Anna Marques said Baystate Health answered all of the questions she had, but said she was unable to go inside the buildings due to the contaminants.

"No permits have been issued for demolition of the buildings," Marques said.

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap of HKT Architects Inc. have been working with the town to find possible uses for the site and they spoke about the challenges the site faced.

Slemenda and Dunlap said Baystate Health has been doing minimal maintenance at this point and that without care, the buildings have started to deteriorate.

Both agreed that the hospital could continue to be used for health care purposes, but another reuse would be difficult. A new health care facility could, "adapt it to their use" and abate the asbestos, Dunlap said.

Dunlap said some of the buildings were in worse condition than others when she completed her walk through last year, but that some areas were still occupied and in use.

During a visioning session in the fall of last year, Dunlap and Slemenda determined that health care was the top need outlined by residents.

"We're open to helping the town in any way we can," Dunlap said.

Hospital Review Committee member Cathy Cascio said she wants to make sure that the two committees did everything within

their power to try to bring health care to the region and preserve the buildings.

"We just want to make sure we did everything we could here, and should here," Cascio said.

Barry said Baystate Health wanted to get an idea of what the priorities were for the community, which is why they approached Westmass Development.

"They have a lot of expertise," he said. "Westmass has withdrawn until the delay is over...as of now, they are still interested in developing this project."

Historical Commission Chair Lynn Lak said communication with Baystate Health has been challenging, and filtered through attorneys.

"So far, my feeling is that the cooperation has been all on our side," Lak said. "I thought there was going to be give and take."

Residents attending the meeting said that health care is a major issue in the region.

"The state reps. need to get involved," one resident said. "We don't want to lose sight."

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said that Baystate Health operates "pretty much in darkness."

"We need to understand that no matter what we do, they're going to resist," he said.

Granlund said his numerous attempts to contact Gov. Maura Healey have gone unanswered.

Beckley said local representatives are "well aware" of the situation involving Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, and that a meeting between them, Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi and Baystate Health, will be attended by himself and Hospital Review Committee member Nancy Talbot.

Trietsch said Baystate Health has committed to providing an integrated model of rural health care to the region, but will not commit to brick and mortar.

"I'm going to keep fighting for health care access," Trietsch said.

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Healthy Quaboag: Improving Quality of Life for the Quaboag Hills Community

For those who live, work, and play in the Quaboag Hills region, we know that it is an area of scenic beauty, rural perseverance, and caring for our neighbors with hopes and concerns about the quality of life, including health, in our communities. Recognizing that the health and well-being of its residents are paramount to community prosperity, the Town of Ware launched the Healthy Quaboag initiative in 2022 to elevate the quality of life for everyone living within Quaboag Hills.

Healthy Quaboag embodies a collective movement toward healthier and more vibrant Quaboag Hills. The primary goal is to address health disparities and uplift the well-being of the region's residents through collaborative efforts and impactful health interventions. By forging partnerships with various community members and organizations, including the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Substance Use Alliance, and Baystate Health, Healthy Quaboag fosters cross-sector collaboration to tackle complex public health challenges.

Using a multi-sector approach, Healthy Quaboag concentrates on key priority areas crucial for the health and vitality of the Quaboag Hills region. One such area is the reduction of poverty and the improvement of access to resources essential for educational and vocational success. Through programs like the Education to Employment Project, Healthy Quaboag aims to empower youth and young adults, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous community, while helping boost the local economy.

Additionally, Healthy Quaboag is dedicated to long-term strategic planning to improve community health outcomes. We are creating roadmaps that address pressing health issues while also laying the foundation for sustained improvement in the years to come. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), developed collaboratively with community input, targets critical health issues related to four priority focus areas: 1) housing, 2) transportation, 3) mental health, and 4) access to healthcare providers. Our community members and partners are invited to join a CHIP working group where you help determine goals, objectives, strategies, and measures to address these focus areas through regular meetings and events.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthy Quaboag has played a pivotal role in support-

ing rural communities, implementing measures to curb the virus's spread. Initiatives like the Rural Vaccine Equality Initiative (RVEI) ensure equitable access to vaccines and flu shots through community clinics, emphasizing the importance of long-term planning. We hosted several clinics throughout the year where residents received free COVID-19 vaccines and Flu shots in a confidential manner. We had a great response, with residents young and old taking advantage of this amazing resource. Our focus on long-range planning ensures that we are not only addressing immediate needs, but also building a more resilient community prepared to withstand future crises.

Acknowledging the significance of a healthy and equitable food system, Healthy Quaboag's Food Policy Council (FPC) endeavors to address food insecurity while promoting overall well-being. Through education, policy advocacy, and partnerships with local farmers and organizations, the FPC strives to enhance food accessibility and equity within the community. Anyone can take part in the FPC! You can find a growing list of local farmers markets in Quaboag Valley, as well as a variety of virtual cooking demonstrations in partnership with SNAP-Education Program out of Ascendria Care Alliance that highlights tasty culinary creations with a healthful twist on our website.

Led by a diverse team of passionate public health professionals, Healthy Quaboag exemplifies the power of community in effecting positive change.

"Healthy Quaboag has provided me with an incredibly supportive and fulfilling environment to work in the public health field. Every day, I am excited to collaborate with our team and other impactful organizations in our area, all dedicated to making a difference in our local community," said Caitlin Geaghan, Food Policy Health Coordinator.

From its roots in Ware, Healthy Quaboag has blossomed into a beacon of positive change for the entire Quaboag Hills region. Join us as we build a healthier, more resilient Quaboag Hills for generations to come.

To find out more about Healthy Quaboag and learn how you can get involved, please visit www.healthyquaboag.org or contact Nisha Humayun, our Project Coordinator for Community Health, at nhumayun@townofware.com.

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For more information, email Caitlin at cgeaghan@townofware.com

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BASKETBALL



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Shawn Troche shoots in traffic.

Palmer falls in WMass quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—The Granby boys' basketball team won both regular season games against Palmer.

The third meeting of the 2023-24 campaign between the Bi-County West League rivals took place in the Western Mass. Class C. quarterfinals.

With the help of a 7-0 run late in the second quarter, the third-seeded Rams held a 20-14 halftime lead. The home team never trailed during the second half enroute to a 51-36 victory over the sixth-seeded Panthers at Sullivan Gymnasium on Presidents Day.

"It's never easy to beat a team three times in the same season, so this is a huge win for us," said Granby head coach Dylan Dubuc. "We prepared very well, and the players played with a lot of confidence in tonight's game."

Granby (15-5) kept their dreams of winning a sectional title alive with a 51-46 win at second-seeded Drury in the Western Mass. Class C semifinals, last Thursday night.

The trio of junior guard Gavier Fernandez Jr. (22 points), senior guard Colin Murdock (11 points), and junior forward Cody White (10 points) led the way offensively for the Rams against Drury.

The Rams, who captured the Western Mass. Division 3 title in 2005, were scheduled to face top-seeded Mahar regional in this year's Western Mass. Class C. championship game last Saturday. They'll also be competing in the Division 5 state tournament, which starts this week.

Fernandez Jr. (15 points) and Murdock (13 points), who are the Granby co-captains, combined to score 28 points in the Rams quarterfinal victory.

Murdock has been a member of the varsity basketball team for the past two years and he won his second postseason game.

"It just feels amazing to win a game in the Western Mass. tournament," said Murdock following the Palmer game. "We played two close games against Palmer during the regular season. It's hard to beat the same team three times in a season, but we did it!"

The Rams defeated the Panthers by twelve points in the first meeting of the regular season. They squeaked out a 60-56 victory in the second meeting.

White finished last Monday night's contest with eight points, while junior center Sawyer Clarke chipped in with seven points. Ju-

PALMER | page 10

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Olivia Chrzan rushes the basket.

Monson girls reach semifinals



Sedona Arbour sends a pass away.

MONSON – In last week's Western Mass. Tournament, the Monson High School girls basketball scored a 59-33 win over Hopkins Academy in the quarterfinal round. The Mustangs got a huge performance from Olivia Chrzan, who scored 31 points. Chelsea Hull added 12 points to the win. Unfortunately, the Mustangs would lose in the semifinals to Pioneer. Despite a sub-.500 record at 8-11, Monson had a very difficult schedule, and the Mustangs were ranked eighth in Division 5. Their first state tournament game is scheduled for Feb. 29 against Academy of Pacific Rim at 7:15 p.m.

Delianah Wolf reaches up to grab a rebound.



Dylan Doherty one-hands a short-range shot.



Angel Torres dekes, then drives to the hoop.



Matthew Santos goes for an off-balance layup.

BASKETBALL

Pioneers fall in finale before playoffs



PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys basketball participated in nonplayoff action, hosting Mt. Greylock. The Pioneers would be tied at halftime, but ultimately were edged by the Mountie 60-57 last Wednesday night. In the loss, Richie Gula had 27 points while Hunter Griswold scored 17 points. Adam Slonka added 10 points. The Pioneers drew a local match-up for the Division 5 state tournament, and played at Palmer High School earlier this week.

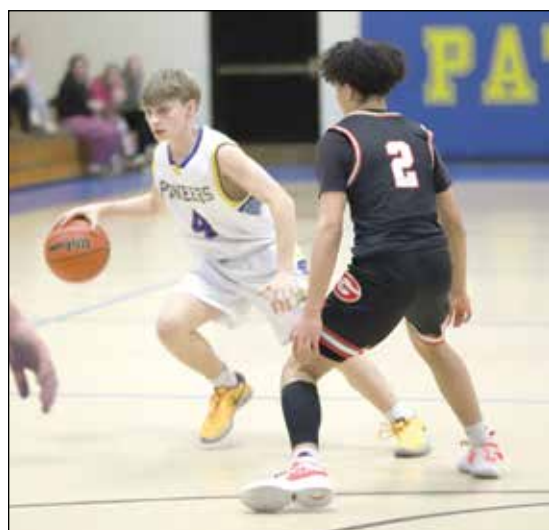
Richie Gula heads for the layup.

Hunter Griswold one-hands a pass under pressure.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Adrien Moskovitz angles toward the left side of the court as Pathfinder takes over on offense.



Cayden Bousquet tries to get around a Mt. Greylock guard.



Seth Mitchell drives into the paint.



Grace Berry passes out of the paint.



Chelsea Hull gears up to shoot.

Top-seeded Tantasqua girls win tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—Led by the trio of senior Gabby Scanlon, junior Maya Gidopolous, and Sophie Webb, the top-seeded Lady Warriors completed the win with a 40-29 victory over the second-seeded Northbridge Rams in the girls Large School finals held at the Kneller Athletic Center located in the middle of the Clark University campus, last Saturday night.

“It’s an honor winning the Clark championship title, especially after watching my brother’s team do it last night,” said Webb, who scored eight of her 10 points during the first half. “Being able to win the title in the same year as my brother is a very special thing for my family. “It’s just an amazing feeling. Hopefully, we can win another Clark title next year.”

While Gidopolous, who scored a team-high 11 points in the finals, and Webb (10 points) will have an opportunity to defend their Clark Large School title next February, it was the only Clark appearance for Scanlon (10 points), along with her classmates Riley West, and Nicki Vejack.

“We’ve played in other tournaments during the past couple of years, but we never won them,” said Scanlon, who’s a tri-captain with Vejack and West. “It feels great to win this tournament for the first time, especially after the boys won their game last night. We supported them and they were here supporting us tonight.”

Sophomore Sophie Ezzo scored seven points off the bench for the Lady Warriors.

“Sophie doesn’t usually play a ton of minutes, but she always plays very hard anytime she’s on the court,” said Tantasqua head coach Andy Haley. “She gave us a spark off the bench in tonight’s game. She just did a great job.”

Tantasqua junior Maggie Johnson only points of the Clark finals came on a lay-up late in the second quarter.

During the past couple of years, the Lady Warriors (17-4) competed in the Westborough Girls Basketball Invitational Tournament during the February school vacation week. They made their first appearance in the



Turley photo by Tim Peterson

Tantasqua girls basketball are Clark Tournament champions.

Clark Tournament.

“The girls were here last night for the boys’ game, and they watched them celebrate their win in the championship game,” said Haley, who also attended the boy’s game. “It was an opportunity for them to see how much fun it’ll be if we could win tonight’s game. It’s awesome that the players on both basketball teams support each other.”

Tantasqua, who have won seven games in a row, began the Clark Tournament by dispatching eighth-seeded Oakmont Regional, 33-17 in the quarterfinals, which was held at Grafton High School. They then squeaked out a 30-26 win over fourth-seeded Millbury in the semifinals, which took place at the Kneller Athletic Center.

The Lady Warriors will now enter the Division 3 state tournament as the 13th-seed. They’re scheduled to host 20th-seeded Dennis-Yarmouth in a round of 32 game at 5pm on Friday night. The boys’ team will also be facing Dennis-Yarmouth in the second game of the doubleheader.

It was the third meeting of the 2023-24 season between the Tantasqua and Northbridge girls’ basketball teams, who are SWCL-A Division rivals.

The Rams (15-6) pulled out a 45-38 win at the Tantasqua Field House on January 8.

A month later, the Lady Warriors evened the season series with a 38-29 road victory.

A year ago, Northbridge lost to Grafton, 46-27, in the Clark Large School finals.

While the Tantasqua boys’ team had to overcome an 11-point second half deficit to defeat SWCL-A rival Millbury in their championship game, the Lady Warriors never trailed in last Saturday’s game.

With 5:04 left in the first quarter, Gidopolous was fouled while making a lay-up. She made the bonus free throw giving the Lady Warriors a 6-1 advantage.

Northbridge junior Molly Gahan, who led the way offensively with a game-high 21 points, scored the next five points which tied the score for the first time.

With a minute remaining in the first quarter, Webb made her second 3-pointer, which helped her team keep the lead.

Gahan scored an inside hoop making a one point game entering the second stanza.

Two minutes into the second quarter, Gidopolous was fouled while making a 3-pointer from

the right corner. She also made the free throw completing the rare four point play, which gave the Lady Warriors a 17-8 lead.

Just like in the opening quarter, the Rams came storming back.

Senior Erika Dresp (4 points) made a 3-pointer from the left side before Gahan scored her team’s five points tying the score for the second time at 17-17 with a little more than two minutes remaining in the first half.

The Lady Warriors, who held a slim 20-18 halftime lead, outscored the Rams, 7-4, during the third quarter. Ezzo scored five of those points and Scanlon also made a lay-up, which hung on the rim for a second before dropping into the net.

Scanlon made two more lay-ups at the start of the fourth quarter, which pushed the Lady Warriors’ lead to 31-22.

Tantasqua’s lead reached double digits at 37-21 late in the game following a drive by Gidopolous.

Then Scanlon made three foul shots, which allowed the Tantasqua faithful supporters to celebrate back-to-back Clark titles.

Tantasqua takes victory in Clark Tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—Prior to being named as the boys’ varsity basketball coach at Tantasqua Regional, Scott Dion was the varsity coach at David Prouty for 11 seasons.

Winning a Clark Tournament championship title was one of the things that Dion couldn’t accomplish as either a player or coach at his alma mater.

That dream became a reality last Friday night, as Dion guided the sixth-seeded Warriors to a 44-42 victory over fourth-seeded and SWCL-A rival Millbury in the 83rd Clark Tournament Large School championship game before a standing room only crowd at the Kneller Athletic Center located on the Clark University campus.

“I was the head coach at Prouty for eleven years and when I took the Tantasqua job, I thought my dream of winning a Clark Championship Title was done. At that time, Tantasqua wasn’t eligible for the Clark Tournament. We’re now Clark eligible and winning a championship game is a treat for me personally. Growing up in Spencer, I know all about the history of this outstanding tournament.”

Before coaching his team in the large school finals last Friday night, Dion watched the second-seeded David Prouty Panthers lose to top-seeded Maynard, 68-55, in the small school finals.

Tantasqua (14-7), who became eligible for the Clark Tournament for the first time in many years a year ago, lost to Grafton High School in the quarterfinals.

Their journey in this year’s Clark tourney lasted a little bit longer.

After blowing out third-seeded Westborough, 80-47, in the quarterfinals at Shepherd Hill Regional, the Warriors beat seventh-seeded Oakmont Regional.



Turley photo by Tim Peterson

Tantasqua boys basketball captured the Clark Tournament Large School Championship last week.

52-30, in the semifinals at the Kneller Athletic Center.

“We lost in the quarterfinals last year and for us to win a championship in our second year eligible for this tournament is very special,” Dion said. “This is one of the best feelings in the world.”

Tantasqua and Millbury (17-6) split the two regular season meetings.

The Warriors took an early 4-0 lead in the Clark Finals following field goals by junior James Sciaraffa (13 points) and junior Elijah Webb, who scored a game-high 15 points.

With the help of two three-pointers each by senior Kenny Donnelly, who scored 11 of his team-high 14 points in the first half, and sophomore Jimmer Donnelly (8 points) the Woolies held a 14-9 lead at the end of the opening quarter.

In the two regular season games against Tantasqua, Kenny Donnelly, who was battling the flu in the Clark championship game, scored 21, and 22 points. He made a total of nine 3-pointers in those two games.

Tantasqua senior Jack Ra-

pose, who only scored two points, did a good job of defending against Kenny Donnelly.

“Kenny scored more than 20 points both times we played Millbury during the regular season,” Dion said. “Jack did a very good job of guarding him in tonight’s game. He also limited his three points shots. Jack is a very smart basketball player.”

The other two Tantasqua seniors are Colm McGrath (3 points), and Bryce Tessier (6 points).

The Warriors continued to struggle offensively in the second quarter, and they were trailing, 28-17, at halftime.

“We knew it was going to be a tough battle for us to comeback in the second half, but I knew that we could do it,” McGrath said. “I have a lot of faith in these guys and it’s just an awesome feeling. This is probably the best win of my varsity career. This is a very special tournament and I hope it never ends.”

The Warriors began their comeback in the third quarter.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Webb sliced the Warriors deficit to 30-25 with 5:10 left in the third

quarter.

“I just did my job and so did my teammates,” Webb said. “I really can’t describe my feelings right now. It’s just an amazing feeling. I’m hoping we can make it back here again next year.”

With 2:30 left in the third, a driving lay-up by Sciaraffa closed the gap to 35-32.

The duo of Sciaraffa and Webb combined to score 14 of the Warriors 17 third quarter points. Tessier also added an old-fashioned three-point play.

Trailing, 39-34, at the end of the third quarter, the Warriors held the Woolies to just three points during the final eight minutes.

The Warriors cut their deficit to 42-40 following a lay-up by sophomore Sam Pieczynski (5 points) in the middle of the fourth quarter.

McGrath made a free throw a minute later, which closed the gap to one point.

After several turnovers and missed shots by both teams, Sciaraffa made the biggest basket of the game. His 3-pointer from the left side with 25 seconds left in regulation gave the Warriors a 44-42 lead for the first time since the beginning of the opening quarter.

“I’m not normally a 3-point shooter, but I was wide open, and I decided to take a shot,” Sciaraffa said. “We beat a very good Millbury team. We have a lot of respect for them.”

The Woolies had a couple of chances to tie the score or retake the lead down the stretch, but they missed a 3-pointer and a lay-up before the Warriors players celebrated winning a Clark title for the first time.

The Warriors, who are the ninth seed in the Division 3 state tournament, are scheduled to host 24th-seeded Dennis-Yarmouth in a round of 32 game on Friday night.



Stephen Fredette

Palmer High School

Fredette scored a season-high 16 points to lead scorers for Palmer boys basketball in a playoff matchup last week against Granby.

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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Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in

Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

PALMER | from page 9

nior guard Cody Breault made a pair of 3-pointers resulting in his six points. His older brother, Nate, is the last Granby basketball player to score 1,000 career points.

The other senior listed on the Rams postseason roster is Ben Berger, who’s a forward. He made a free throw at the start of the second quarter, which was his only point of the game.

Despite the setback, the Panthers (10-9), who only won one game a year ago, will also be competing in the Division 5 state tournament.

“Anytime that your team has the opportunity to play in a postseason game, it’s a very good thing,” said first-year Palmer head coach Missy Rucker. “I hope we can build off this experience entering the state tournament.”

Sophomore center Stephen Fredette paced the visiting team with 11 points. He scored nine of his points during the second half, which helped the Panthers stay within striking distance.

“I thought Stephen played a very good game tonight,” Rucker said. “He’s one of our sophomores.”

Fredette scored a season-high 16 points in a 71-65 home loss to Belchertown on January 30.

Rounding out the Panthers scoring column in their quarterfinal loss were freshman guard Taydem Haley (7 points), sophomore guard Angel Torres (6 points), sophomore guard Dylan Doherty (6 points), sophomore forward Matt Santos (2 points), sophomore center Gavin Smola (2 points), and senior forward Shawn Troche (2 points). Palmer’s other senior is Andrew Menard, who’s a forward.

The two teams combined to score 13 points during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Doherty scored the game’s first four points with a lay-up and two free throws.

Granby took a 7-4 lead with 1:50 left in the opening quarter following back-to-back lay-ups by Murdock, who scored ten points before halftime.

Fredette ended the Panthers’ dry spell offensively with an inside hoop thirty seconds later making the score 7-6.

There were several lead changes during the first five minutes of the second quarter.

With 2:40 remaining in the opening half, Murdock hit a one-handed runner in the lane. He then received a long downcourt pass from Fernandez before converting a wide open lay-up.

“Colin became our point guard two years ago,” Dubuc said. “He hasn’t missed a beat since and he’s one of our leaders.”

Breault closed out the first half by burying a 3-pointer from the left corner, which gave the home team a six point halftime lead.

The Panthers couldn’t get any closer than four points in the second half.

“Once we fell behind at the end of the first half, we just could never retake the lead again,” Rucker said. “We played well defensively, and we rebounded the ball well, but our shooting was a little bit off tonight.”

With five minutes remaining in regulation, a Fredette inside hoop closed the gap to 36-32.

Fernandez was then fouled while making a baseline lay-up. He added the bonus free throw.

Clarke scored the next five points which pushed the Rams lead into double digits (44-34) for the first time, which sealed their quarterfinal victory.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The third and final round of the 2023-2024 league season began for the Commercial Elks League.

Finishing in first place was Life is Good with a record of 30-10 to secure a playoff spot at the end of the season. The Champs R Here finished in second place at 26.5-13.5.

Acres finished in third place at 24-16. Team BK finished at 23-17, Compression at 19.5-20.5, Blue B's at 19-21 and Last in Line at 17-23. Life is Good will be joining Compression in the playoffs at the end of the season.

To start off the new round, Life is Good bowled against The Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs took the first game by a score of 371-353. In game two, Life is Good evened up the match by winning the second game 391-373.

Filling in for Life is Good is Bryan Surprise who had a big game in the second scoring 134. In game three, Champs R Here won the last game by a score of 381-372. Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1125-1116.

Last in Line bowled against Blue B's in week one of round three. In game one, Blue B's won 373-333. In

game two, Blue B's won again 354-352. In game three, Blue B's won for a three-game sweep over Last in Line by a score of 363-358.

Total pinfall was won by Blue B's 1090-1043.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League continues in the second round of the candlepin league season. As of Feb. 15, Team One is in a tie for first place with Team Four. Both teams have a record of 19-13.

Team One bowled against Team Three on the night of Thursday, Feb. 22. In game one, Team One took the first game 455-402. Sean Comerford of Team One bowled his best game of the season, 127.

In game two, Team One was the winner yet again by a score of 413-392. In game three, Team One took the third game 430-364. Team One took total pinfall by a final score 1298-1158.

Team Four bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Six won the first game by a score of 399-369. In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 428-402. Ron Restaino of Team Six led the team in game two by bowling a 109.

In game three, Team Six won the third game for a three-game sweep over Team Four. Team Six scored 430 and Team Four scored 413. Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1257-1184.

T-Birds suffer loss at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-22-3-2) fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-28-6-1) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena by a final score of 5-3.

Things appeared to be starting well for the T-Birds on this day, as Sam Bitten cashed in for his first career AHL goal at the 8:19 mark of the first period when he arrived at the top of the crease and jammed a Drew Callin centering pass through Henrik Tikkanen's legs to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

Springfield increased the lead to 2-0 at 12:54 when Ryan Suzuki sent an alley-oop through the neutral zone that landed inside the Islander blue line. Jakub Vrana accelerated to beat the Bridgeport defender to the puck and then slid a backhand shot through Tikkanen to extend the lead on his ninth goal of the season.

55 seconds after the Vrana tally, though, the Islanders made their way to the scoresheet as Tyce Thompson got a step behind the defense and lifted a perfect backhand shot over Colten Ellis to cut the lead to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

The second period began uneventfully, but Suzuki changed matters when he powered down the right wing, protecting the puck before elevating a forehand chip shot over Tikkanen to make it a 3-1 game at 6:34 of the period.

Ellis remained busy but strong as the period entered its final three min-

utes en route to a career-high 49 saves. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, Bridgeport All-Star Ruslan Iskhakov snapped a goal drought dating back to Jan. 15 to singlehandedly pull the Isles even.

First, the crafty centerman made his way to the edge of the crease near the right circle, beating Ellis on a second chance after the T-Bird goalie made a strong reactionary save on the first attempt. That tally cut the score to 3-2 at 17:08.

Not even two minutes later, now with under a minute to go in the period, Iskhakov delivered the equalizer with a one-time rocket off a circle-to-circle pass from Matt Maggio, and Bridgeport headed into the dressing room with new life in the 3-3 game.

The Islanders were relentless in the final 20 minutes, managing 22 shots on the T-Birds net. Ellis and the Springfield defense held the fort as long as they could before a Sam Bolduc point wristler glanced off traffic and skipped past Ellis to give Bridgeport the lead for good at 11:34 of the third. Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring with a power-play marker into an empty net in the closing seconds.

The T-Birds' busy stretch continues next Friday in Providence as they tangle with the Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion. Springfield returns home on Saturday when they host the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Worcester wraps up road trip with loss to Florida

ESTERO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (22-22-4-2, 50pts) lost to the Florida Everblades (27-15-7-2, 63pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 5-3 in front of a crowd of 7,650 at Hertz Arena. The Railers have wrapped up their six-game southern road trip and return to the DCU Center against the Trois-Rivieres Lions on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:05pm.

The Everblades opened the scoring with goals from Sean Josling (1-2-3) and Joe Pendenza (1-1-2) just 2:43 apart to grab a 2-0 lead. Worcester responded 27 seconds later as Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) wrapped a backhander behind the net past Johnson to make it 2-1 going into the second. Worcester kept the pressure on the Everblades in the second as they added on two more from Zsombor Garat (1-1-2) and Andrei Bakanov (1-0-1) to take their first lead of the night going into the third at 3-2. Florida took the lead in the third thanks to goals from Will Reilly (1-0-1), Mark Senden (1-0-1) and an empty netter from Brett Davis (1-0-1) to take the game 5-3.

Florida controlled the pace of play across the first fourteen minutes in the first, culminating in the game's first goal. Sean Josling (14th) received a backdoor pass from Oliver Chau who received the puck from Pendenza below the goal line to bury it past Cole Ceci in net for Worcester to put the Everblades ahead 1-0. With Florida on the

power play 2:43 later in the period, Joe Pendenza turned on a one-timer and sent it past Ceci as Florida led 2-0 late in the period. Jack Quinlivan (4th) responded for Worcester just 27 seconds later. He took the puck off the stick of Zsombor Garat and wrapped it with his backhand inside the near post from beneath the net to get Worcester to within one heading into the second.

Worcester picked up the only goals in the second. Zsombor Garat (1st) hammered a heavy one-timer on the power-play from Trevor Cosgrove for his first professional North American goal. His marker tied the game at the 7:29 mark of the second. Later in the period with 4:51 left in the second, Andrei Bakanov (7th) ripped a wristler past the blocker of Cam Johnson following a perfect drop pass from Anthony Callin to give Worcester the 3-2 lead entering the third.

The Everblades would be the only team to score in the third period. First it was Will Reilly (6th) on a wristler from the point that beat Ceci blocker side to tie the game 3-3 just 7:49 into the frame. From there, Mark Senden (9th) found the puck barreling down the left wing and buried it through the legs of Ceci to make it 4-3 Florida. Brett Davis (3rd) sealed the deal for Florida with an empty netter with just 1:31 remaining in the game to give Florida the win and the final score of 5-3.

Harvard Forest hosts presentation on solar energy and land

PETERSHAM – Massachusetts state energy policy has inadvertently encouraged the clearing of 4,800 acres of forest – an area larger than Cambridge – for ground-mount solar infrastructure since 2010.

In response, Harvard Forest Research Director Jonathan Thompson will lead a talk on solar energy development in Massachusetts on the evening of Tuesday, March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Harvard Forest in Petersham and online.

In a 2023 research report, Growing Solar, Protecting Nature, Thompson and co-authors from Mass Audubon identify a path for Massachusetts to build the solar energy it needs and protect the nature it has. On March 5, Thompson will be joined by co-author and Mass Audubon Vice President for Policy and Advocacy Michelle Manion to outline policy recommendations from the report that would be cheaper for society as a whole when compared to the current pattern of solar development.

Following on the heels of UMass Clean Energy Extension's



Submitted Photo by Lucas Faria

This solar farm was built in Mendon. The property was previously undeveloped forested land and partially used for farming. The total system size is about 4.1 MW DC.

Western Massachusetts Solar Forum last fall, Growing Solar, Protecting Nature was developed in response to statewide greenhouse gas goals that continue to fall short of protecting the existing carbon storage afforded by Mas-

sachusetts forests. The presentation on March 5 will focus on key report recommendations that are specifically relevant to central and western Massachusetts municipalities, which have been key stakehold-

ers in response to developer proposals that have often challenged the capacity of small-town governments statewide.

The event is free and open to the public. The event will be hybrid – hosted in person in the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum at 324 North Main St. and also streamed online via Zoom.

For more information and to register, visit <https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/solar-event>. Those without the ability to register via the internet but who would like to attend in person may also call Clarisse Hart, Director of Education, at 978-756-6157 to register with their name and number of attendees.

The Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and events. The Fisher Museum is a universally accessible building.

If you require additional visitor accommodations or assistance, please note this in your registration.

Fire Logs BONDSVILLE

For the period Feb. 13 through Feb. 19, Bondsville fire responded to two calls.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7:46 a.m., the duty officer responded to Hillside Drive for public assistance and returned to service at 8:30 a.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 17 at 1:18 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Carver Street in Granby for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 4:26 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to one fire call and 15 emergency medical service calls from Feb. 19-25.

Feb. 24 at 11:55 p.m. Responded with mutual aid to Wales for a structure fire, which was canceled. Returned to service at 12:05 a.m.

BROTHERS I from page 1

would have trouble transitioning to the smaller support staff compared to Plymouth. Nonetheless, the council was impressed with Brothers' financial background and his passion and vision for the town.

"As long as he can manage his vision and the needs of the town at the same time, then I'm all for that," said Councilor Matthew Lemieux.

"I remember saying during the interview, 'You have a vision, but that vision might not be something that you can actually start working on until a year or more because there are other things,'" Barry said. "He seemed to get that."

Barry said that she did not expect the change in town size to be a concern and that Brothers was certainly aware of what that change would entail.

The council voted five to one to make the offer to Brothers and awaits his acceptance of the position pending contract negotiations.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is making scholarship applications available for the 2023-24 academic year.

The Auxiliary will award scholarships of \$1,000 to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High Schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field. The students will be chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April 12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

Throughout the years, a wide variety of healthcare fields have been represented by area students who have received these scholarships, including premedical, dental hygiene, health sys-

tem management, nursing, pharmacy, and radiology.

"Growing careers in healthcare is now more important than ever," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in a press release. "We are so proud when we hear from our former scholarship recipients who are now providing healthcare throughout the region and Massachusetts."

For over 65 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

"We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support to our hospital and the many communities we serve," said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

The Southbridge Softball league is now enrolling teams and players for the 2024 season.

Games are played at Henry Street Field (located off Rt. 169) in Southbridge. We have 3 levels of Mens Leagues (A, B & C) that play weeknights starting @ 6:30 PM, a Mens JB draft league (for players age 39 by Sept. 30th) that plays Sunday AM starting at 9 AM and a COED league (5 & 5) that plays Sat & Sun evenings starting @ 6 PM. The potential for a Women's league or a weekday COED league (6 & 4) exists depending on the number of teams we receive – a minimum of 4 teams would be required for either to be considered.

THE FEES FOR 2024 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$425 team roster fee and a \$125 forfeit fee for a total of \$550. If your roster is turned in on or before 3/5 the fee is \$550. If your roster is turned in between 3/5 + 3/12, the fee is \$600.

No rosters will be accepted after 3/12/24. Player fees for 2024 will be \$55 and a \$5 additional fee will be charged to those players playing on (2) or more teams.

Please email info@southbridgesoftball.org or check out our Southbridge Softball Association Facebook page for more information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to pressreleases@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 pressreleases@turley.com.

sponsoring, donating items, or attending the event, complete information and tickets can be found at <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.

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.

panied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.



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.

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: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library.

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 Mery Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

BINGO IS BACK at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

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 accom-

ONGOING



THE SWIFT RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their Friday fish fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5. Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available. Come out and enjoy one of the best fish dinners in the area with generous portions. For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

INTERESTS

CRAFTERNOONS: 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:

UPCOMING

CHICKEN BBQ on Saturday, March 9, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church, 162 Main St., Monson, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Dining on the premises is back. Take-out orders are available. Limited quantities, so reservations are required, and the deadline for ordering is March 7. Call 413-267-5207 to place an order. The meal includes 1/2 Barbecued Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Homemade Fruit Crisp, and Beverages. The price is \$16 for adults and \$12 for children.

TICKETS FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL SECOND CHANCE DINNER AUCTION are now available for purchase. This significant fundraising event marks the kickoff of Second Chance's yearlong 25th-anniversary celebration, promising an evening of philanthropy and joy to benefit homeless shelter pets in need of veterinary care. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge. For individuals interested in



Submitted Photo
Houston going home with his new family after waiting for a year at Second Chance Animal Services.

Long-awaited adoption celebrated by Second Chance

EAST BROOKFIELD— Second Chance Animal Services is thrilled to announce the long-awaited adoption of one of its most beloved residents, Houston, an 8-year-old lab mix who spent over a year in the shelter awaiting his forever home.

Second Chance was founded in 1999 with the idea that every pet deserves a second chance at happiness and a loving family. Houston's journey exemplifies the organization's unwavering commitment to this mission. Despite his extended stay, Second Chance never lost hope for Houston, believing that with the support of their dedicated volunteers, staff, and generous supporters, his perfect match would come along.

"Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that Houston received the love, care, and attention he deserved during his time with us," said Lindsay Doray, chief development officer of Second Chance Animal Services. "We are incredibly grateful to our supporters whose generosity allows us to continue our mission of providing second chances to animals like Houston."

Houston's heartwarming adoption comes at a significant milestone for the nonprofit which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Second Chance recently released a heartwarming video on social media and their website, capturing the emotional moments as staff members bid farewell to Houston, sending him off to begin his new life with his loving adoptive family.

"We are overjoyed to see Houston find his forever home and begin a new chapter filled with love and companionship," said Doray. "His story serves as a testament to the incredible impact our supporters make in the lives of animals in need."

In addition to providing shelter and love, pets like Houston at Second Chance benefit from access to the nonprofit's veterinary hospitals, ensuring they receive comprehensive care to prepare them for adoption. With four community veterinary hospitals, Second Chance offers subsidized rates for qualifying individuals, ensuring that pets can stay with the people who love them. Those who pay full rates not only receive quality veterinary care for their pets but also play a vital role in supporting all the programs aimed at helping pets in need. This integrated approach ensures that every animal receives the necessary medical attention and support, empowers them to thrive in their new homes.

Second Chance is committed to the mission of providing all pets with the second chances they deserve. Through the unwavering dedication of volunteers, staff, and supporters, the organization continues to transform the lives of pets like Houston, one adoption at a time.

For more information about Second Chance Animal Services and how you can support their mission, please visit www.secondchanceanimals.org.



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DEATH NOTICES

Wayne D. Dewey
Died Feb. 25, 2024
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

Rev. Ronald D. Marcy
Died Jan. 4, 2024
Services private

Carol A. Wesson
Died Feb. 20, 2024
Services were Feb. 26, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

Altheada "Freda" (Blay) Hammond
Died on Feb. 18, 2024
Services were Feb. 25, 2024
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Patricia Ann Stevens
Died Feb. 17, 2024
Service March 1, 2024
Beers and Story Funeral Home

Gladys M. Zietkowski, 90
Died Feb. 22, 2024
Services Mar. 2 at 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home

O B I T U A R I E S

Wayne D. Dewey, 1954-2024

MONSON — Wayne D. Dewey, 69, passed away at home on Feb. 25, 2024 surrounded by the love of his family. Wayne was born on Mar. 10, 1954 to the late David E. and Muriel F. (Boudreau) Dewey and was a graduate of Monson High School. Wayne was a manufacturing engineer for Electro-Term/Hollingsworth for many years. Wayne had a passion for fixing and rebuilding anything that needed attention especially automotive and house related projects. He was also skilled in many things including woodworking. He enjoyed being outdoors, cooking, traveling and spending time with

his family. He also had a soft spot for animals. Wayne leaves his loving wife Desiree (Fox) Dewey, son, Evan Dewey of Maine, daughter, Danyelle Roy and her husband Shawn of Richmond, MA; a sister Francis Gillette and husband Larry of Largo, FL.; nephews Jordan Dewey, Bob Dewey, and Eric Davey and wife Tori; nieces Muriel Dewey, and Brandy Madison and husband Eric; and great nephews Josh Madison and Chris Madison. As well as his close cousin and friend Dan



Therrien and many extended family members and friends.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. All services are private. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial contribution in Wayne's name to the American Cancer Society or to Baystate Hospice 30 Capital Drive West Springfield, MA 01089. For on line condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Altheada "Freda" (Blay) Hammond

PALMER — Altheada "Freda" (Blay) Hammond, 90, passed away Feb. 18, 2024, at JGS Lifecare Longmeadow, MA. She was born on April 19, 1933, in Derby, VT to Raymond and Helen (Wood) Blay. Freda was raised in Vermont, moved to Palmer where she lived from 1970-2018, most of those years living on Forest Lake. In 2018, she moved to Springfield to be with her daughter, Debra.

After working 40 years as a sales/store manager for Goodwill Industries, she retired in 2000. She continued to volunteer for Goodwill well into her retirement. She was a member of New Day Church in Enfield, CT and enjoyed worship the most. She was an avid reader, enjoyed

trips to Foxwoods, RV'ing the East Coast discovering lighthouses & listening to live music. If an old country song was playing, you would find Freda on the dance floor encouraging you to do the same! Above all things she loved spending time with her family & cherished friends.

She was predeceased by her husband Kevin Hammond, grandson John Lanou, Jr & sister Ruth Table. She is survived by three children, Carlene Patnaude of Bradenton, FL, Lawrence King (Susan) of Belchertown & Debra Himmen of Springfield. She leaves two grandchild-



dren, Amy Lanou and Christopher (Tara) King and six great grandchildren, Hailey, Shyann, Aubrey, Abigail, Kodi and Bell. She also leaves many friends who became family.

A calling hour was held on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:00pm followed by a remembrance service at 3:00pm at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Goodwill Industries or a charity of your choice.

Rev. Ronald D. Marcy

Rev. Ronald ("Ron") David Marcy, age 87, passed away Jan. 4, 2024, in Wakefield, Rhode Island, after several years of coping courageously with Parkinson's Disease. He was the beloved husband of Judith (Klein) Marcy for over 60 years. Ron grew up in Palmer, he was the son of the late Helen and Kenneth Marcy.

In addition to his wife, Ron is survived by two children, Glenn Lawrence Blumberg and Suzanne Lynn Marcy, a sister, Joan Allen, and two nephews, David and Mark Allen. Ron's only grandchild, Emily Rose Blumberg, predeceased him in 2021.

Ron had great stories to tell about his high school years at Wilbraham Academy (now Wilbraham & Monson Academy), graduating in 1954. He was a star on their track teams, lettered in soccer, and his activities included Debate, Drama, and Glee Club. He received his B.A. degree magna cum laude from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, OH, where he was recognized with numerous awards in public speaking and debating and given 7 varsity awards in track and cross country. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, he pursued ministerial training at the Theological School, St.

Lawrence University, Canton, NY where he received an M.A. degree, also magna. Ron was officially ordained under the authority of the Central Fellowship Committee, Universalist Church of America, at St. Paul's Universalist Church here in Palmer on June 21, 1961.

Ron's 41-year ministry took him to churches in New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New Hampshire. Wherever he was called, he served on a variety of denominational committees and was active in community organizations such as Legal Aide, the Head Start Program, UNICEF, local fire departments and the Middletown, NY Food Foundation Grant Committee. Ron was a member of the Jaycees and the Lions Club. He also proudly marched in Selma, Alabama with a group of other UU ministers. When Ron and his wife retired in 2002, they moved to Wakefield, RI and became members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County. Ron served there as Treasurer for a number of years.

Along with his busy ministerial career, Ron was a passionate devotee of chess and bridge. His brilliant problem-solving



abilities enabled him to become an outstanding player of both games. Perhaps his most favorite activity was sailing the coastline near Kingston, Duxbury and Plymouth, MA. He and his wife owned a special 17' sailboat

that they affectionately called "Sloopy Sails." Retiring to Rhode Island gave Ron and Judi a chance to remain close to the ocean, an immense pleasure for both. Throughout their marriage, Ron and Judi enjoyed traveling. Their most memorable trips were to France, England, and Belgium, as well as many interesting visits in the United States.

Ron's ashes will be laid to rest by his family this Spring in his beloved Palmer, Massachusetts. Donations in his memory can be made to:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, 27 North Road, Peace Dale, RI 02879 for a Memorial Leaf in his honor for its Tree of Life, or The Warm Center, 56 Spruce Street, Westerly, RI 02891, or The Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, 61 Main Street, Wakefield, RI 02879.

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 \$225, 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.

O B I T U A R I E S

Patricia Ann Stevens

PALMER—Patricia Ann Stevens, 80, passed away Feb. 17, 2024. She was born on March 9, 1943 in Springfield to the late Leslie and Evelyn (Anderson) Stevens. Patricia formerly worked as a machine operator at Smith & Wesson for over 20 years before retiring. She enjoyed listening to country music, watching tennis matches, and staying up to date on current news. She loved to cook and bake, and loved all animals. Patricia was known to fill her spare time with shopping, which she greatly enjoyed.

Besides her parents, Patricia was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Raymond Comeau. She leaves behind her best friend and sister, Rose Comeau; brother, David Stevens; cousin and caregiver, Donna Gregory; life long friend, Doris King; nephew, Christopher Comeau; her beloved cat, "KC"; as well as many extended family members. The family would like to thank the Baystate Medical Center



Hospice nurses for providing excellent care for Pat while she was at home.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, Mar. 1, 2024 at 10 a.m. in Oak Knoll Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Patricia's memory can be made to Thomas J. O'Connor by visiting tjconnoradoptioncenter.com. To extend online condolences, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Carol A Wesson, 1943-2024

MONSON—Carol A (Storm) Wesson, 81, a lifelong resident of Monson, passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family. Carol was born Jan. 15, 1943, in Fitchburg, MA to the late John E and Barbara (Connors) Storm. Carol was a graduate of Monson High School. She had many accomplishments throughout her life. Carol was a co-owner of Ceric Fabrication Co. Inc. of Ayer for many years, a precision sheet metal fabrication company; served as shareholder and Executive Vice President at Wesson Firearms Co. in Palmer (Formerly Dan Wesson Arms), A Director of Gun Owners' Action League, and lifetime member of the NRA.

Carol was an avid softball player in her younger years and participated in local adult recreational leagues. In more recent

years, Carol enjoyed showing her Hackney Pony, The Fresh Price with whom they earned the titles of Canadian and Royal Grand Champion Pleasure Harness Pony at the Royal Winter Festival in Toronto, Canada. Carol also had a small but impressive Morgan breeding program.

Carol cherished her role as a loving mother and grandmother. She spent much time cheering from the stands supporting Kayla at Morgan horse equestrian competitions, Morgan at soccer games and Daniel at modified racing at Stafford.

Carol leaves behind her husband, Seth K Wesson, their children, Judith W Candage and her husband John, Seth K Wesson, Jr (Kelly) and his wife Chris-



tine, Eric J Wesson, and his wife Shannon all of Monson; three grandchildren Kayla C Walker and her husband James, Daniel Wesson and Morgan Wesson, a brother John Storm and his wife Vicki of Conway, MA. Carol was predeceased by her parents and sister Elizabeth MacKay.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson 3 Bridge Street Monson, MA. Visiting hours were held Sun., Feb. 25, 2024. A funeral service was held Mon., Feb. 26, 2024 with burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

For online condolences visit, www.lombardfuneralhome.com

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Flu cases on the rise; in some cases antiviral medications can help

SPRINGFIELD – Despite all the efforts to avoid the flu, inevitably some people will catch it. For those who do, antiviral medications may help. Just what are antivirals? How do they work? Who should take them and when? The healthcare providers at American Family Care explain patients need to know.

“The first line of defense against the flu is to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of AFC for Massachusetts. “Antiviral medications are a second line—when the vaccine doesn’t prevent infection, or someone didn’t receive the vaccine. Antiviral medications are mostly used for severe cases of the flu or patients who are considered at high risk for flu-related complications.”

The general protocol for treating the flu consists of getting lots of rest, drinking plenty of water and other clear liquids and taking over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol and ibuprofen to reduce fever and relieve symptoms. However, in some cases, prescription antiviral medications are recommended.

Antiviral medications are always prescribed for flu patients who are hospitalized, have severe flu symptoms but are not in the hospital, meet certain age criteria or have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of complications from the flu.

Sometimes antiviral medications are prescribed for cases of the flu diagnosed early (within the first 48 hours of developing symptoms) or for those who are

exposed to high-risk populations either at home or work. Antiviral medications are sometimes prescribed to help prevent the flu for people who cannot receive the flu vaccine.

“When antiviral medications are recommended, patients should discuss all possible side effects and drug interactions with their doctor,” Koslow said. “Nausea and vomiting are possible, as are headaches. And certain other medications may reduce the effectiveness of antiviral medications.”

Koslow reiterates these important reminders to reduce the spread of infections:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for two minutes and dry them thoroughly.
- Maintain social distancing and/or wear masks, especially at large, indoor gatherings.
- Stay home if you have symptoms such as fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, aches, chills and fatigue.
- Regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, countertops and faucets.

The medical providers at AFC Springfield and AFC West Springfield offer convenient, walk-in care seven days a week for patients of all ages. Services include urgent care for illnesses, sprains and strains; stitches for minor cuts and lacerations; flu vaccines and testing; diagnostic rapid tests and antigen tests for COVID-19; physicals and on-site x-rays.

Wilbraham Women’s Club hosting Fashion Show Luncheon

WILBRAHAM - A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring CHICO’S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women’s Club, Thursday, April 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at Noon. The meal choices are chicken fraise and salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation for the luncheon also helps to fund the club’s scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes. For reservations, please contact Norma Bandarra at 413-596-8173 by April 17.

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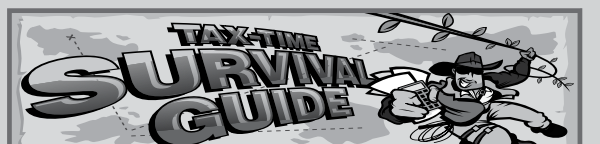
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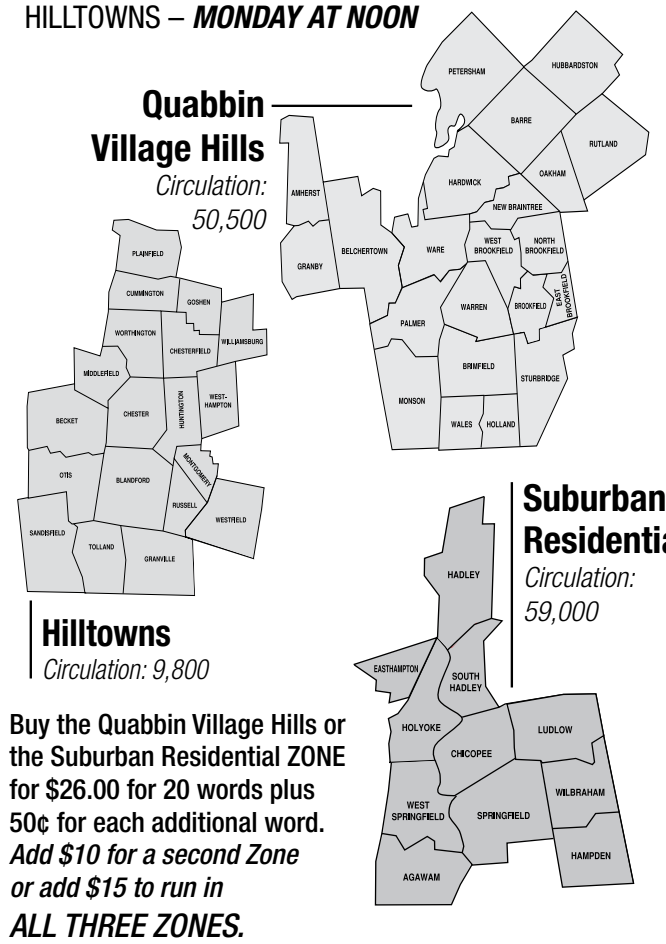
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| 31 | Base Price \$31.50 | 32 | Base Price \$32.00 |
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Public Notices

Town of Monson Planning Board 110 Main Street Monson, MA 01057 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, at 7:20 P.M. in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street, Monson to hear and act upon a Zone Change for (3) three parcels of land located on 57 Town Farm Road Map 148 lot 001A, Map 148 lot 005 and Map 148 lot 7A. It is proposed to change the zoning from Residential Village to Commercial Recreation. A copy of the proposed zoning map and application may be viewed during regular office hours at the Planning Board Office.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman Monson Planning Board 02/29, 03/07/24

Town of Monson Planning Board 110 Main Street Monson, MA 01057 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, at 7:30 P.M. in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street, Monson to hear and act upon a Zone Change for a parcel of land located on 72 Sutcliffe Road, Map 173 lot 4. It is proposed to change six (6) acres portion of the property from Commercial Recreation to Rural Residential. The remaining 81.5 acres will remain zoned as Commercial Recreation. A copy of the proposed zoning map and application may be viewed during regular office hours at the Planning Board Office.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman Monson Planning Board 02/29, 03/07/24

Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the work associated with the abatement and demolition of buildings and structures including a temporary access road within Riverfront Area, buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Bank for the property located at 175 State Ave, identified as Assessors Map 088, Parcel 001. The applicant is the Division of Capital Assest Management & Maintenance. The property owner is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 02/29/24

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Premises: 42 Washington Street, Monson, MA 01057

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sherrie L Blain and Richard Blain to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, and now held by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, said mortgage dated October 15, 2021 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24186, Page 523, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated March 2, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 24925, Page 390; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on April 3, 2024 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The Land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Hampden, State of Massachusetts, and is described as follows: The land situated in Monson, Hampden County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the lot to be described on the junction and corner of Washington Street; thence running westerly seventy-five (75) feet to land of Lyman C. Flynt, now or formerly known as Central Hotel property; thence running southerly

on last named land seventy and one-half feet to a stone in the ground;

thence running easterly seventy-five (75) feet to Washington Street; place of beginning and

thence running northerly on said Washington Street seventy-three and one-half feet to the Being the premises conveyed to the grantor herein by deed of Richard A. Drake dated and recorded on December 16, 2004 In the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14701, Page 643.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 14, 2021 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24186, Page 521.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC 23 Messenger Street 2nd Floor Plainville, MA 02762 Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701 02/22, 02/29,03/07/2024

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

Docket No. HD24C0036CA In the matter of: Cody Ryan Brown CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Cody Ryan Brown of Monson, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Ryan Cody Brown.

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00a.m. on the return day of 03/22/2024. 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 23, 2024 Rosemary A Saccoani Register of Probate 02/29/2024

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

Docket No. HD24A0018AD In the matter of: Mark Robert Thomas CITATION G.L.c.219, Sec 6

To: Any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of

said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: Robin Fedora of Brimfield MA and Gregory Fedora of Brimfield, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Mark Robert Fedora.

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. As indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: SPRINGFIELD ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON: 03/19/2024 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 20, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccoani Register of Probate 02/29/24

Rivers MA; HONDA VIN:2HGFA1F59BH304668 Mark Veisine 3048 Main St. Bondsville, MA; H Y U N D A I VIN:KMHLR4AF7PU594050 Autumn Hostens 47A Cottage St. W. Warren, MA; JEEP VIN:1C4NJRBB0GD550145 Johnathan Lewallen 1501 N. Main St Palmer, MA; CHEVY VIN:1GCHK236X8F126027 Corey Hostingan 4 Winslow Rd Ware, MA; T O Y O T A VIN:2T3RFREVE6GW532244 Anthony Carter 134 Union St Westfield, MA; VOLKSWAGON VIN:9BWP61J324075925 Robert Palmer 1034 Park St Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on March 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069. 2/22, 2/29, 3/7

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 13th, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the demolition and removal of a barn in Riverfront Area for the property located on State Ave, Assessor's Map 087, Parcel 021, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Sean Moyer.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 02/29/24

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 13th, 2024 at 7:50 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the work associated with the construction of a new Single-Family Home, driveway, septic system, and grading within the buffer zone and Riverfront Area for the property located at Upper Hampden Rd, identified as Assessors Map 011, Parcel 010A. The applicant is Matt Campagnari.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 02/29/24

Town of Monson Planning Board 110 Main Street Monson, MA 01057 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:40 P.M. in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street, Monson. It is proposed to present, discuss, and amend § 1.0 through 7.5, \$5.4.1 & §7.1.1 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws.

To amend, the Zoning By-Law to make the By-Law easier for users to navigate, simplify and update its language, and provide a better structure for predictability and flexibility in both the interests of current use and future adaptability, by: \$1.0 through \$7.5 - Making amendments such as grammatical, typographical, and

orthographic errors and eliminating or updating design layout and outdated statutory references.

§ 5.4.1 - Required Minimum/Maximum Parking Spaces. (Adopted at Town Meeting 5/12/2014) by removing existing language and replacing with: "In all zones, here shall be provided and maintained off-street automobile parking and spaces accessed by a driveway in connection with the construction, conversion or increase by units or dimensions of buildings, structures and use in the following amounts."

§ 7.1.1 - Board of Appeals - Eliminating in its entirety the sentence that reads: No person holding an elective office shall be eligible to serve as a member or associate member of the Board of Appeals.

A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw is on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board and is available on the Town website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman Monson Planning Board 02/29, 03/07/24

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

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Seven Railroads Brewing Co. celebrates successful opening weekend



Brewery Owners Rachel Rosenbloom and Michael Bedrosian in their natural habitat.



Bedrosian with a batch of his fermented pride and joy, Tank Reynolds.



The location is both dog-friendly and human-friendly.

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

PALMER - If it was a little bit louder in Palmer last weekend, the noise was probably due to the massive crowds at Seven Railroads Brewing Company.

Brewery owners Rachel Rosenbloom and Michael Bedrosian met at the University of Massachusetts and soon became a dynamic duo of beer brewing, tasty snack knowledge and shared passions for old school nerd culture.



A banner hangs outside of their location as of now, though a new sign will be appearing soon.

"We're big Star Trek fans," Rosenbloom said. "My husband and I have been home brewing for about 15 years. I've been professionally brewing for the past seven, and we have always talked about how we want to do this someday, and we finally got to the point where we realized we might be able to start making it happen."

Rosenbloom continued to detail her and Bedrosian's humble beginnings before their recent grand opening weekend.

"We owned our house, we were settled, we thought maybe we should start looking into how to actually be doing this," Rosenbloom said. "So, we first approached Palmer in November of 2021 to put a brewery in town and started to look for buildings... and now we're finally here."

The brewing company was filled to the brim every day this past



Seven Railroads offers delicious beer and well-priced snacks.



The Eager Beagle Brown Porter named after Barley, a pretty puppy who loves to strike a pose.

weekend, with a line doubling out their front door during their first ever Friday shift. With the amount of effort building their brand over the past three years, it's not hard to see why Palmer residents were so eager to sip at Seven Railroads.

"We might be adding a Monday or a Wednesday in the future," Rosenbloom said. "But right now it is only Thursday through Sunday. We are both still working our full-time jobs while doing this."

Rosenbloom currently works at Fort Hill Brewery in Easthampton, while Bedrosian is employed at MassMutual. Their passion for the perfect pour stays with them even



Seven Railroads, current state of on tap and tapped out brew. Keg pour handles are made from railroad spikes.

off the clock.

"We went to homebrew competitions and our beers were always well-received," said Rosenbloom. "Through our friends and other people telling us, 'Yeah your beer is great; I think you could do a good job at this,' it kind of started making us think, 'Hey, maybe we can,' and now we have. Back in 2021, we did have the conversation where we thought about paths: we've got a good 401k going, we both have full-time jobs, we could continue on this track, we could retire and be good... or we can choose to jump off the cliff and see how this goes and cash everything out and get this going. So, we decided to take the leap, and I think we made the right choice."

Seven Railroads Brewing Company had a line out to Park Street for almost two hours during its grand opening, with food provided by Monson food gurus, Fry'd Guys, on both Friday and Saturday. Line-waiters, as long as someone held their spot for the brewery, had mouth-watering shish kabobs, chicken sandwiches and crinkle cut fries just a food truck away from them. The smell was as incendiary as the energy of the brewery.

"Palmer is known as the town of seven railroads," Rosenbloom said, "and we didn't just want to be Palmer Brewing Company, you know? We wanted something a little more... fashionable." That extra effort has paid off for Bedrosian, who was more than happy to show off the Walter White-Tier brewing capabilities of the Seven Railroads employees only section. "We started with five beers," said Bedrosian. "We actually ran out of our Doppelbock in half the time I thought we would. People really loved it."

The now sold-out Palmerator Doppelbock contained 7.3% ABV (alcohol by volume) and a "double bock" brewed with Hallertauer hops. It seems having the name of the town and an above-average alcohol level helped their record sell-out.

Seven Railroads weekend atmosphere is comfy cozy New England bliss, with a vinyl record player cranking out tunes from behind the bar and bundles of high-quality junk food for all in the cash registered corner. Their location is dog-friendly, with the owners' loyal beagle, Barley, snuggled up on the right side of the bar room daily. Both the customers and their puppies were intertwined in conversation, barking and laughing together.

"We have the beer garden tables here, and I think that helps to get people mingling with each other," Bedrosian said. "We're going to have a spot out front too that's going to have patio tables right near our sign. We only have our banner right now, but I want to get a really great sign once we settle down after our opening."

When asked about the Danny DeVito-branded tank in their backroom, Bedrosian grinned from ear



Jim Mazza and good friend Joe sharing a pint at the bar.



The brewery was filled to the brim for the entire weekend.

to ear, explaining the lore of each beer cauldron he tends to at Seven Railroads Brewing Company.

"So, this is Tank Reynolds," said Bedrosian. "We also have Al Grundy (Married... With Children) and the other one is Special DEA Agent Tank Schrader from Breaking Bad. So, we just haven't made up all the names yet... but we'll have names for all of them eventually."

Bedrosian then showcased another type of beer that he and Rosenbloom hope to sell to drink-savvy Palmer residents.

"This is the Irish stout," said Bedrosian. "It's actually done now; it just needs to kind of condition more. It's done fermenting, but if you tried it now it would be a bit rough. In a few days, it'll be much cleaner once refrigerated and carbonated, so maybe this weekend we will drop it... but I don't want to rush anything."

Bedrosian then began to talk about their Old Exit 8 New En-

gland IPA, an inviting New England style beer with a mix of Centennial, Mosaic and Citra hops that contain notes of white grape, melon and delicious tropical citrus. Seven Railroads Brewing Company is all about high-quality beer, creating alcoholic beverages for both suds snobs and occasional drinkers in mind.

"If it isn't ready yet, I never want to send it out," Bedrosian said. "We want to have enough capacity that we don't have to rush anything. We are going to do another batch of the Pilsner soon and just let it sit in there until this one kicks, which will be, I don't know, a couple of months they'll chill back here, and it will be even better than the first batch we did."

The amount of care the two put toward their beer brewing matches the warmth and vintage comfort that makes Seven Railroads so instantly refreshing. Both Rosenbloom and Bedrosian hope to keep that momentum going when it comes to planning future events.

"We obviously don't have a lot of space," Rosenbloom said. "So, it has to be a small acoustic situation, but yeah, we are definitely looking to book musical acts for sure. We will make sure to post about any opportunities or special events online."

Seven Railroads Brewing Company are on both Instagram and Facebook (@sevenrailroads). Their brewery is located at 1235 Park St. in Palmer.

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For more than 30 years, Nesco Sales, Inc. located at 91 State St. in Bondsville, has been helping people with quality auto body repair and managing all the necessary insurance paperwork. "We try to make it as easy and convenient as possible for our customers," said owner Kevin Conestock.

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According to Conestock, the key to a smooth process is the quality of the body work performed by the team of Mike Back and Greg Robinson. Greg Shover and Matt Blodgett. Whether your vehicle has some dents and scratches or was in a major collision, they can restore your vehicle to pre-accident condition. "They are trained with the latest techniques to repair today's vehicles," said Conestock.

The garage features updated spray

The employees at Nesco Sales, Inc. are ready to provide quality repairs. Owners are Mike Back, owner Kevin Conestock, Greg Robinson and Greg Shover.

Conestock and customers can rely on Nesco's experience to walk them through the repair process. "We deal with the insurance companies all the time. We'll take care of everything."

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