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# The Journal Register

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EDUCATION

## School Committee expresses support for Rural Schools Bill

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
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MONSON – At last week’s School Committee, a representative from Sunderland talked about a grassroots initiative to campaign for more money to rural school districts in our state.

At the Feb. 26 meeting, the committee heard a presentation from the Rural Schools Committee about rural school aid and ways to advocate

for more state money from state legislators. Jessica Corwin, the Chair of Sunderland School Committee and Co-Chair of the MASC’s Rural Schools Committee, spoke to the committee via Zoom.

“I am here tonight to ask for your assistance in some advocacy to serve the financial and practical needs of rural school districts like yours and mine,” Corwin said.

Corwin described several reports documenting the challenges to schools in ru-

*“The recommended level of funding is \$60 million per year, this year it was only funded at \$16 million.”*

— Jessica Corwin,  
Co-Chair of the MASC’s  
Rural Schools Committee

ral districts that have been commissioned by the state. She noted that chief among those was that “it costs substantially more per student to provide basic education in small districts than it does in larger ones, because we can’t achieve the same efficiencies of scale.”

Corwin said that this is because every school has the same administrative needs of principals, secretaries, business managers, nurses, custodians, etc., regardless of

student population. A 2022 Rural Schools Report used 1,300 as an over/under figure for making this comparison.

“In a non-regional district like yours, with fewer than 1,300 students, on average it costs 16.7% more per student to educate than in the larger districts,” Corwin said. “That reality is just not accounted for in the state’s Chapter 70 funding formulas, and that leaves rural towns at a chronic disadvantage, and our towns are stretching our

local resources to the limit just so our schools can remain operational.”

To address this, the Rural Schools Committee has been working to lobby the 31 legislators that represent rural school districts to ask for support for the Rural Schools Bill, which aims to fully fund rural aid next year, while also fixing many other issues.

“The recommended level of funding is \$60 million per

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MONSON

## FinCom reviews Parks & Rec and water, sewer budgets

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Finance Committee met this week to review budget proposals from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Water/Sewer Department.

Parks and Recreation Director Timothy Pascale was the first one up, and described his budget as “pretty short and sweet.”

“My salaries’ increases, for the most part, are from the salary survey and steps for myself and my employees,” Pascale said.

Pascale listed three employees eligible for a raise, and said that he is currently acting Aquatics Manager while the department looks to hire someone to fill that position. He continued a discussion the committee had previously had with Ben Murphy about a union position the department is trying to get back.

“Years ago, I had another employee, a union employee for 35 hours a week, that was cut,” Pascale said. “I know the Cemetery’s laborer was also cut, and we had approached the Finance team here about it just not working.”

Pascale said his department shared an employee with the Cemetery Department last year, splitting the

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## Pathfinder Tech unveils newly refurbished gym floor



An inaugural tournament was held by the girls basketball team on the new gym floor last week.

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER – Improvements have been made to Pathfinder Technical Vocational School’s gym floor as part of the town’s efforts to support youth sports.

The project was made possible by the town, which appropriated \$50,000 in ARPA funds for the improvements. Communications Coordinator Olivia Falcone described the school’s administration as “incredibly grateful” for the town’s support.

“It was a collaborative effort with Palmer through Town Manager Brad Brothers and the Town Council, who saw a need to accommodate youth sports in the communi-



Submitted photos

**\$50,000 in ARPA funds were appropriated in order to provide the town with safe conditions for youth sports.**

ty,” said Falcone. “Brothers reached out to Superintendent Eric Duda and, through conversations, determined what it would take to update our gym’s infrastructure, specifically the floor.”

The refurbished gym floor helps to create a space for local Youth Athletics to use throughout certain weekdays and weekends. Pathfinder’s administration was eager to express its gratitude for the town’s support in these improvements.

“We admire Brad (Broth-

ers) and the Council’s dedication to serving the public, and we’re more than happy to jump onboard and bring this project together,” Falcone said. “We recognize the importance of youth sports in our community and look forward to helping them in any way we can.”

If you’d like to check out Pathfinder’s new gym floor, you can visit their address at 240 Sykes St. Contact them about visiting hours by calling 413-283-9701.

BRIMFIELD

## Town Clerk recognized as Certified Mass. Municipal Clerk

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
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BRIMFIELD – Debra Fagerstrom, the Town Clerk, recently qualified for the Massachusetts Town Clerks’ Association’s prestigious Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk designation.

The CMMC is achieved through attending the Massachusetts Town Clerk Association, which offers a variety of resources for the 301 active town clerks throughout the commonwealth, such as sponsoring educational courses for Fagerstrom as part of the certification program, resulting in her scoring 96.4% on the test.

*“I think the most important part is I inherited a great crew of coworkers that have been here for many years and just accepted me with open arms, and I’m just so grateful.”*

— Debra Fagerstrom

“The test is roughly 250 questions,” Fagerstrom said. “It’s an aptitude test measuring a clerk’s knowledge of Mass General Laws. When I came in (to my position), there were all these new election laws, which was perfect timing to start learning because they were all learning.”

Fagerstrom has worked in town since 2019, start-



Submitted photos

**Brimfield Town Clerk Debra Fagerstrom, Town Clerk of Brimfield, recently qualified for the Massachusetts Town Clerks’ Association’s prestigious Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk designation.**

ing as clerk for the Zoning Board of Appeals, then becoming a shared Board Clerk, before becoming Assistant Clerk in 2020.

“When the then-current Town Clerk was retiring, he said, ‘I think you can do this,’” Fagerstrom reminisced.

In November of 2023, it was reported that only 113 of the 301 clerks in the state had achieved this designation. The aptitude test includes questions relating to general laws, election procedures, vital records, campaign finance, Town meeting, Chapter 40A, planning, zoning, public records, and far more than Fagerstrom was at liberty to describe.

“It was really hard, and rightfully so,” Fagerstrom said. “Being in a small town, some of the questions on the test were things I hadn’t encountered before and very likely may never.”

Fagerstrom said that the test included questions about vital records from the

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## Palmer nomination papers available

PALMER—The Town Clerk of Palmer will have nomination papers ready for pickup the week of March 10th. The available seats on the June 10, 2024 town election are as follows.

**Councilor at Large**  
3 year term  
**District #4**  
**Three Rivers Councilor**  
3 year term

**Planning Board**  
3 year term (2 seats)  
**School Committee**  
3 year term. (2 seats)

If you have any questions regarding filing requirements on above seats please reach out to the Palmer Town Clerk’s office.

## Brimfield presents “The UFO Phenomenon”

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

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

Ronny is an independent researcher, screenwriter and author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling book Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot and Orange Orbs which details the history and connection between the various phenomena, highlighting his experience and a research area called Monsterland in Central Massachusetts. Ronny was the first person

ever to cast a Bigfoot print in the Leominster State Forest in the summer of 2010. He is a regular speaker at the Exeter UFO Festival, New England UFO Conference and ParaFest.

Learn about the history of UFO sightings in Massachusetts & Bigfoot sightings that continue to this day in and around Leominster State Forest.

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

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

A light lunch will be served immediately after the program.

## Monson nomination papers available

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

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

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

The following slate of offices will appear on the ballot (1 SEAT):

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

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

## Friday night rocks at PHCC in Three Rivers

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


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

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

Email toriejockmusic@gmail.com for more info and for band booking.

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

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



**Pet of the Week**

**KONA**

This is Kona. He is a standard poodle and about 6 years old. His family is originally from Daytona Beach, FL, but now calls Three Rivers home. Kona was abandoned in a PetSmart parking lot about four years ago when his friend Kaley found him. Since then, Kaley says “He has been the best thing that has ever happened to me.” Kona loves any kind of ball, and getting his belly rubbed. One of the most special things about Kona is that when Kaley is sad or feeling down, he comes up to her and places his head on her lap and nuzzles her until he sees her crack a smile.

“He is my best friend, my fur baby, and the goodest boy,” Kaley said

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.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!**

**PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:**

**PALMER FOR TOMORROW**

**Gathering**

**WHAT IS IT?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

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

**To Join Our Group!**

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

**FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!**

**DEADLINE**

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

**Corrections**

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

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# Pasta for Paws

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's "Spay"ghetti Supper

BRIMFIELD—Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites all animal lovers to our annual "Spay"ghetti Supper fundraiser at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield on Saturday, March 15.

Enjoy a chef-prepared dinner while helping cats in need right here in our community! Whether you dine in or take your meal to go, it's the perfect way to gather with friends and family while supporting a great cause. Plus, enjoy raffles, prizes, and plenty of fun throughout the evening!

Now more than ever, shelters like HTAT are stepping up to help cats in need. Rising costs, limited access to veterinary care, and financial and housing challenges have led to more pets being surrendered. According to HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max, "Every ticket sold helps HTAT do what we do best—care for cats that might otherwise fall through the cracks, cats that might be traditionally seen as 'unadoptable.'"

Max continued, "Each year, this event brings our community together in support of local cats who need us most. The funds raised allow us to care for cats who might not get a chance anywhere else—those with medical needs, behavioral challenges, or simply a harder time finding a home. It's more than just a meal—it's a way to make a real difference."

Every bite supports

HTAT and helps cats (and the people who love them) in our community. Bring your appetite, bring your friends, and enjoy an evening of great food, great fun, and giving back!

The "Spay"ghetti Supper takes place at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield on Saturday, March 15, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors & kids. To purchase tickets at a discounted price, visit [www.heretodaysanctuary.org](http://www.heretodaysanctuary.org) or call 413-324-8224.

If you need assistance feeding or caring for your pet, HTAT can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$80 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! Visit [www.heretodaysanctuary.org](http://www.heretodaysanctuary.org) to learn more about our community assistance programs.

## About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable



and

healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and our ultimate goal is to keep pets and people together. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit [heretodaysanctuary.org](http://heretodaysanctuary.org).

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at [facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary](https://facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary), and follow us on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtomorrow](https://instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtomorrow).

## Preschool and Kindergarten screenings

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

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



## 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.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## ONGOING

**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:** 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 [khn@keep-homesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khn@keep-homesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

**QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD:** Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year.

For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

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

**NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

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

## UPCOMING

**WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET** - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. Every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. - noon. It will begin on Memorial Day weekend and run throughout the summer until Labor Day. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

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

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

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

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

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*  
By Russell Gloor

# Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

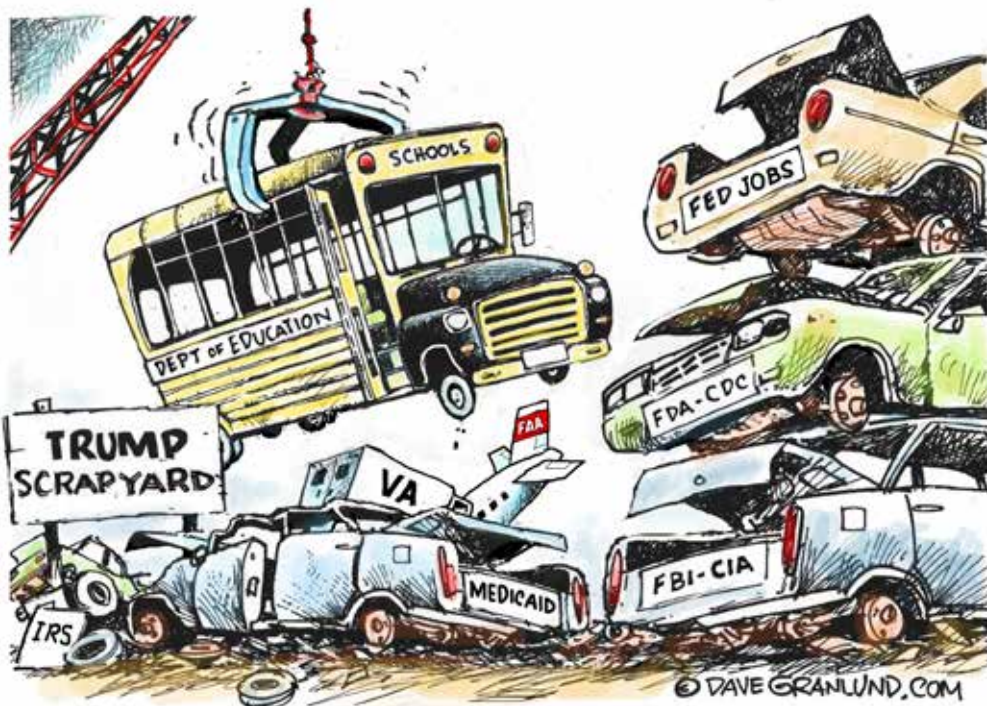
But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable

income (the thresholds are lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/).

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



# And just like that it's spring

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For, me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!

Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot- stone edged raised beds - that contain the heat and help them to grow quite successfully.

By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.

Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably- usually by June first.

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants.

Although there are over

20 species of pepper, just one is known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name *Capsicum annuum*. Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.

Green when immature, sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow,

eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant

water content. Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squatty three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

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



orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.

If I had to choose only one variety to grow it would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.

Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!

Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and "load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.

They call them snack peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier

level of built-in "implicit bias," subconscious feelings, attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes that have been baked into us throughout our lives.

And health-care providers are just that: human. Many grew up in families where women were not always given the same opportunities a generation ago that men were. They can be quite unaware that subconscious perceptions, instead of facts and observations, are affecting their decision-making and influencing their care decisions.

I have worked with doctors closely for decades and I have seen women's concerns not taken as seriously, especially as it pertains to reproductive care. Ovarian cancer is a good example because there's no screening test for it and the symptoms can easily be interpreted as a digestive disorder, urinary tract infection or menstrual pain. By the

time most women receive a diagnosis, their cancer is already at Stage III or IV. Poor women and women of color are particularly affected.

Women, meanwhile, are often socialized to be nice, never question a doctor, and never want to be perceived as a "problem" if they speak up for a family member. This may result in the patient becoming more and more frustrated because her symptoms being dismissed ("It's all in your head") or minimized.

Patients of all genders and backgrounds can help themselves if they're encountering an experience with what appears to be implicit bias. Here are some suggestions:

## 1. Don't go it alone.

Doctors typically spend much more time teaching, reviewing labs and answering questions when an advocate

or informed family member is attending the visit. One of my tried-and-true recommendations is to bring someone with you to all appointments, have them take notes and tell them to feel free to ask questions. If they're not a spouse, you can give your verbal permission for a provider to discuss your care with them.

## 2. Prepare for your appointments.

An implicit bias may lead a doctor to automatically label a patient as "hypochondriac" based on their presentation or demeanor, without fully considering the possibility of a real medical condition. You can guard against this by researching your symptoms on authoritative websites, such as WebMD.com or CDC.gov, and come prepared with notes and questions.

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*The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.*

# Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

## Campaign news

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

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



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

# Women still face disparities in health care

As hard as it may be to understand 25 years into the 21<sup>st</sup> century - and nearly 40 years after March was designated as Women's History Month -- women are frequently overlooked when it comes to medical research and treatment.

Studies have shown that symptoms of cardiovascular disease are treated more aggressively in men than women. Women's bodies mount a different immune response

to vaccines, yet vaccines are still one-shot-fits-all. A 2021 report found that clinical trials in oncology, neurology, immunology and nephrology had the lowest female representation relative to how much these diseases impact women.

In the news right now are emerging lawsuits against Pfizer alleging that its widely used birth control, Depo-Provera, caused usually benign brain tumors called meningiomas. These tumors typically bring on headache, dizziness and depression, and guess what? Some women are finding that it's taken months or years for them to get a diagnosis. (Pfizer responds that its product has been proven safe over decades of use. Stay tuned.)

I don't think doctors are necessarily dismissing women's symptoms on purpose. Most of us humans have some



# Spring Gardening Workshops take place on March 29



Heidi Dollard from the Mass Pollinator Network talks with an attendee; the organization will be one of many on hand again at this year's WMMGA's Gardening Workshops.

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WESTFIELD - The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is gearing up for the coming spring with its upcoming Spring Gardening Workshops on March 29.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westfield South Middle School has 10 workshops this year, which are "Making Your Garden Edible," a hands-on workshop called "Updating an Old Garden," "Gardening in Shades of Shade," "Native Plants," "Healthy Lawns," "Vase Worthy Gardening," another hands-on workshop called "Growing and Using Herbs," "Companion Planting," "Ins and Outs of House Plants" and "Garden Gold: Soil and Compost."

There will also be raffles and a marketplace fair with informational booths, vendors, a soil testing station testing for PH and texture, an Ask a Master Gardener Booth, complimentary refreshments and more.

This year's speakers include retired nutritionist and Master Gardener Chris Brown, Larri Cochran, certified horticulturist and Landscape for Life Trainer, Northampton Community Garden co-director, and vice president of the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, Ken Conway, head gardener at Better View Landscapes, Janet Dodder, Horticulture Education Chair for the Springfield Garden Club, Leslie Duthie, horticulturist at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Cornell Master Gardener Chris Ferrero, Mas-

ter Gardener Ed Sourdiffe, aka "The Green Thumb Guru," award-winning author Eric Toensmeier and Jen Werner, Urban Forestry Commissioner for the City of Northampton.

Seats are filling up fast and everyone is encouraged to register very soon. Online registration through March 27 is \$30 for two seminars and, if sessions are available, \$40 cash only at the door the day of.

For those who may not want to register online, they can download the form and send it in with a check, which needs to be mailed and arrive by March 16.

Rosey Bonner, a member of the WMMGA and part of the Planning Committee for the event, explained the association has been around for many years, becoming a non-profit after the Master Gardener Program Funding was cut in 1989.

The association oversees three sub-regions in Franklin, Hampden, Berkshire and Hampshire counties, takes part in community projects and also speaks at libraries, Farmers Markets, garden clubs and more.

"Our primary mission as master gardeners is we consider ourselves a service organization and our mission, really, is to educate the public on best practices in gardening on sustainable gardening practices," Bonner said. "So, that's what this workshop is all about."

Bonner shared she's one of the newer members of the association and joined after retiring as a school administrator.

"So, when I retired, this is what I said I wanted to get



Master Gardener Chris Brown, Larri Cochran, certified horticulturist and Landscape for Life Trainer, Northampton Community Garden co-director, and vice president of the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, talks with an attendee about herbs.

my hands in the dirt and do," Bonner said.

Bonner explained one workshop is already filled up and they are categorized into groups to serve gardeners at all levels who "have different loves and likes," expressing excitement for all the offerings coming up.

"So, we have many gardeners that love flowers--and landscaping and flowers--so we put three of the workshops geared towards that, and one of them is 'Gardening in the Shades of Shade,'" Bonner said. "People always struggle. 'What do I plant in the shade?' We can find lots of plants to put in the sun, and so this speaker--who is a Cornell Master Gardener--will be talking about some of the nuances of that and suggestions of plants."

The "Vase Worthy Gardening" workshop, Bonner added, focuses on "how to put flowers in your existing beds and landscape that you can use as cut garden flowers to make basis of flowers."

"And the third one--which is nearest and dearest to our hearts as master gar-



Larri Cochran speaking about gardens in 2024 will be one of the speakers again this year.

deners--is native plants. Because we really know for our bugs and our birds and everything to survive that whole life cycle, we need diversity in our yards," Bonner said. "But, we need native plants because our native insects need plants. They may be getting nectars and dolts from one plant, but they can't lay their eggs on that plant. They need a different native plant as a host plant."

Another workshop Bonner looks forward to is about



There will also be plant sales as shown in this photo from last year's WMMGA Gardening Workshops.



Submitted photos Rosey Bonner

A group shot of the members of the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association at the registration table.

the ins and outs of house plants.

"People are always wanting to know 'what do I do with my house plants?' because these are the times you're transplanting, you're getting them outside. So, Ed Souddiffe--he's a master gardener--he will be conducting that workshop," Bonner said.

The "Garden Gold: Soil and Compost" workshop, which focuses on compost and soil, is another one near and dear to the association.

"You can have the healthiest plants that you're about to put in. You can have the great sun, good wind. You don't have good soil, your plants aren't going to thrive. So, Janet will really talk about what makes up good soil, how do you keep your soil healthy and part of that is how you make and use compost as

a supplement to your soil," Bonner said.

Bonner encourages all surrounding communities to check out the workshops this year and sign up as soon as possible to secure their seat.

"We want you to get out in the garden and enjoy it, have a healthy productive (season) and this is a great way to get some knowledge, but it also gets you inspired. The end of March gets you saying, 'Time to get in there.' We call it 'Let's Get Growing' because we will grow as learners, but we want to get our plants and our flowers and our vegetables growing and think of new and different things and get resources," Bonner said. "So, I'd say get on out here and get inspired for spring!"

To learn more and to register, visit [wwmga.org](http://wwmga.org).

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

**Ronald G. Hess, Sr.**  
Died February 27, 2025  
Services March 11, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Phillip Dana Plumley**  
Died Feb. 24, 2025  
Services are private  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Matthew Michael Thomas**  
Died Feb. 26, 2025  
Services March 8, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Ronald G. Hess, Sr.

MONSON—It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts, we bid farewell to our dearest Ronald G. “Ron” Hess Sr., who passed away peacefully at the age of 83 on February 27, 2025. Ron was born on June 4, 1941, in Westfield, MA, to his loving parents George and Pat (Gough) Hess, who have since passed on.

Ron was a beloved fiancé, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who touched the lives of all who knew him. His dedication to his family was unwavering, and his warm presence will be profoundly missed. Ron’s kindness, generosity, and unwavering love will forever be remembered and cherished by his family and friends.

Ron dedicated many years of his life to his work as an insurance agent, first with Metropolitan Insurance Company for 25 years, and later with Dodson Group Insurance for 20 years until his well-deserved retirement.

His work ethic, integrity, and passion for helping others have left a lasting impact on all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Aside from his professional accomplishments, Ron was a man of many passions. His love for motorcycles, music and photography was evident in all aspects of his life. He found true joy in spending time riding his motorcycle, camping, playing his guitar, singing around the campfire, fishing, and creating beautiful memories with his loved ones and friends.

Ron is survived by his devoted fiancé of 35 years, Brenda Lovell; his daughters, Karen Hess and Tammy Sandomierski, and son-in-law Tommy; his daughter-in-law Tracy Hess; his cherished grandchildren, Katrina, Caroline, Colin, Caitlyn, and Kade; and his adored



great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Bentley and Amelia. Ron was predeceased by his parents, George and Pat, and his son, Ron Hess, Jr. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

A celebration of Ron’s life will take place on March 11, 2025, from 4-7pm at the Beers & Story Funeral Home in Palmer, with a funeral service following the next morning at 10am. Ron will be laid to rest at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

In honor of Ron’s memory, donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital or the ASPCA. We invite you to join us in celebrating Ron’s life and the compassion he showed to others. He will forever remain in our hearts.

Phillip Dana Plumley ~ 1938-2025

MONSON—Phillip Dana Plumley, 87, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family on Feb. 24, 2025. Born on Feb. 23, 1938, in Monson, to the late Ray Hale and Clara Ella (Boomhower) Plumley. Phillip graduated from Springfield Trade School and worked many jobs utilizing his skills as a mechanic, but his passion was his farm. He enjoyed raising cattle and spending time on his tractor tending to the land and the farm.

Phillip was not just a man of talent in his profession he also embraced a variety of interests throughout his lifetime. He enjoyed stock car racing, Boston Red Sox, snowmobiling, fishing, holiday gatherings and spending time with

family playing cards.

Phillip was predeceased by his wife Lillian of 53 years who passed away in 2013. He leaves behind a loving family that includes his daughters, Lynn E. Smith and her husband Jeff of Windsor Locks, Laurie A. Belliveau and her husband Ray of Monson, and Susan M. Jett and her husband Drew of Monson. He is also survived by his sister, Diane Putek, who carries fond memories of their lives together.

His legacy continues with his beloved grandchildren: Stacy, Drew, Justin, Thomas, Phillip, Katherine, Victoria, and Ethan, along with his great-grandchildren, Lillian, Henry, Bode and Theodore. The warmth of his spirit will forever remain in the hearts of his several nieces and neph-

ews who cherished their times with him.

Phillip was predeceased by his brothers, Richard and Lawrence, and his sisters, Harriet, Shirley, and Faye. His acts of kindness and sense of humor will remain in our memories and hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Phillip’s name to Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, 1661 Worcester Road, Suite 201, Framingham, MA 01701 or Monson Fire Dept. Ambulance Fund, 200 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. All services are private. For online condolences please visit <http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com>

Matthew Michael Thomas

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Matthew Michael Thomas, a beloved son, brother, uncle, and partner, who departed this life on Feb. 26, 2025, in Springfield, Massachusetts surrounded by his loved ones after a brave battle with aggressive stage 4 gastric cancer. Born on Nov. 17, 1984, in Springfield, Matthew lived his entire life in Palmer, Mass.

Matthew’s life was intertwined with music and adventure from a young age. A graduate of Palmer High School, class of 2003, he later pursued his passion for music production at the Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences in Phoenix, Arizona. His love for music was evident as he skillfully played the bass guitar, sharing his talent with friends and family.

Professionally, Matthew dedicated himself to serving the Hampden Wilbraham School District for the past three years.

Matthew’s adventurous spirit and love for the outdoors

were reflected in his passion for mountain biking, especially at the White Mountains in New Hampshire and Berkshire East. Fondly known amongst his Thunder Mountain family, he found joy and camaraderie on the trails.

An enthusiastic fan of the Boston Red Sox, Matthew also cherished the game of baseball, which he played during his youth. His weekends were often spent cheering for Evan at his football games, blending his love for sports with family devotion.

He leaves behind his loving parents, Philip and Marilyn (Fitzgerald) Thomas of Palmer; his beloved brother, Ryan Thomas and his wife Amanda of Monson; and his nephew and niece, James and Clairra Thomas, also of Monson. Matthew’s loving heart belonged to his partner, Kim Forni and her son Evan of Belchertown, with whom he shared countless



cherished moments. His memory will also be treasured by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and an extensive circle of friends.

A visitation to honor Matthew’s life will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 2 to 4 p.m., fol-

lowed by a memorial service at 4 p.m., all at Christ Community Church, located at 1255 Federal St., Belchertown, MA. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in his memory to Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield or the American Cancer Society. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Matt will forever be remembered for his vibrant energy, his passion for life, and the indelible mark he left on the hearts of those who knew him. May his legacy continue to inspire and uplift those he loved.

PHS Class of 1975 Reunion

PALMER—Hey 1975 PHS classmates! It’s time to reconnect reminisce and make new memories.

Come catch up with old friends, share stories

and celebrate the journey we’ve all been on since graduation.

We are planning a fall reunion. The venue is yet to be determined accord-

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Key decisions for retired couples

Once you and your spouse retire, you’ll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here are a few of the most important ones:

• **How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts?** By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you’ll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don’t withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone’s situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

• **When should you take Social Security?** The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will “max out” when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse’s full retirement benefit.)

• **Should you downsize?** If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

• **Where should you live?** Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You’ll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, **transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.**

• **Have you finished your estate plans?** If not, now is the time. You’ll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you’ve got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

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HEALTH | from page 4

**3. Be assertive, but not rude or angry.**  
Expressing extreme anger and frustration, or calling into question the provider’s intelligence, education or caring, might actually cause a doctor to want to avoid you, dismiss you as having mental health issues – or even “fire” you as a patient. I counsel all my clients to be persistent but polite and never alienate those caring for you.

**4. If all else fails, change doctors.**  
If you feel like you are being treated disrespectfully and your concerns are not addressed, get a second opinion or switch doctors immediately. You can take that to an extreme, however. I’ve seen patients go “shopping” for a diagnosis until they find a provider who agrees with them. This isn’t helpful, either.

**5. Consider hiring a professional patient advocate.**  
A patient advocate who has training as a nurse or other medical professional can take a dispassionate look at you and your symptoms, speak to your health-care provider with some authority and interpret test results and conversations in lay language.

Women have come a long way when it comes to health care, but we haven’t achieved equity yet. Learning to advocate for yourself is one way to make progress.  
*Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com*

SCHOOLS | from page 1

year,” Corwin said. “This year it was only funded at \$16 million. Governor Maura Healy so far has recommended level funding at \$16 million for next year.”  
Corwin mentioned that the town received \$366,000 in rural this year, and that if it were fully funded to the recommended level, the town could comfortably expect to receive upwards of \$1 million in state aid.  
Committee Chair Alison Morgan asked how the state determines the level of funding, and Corwin explained that the governor makes her recommendation, along with recommendations from the House and Senate, which are then reconciled by a conference committee.  
“This process is still underway,” Corwin said. “That’s why we really need to lobby the representatives and the senators to increase from the number that Governor Healey recommended.”  
As the only rural school district in State Representative Angelo Puppulo’s constituency, Corwin approached the committee to ask one or more members to work together to arrange a meeting and request his support for procuring adequate and equitable state funding for the town’s schools.  
The committee was unanimously in favor of the initiative and eager to be involved. Corwin and Morgan agreed to coordinate separately and use online resources to determine dates for collaborative meetings.

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

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

on Friday, March 21 at AM-VETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.  
Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and

includes 10 bingo cards, bingo dauber, delicious snack platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.  
Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

FINCOM | from page 1

week three to two depending on need.  
“That position was 40 hours, but it was a seasonal person,” Pascale said. “I’ve had ads out there for seasonal help for years and no one applies because no one seems to want to work 16 hours a week. We’re lucky enough to have one retiree that does put in a couple days a week, but it’s hard to find that other spot.”  
Pascale said that a shared departmental position would lead to having a better quality employee to provide backup for the related departments.  
After the Parks and Recreation Department’s budget review, the meeting moved on to the Water/Sewer Department. Superintendent Craig Jalbert introduced the Deputy Superintendent, at said that the department was able to hire another position

in January.  
“We were lucky to find him,” said the guy who hasn’t introduced himself. “He had 11 years experience in the water field working in West Springfield. He also worked some time along with Bill at Tye & Bond as a Construction Observer, so that was great.”  
Jalbert pointed out the biggest change in the budget, which was electricity.  
“We’re looking for an additional \$15,000 for next fiscal year,” Jalbert said. “It’s extremely difficult to budget when you’re jumping around as far as cost to kilowatt.”  
Committee Chair Peter Fimognari asked about the Variable Speed Pump that was projected to save as much as \$9,000.  
“To get those savings, you basically have to start reducing the output of the well pump, which it’s all designed to do,”

Jalbert said. “We never went and did all that stuff, because once you get your corrosion control chemical and your disinfection chemical, you get them dialed in to where you want them on the output that we’re using on a daily basis.”  
“It’s difficult to do that because, once you get it dialed in, then the seasons change, and water quality changes a little bit,” Jalbert continued, “and now you’re looking at adding a little bit more chlorine, you’re adding a little bit more corrosion control chemical, and in the other time of year you’re taking some out.”  
Jalbert said that regardless of electricity usage, which has remained mostly the same for the department, the cost is spiking because of the price per kilowatt.  
The Finance Committee also went over its own department’s budget during the meeting.

# SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

## The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.  
• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn’t just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they’re used to.  
• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.  
• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.  
There’s no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

## Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here’s a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.  
**1,467:** The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - *YMCA*  
**\$3.91 billion:** The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - *Statista*  
**14 million:** The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - *American Camp Association*

**1 week:** The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - *American Camp Association*  
**50:** The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - *CampMinder*  
**58 to 63:** The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - *American Camp Association*  
**200 to 300:** The average number of campers served each session. - *CampMinder*  
**7 in 10:** The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - *CampMinder*  
**79:** The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - *CampMinder*

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## Public invited to OLT annual meeting breakfast

PALMER—Do you enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, or other outdoor recreation? Are you interested in protecting local land, water, and wildlife? Are you curious about Opacum Land Trust, land conservation, or how you could get involved? Join Opacum Land Trust for our 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting Breakfast – All are welcome to this free event! The breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 15 at Pathfinder High School, Panek St, Palmer, MA from 10 a.m. to noon. At noon, Opacum Directors Glenn Colburn and Toni Uliana will lead an optional walk at the Stephen and June Skorupski Woodland Preserve on Silver Street in Monson. Come for the delicious breakfast and stay for the celebration as Opacum Land Trust commemorates a quarter century of local land conservation. Reflect

on 25 years of protecting the land, water, and wildlife of south-central Massachusetts and learn more about Opacum Land Trust’s plans for 2025 and beyond.

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

**About Opacum Land Trust:**

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

## Polish Plate Dinner March 22

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Polish Plate Dinner—four Pierogi, one Golabek, Kielbasa, Kapusta and Rye Bread—will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, MA.

Eat In or Take Out. Tickets at \$20 per plate are available by calling: Maria Kowalski at 413-

222-6229, Irena Wurszt at 413-427-5846 or the Parish Office Monday through Wednesday, 3 to 6 p.m. at 413-543-3627

There are also options for the following:

Frozen Polish Food Sale (Golabki (3) \$12, Kapusta (Large) \$10.

Pierogi (Cabbage & Potato & Cheese) \$14, (Sweet Cheese, Blueberry) \$15.

## Three Rivers Fire Dep. stops chimney fire



THREE RIVERS – Three Rivers Fire Department was toned out late Friday night for smoke conditions in the vicinity of Bourne Street.

Upon arrival crews determined that there was a working chimney fire. Personnel quickly initiated rooftop and interior operations to stop the fire. Three Rivers Fire Department requested assistance from Palmer Fire Department, which responded with Tower 161. Units from both departments were



on the scene until shortly after midnight. Three Rivers Fire Department would like to remind residents of the importance of regular chimney cleanings and maintenance.

### CLERK | from page 1

1920s or ‘30s, how to handle a birth certificate that has a middle initial instead of a name, and many questions asking the clerk, “how would you answer?”

“Large cities and towns probably deal with some of that stuff all the time, but I’m so glad that I went through because I may have never learned. Some of those questions were things I may have otherwise never have thought

about, so it was a great learning experience just to take the test.”

Clerks taking the test must sign an affidavit that they will take the test alone and won’t seek help from any outside parties. Fagerstrom said that the ethical portion was very important to her.

“I had about two and a half weeks to do it,” Fagerstrom said. “You can’t say it’s ‘open book’ because there is no book, just Massachusetts General Law, we’re reading that and going back and forth and trying to find the answers.”

Fagerstrom was able to


get a nearly-perfect score at 96.4%. She said that taking the test was a learning experience in itself, providing her a number of single questions that may never have otherwise come up.

“In the clerk’s office, you never know who’s going to walk through the door and what question they’re going to ask, what their need is,” Fagerstrom said. “On the spot learning – that’s what I think I’ve done – I think it’s great, but it’s not so much getting your feet wet as getting thrown into a lake. I must have been learning enough each year, because we had a

really successful election year in ‘24, even in the local election we had over 800 ballots cast.”

“It’s been fun,” Fagerstrom said. “I think the most important part is I inherited a great crew of coworkers that have been here for many years and just accepted me with open arms, and I’m just so grateful.”

If you would like to congratulate the Town Clerk on her new certification, you can visit her at Town Hall at 21 Main St.



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# SPORTS

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## Pioneers win first-ever state tournament game



Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball in play.

PALMER – For the first time since the MIAA changed tournament formats, Pathfinder Regional High School girls basketball won a matchup in the Division 5 State Tournament. Last Tuesday evening, the Pioneers defeated Boston United 47-36. Megan Clark had a huge game with 24 points. Addison Doktor had 17 points and Greenly Lagimoniere scored six points. The Pioneers moved into the Round of 32 after that. Highlights from that game will be in next week’s edition.

Taylor Allen heads into the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere gets ready to shoot the three-pointer.



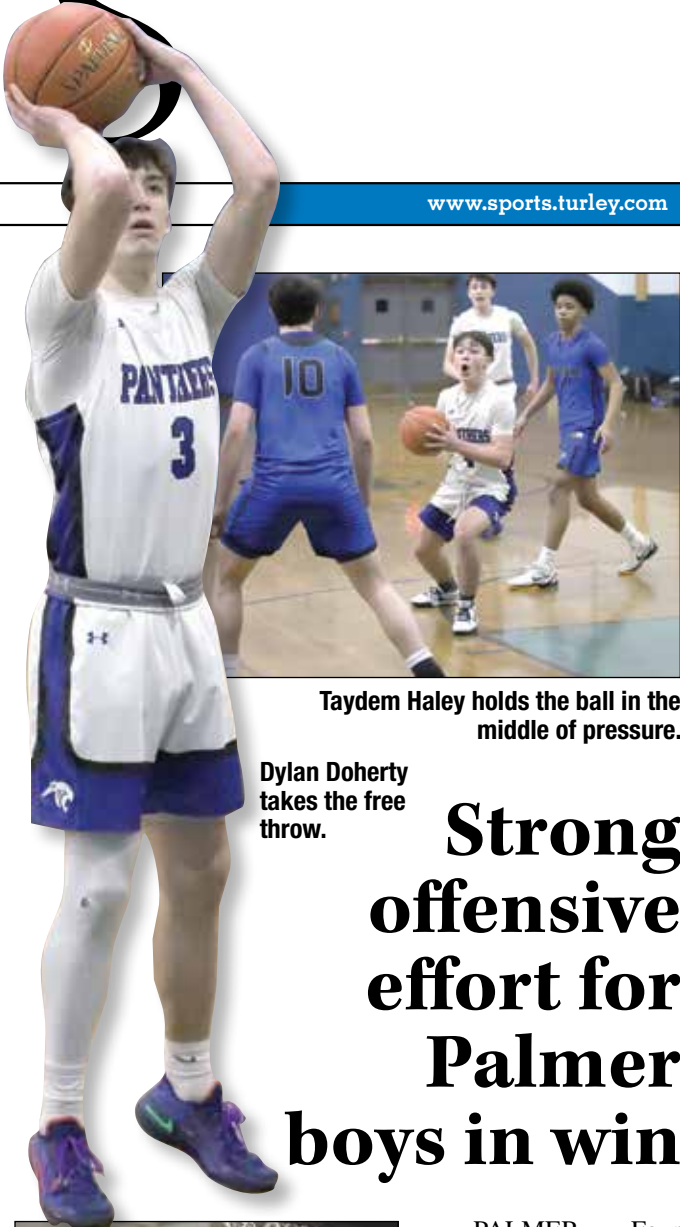
Megan Clark tries to get control of the loose ball.



Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop as she drives the lane.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Ciam Green gets ready to receive a pass.



Taydem Haley holds the ball in the middle of pressure.

Dylan Doherty takes the free throw.

## Strong offensive effort for Palmer boys in win

PALMER – Four different Panthers scored in double digits and the Palmer High School boys basketball team turned back Holbrook in the Round of 32 of the Division 5 State Tournament. Matt Santos led the way with 25 points while Stephen Fredette turned in 14 points. Dylan Doherty scored 13 while Gavin Smola added 12 points. Palmer was scheduled to face English High School of Boston in the Round of 16 earlier this week.

Stephen Fredette attempts to bring in a rebound.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



The Palmer defense attempts to guard the Holbrook offense.



Photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com  
Madigan Graves-Harrison runs interference against the New Mission offense

## Mustangs gets win in Round of 32

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Phenomenal, excellent, great, magnificent, awesome, remarkable, and first-rate.

Those are only a few adjectives that can describe the performance of Monson senior forward Olivia Chrzan in the final home game of her varsity basketball career.

Chrzan recorded a triple-double leading the

12th-seeded Lady Mustangs to a 69-45 victory over the 21st-seeded New Mission Lady Titians, in a Division 5 state tournament game held at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

“Olivia is a great athlete and a great kid. It was a very special performance, and I can’t speak more highly of her,” said first-year Monson head coach Alyssa Darling,

## Panthers score upset in state tourney opener



Jayda Pardo keeps hold of the ball.



Anabelle Ladue reaches out to try and get the rebound.

PALMER – Last Tuesday night, Palmer found itself down 14-2 after just one quarter and the offense was struggling to get shots off. But the defense stepped up and closed down rival Ware’s offense and the Panthers squeezed by the Indians 39-38 in the preliminary round of the Division 5 State Tournament. Palmer and Ware matched up in the tournament last year in the Round of 32 with Palmer scoring a win. Palmer moved into this year’s Round of 32 and was scheduled to face Hoosac Valley.

Harper Brouillette makes her way down the court.



Loretta Petraszewicz looks to make a pass.



Addyson Petraszewicz gets the open layup.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli







# Auburn co-op wins state tourney matchup with Beverly

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN—The Auburn hockey team only lost one match at the Horgan Skating Arena during the regular season. The Rockets began the Division 2 state tournament by celebrating another home victory in the round of 32.

The score was tied, 1-1, with a little more than four minutes remaining in the second period when the eighth-seeded Rockets scored back-to-back power-play goals. The home team added two more goals in the third period leading to a 5-1 win over the 25<sup>th</sup>-seeded Beverly Panthers before a large crowd, last Wednesday night.

“There is always a great environment whenever we play here,” said Auburn junior Nathan Dono, who contributed with a goal and two assists in the round of 32 victory. “We’ve qualified for the state tournament during the past couple of years, so we do have a lot of postseason experience. It’s a very good feeling winning another game in the state tournament.”

Since the MIAA changed the postseason format in 2021, Auburn now has a 4-3 record in the Division 2 state tournament. They’ve also posted a 57-27-1 overall record since the start of the 2021-22 regular season.

Dono is one of the seven players listed on the Auburn varsity hockey roster that attend Tantasqua Regional High School. The other six players from Tantasqua are Nathan’s older brother, Austin, who’s a senior captain, junior captain Ethan Laplante, junior Jake Tully, junior Max Sealey, sophomore Daniel Miedona, and freshman Trevor Resener.

“It has been an awesome experience playing for this hockey team during the past three years,” Laplante said. “I grew up playing youth hockey with the guys from Auburn and everyone gets along with each very well. We just want to make it as far as we can in this year’s state tournament.”

Auburn, who also co-ops with Millbury High School and Shepherd Hill, has been co-oping with Tantasqua for more than ten years.

Last Wednesday’s match was very memorable

for Nathan Dono, who assisted on the go-ahead goal in the second period. He then scored an unassisted goal eight seconds later, which was his 100<sup>th</sup> career point.

“I definitely wanted to reach the milestone in tonight’s game, but I’m very glad that we were able to win the game,” Dono said. “I have to give a lot of the credit to my teammates, especially my linemates.”

The Dono brothers are members of the Rockets first line, along with Ethan McDermott, who’s also a senior captain.

“My brother and I have been members of the Auburn hockey team for the past three years now,” Nathan Dono said. “It has been a great experience playing with him. We really want to keep our season going as long as possible for the seniors.”

According to Auburn hockey coach Glen Bombard, Nathan Dono is the first Auburn hockey player to reach 100 career points since 2007.

“I don’t believe we’ve had a player reach 100 career points since 2007, so it’s an awesome accomplishment for Nate,” said Bombard, who’ll be retiring from coaching at the end of this season. “He’s a very hard worker. He plays on the same line as his older brother, and they feed off each other. We played very well in tonight’s game.”

Bombard, who was a goalie when he played for the Auburn hockey team, formed a very good relationship with LaPlante.

“I’ve built a very good bond with coach Bombard,” LaPlante said. “It’ll be strange not having him on the bench next year, but he always wants us to do our best.”

LaPlante is also a catcher for the Warriors varsity baseball team. He normally starts whenever left-hander Miles Blake is on the mound.

“I love catching for Miles,” LaPlante said. “He’s always working very hard to become a better pitcher.”

At this time next year, Blake will be playing Division 1 college baseball at Northeastern University.

The Tantasqua varsity baseball coach is Jon Leroux, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Auburn High School. Marcus Backlin, who’s the Warriors AD, was a member of the Auburn

hockey team when he was in high school.

The only hockey team to beat Auburn (17-3-1) on their home ice this season was Nashoba Regional, who pulled out a 5-4 overtime victory on January 22. The Rockets then closed out the regular season with an 8-0-1 record. The tie was against Mansfield, 3-3 at Horgan on February 8.

Auburn is looking to capture the state title for the first time since 1973. They were also state champions in 1968.

The Rockets took a 1-0 lead against the Panthers (10-9-2) at 2:09 of the first period following a goal by McDermott, which was assisted by senior Aidan Caron.

The Panthers fans, who made the long trek from the North Shore, had something to cheer about when junior Matt Rice scored a power-play goal at 8:57 of the second period.

Laplante, who’s been the Rockets starting goalie since he was a freshman, didn’t see very much action after that, as he was credited with 14 saves.

Less than a minute later, Beverly sophomore Anthony Barror was sent to the box with a five minute major following a slashing penalty.

With 4:24 left in the second period, the Rockets retook the lead following a power-play goal by senior Landon Connor.

Because it was a major penalty, Auburn’s power-play lasted the entire five minutes.

Nathan Dono made a little bit of history by scoring a goal eight seconds later.

“I was skating down the ice and I saw an opening,” he said. “I took a shot and scores a goal. It felt very good.”

Austin Dono added his name to the scoring column with a goal with less than four minutes remaining in regulation. The goal was assisted by his younger brother and McDermott.

Connor capped off the scoring for the Rockets with an unassisted goal a minute later.

The Rockets were scheduled to host the ninth-seeded Whitman-Hanson Regional (14-4-3), who are also nicknamed the Panthers, in the round of 16, last Saturday night.

# T-Birds take the win in a shootout over Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-19-2-4) dispatched 2-0 and 3-2 deficits en route to a 4-3 shootout win over the Providence Bruins (30-17-4-2) on Saturday night at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The game’s scoring began with a flurry in the final three minutes of a first period that had been quiet until that point. Vadim Zherenko had a tremendous highlight-reel moment past the period’s midpoint as he stretched out the right leg to make a breakaway save on a Vinni Lettieri backhand bid.

Providence, though, got back to work and took advantage of a 5-on-3 situation when Oliver Wahlstrom beat Zherenko as the first penalty expired to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 17:04. Wahlstrom’s goal marked his first in the AHL in nearly five years, as he was playing his first game in the league since March 11, 2020.

The Bruins lead grew to 2-0 just two minutes later as Riley Tuftie crashed the net to tip a Patrick Brown centering attempt by the skate of Zherenko. In the process, however, Tuftie was penalized for interference on Zherenko after the puck crossed the line.

While Tuftie’s goal stood, the T-Birds’ power play got a pivotal answer with just 12 seconds left in the first as Dalibor Dvorsky snapped a five-game goal drought with a

sizzling wrister from the right circle off a cross-seam pass from Nikita Alexandrov.

The Springfield power play continued its potent night just 2:07 into the second period, as Matthew Peca deflected a Matt Luff snapper past Michael DiPietro to tie the game, 2-2. Peca’s goal tied his career-high in a single season (23) and tied Adam Gaudette for the longest goal-scoring streak in team history, as the captain has tallied a goal in six straight contests.

The Bruins generated most of the chances the remainder of the middle frame, but Zherenko stood firm in his crease, turning aside all 17 Providence attempts to carry the 2-2 game into the final period.

Tuftie made things difficult on the T-Birds again when he broke in and beat Zherenko on a forehand chip shot 22 seconds into the final period, restoring the Providence lead to 3-2.

From that point onward, though, Zherenko made sure the home team would not get any insurance, keeping the deficit at a single goal. After getting a clutch penalty kill with less than 3:30 remaining in regulation, Corey Andonovski picked a fantastic time to net his first goal as a T-Bird. The newly acquired winger stopped at the bottom of the left circle and proved to be in the perfect spot as a MacKenzie MacEachern rebound

off DiPietro’s pads found his stick. Andonovski snapped it by DiPietro, setting the stage for Springfield’s third straight overtime game.

The visitors carried the play in the extra session with five of the six shots on net, but DiPietro fended off each bid, including a breakaway effort by Luff. For a third straight contest, the game advanced to a shootout. After neither team converted on the netminders in the first two rounds, Tanner Dickinson finally elevated a backhandler under the crossbar to give Springfield the edge. Needing a goal from John Farinacci to extend the shootout, the Bruins got just that, as the centerman faked beautifully to the backhand side and forced a fourth round.

Alexandrov had his chance at redemption after coming up short on a game-winning attempt on Friday, and the T-Birds’ jack-of-all-trades made a magnificent backhand-to-forehand maneuver to beat DiPietro. Tuftie was unsuccessful in his bid to solve Zherenko in the bottom of the round, and the T-Birds completed their comeback and victory. Zherenko finished the night with 42 saves in regulation and overtime, followed by three saves on four shootout attempts. In defeat, DiPietro stopped 31 attempts in 65 minutes before the shootout.

## The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

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

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Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours.  
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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

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| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Cut a little bit off

5. State with confidence

11. River in NE Scotland

14. Not narrow

15. Lacking social polish

16. Amount of time

17. Frame

19. Automobile

20. Toadstools

21. High school dances

22. Utilize

23. Challenged

25. One-sided

27. Showing extreme greed

31. Potted plants

34. Everyone has one

35. Lake in Botswana

38. E.T. rode in one

39. Juniors' parents

41. Small amount

42. Mother of Perseus

44. Ornamental box

45. Gov't investigators

46. Uncertain

49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

51. The vast grassy plains in S. America

55. Your consciousness of your own identity

56. Noted consumer advocate

60. Spanish sports club

61. Body part

62. Tractability

64. Woman (French)

65. Ready and willing to be taught

5. A number everyone has

6. Marine invertebrate

7. One who takes you to court

8. Indicates outer

9. Parallelograms

10. Strains

11. Cross

12. A way to remove

13. Some pages are dog—

18. Ukraine city

24. A citizen of Denmark

26. Summer month (abbr.)

28. Hindu queens

29. Jewelry brand

30. Fictional rider of Rohan

31. Wet dirt

32. Russian city

33. Observed

36. Furious

37. Drivers' licenses

39. Musical composition

40. Auction

43. They —

45. Women

47. Inspire with love

48. Japanese ankle sock

49. Appears

50. Old World lizard

52. The leading performer

53. Type of protein

54. Pennsylvania town

57. Art —: around 1920

58. — Blyton, children's author

59. Abnormal breathing

63. A place to sleep

66. Muslim ruler title

67. Depressed

68. Gradually gave way

69. Clear-thinking

**Nat Falk offers best men's clothing for 88 years**

Nat Falk has been in business for more than 88 years, offering the best in men's clothing along with personalized service at competitive prices.

The business was started by Max Falk in 1936, with his son, Nat, becoming the owner in 1977, and his son, Charlie, taking over in 1999.

Since then, Charlie has continued the tradition of the store, offering free alterations for men's clothing in the store with prices of value for the money.

Nat Falk offers customer service that is second to none while still offering prices that are in line with the market.

The store's motto is "The best in men's clothing for the best in men's clothing." Nat Falk is proud to be a part of the community and to offer the best in men's clothing for the best in men's clothing.

Charlie Falk is the owner of Nat Falk, which has been in business for 88 years at 64 Main Street, Ware, MA 01095.

**THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS**

is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a reduced rate!

- Business profile - 250 words
- Photo - yourself, employees or building
- Advertisement - 3 column x 6"

**ALL FOR ONLY \$275**

This special section will run in the April 3rd issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News.

**Ad deadline: March 19, 2025**

Quarter page ad with story (4.75"x8") \$275  
Half page ad with story (9.75"x8") \$460  
Full page ad with story (9.75"x15.75") \$650

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# Public notices

## Town of Wales Notice of Public Hearing

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

02/27, 03/06/2025

## Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance M.G. L Chapter 40A the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, Thursday March 27th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Strum’s Construction Service for a variance from the requirements of §3.2, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a variance for an installed sign that violates the required setbacks. The property is in the General Commercial zone and is located at 494 Boston Road West, Map 1 and Parcel 002B. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Vice Chairman  
03/06, 03/13/2025

## TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FY2025 Community Development Block Grant

The Palmer Community Development Department will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 5:30 PM in the meeting room of the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA. If the building is closed due to inclement weather or for any other reason on that date, the Public Hearing will be held on the next night Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the same time and location.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to solicit input relative to the development and submission of a grant application under the FY 25 CDBG Program. The CDBG Program is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) through the use of federal funds under the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 as amended.

Projects currently under consideration for inclusion in Palmer’s FY 25 application include public works improvements to areas within the Three Rivers section of the town. Streets that may be part of the improvements include Park Avenue, Front Street and Kelly Street. Public social services will also be considered as part of the grant application and may include domestic violence prevention services and transportation assistance. The town is also considering a planning initiative that will conduct a conditions survey throughout the core area of Three Rivers for the purpose of determining if the area qualifies as “slum and blighted.” The designation will allow the Town to apply for funding critical to revitalizing the area.

All persons and organizations with questions or comments will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail written comments to the Town of Palmer, Community Development Director, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069, or may be emailed to [communitydevelopment@townofpalmer.com](mailto:communitydevelopment@townofpalmer.com). Written comments must be received no later than March 31, 2025. For further information, contact John Latour Palmer Community Development Director (413) 283-2614 or email, [jlatour@townofpalmer.com](mailto:jlatour@townofpalmer.com).

Persons who require accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact the Town of Palmer Community Development Office at least two business days before the hearing.  
03/06/2025

## MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Elyzza F. Blatchley to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated October 27, 2017 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 21921, Page 7, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24349, Page 524, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25319, Page 491 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on March 20, 2025 at 70 Ruggles Street, Palmer (Three Rivers), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

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

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

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

thence easterly in a line parallel with said first mentioned

line, one hundred (100) feet to said Ruggles Street;

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

This conveyance is made subject to the conditions and restrictions described in deed of Charles E. Collins, Trustee, to Charles H. Giroux, dated April 11, 1912, and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 843, Page 397. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,

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

## MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessor’s Parcel No: M:0067 L:000022

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

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder shall be required to make a deposit of \$10,000.00 to the holder of said Mortgage, in cash or by certified or bank cashier’s check at the time and place of said sale of said premises. The balance of the purchase

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of the Truman 2021 SC9 Title Trust,

By its Attorneys,  
CUNNINGHAM, MACHANIC, CETLIN,  
JOHNSON, HARNEY & TENNEY, LLP  
220 North Main Street,  
Suite 301  
Natick, MA 01760  
(508) 651-7524  
02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate  
and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P0410EA  
Estate of:  
Mitchell Garabedian  
Date of Death: 12/29/2024  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Karen M Baglio of Marlborough, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/27/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: February 27, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
03/06/2025

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



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# Oliveira named chair of the Joint Committee

Labor and Workforce Development and appointed to Senate Ways and Means

BOSTON—Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) has been appointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development for the 194th General Court by Senate President Karen Spilka. The appointment places him at the helm of shaping policies that impact workers’ rights, fair labor practices, and economic opportunity across Massachusetts.

As Chair, Senator Oliveira will lead the commit-

tee in addressing critical issues such as workplace discrimination, wage equity, workers’ compensation, and broader labor laws that affect employees and businesses throughout the Commonwealth. According to Oliveira, his leadership will focus on strengthening workforce protections, expanding job training opportunities, and ensuring all workers are treated fairly under the law.

“Massachusetts must continue to be a leader in protecting workers, expanding economic opportunity, and fostering workplaces free from discrimination and exploitation,” said Senator Oliveira. “As Chair of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee, I am committed to advancing policies that cre-

ate good-paying jobs, protect workers, and support businesses in building a strong and resilient economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues to craft legislation that ensures economic prosperity and fairness for every worker in the Commonwealth.”

In addition, Senator Oliveira has been appointed to serve on the prestigious Senate Committee on Ways and Means. This key role positions him at the forefront of shaping the Commonwealth’s budget and fiscal policies.

“As a member of Senate Ways and Means, I am honored to have the opportunity to help craft a state budget that reflects our values: investing in education, workforce development, infrastructure,

and essential services while maintaining fiscal responsibility,” said Senator Oliveira. “I am grateful to Senate President Spilka for her confidence in me. I look forward to advocating for policies that will improve the quality of life for working families, strengthen our economy, and ensure that Massachusetts remains a leader in innovation and opportunity.”

Senator Oliveira has also been named Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, where he will help oversee legislation related to voting rights, election security, and the democratic process. He will also serve on several other key committees, including:

Joint Committee on Agriculture and

Fisheries  
Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets  
Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
Joint Committee on Financial Services  
Joint Committee on Public Service

“These committee assignments allow me to advocate for policies that matter most to my constituents—ensuring access to good jobs, protecting workers, and fostering a fair and inclusive economy,” Oliveira added. “I am eager to get to work and make meaningful progress for the people of Massachusetts.”

## Veterans eat lunch free at Senior Ctr.

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a home-made lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Public notices

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: NISSAN VIN:1N4AL11D06C268613 Christopher Serra 14 Duggan Cir Springfield, MA; HONDA VIN:3ZCRU6H39JG701186 Losto Properties 99 Chandler ST Worcester, MA; JEEP VIN:1J8H-G48K17C588598 Dawn Dawicki 315 Lower Hampden RD Apt A Monson, MA; NISSAN VIN:3N1CN7AP7CL910175 Jodi Membrino 77 Chestnut Hill RD Millville, MA; NISSAN VIN:3N1BC13E99L377944 Loni Otto 70 West Main ST Ware, MA; CHRYSLER VIN:3CF8Y68B62T270186 Alice Suprenant 316 Amherst RD Pelham, MA; SIERRA VIN:1TT1126B6P1008571 Angie Campos 129 Main St #872 Ashaway, RI; NISSAN VIN:JN1BJ1CR9KW327845 Amanda Brown 44 Gage St Apt 2 Augusta, ME; ACURA VIN:19VDE1F3TDE020455 Eliezer Rodriguez 2175 Plank RD Cheshire, CT; LINCOLN VIN:5LMEU88H74ZJ30175 Edward Libera 39 Bourne St Three Rivers, MA; CHEVY VIN:1GCHK29U93E197403 Gregory Rozkuszka 255 West St Ludlow, MA; CHEVY VIN:2G1WT57K091181374 Ruben Suarez 751 Fairbanks Ave Cincinnati, OH; SUBARU VIN:4S3BMBC69A3246926 Elizabeth Lund 12 Norbell St Three Rivers, MA; MORITZ VIN:4WXBD1721P1046879 Owner: Unknown; DODGE VIN:2B3KA43G76H174241 Gabriel Morales 119 Stafford St Apt 1 Springfield, MA; CHEVY VIN:KL8CA6S98DC594049 John Walt 48 Smithfield Ct Springfield, MA; CHEVY VIN:2GCEK19TX41131357 Raymond Lavalley 3123 Main St Bondsville, MA; NISSAN VIN:1N4BA41E36C812803 Tammy Castagnaro 1021 Baptist Hill Rd Palmer, MA.

This auction is to take place on March 21, 2025 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069 03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0139EA Estate of: Barbara A. Lebida Date of Death: 11/21/2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dorothy Lech of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Dorothy Lech of Palmer, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/06/2025

**Public Notice of Federal Funding: Historic Preservation Fund Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program WITHIN THE TOWNS OF BLANDFORD, GOSHEN, and MONSON (HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS); HADLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, AND WARE (HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS); AND HARDWICK (WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS)**

December 31, 2024

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Pioneer Valley Regional Ventures Center has provided \$650,000 in sub-grants through a competitive selection process for eligible historic preservation projects (Grantees) in the Hampden County Towns of Blandford, Goshen and Monson; the Hampshire County Towns of Hadley, Southamptn, and Ware; and the Worcester County town of Hardwick. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will manage the program. These projects are being supported in part by a grant award by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Historic Preservation Fund Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. For more information, visit go.nps.gov/grants. All properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and work will meet the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*. All activities undertaken on the properties during the grant period, regardless of funding source, are considered part of the Federal undertaking for Section 106 purposes. The Grantees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local procurement laws and requirements for the use of sub-grant funds to complete the projects. In accordance with 2CFR200.318 and MGL c. 149A, the Grantees will conduct a formal procurement process to select a qualified contractor, or contractors, to complete the pre-approved scope of work.

The following entities and properties have received funding: Blandford Historical Society, 4 North Street, Blandford, \$70,000 for roof replacement; Town of Goshen, 42 Main Street, Goshen, \$89,000 for masonry repair, repairs to the main entry stairs, gutter installation, and kitchen ADA compliance; Town of Monson, 198 Main Street, Monson, \$100,000 for interior or plaster repair and painting in the grand hall; Workshop13, 13 Church Street, Ware, \$100,000 for an interior lift to support ADA compliance to the second

floor gallery; Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation, 113 River Drive, Hadley, \$100,000 for planning and stabilization of the Charles Porter Phelps House ell; Town of Southamptn, 8 East Street, Southamptn, \$96,000 for exterior masonry repointing and restoration of the historic main entrance steps; and Town of Hardwick, 32 Common Street, Hardwick, \$95,000 for repairs to the roof, exterior masonry, windows and bell tower, and exterior painting. Funding is intended to support the preservation of National Register-listed historic community anchor buildings and serve as a catalyst for commercial and social activity and greater investment to benefit local economies. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the proposed activity or request further information by contacting Shannon Walsh, Historic Preservation Planner for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 413-657-5052, email swalsh@pvpc.org. 03/06/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Town of Holland, Brimfield, and Wales**

**Public Hearing**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**in the Holland Town Hall**

**27 Sturbridge Road,**

**Holland, MA 01521**

**FY25 Community Development Block Grant Application**

**Proposed FY25 CDBG Application**

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

- Infrastructure Improvement Project(s): Park Rd, Amber Rd, Hill Rd, Lakeview Rd, Brook Rd, Maybrook Rd.
- ADA Municipal Self-Assessment
- Lead applicant on the Brimfield, Holland, and Wales application to include a Housing Rehabilitation Program, and Social Services – Wales Food Pantry.
- Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application.

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

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

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

**MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Norman L. Whitman and W. Alexandra Pietrowski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Popular Financial Services, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated July 9, 2004 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 14336, Page 130, subsequently assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon F/K/A The Bank of New York as Successor Trustee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for The Benefit of The Certificate Holders of Popular ABS, Inc. Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-5 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Popular Financial Services, LLC, by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19866, Page 197, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Trustee for The NRZ Pass-Through Trust IX-B by The Bank of New York Mellon F/K/A The Bank of New York as Successor Trustee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for The Benefit of The Certificate Holders of Popular ABS, Inc. Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-5 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22854, Page 28, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-NPL2 by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee of NRZ Pass-Through Trust IX-B by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 23957, Page 411, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-NPL2 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25305, Page 135 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on March 13, 2025** at 198 Union Road, Wales, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: the real estate located in said Wales on the westerly side of Union Road about one quarter (1/4) of a mile northerly of the Holland Stafford Road, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the westerly line of Union Road, six hundred twenty (620) feet southerly, measuring along said westerly line, from a stone fence at land now or formerly of William Braman, and thence running S. 2° 05’ E. two hundred (200) feet along said Union Road to an iron pin; thence turning and running S. 80° 55’ W. two hundred eighty (280) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running N. 2° 05’ W. two hundred (200) feet to an

iron pin; thence turning and running N. 80° 55’ E. two hundred eighty (280) feet to the point of BEGINNING, the last three courses being along land now or formerly of Julius A. Aarons et ux.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of said Mortgage,

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court**

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## HELP WANTED

**Executive Director for Community Survival Center**  
in Indian Orchard  
Resume and references to **survivalcenterio@gmail.com**  
Need experience in Management, Public Outreach, and Social Media  
Four-day work week; 5 weeks vacation; 5 days sick/personal time; holidays \$60,000 salary

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

## HELP WANTED

**Worthington Police Department**  
**Full-time Police Officer**

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

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

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

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.  
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Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to four fire calls and 19 emergency medical calls for the week of Feb. 24-March 2.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8:01 a.m., the department responded to Stafford Road for a motor vehicle crash, and returned to service at 8:23 a.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8:56 a.m., the department responded to Cote Road for a CO alarm activation, and returned to service at 9:23 a.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 27 at 11:07 p.m., the department responded to Hospital Road for a public assist, and returned to service at 11:33 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:04 p.m., the department responded to Moulton Hill Road for a fire alarm activation, and returned to service at 7:35 p.m.

UMASS Amherst opens registration for annual 5K Dash and Dine

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

UMass Dining’s focus is on quality ingredients and meals, customer service, student health and wellness, customization options and appreciation of global influences. Over the past 13 years, UMass Dining has raised over \$50,000 that has been proudly donated to the Amherst Survival Center. It is with the help of all donors, runners and

walkers of the UMass 5K Dash & Dine that this run can continue its legacy every year.

Schedule of events:  
9 a.m. – Check-in at the Southwest Horseshoe  
10 a.m. – Free Fun Run for children 8 years old and under  
11 a.m. – Race begins  
11:30 a.m. – Award ceremony  
Noon – Lunch in Berkshire Dining Commons

The race fee is \$15 for all Five-College students, \$25 for UMass Amherst faculty and staff, and \$30 for the general public. Children 8 years old and under are free to participate. The race fee includes registration, and a complimentary meal at the uni-

versity’s award-winning dining facilities in the Berkshire Dining Commons.

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

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

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

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

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

**PET PAGE**

**ATTENTION READERS!**

Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: [jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet’s name.



PET OF THE MONTH  
Meet Dakota



Dakota is a 3 year old Boxer, Rottweiler mix. She enjoys playing ball. She is a cuddler and jokester! Her favorite food is whatever dad pulls out of his lunch bag (and he always makes sure there are leftovers). She lives in Palmer with Jamie, Megan, Mike and Emma Chevalier



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**NEW IN MARCH**

- At Post Office Park in Wilbraham  
Every Saturday Beginning March 8th  
12 noon - Pack Walk  
1:30 p.m - Basic Obedience & Socialization  
(Both Weather Permitting)
- At Pathfinder Regional Voc/Tech High School in Palmer  
Beginning March 20th  
- Basics of Obedience 6 Week Course  
Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m  
- Canine Good Citizenship AKC Certified Course  
Thursdays 6:45-7:45 p.m  
Register Online through Pathfinder



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The Benefits of  
Working With a  
Professional Dog Trainer

If you’ve been trying to train at home and find that your goals and expectations aren’t coming true, consider reaching out for help. There’s nothing quite like working with a professional in the field! Research shows that well-trained dogs are 50% less likely to develop problems such as aggression, anxiety, or destructive behavior. This statistic alone highlights how training can lead to a more harmonious existence for pets and their families. Here are just some of the many benefits of working with a certified professional trainer.

**Customized Programs:** Every dog has a unique personality and individual needs that a professional trainer has been taught to look for. They can then tailor a personalized training program that will benefit your dog specifically.

**Problem Solving Recommendations:** If your at-home training plan and goals aren’t working out, a certified trainer can help you understand why. Then, they steer you in the right direction about what your next steps should be.

**Supportive Environment:** Experienced professional trainers are empathetic towards your struggles and goals. They understand that training your dog should be a fun and beneficial experience for both of you. They’re non-judgmental and just here to help!

**Socialization:** Early exposure to various environments, people, and other animals can lead to better-adjusted dogs. The ideal time for socialization is between 3 and 14 weeks of age when puppies are most receptive to new experiences.

**Building a Strong Bond:** Training is not just about commands and obedience; it’s also about strengthening the bond with your dog. Dogs that participate in regular training sessions show increased trust and attachment to their owners. This bond can lead to a happier, more fulfilling relationship for the dog and the owner.

Training plays an indispensable role in a dog’s overall growth and development. The benefits of training are far-reaching, from improving behavior and social skills to enhancing the bond with their owners.



**ELDOTC**  
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# Celebrating the Figure

Local Non-profit cultural arts and learning center seeks fine art in celebration of the human figure

WARE — ArtWorks Gallery invites artists from throughout the northeastern US to celebrate the human figure in the upcoming 4th Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition. As in previous years, this show focuses on the realistic interpretation of the human figure and is open to all forms of applied mediums, sculpture, and printmaking. Photography and electronic media are not accepted mediums for this exhibition.

The deadline for entry is Wednesday, March 19th, by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on [workshop13.org](#). ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main Street in Ware, MA. The 4th Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition will be on display from April 19th through May 25th, opening with a reception on Saturday, April 19th, from 3-5pm. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm. Currently on display at ArtWorks Gallery is Infrared Obsessions, an exhibition of infrared photography by Bruce Arnold, which is on display from March 1st - March 30th.



Liza Moser at work on Yet We Sleep We Dream.

The juror for the 4th Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition is Eliza Moser. Moser is a contemporary realist painter from Springfield, Massachusetts. She is a part of the recent “atelier movement,” a contemporary group of artists whose technique is focused on reviving classical realist methods of painting; her work is at once an homage to classical aesthetics, while simultaneously incorporating elements of contemporary expression. In 2012 Eliza’s first oil painting was accepted into the Academic Artists Association’s 62nd National Exhibition, receiving the Academic Council Award. She was the youngest artist to ever have been accepted into the annual exhibition at that time. Since then, her work has been shown in various local and national exhibitions, such as at the 2013 Alpine Fellowship in

Switzerland and at the Guild of Boston Artists 2018 Regional Exhibition. She graduated from the Florence Academy of Art in 2016, and in 2023 she opened Eliza Moser Fine Art, an Art Studio and Gallery in the downtown of South Hadley, Massachusetts.

**About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13:**

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

# Kids Enjoy Free Entry for Two Months at OSV

STURBRIDGE—Old Sturbridge Village invites families and friends to step back in time and celebrate the changing seasons with the exciting announcement of their Kids Free Standard Daytime Admission Promotion, beginning March 1 through April 30, 2025.

During this springtime offer, up to two children, aged 17 years old or younger, will be admitted for free with each adult full price standard daytime admission ticket.

Spring is a time of renewal at Old Sturbridge Village, and visitors will witness history in motion—preparing fields for planting, potters shaping clay, blacksmiths making tools, and costumed historians sharing daily life in the 1830s. Guests can also meet heritage breed animals, participate in hands-on crafts (weekends only), and explore households and shops that bring the past to life.

In addition to the daily experiences, the Village will feature special events

and themed programming in March, including:

**Maple Days – Now through March 9**

Discover the traditional craft of maple sugaring and enjoy sweet treats from our gift shops. See the entire sugar-making process, from tapping the trees to “sugaring off,” and learn why maple sugar was more commonly used than maple syrup in early New England. Costumed historians will also cook period foods made with maple products and the tinner and cooper will make maple-related items.

**Celtic Celebration – March 15 & 16**

Celebrate cultural heritage through music, dance, storytelling, and poetry. Enjoy fiddle tunes, a demonstration of the bagpipes, and music by Celtic musicians. Watch a step dancing performance by the Lee Irish Dance School (Saturday only), and so much more.

“At Old Sturbridge Village, we believe that history

should be both immersive and engaging,” said Chris Tieri, Chief Marketing Officer at Old Sturbridge Village. “This special offer allows families to step away from screens, embrace the beauty of spring, and create lasting memories while exploring our living history museum.”

To maximize savings, visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance, with an additional \$3.00 discount compared to door prices. Full details and tickets are available at <https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/>.

The Kids Free March and April offer applies to standard daytime admission only and does not include field trips or special ticketed events.

Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday–Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. in March and extends to 5 p.m. starting April 2.

A full schedule of upcoming events can be found at [www.osv.org/events-experiences/calendar](https://www.osv.org/events-experiences/calendar).

# HBRA of Western Mass, celebrate 70th “Original” WMass Home & Garden Show

REGION—With anticipation of Home Improvements trends continuing to be high in 2025, according to HIRI (Home Improvement Research Institute), the Home Show has two buildings of home improvement companies that will be on hand to show, tell demonstrate and advise the thousands of homeowners expected to attend the Home & Garden Show scheduled to run from March 27th-30th.

Andrew Crane, Executive Director of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western MA, said the show vendors will be busy building displays and setting up products and samples that will help homeowners gain more insight and a better understanding of the options available to them for their next home improvement project.

Andrew said that this

year’s show will provide friends and family with a chance to explore various product lines in an interactive environment where they can see and touch the products, receive advice from vendors, and connect with installers and contractors who may be involved in their next project.

“Our objective is to provide a venue with multiple vendors and a robust representation of products under one roof. This show will help homeowners minimize the time it can take to decide on the best products and remove frustrations that can come with trying to meet and decide on who will provide the services.”

It can be difficult to know where to start when taking on home repairs, improvements or building from scratch. The show vendors are reputable and will be able to display and

discuss work they’ve done as well as have a one-on-one conversation with the homeowner about their specific needs.

The Western Mass Home & Garden Show website has a full list of current vendors and is being updated daily. Looking at the list will allow attendees the opportunity to plan their time at the show by deciding in advance who they want to meet and talk with. “This is such a time saver compared to traditional methods of calling and setting up individual appointments. Many people feel more comfortable meeting with a few vendors before deciding, doing this at the Home Show can save weeks and weeks of time”

A coupon offering a discount for entry is available on the Western Mass Home & Garden Show website.

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## 2025 Fly Fishing Expo

Hosted by: Western Mass. Fly Fishermen  
Established in 1971

**Monday, March 17th**  
**6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Speaker at 7:30 p.m.  
Ludlow Elks Lodge 69 Chapin Stree, Ludlow, Mass  
**ADMISSION: \$8.00; Free for children under 12 years**

**Guest Speaker: Harrison Anglers!**

We target trout, pike, shad and smallmouth bass on the rivers on Western Mass and Southern VT.

We'll focus on our winter fisheries but will discuss our warm water options as well.

**Exhibitors:** Fly rod builders, fly fishing/material vendors. Mass State and Wildlife experts, other related exhibitors, and WMFF member demonstrating fly tying.

**Giant Raffle:** Many fishing items, a complete fly-tying kit. Bucket raffles for custom tied flies. Door prize is a fly rod combo.

**Refreshments/Food for sale**

**Mention where you saw this advertisement or show your WMFF membership card and get \$1.00 off your admission**

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