

**COMMUNITY****Pet of the week: meet Willie**

Page 2

**ENTREPRENEURS****Local brothers make maple syrup**

Page 7

**SPORTS****Palmer girls beat Ware**

Page 9

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MONSON

Fire Dept. Renovations cause havoc

By Harrison Giza
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MONSON – Project managers and public safety officials updated the Monson Select Board on the renovation efforts at the fire department.

Project Manager Rebecca Hopkins, who works for Tecton Architects, and Tecton's Director of Public Safety Jeffery McElravy, presented estimate results to the board.

"The approved project budget was \$6.6 million," Hopkins said. "We did also in addition to this have monies previously approved for immediate improvements. The scope of that work was just consolidated into this project so that is not reflected here in those numbers so that would be above and beyond if the town was leveraging those funds. With that being said, that \$6.6 million turned into a \$10.8 million resulting total project cost estimates. And just a reminder from a total project cost standpoint here we are looking at three different buckets of money within that total budget that includes the hard construction costs to build, you know, the brick and mortar of the building. It also includes project development soft costs and fees and testing that is required to compete that work as well as contingency."

Their colleague, Robert Todisco talked about the issues with the design.

"Should it be wood frame should it be steel frame?" said Todisco, "With white gauge metal... all these questions pre-finished materials revisiting the program, shrinking the building, revisiting some of the older options that were studied or highly potential of exploring an entirely new option I think potentially bypassing a value engineering exercise and really more of a redesign... we have to look at those really hard decisions about the program and the priorities of the building so our recommendation or our summary of the response was the team just simply needs the time to go back and revisit the building's priorities."

Select Board Vice Chair John Morrell advised the board to put the project on hold.

"Yeah, I think we've got to be

MONSON | page 6

COMMUNITY

Chamber of Commerce recognized by State Officials for outstanding service

By Marcelo Gusmão
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THREE RIVERS – Last week, the Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual dinner at Villa Rose.

On Thursday evening, Feb. 29, members of the chamber and their guests were treated to a delicious meal of steak, chicken, or fish, while getting to know other members and business leaders from the community.

After dinner, a meeting was conducted by the chamber's President, Matthew Lemieux, during which he received reports on the chamber's business.

"Our investments are doing really well," said Vice President Carol Seaver. "We have three fairs this year, two in the summer, one, I believe, was at the end of September."

John Sasur reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, announcing the nominations of 13 directors and four trustees as per the group's bylaws. When there were no nominations put forth from the floor, Lemieux closed the nominations.

Following the meeting, State Representative Todd Smola and Senator Jake Oliveira presented the chamber with a joint resolution from the House and Senate congratulating the chamber for decades of dedicated service to the Palmer area.

"A resolution is different than a citation, because it actually gets read into the record of the Massachusetts legislature in the House and Senate," Smola said. "As a result of this legislation that Senator Oliveira and I have passed, we now make (Three Rivers) part of the history books of the commonwealth."

Smola shared a story about former State Rep. Tom Petrolati, who would refer to him as "the gentleman from Three Rivers" when he called on him in the House of Representatives, which resulted in some of Smola's colleagues asking where on earth Three Rivers was.

"I had to explain to those big important people from Eastern Massachusetts that we actually have villages out in Western Massachusetts, and that Three Rivers was a village in Palmer," Smola said.

He went on to say that after getting married and moving to the town of Warren, he is still referred to as "the gentleman formerly of Three Rivers," and that this has



State Representative Todd Smola and Senator Jake Oliveira presented Chamber President Matthew Lemieux with a recognition from the House and Senate.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

caused the village to be mentioned in the House's records every time he does.

Lemieux also provided information about membership to the

assembled guests.

"We do have two levels of membership, in case anybody doesn't know," Lemieux said. "There is a business membership

for \$50, or a personal membership for \$25. The personal membership can be anybody that wants to do

CHAMBER | page 8

MONSON

Select Board recognizes local heroes

By Harrison Giza
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MONSON – First responders involved in a Jan. 23 emergency were recognized at the Monson Select Board meeting last week.

In attendance was Police Lieutenant Nicholas Gasperini who was then asked to recite a letter detailing a recent Monson Law Enforcement interaction.

"Members of the Select Board, I'd like to bring to your attention to the call from Jan. 23, 2024," said Gasperini. "I'd like to recognize the following Monson Police Department members: Chief Kozloski, Sergeant Jane Bailey, Officer Donald Emerson, and Detective Derek Bedard for their actions on this call. I'd also like to recognize the following members of the Monson Fire Department; chief Brian Harris, Paramedic Captain Lisa Hamill, Paramedic Dave Martin who was off duty at the time, EMT Amber Duby, EMT Samantha Shrewsbury, and EMT Kyle McCurry for their actions on this call. I'd also like to thank members of WESTCOMM Regional Dispatch Center; Dispatcher Christina Jenkins who was the initial call taker, Jared Boudreau who was the Fire Department Dispatcher, and Colin Sass who was the Police Dispatcher, as well as Emily Bozenhard who is also a Police Dispatcher, for the prompt handling and dispatching of the 911 call."

Gasperini then broke down what happened that day for the Select Board attendees.

He said dispatch received an emergency call for a five-year-old male. He required an AED as several shocks were administered. Gasperini recognized all those who were involved in the successful effort to help the individual.

"Without all the effort of these individuals that I named that this individual wouldn't be here today and Chief Harris was able to confirm that he was able to walk out of the hospital," Gasperini said.

Gasperini then took time to advertise more local events happening. He first discussed a polar plunge event.

"We're doing a polar plunge this year with the Monson Police Association and the Monson Fire Department March 16, he said.

HEROES | page 3

COMMUNITY

No solution yet for Monson Developmental Center property



Turley photo Marcelo Gusmao.

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – The Monson Developmental Center property is an ongoing project that the town has been looking to develop through collaboration with the state.

"Nothing is going in at this point," said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. "The state owns that property, the Division of Capital Asset Management Maintenance is the agency that oversees it."

The site was formerly home to the Department of Human Services/Developmental Services, a state hospital for people that needed care back in the 1950s-60s. DCAMM assumed control of the

Monson Developmental Center when it was closed by the Department of Developmental Services in 2012.

"DCAMM manages the MDC grounds, structures, and infrastructure," said DCAMM's Director of External Affairs, Stephanie Knapp. "It performs regular and as-needed maintenance at the MDC and oversees a 24/7, 365-days-per-year security presence on the MDC site."

MDC | page 3

SPORTS

Deadline approaches to have Pathfinder students build your house

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – The carpentry, electrical, and plumbing departments at Pathfinder Vocational Technical School have a program to help build houses with teacher supervision.

This program has been offered since the inception of the school. Vocational Director Amy Skowryra gave some details on the program and how to apply to have your project put forth for consideration.

"For the house-building program, we build the house and then do the electrical and plumbing," Skowryra said.

The students provide carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work for the house, with anything else falling under the responsibility of the homeowner. The school can provide a policy that outlines what's required from the homeowner and what their responsibilities are.

"As is MA law, someone can



A Pathfinder Tech senior works on building a new garage.

Submitted photos

take out a building permit themselves," Skowryra said. "The homeowner would be the general contractor, and we would provide assistance

along the way about the process." Skowryra said that Bill Darling, the carpentry instructor, is a

PATHFINDER | page 7



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Pet of the Week



WILLIE

This is Willie. He is such a goofy boy. 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.

Admin. advocating for more small town funding

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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Turley photo Marcelo Gusmao.

MONSON – Select Board members last week discussed the need for changes to the state's Chapter 90 formula.

Chapter 90 funding, which is high-way funding distributed by the state to town and cities all over the Commonwealth. The issue over the formula came up when Town Administrator Jennifer L. Wolowicz brought forward a letter for consideration from the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts.

Select Board Vice Chair John R. Morrell raised concerns with Wolowicz's proposal.

"I'd like to amend the first item under the Chapter 90 formula," said Morrell, "The last few words after roads and bridges says 'and water systems' and in Chapter 90 it does not accept the water systems. We've got to specify storm drain systems if that qualifies."

Select Board Patricia Oney questioned the meaning of changing the formula.

"Permanently changing the formula," Oney said. "Does that mean that you're asking for more funding or does that mean that you're asking to actually change the formula upon which the numbers are based?"

Wolowicz said the formula is not geared toward small towns like Monson. "Changing the formula," Wolowicz

said. "Because how the formula is for chapter 90 it's not as advantageous to the smaller communities."

Wolowicz continued to stand her ground with chapter 90 formula.

"The municipal building assistance authority is similar to the municipal schools authority that they have," Wolowicz said. "And the Municipal Library Authorities where communities can't reimbursements for schools and libraries that they build, but they cannot get any reimbursements for public buildings such as the Town Hall or Fire Station or a Police Station, and so there's been a lot of talk under the Mass Municipal Association and through the Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs Associations about this as an important thing to build from the state level so that communities could receive some sort of reimbursement if they were doing construction projects if that."

The letter from STAM addressed other issues. For the audience's benefit at the meeting, Oney said other things requested in the letter, most notably educational funding formulas reform to provide support for regional school districts and towns having to choose between schools and municipal services.

Oney then turned to Wolowicz to explain prevailing wage law improvements

and other town projects.

"Just so that everyone understands," Wolowicz said, "Anytime a municipality does a project of any kind and it is a \$0 threshold, whether the project costs \$100 or a \$1,000,000, you have to pay prevailing wage for all the tradespeople that are working on that. The prevailing wages are based on the union contracts that the trades negotiated over the years, and sometimes when you have a multi-year project you start off at one rate that you're paying plumbers and then within that next year or so with the project still going on well they have then negotiated a new contract so now the wage would increase even higher. So, this was put into place many years ago in the state to try to stop people from not paying proper wages, but what it has done for municipalities is it increases project costs substantially because we have to pay that prevailing wage of the unions."

Oney thanked Wolowicz for putting together the correspondence.

"I'd actually like to add one more thing too this," Oney said, "and that is unfunded mandates. I think that is one thing that we need to keep addressing with our legislators, I mean especially with regards to School Police and (Finance Director) Jaime Farnum can probably give us a very long list of unfunded mandates, but it is one of the things that causing budgetary problems in a lot of towns."

Corned beef dinner held March 16

MONSON— The First Church of Monson, 5 High Street, will be hosting a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 16, at 5 p.m. at the Church. Dinner will include corned beef, red potatoes, carrots, cabbage and cupcakes for dessert. Tickets are \$25.00 and include admission to the Sarah the Fiddler concert at 7 p.m. Concert only, \$10.00 at the door. Call (413) 267-3312 for tickets.

No leftovers at St. Stan's annual chili cook-off

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – Last Sunday, St. Stanislaus Polish Club held its second annual chili contest.

Entrants for the competition had to sign up by Friday, March 1, at no charge. Tasters paid \$5 for the chance to vote on the different chili entrants.

"This was our second year," said Sara LaBier, the club's new bar manager. "We had eight contestants this year, and quite a few people tasted, about 50."

One taster was Ralph Zebrowski, a member who was eager to share his experience at the contest.

"I tried them all, but there were three or four that were outstanding," Zebrowski said. "At the end of the night I went to look for some to take home, and there was none left."

There were three winners of the chili cook-off this year. Danielle Chapman won first place, with Ben Dube in second, and Nate Tenczar in third.

LaBier said that all there was a variety of regular chili this year, with some different meats, but no recipes that were particularly out of the ordi-

nary. "I did the tasting, but I didn't cook this year," LaBier said. "Life was busy, with kids and sports and running, now that I'm the new bar manager as of last week."

LaBier said that she hopes to be able to enter the contest again next year.

St. Stan's Club has long been a place for polka enthusiasts, but LaBier said that they wanted to expand their event offerings to attract new patrons.

"We were just trying to find new things to get people into the bar, some new fun things to get the community involved," LaBier said.

The club offers regular polka picnics, cruise nights, a menu of Polish-American food, and a cash bar. The club regularly holds live events in all kinds of weather under its pavilion.

"We're going to do it again next year," LaBier said. "We're hoping to do a soup-off in the fall, and maybe another paint and sip for the spring."

These events are open to the public,



Submitted photo

The winners of this year's contest were Danielle Chapman in first place, Ben Dube in second, and Nate Tenczar in third.

so you do not need to be a member to participate.

St. Stanislaus is located at 40 Belchertown Road in Three Rivers, attached to Pulaski Park, sometimes known as the Polka Capital of New England.

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Date: Saturday, March 23rd
Time: 11am-1pm
Place: Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware

NO COST! It's FREE!

Participants include

- Home Modifications Specialist
- Realtors
- Ware Senior Center
- Home Modification Loan Program
- Senior Placement
- In-home Care Services
- Movers
- Estate Appraisers
- Legal & Financial Planning
- Senior Living Options
- QV CDC Senior Outreach Program
- Senior Health Services
- Hospice & Palliative Care
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- And Many MORE

For more information contact Danielle Souza (413) 949-0422 or email: danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com

Light Lunch Will Be Served!

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TO QUALIFY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOU MUST:

- Own a buildable lot within one of the nine Pathfinder Tech member towns
- Be able to obtain adequate financing
- Have professionally drawn house plans

31 | 05
MAR | PM

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Reach out to the contact below to request an application or for more information on the program requirements.

Amy Skowyra, Vocational Director
413.283.9701 ext. 200
skowyra@pathfindertech.org
WWW.PATHFINDERTECH.ORG

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@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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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEADLINE

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

Kids visit OSV free this March and April

STURBRIDGE— As the calendar approaches March, Old Sturbridge Village is gearing up to kick off its highly anticipated Kids Free March and April promotion, beginning March 1 and running through April 28.

During this exciting offer, families and friends are invited to discover the rich past of 19th century New England, with complementary admission for up to two children (aged 17 years or younger) with each adult standard full-price daytime admission ticket.

Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance to save even more. In addition to Kids Free March and April, tickets purchased online include a \$3.00 savings compared to tickets purchased at the door. For full details, restrictions, and to purchase tickets visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/>.

The Kids Free promotion for March and April is applicable only to standard daytime admission only. Please note that this promotion does not apply to field trips.

Old Sturbridge Village is open in March, Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beginning April 1, the Village is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a full list of events, visit: <https://www.osv.org/events-experiences/>

Girls Inc. host gala

HOLYOKE— Girls Inc. of the Valley's annual major fundraiser is back at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1000 Hall of Fame Ave, on March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Spirit of Girls: Rewind // Fast Forward features co-lead sponsors PeoplesBank and the Women's Foundation of Boston.

Guests and attendees will hear the impactful stories of Girls Inc. youth, families, alumni and more. The evening will include heavy appetizers, along with a cash bar.

Girls Inc. of the Valley is actively seeking sponsors and volunteers to support the event.

"The need for investments in programs that work towards gender equity and providing safe spaces for girls, and youth who would benefit from pro-girl environments, is greater than ever," said Suzanne Parker executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. "We will raise \$110,000 at Spirit of Girls to provide that safe space, especially during the summer months."

Thank you to our sponsors: PeoplesBank; Women's Foundation of Boston; Hazen Paper Company; bankESB; BonaVita Aesthetics; The Collins Companies; Monson Savings Bank; SourcePass; UMass Amherst; Parker's Portables; Kuhn Riddle Architects; and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

If interested, or have questions regarding this event, please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

HEROES | from page 1

"Basically, the Special Olympics have events for individuals with intellectual disabilities to come together and make friends, to compete in sports that they love... it is something that we really want to support. We did it last year, me and my kids, and Officer Mayo did it and I've learned don't go in the water a second time because it hurts much more the second time you go in."

The Select Board agreed to make a \$500 gift to the plunge, which will take place on March 16 at 12 noon at Beaver Lake's West Beach in Ware. Public safety officials from around the region will also be taking part in the event.

Zonta Club is accepting scholarship applications

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is now accepting applications for Zonta International's Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

This scholarship is open to a young woman (ages 16-19) who has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes. Deadline is March 8.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is also accepting applications for Zonta International's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.

Deadline is June 15.

For details about either of these scholarships, visit the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's website at www.zontaq.org/scholarships.

Fine art sought for 'Celebrating the Figure' at ArtWorks Gallery

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists from throughout the northeastern U.S. to celebrate the human figure in the upcoming 3rd 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 Thursday, March 7, by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. The 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition will be on display from April 6-28, opening with a reception on Saturday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Currently on display is All Things Animal, which is on display from March 2-30 and opens with a reception on Saturday, March 2, from 3-5 p.m.

The juror for the 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition is Jeff Stauder. Stauder was born in Cambridge and raised in eastern Connecticut.

He received a bachelor's degree in art from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master's degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he won the 1996 Dana Pond Painting Award.

Following graduate school Stauder moved to New York City where among other things, he created the Artists Theoretical Racing Circuit, a collaborative conceptual art project. He moved to western Massachusetts in 2008, where he finally indulged his true nature by reveling in imagistic historicism.

That work has been exhibited widely in New England, including a solo exhibition at the University of Massachusetts. In 2022 he was awarded a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant in Painting.

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 nonprofit arts innovator located in Ware 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.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

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

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

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

Throughout the years, a wide variety of healthcare fields have been represented by area students who have received these scholarships, including premedical, dental hygiene, health system management, nursing, pharmacy, and radiology.

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

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

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

MDC | from page 1

Wolowicz said that going forward, DCAMM will continue to be in charge of oversight of the property. The department is working through their process to put the property out for procurement.

Knapp reported that, as authorized by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2022, DCAMM is in the process of transferring parcels of the MDC to the state Department of Fish and Game and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Wolowicz confirmed that some of the land is being turned over to Fish and Game and that the town is having conversations that include getting updates as to what demolition will be done this year.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration's Fiscal Year 2024-28 Capital Investment Plan, released in June 2023, dedicated funding for demolition and environmental remediation on the MDC site, and DCAMM is currently initiating that demolition project," Knapp said.

"DCAMM has collaborated with local stakeholders regarding the MDC since we assumed control of the site," Knapp said. "In January of 2024, DCAMM met with state legislators and town leadership in Monson as part of that collaboration, and as part of our ongoing

efforts to determine potential re-development for the MDC parcels that are not otherwise in use, such as those being transferred to DFG and MDAR."

Knapp said that representatives at DCAMM expect to continue this collaboration with the town.

Conversations between town officials and residents have been to determine what the community would like to see constructed in that area as the state moves forward.

"It was varied," Wolowicz said about the residents' response. "Some people were saying they wanted housing for residents aged 55 and over, other people said they would like to see it used as an industrial area, and some people talked about a satellite campus. There were people speaking about having a sustainable living community and having people who are going

through rehab and do some agricultural work to rehabilitate themselves."

Out of these options, Wolowicz shared that she thought the priority for the town should be a senior and aged living facility.

"I think it's definitely prime real estate for a 55+ community," Wolowicz said. "The town is in need of something for that, with a lot of residents aging in their home who, at this point, would like to downsize from the homes they've been maintaining and still stay in town at a different type of living facility."

The state and town government will continue to collaborate on developing this property. For more information, you can call Town Hall at 413-267-4100.

CAMPUS NOTES

Saint Anselm College Dean's List

Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester, there were a total of 562 students from 24 states and 4 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that **Caroline Stewart**, a Mathematics major in the class of 2026 from Brimfield, MA was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Endicott College Dean's List

Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2023 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following students have met these requirements:

Brimfield

Nicholas Cameron, Environmental Science, son of Cheryl Cameron and James Cameron

Monson

Bethany Bedard, Business Management, daughter of Jeffrey Bedard

Scott Croteau, Architectural Studies, son of Nicole Croteau and Jeremy Croteau



TUTORING AVAILABLE

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why must I pay into Social Security when I'm collecting benefits?

Dear Rusty

I am collecting full Social Security benefits at age 72 and also working full time.

Why is the Federal Government still taking money from my paycheck? I have written to Social Security experts on this issue and they tell me "It's the law." That is not a good answer for me. Approximately \$4,400 was taken from my pay in 2023 for Social Security and, yes, I get a pittance of a Cost Of Living Allowance increase, but not equal to what I pay. No one has been able to fully explain the Federal Government's thought process on taxing me for Social Security when I am getting full Social Security benefits. Can you?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior

Far be it from me to try to explain the federal government's thought process on anything, but I can explain why those already collecting Social Security benefits must continue to pay Social Security payroll taxes while working.

It actually goes back to 1935 and the panel commissioned by President Roosevelt to create America's Social Security program. Said panel determined how the program would be financed, Congress approved it and FDR signed it.

That methodology was essentially this:

Workers who earn and their employers must contribute to Social Security via payroll taxes to fund the program (we now know this as FICA for employees and SECA for the self-employed). When the program first started, certain employees and their employers were required to each contribute 1% of the employee's first \$3,000 of earnings. Obviously, those amounts have risen over the decades. And, for clarity, only certain workers originally participated in Social Security, which has also changed over the decades so that now nearly everyone, who works must pay Social Security payroll taxes.

Starting in 1937 and still today, SS payroll taxes paid by those now working are used by the federal government to pay benefits to those who are currently receiving. Said another way, Social Security is a "pay as you go" program where income from those working and their employer is used to pay benefits to those receiving.

Payroll taxes collected aren't put into a personal account for the worker; rather they are used to meet current SS payment obligations. Any excess money collected is invested in special issue government bonds as reserves for future use, although current annual SS income is less than annual program costs – an entirely different topic.

So, the financing method enacted in 1935 and started in 1937 still applies – those who work and their employers must pay into the system to fund benefit payments to those, who are now receiving and that includes those workers who are already collecting their Social Security. FYI, there was a time when, if someone worked after starting their SS benefits, they lost all of their benefits. Fortunately, that rule no longer exists, so those, who are collecting SS benefits can now continue to get benefits if they work, but they must also still pay into the program from their work earnings to help pay benefits to SS recipients.

I hope this provides some insight for why you must continue to contribute to Social Security even after you have started collecting your benefits. It is a result of how the program is financed predominantly by workers through payroll taxes on their earnings and to a lesser extent from interest on Trust Fund reserves and income tax on Social Security benefits. With very few exceptions, everyone who works helps pay benefits to those now receiving.

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

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DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is

it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tune," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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



By Ellenor Downer



Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard. The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree. I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill. Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probs bark for insects and larvae. Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee." The call is a high "tsee."

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. No much about." He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time. Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms for the bluebirds than when I had chickens. I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

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

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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GUEST COLUMN

Let's all end stigma around getting mental health care

By State Rep.
Aaron L. Saunders
7th Hampden District

I grew up in a home where it was OK to ask if you were OK, mentally or physically, at the dinner table.

This was not common during the 1980s when a stay in a psychiatric ward could be a mark against you for life, but my dad was a psychologist and my mother, a teacher.

They knew the importance of conversations with their boys about feelings, expectations, and disappointments, not just a skinned knee and how you got it.

I was reminded of this recently during a visit to the newly renovated adolescent unit of MiraVista Behavioral Health Center in Holyoke. Its recent reopening brought back on line 16 much needed inpatient beds in western Massachusetts for youth ages 13 to 17.

The redesigned environment enhances the delivery of care and healing for this population in which recent government data estimates that nearly 50% have had a mental health disorder at some point in their lives.

Last year Massachusetts' Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform introduced a 24/7 Behavioral Health Phone Line and network of Community Behavioral Health Centers that provide broader access to mental health services for those in crisis. The state, too, has added inpatient psychiatric beds to ease emergency department boarding for all age groups.

We, as legislators, need to ensure that there is ongoing funding for such services and adequate reimbursement rates for such beds as well as for addiction treatment programs. Mental health and substance use disorders co-occur frequently and it is important for

both to be treated.

We also need to continue to consider policies that address staffing shortages and issues like educating students and their families on the importance of mental health care.

Yet, there is another barrier – stigmatization – around lessening disabling behavioral health conditions. Massachusetts has a campaign that seeks to educate that addiction is a chronic illness and not a personal choice, but stigma and misinformation continue to prevent individuals with behavioral health issues from seeking treatment.

You can't legislate all stigma away. We all need to be better educated on the reality that mental illness can be treated and that there are steps to be taken to prevent poor mental health from progressing to where it interferes with daily life.

This is what I reflected on

during my recent visit to MiraVista, which offers inpatient treatment for both adults and adolescents as well as outpatient recovery services, in seeing the renovated unit and learning what evidence-based treatment is offered there.

I hear from my constituents of the need for such services close to home and, in applying the lessons learned from my parents in asking my own three children about their feelings, I get a look into their day in an age when bullying and pressure to engage in unhealthy behavior can come from anywhere.

We all need to be more open to talking with our families, friends, and health care providers about our mental health and that of those in our care as this, too, is part of the roadmap to raising emotionally healthy children and staying emotionally healthy, too.

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

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,**
or by e-mail to:
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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. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

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

Dining on the premises is back. Take-out orders are available. Limited quantities, so reservations are required, and the deadline for ordering is March 7.

Call 413-267-5207 to place an order. The meal includes 1/2 Barbecued Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Homemade Fruit Crisp, and Beverages.

The price is \$16 for adults and \$12 for children.

FISH DINNERS (Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw) for take-out only will

be available on Friday, March 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St.,

Indian Orchard. For tickets @ \$20.00 please call: Ania--413-265-0575, Darek--413-265-0573--Ala-413-543-1434.

Tickets for the 25th annual Second Chance Dinner Auction are now available for purchase. This significant fundraising event marks the kickoff of Second Chance's yearlong 25th-anniversary celebration, promising an evening of philanthropy and joy to benefit homeless shelter pets in need of veterinary care. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge. For individuals interested in sponsoring, donating items, or attending the event, complete information and tickets can be found at <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.

ONGOING

The Swift River Sportsman's Club, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their Fri-

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

INTERESTS

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org.

or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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

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.

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

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

PVPA Wofa presents spring showcase March 8 and 9

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School's West African Drum and Dance Company, Wofa, is pleased to present their spring showcase: "Sona the Orphan".

The show will run March 8 and 9, with performances beginning at 7 p.m. in the main stage theater at 15 Mulligan Drive. Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$7 military and seniors; \$5 PVPA alumni, and \$3 students.

Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.pvpa.org. This performance is part of PVPA's spring production calendar, available at www.pvpa.org.

PVPA dance teacher Kabisko Kaba (Bisko) founded Wofa in 2009, to give PVPA students the opportunity to explore the rich culture and heritage of Guinea, West Africa. Wofa is a Sossou word which means Let's Get Together, which expresses PVPA's vision of reaching out into the community to share culture and the arts.

The show "Sona the Orphan" is inspired by a West African tale of an orphaned girl raised by her stepmother after her own mother dies in child birth. In the tale, Sona is kind and good but poorly treated by her stepmother.

In this adaptation, the stepmother is replaced by a grandfather. As the community comes together to support Sona, her grandfather has a change of heart and learns to love Sona for herself.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School is a regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades seven-12, from over 50 towns throughout western Massachusetts. PVPA's mission is to offer students an intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

For more information about PVPA go to www.pvpa.org.

Author Jonathan Blake to speak at library March 12

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., welcomes West Brookfield's own Jonathan Blake for the launch of his latest book, "In the Kingdom", on Tuesday, March 12, at 6 p.m.

Blake will share poems inspired by his visits to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with its rolling hills, wildlife, and stillness needed for dreaming. A tribute to the

The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont has long been the wellspring for Blake's writing.

"In 1984 my parents purchased a small log cabin overlooking a pond in a sparsely inhabited valley at the end of a long dirt road in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. In time, with the coming of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the family built another cabin to accommodate the gatherings of the tribe," Blake said in a press release. "In the late 1980s, after a visit to our family cabin, the poet Bill O'Connell named the place Paradise. It remains a place where poems and peace can be found."

Please call or stop by the Library to register. Copies of "In the Kingdom" will be available for purchase and signing.

Trinity Episcopal hosts St. Patrick's Day dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., will host a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per meal, and is available drive-up or take-out. The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

For reservations, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your name, phone number and the number of meals you'd like to order.

All proceeds from the dinner benefit parish mission and ministries serving the community.

United Church hosts turkey dinner March 25

WARE – United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will host a turkey dinner on Monday, March 25 from 5-6 p.m., take-out only.

The cost is \$15 per meal; payable with cash or check.

Reservations are not required, just park on the side of the street (same side as the church) and stay in your car. A runner will come to take your order.

Hampden Senior Trips

HAMPDEN – The following March 7.

APRIL 23-25, Tuesday – Thursday - Lancaster, Pa. Amish country tour; play "Daniel" at Sight 'n' Sound Theater; \$100 per person, deposit due at sign-up; \$539 per person double; Full Payment due 3/15. Optional Cancellation Insurance. \$49 per person.

MAY 7, Tuesday – Aqua Turf show with Debby Boone, family-style lunch; \$131 per person. Full Payment Due April 19.

MARCH 28, Thursday – Newport Playhouse for "The Ladies Foursome", lunch, show (a little golf, a lot of secrets), cabaret; \$ 125 per person. Full Payment Due

JULY 10, Wednesday – Log Cabin "Margaritaville" Jimmy Buffet Tribute featuring "Changes in Latitude", Twin Lobster or Prime Rib; Self-Drive \$92 per person. Full Payment Due June 14.

AUGUST – Mt. Washington Cog Railway, stop in Manchester Halfway, lunch; Cost, date to be announced.

AUG. 26, Mon – Newport Playhouse" Nonsense: A Musical" buffet lunch, show, cabaret; \$125 per person. Full Payment Due Aug. 7.

Saint Cecilia Women's Club meets March 12

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia Women's Club March meeting takes place on Tuesday, March

12, beginning with a liturgy at 5:30 p.m. followed by a soup and sandwich at 6 p.m. Our guest speaker

will be Deacon Michael Forrest who will intrigue us with his miraculous story.

What should you do with your tax refund?

It's almost that time of year when many people start receiving their tax refunds. If you get one, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer will depend somewhat on how big your refund is. Last year, the average refund amount was about \$2,750, according to the Internal Revenue Service's Filing Season Statistics report.

Whatever the size of your refund, you'll want to maximize its benefit. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Contribute to your IRA.** If you were to receive about \$2,750, it would go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year — but any amount would help. You still have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for the 2023 tax year, but if you've already "maxed out" on it, you could use your refund for 2024, when the annual contribution limit for a traditional and Roth IRA is \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older. And by getting an early start toward fully funding your IRA for the year, you can reduce the pressure of having to come up with large amounts later.

- **Build an emergency fund.** Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a medical bill that's not fully covered by your insurance. Without such an emergency fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and such a move could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

- **Contribute to a 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren and you'd like to help them further their education someday, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. With a 529 plan, earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. Based on where you live, your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It is possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even to help repay some student loans.

- **Pay down debts.** Most of us probably wish we could reduce our debt loads. Your tax refund may give you a chance to do just that. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the "snowball" method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the "avalanche" route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds — such as your tax refund — to pay off the debts that carry the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

Your tax refund can be a valuable asset — so use it wisely.

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MONSON | from page 1

a deep breath here and put you people on hold for now," Morrell said. "Don't spend any more of that money that was appropriated. I think we've got to look at our basic needs of a Fire Department. We're not building the Taj Mahal, and I avoid these multilevel. On this building, I don't know why we couldn't add an addition on the side, where the gazebo is.

"I don't know why you have to do another kitchen, we did a kitchen five years ago, it was thousands of dollars and brand new, maybe you want to change the electric range to a gas range that is something different, but I think we got to take a deep breath and put a hold on everything and start working together. Work with a board if we are going to continue having you people do it, work with the board and work with the

Building Commissioner and anybody else we got to work with so we all know what's going on instead of all of a sudden 'here is \$10 million.' Well... how did it get there?"

Morrell was adamant he supported getting the fire department the renovations it needs. But not at the sacrifice of exceeding the budget. "Nobody doesn't want the Fire Department to not have what they need," Morrell said, "but I don't think we got to go overboard now... these costs they are unbelievable. So, I don't know I am not crazy about continuing with another design right now without everybody getting together."

Select Board member Peter Warren cautioned the board about putting off the renovations.

"The longer we put this off, Warren said. "The more it's going to cost."

Morrell disagreed, citing the

Monson Town Meeting vote.

"I realize that but let's not go crazy either," Morrell said. "The Town Meeting only appropriated \$6 million you've got to go back to Town Meeting again if you've going to do that, and have \$4 million more. You better have a good reason to go back there and explain to the people why you want to get \$10 million out of them. Why you everybody's taxes have just gone up significantly. They aren't ready for another hit like this. This would be bad."

They began to speak to all in attendance, starting with a response to what Morrell stated.

"We're not building the Taj Mahal," Oney said. "This came in more than 50% over what we anticipated, and interestingly enough once we saw the figures that came in the Town Administrator and I talked to some people who are very

involved in doings some big projects in the state, and particularly one gentleman said that he was not at all surprised that it came in at 50% over. He said that he is seeing them all over the state coming in this much over budget."

She said if the town did not fix the building now, and only did small upgrades, it could be throwing money away.

Finance Committee Member Jim Pennington said work on designing the project has been flawed from the start.

"What was done here is negligence I feel," Pennington said. "I feel it because it wasn't done up to the time that we wanted that spec to be, it was based on other times. Now, they gave us a grand thing tonight, and an explanation about it, but in my experience it

has always been that the more that people explain something the

more my flags go up and I worry about it because it's not right. This has been flawed from the beginning."

Pennington said the project was priced out more than once, and said the accurate cost should have been made known from the beginning.

Oney concluded another town meeting vote would be needed in order to move forward with the project.

"We are nothing forward with this project in my opinion," Oney said. "Without another Town Meeting vote. We are making too many changes for us to say that this comes within the scope of what the town authorized. I don't believe that it does."

Board members than discussed the timeline of

"This board has been kept in the dark about a lot of things a lot of the times," Morrell said. And we

get things thrown at us just like that and we have to make decisions. Everybody's right in front of us here."

Wolowicz disagreed, saying information was distributed as soon as it was obtained. Pennington then returned to the microphone.

"I'd like to propose to the Select Board that they allow this company to fulfill their contractual agreements with finding out what is wrong with the \$6.6 million," Pennington said, "And how tagged that back down to that. Whatever words you want to put in there I don't care but let them do their job, lets find out what is going on, what we can and what we can't do, you may never know it may run out that we may wind up back to the original thing because nobody is talking about 15 years from now."



How to find the right fit for summer camp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Make sure the camp suits your sched-

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

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

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

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



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3 Brothers Maple forges family bonding and community ties locally



Brady Noonan adds firewood inside the firebox as he and his brothers work on their maple syrup.



Ethan Noonan with the evaporator inside the 3 Brothers Maple shack in Wilbraham.



Dillon Noonan checks buckets to see how much sap has been collected from maple trees as part of the maple syrup making process.



A family photo of Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan, the brothers behind 3 Brothers Maple in Wilbraham.

By Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Every day after school, three Wilbraham brothers create their own maple syrup while forging bonds between family, community and nature.

The brothers, Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan, are part of 3 Brothers Maple, a venture they began five years ago after seeing a neighbor friend up the road making their own.

From there, the Noonan brothers wanted to try it out themselves, with the family investing in an evaporator to boil maple syrup, talking with their neighbor friend for tips and learning the techniques from watching videos of producers in Vermont and Canada.

After making seven gallons of syrup their first year, the brothers have now made 36 gallons as of last year.

Brady Noonan stressed the importance of family, sharing how the three brothers spend 14 or 15 hours together making the syrup.

"We're all together as a family. We're all having conversations, we all love each other and we're all trying to do the best for the environment and try to take care of nature. It truly is nice," he said.

He added how the brothers sell their maple syrup in glass bottles as opposed to plastic "because there's stuff that can get put in plastic that you don't really know where it came from.

The brothers hope to sell their maple syrup in local restaurants and stores.



Dillon and Brady Noonan of 3 Brothers Maple working on a new batch of maple syrup inside their shack in Wilbraham.

"So the glass is, you can see what your product is. You can't see in a plastic container. So, we're able to see into the glass containers to go, 'Okay, look it. That's all that's in there. There's nothing being added, nothing to hide,'" he said.

Ethan Noonan's favorite part of making syrup is seeing the wild animals while collecting the buckets.

"It's just so fun to see them and see how they'll react to you by seeing you and just see how big they are actually in person," Ethan Noonan said. "That's something I really love."

For Dillon Noonan, being out in nature also provides an opportunity for education.

"Phones and technology can

be fun, but you can be outside and you'll learn a bunch of things. I'm just fascinated by everything outside, absolutely everything. You never stop learning, especially when you're in nature," he said.

Jess Noonan, the brothers' mom, expressed pride at her sons' endeavor, explaining they also open the shack to family, friends, neighbors and the community to watch the maple syrup get boiled.

She stressed the importance of roots, whether rooted in nature, the community or in the room while making the maple syrup.

"I think there's a comforting feeling to doing something or experiencing something that our grandparents experienced or our family



A close-up shot of maple syrup going into a bucket after its been processed in an evaporator the brothers behind 3 Brothers Maple use to create their maple syrup.



Submitted photos Jess Noonan
A close-up shot of 3 Brothers Maple Syrup created by brothers Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan of Wilbraham.

who came before us experienced," she said. "And so we find that it's more of a gathering activity than anything. Traditionally, when our ancestors' syrup and did sugaring, it was pretty much a community and family experience anyway because it was all hands on deck. They need all those hands to do all those steps of the process. So, I find it interesting that now, when we do this,

people tend to draw back into that experience."

Dillon Noonan hopes residents understand how amazing fresh maple syrup is.

"It's natural. It's a healthier alternative. It comes straight from the trees and all you have to do is boil it and you get syrup. I think it's really amazing," he said.

He also wants people to see the beauty that's right in front of them.

"The message I want for Wilbraham is if you just take the time to open your eyes and look at what's in front of you, a lot of opportunities will come your way," he said.

To learn more, check out their Facebook page at @3BrothersMaple.



Two Pathfinder Tech juniors finished a newer basement.

Submitted photos

PATHFINDER | from page 1

licensed general contractor with a construction supervisor license. She described Darling as "extremely knowledgeable, so they'll guide the homeowner along the way."

"They're all highly experienced, we're very fortunate to have them all here," Skowrya said.

Skowrya explained that the homeowner can be relied on to provide blueprints, as it's a requirement to apply for the permit, along with any land and building plans and a letter from a bank confirming that they're able to secure financing.

"In the summer, they need to have the house's foundation," Skowrya said. "Whether it's slab or basement, it needs to be in by Aug. 15."

From there, Pathfinder's students take over the site work,

between building the house and installing plumbing and electrical apparatus in different phases along the way. The rest, Skowrya said, is up to the homeowner.

"They'll do the roof, siding, and finish work," Skowrya said. "If there's something that we don't do they have to contract out for those services. We're not having our HVAC program work on the house, or if they need a septic system or sewer water tie-in, so they would need to contract with someone for that."

Skowrya said that only juniors and seniors participate in the program, as they have their OSHA certification and practice work in school.

"They don't do live work in sophomore and freshman year," Skowrya said. "carpentry students are working on building sheds and learning to read blueprints."

After a brief hiatus following the COVID-19 pandemic, Skowrya

resolved to bring the program back now, in her second year in the role.

"The last house we built was in the 2018-19 school year and it was in Monson," Skowrya said. "After that I think Ryan Rege was the vocational director in 2020 and he was trying to start process again, but then we had COVID."

Students participating in the house-building program learn how to frame a house, to read blueprints, to space out the job, and even to set prices; the homeowner is responsible for providing the materials, but the students still participate in the step for educational purposes.

Skowrya said that there is a tangible benefit that she can observe in students who participate in the on-site work of the house-building program.

"The kids are totally different when they're involved in live work," she said. "I've gone out to

jobs, and it's impressive how professionally they act."

Skowrya said that the students know that behavior problems could prevent them from taking advantage of this opportunity, and that this serves as an incentive for them to take it seriously.

Skowrya said that people interested in contracting Pathfinder students to help with their house's construction need only contact her office, preferably by email.

The deadline for applications is March 31, at which point a committee made up of Skowrya, Superintendent Eric Duda, and instructors from each of the tech programs will review applications and determine which one will hold the most educational benefit for the students.

For more information on how to get Pathfinder students to help set up your property, you can send an email to skowrya@pathfinder-tech.org.

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Chamber President Matthew Lemieux spoke to the assembled chamber members.



Matthew Lemieux hugged Roger Duguay as the chamber recognized his service as Treasurer.



Linda and Forris Day sat with Ted Bernier and Fran (not pictured).



William Burnett, seated with Carol Nodurf and her husband, Interim Three Rivers Fire Chief Stephen, and Police Chief Chris Burns with his wife, Mandie.



Matthew Lemieux presented Sandy Walsh with an honorary membership.



At the end of the meeting, John Sasur made a presentation about the Quabbin Reservoir.



At the head of the room, (from left) Kayleigh and Chris Goodrow, Angie Dubovik, Rebecca and Keith Bordeau, Charlie Kady, and Ronnie Theriault.



Seated around their table were (clockwise) Roland, Erin, and Dave Thibault, Fred and Barbara Orszulak, John Seaver, and Sue Corjay.



One of the larger tables seated (from left) Glenn and Sara LaBier, Sharon Dandonnet, Melissa and Josh Hoy, Kyle and Julivette Simard, and Danielle and Justin Grimshaw.



Pictured waiting for their entrées, (from left) Chris Stolar, Ben Gould, Will Huber, James DaRosa, Cheryl Moriarty, Timothy Patenaude, and Dawn Lafleur.



Mike and Patricia Matthieu and Alissa and Brian Chapin sat with Chamber President Matthew Lemieux.



Recognized for their service to the chamber, (from left) Roger and MaryAnn Duguay, Heather and John Sasur, Sandy Walsh, and her husband Leo (not pictured).

CHAMBER | from page 1

anything involved with helping the Three Rivers Chamber.”

“You don’t have to be from Palmer,” Lemieux added. “The only thing is that you have to be willing to support the Chamber and come to events and help out, things like that.”

Lemieux also talked about the grant program the chamber offers to its members, in case their business needs to take out a loan for supplies.

“The Chamber actually has a grant program,” Lemieux said. “If you’re a business that comes across

something that you need and you can’t afford it at the time, we have a zero-matching grant program. You don’t have to give us anything; we’re giving you money.”

Lemieux said that there would be paperwork that needs to be filled out so any requests can go to the Grant Committee for approval or denial.

“Say, for example, you’re a baker,” Lemieux said. “Your oven dies, you can’t do your business, you need another oven, but you can’t afford one. You would fill out this form, bring it in to the chamber as a chamber member, because it’s for cham-

ber members, and we would decide whether or not the chamber would say this is an okay purchase.”

Lemieux said that the two separate grants of up to \$2,500 that the Chamber offers are underutilized.

“Nobody’s using it,” Lemieux said. “We had one member use it, she was a masseuse and she needed a traveling table, and she did get it.”

If you’d like to get involved with the Chamber of Commerce, you can visit their website at ThreeRiversMA-Chamber.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

QUABOAG VALLEY Food Policy Council

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BASKETBALL

Mustangs fall short in state tourney opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Junior Olivia Chrzan became the all-time leading scorer in the history of the Monson High School during the regular season.

Chrzan, who passed Mike Sweeney on the basketball scoring list, added 35 points to her point total during the Lady Mustangs Division 5 round of 32 game against the Academy of the Pacific Rim, which is a public charter school in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood.

The outstanding offensive performance by Chrzan wasn't good enough, as the 25th-seeded Lady Dragons pulled off a 60-50 upset victory over the eighth-seeded Lady Mustangs before a large crowd at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

"Olivia tried her best to help us win tonight's game. We also have several other players who hadn't played in a state tournament game before tonight. They did the best that they could out there," said Monson first-year girls varsity basketball coach Walt Jackson. "We had a pretty good game plan, but the other team deserves a lot of credit. They made a couple of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, which they didn't make in the first half."

The Lady Mustangs, who finished the 2023-24 campaign with an 8-12 overall record, now have a 3-3 record in the new state tournament format. They lost to Palmer and to S.I.C.S. in the round of 16 during the past two years.

"We experienced some ups and downs during the regular season," Jackson added. "We played a very difficult regular season schedule, as we only faced a couple of Division 5 opponents."

Chrzan finished the round of 32 games with a double-double, as she pulled down a game-high 25 rebounds. She also made ten field goals and 15 free throws.

Senior Delianah Wolf scored six of her eight points during the first quarter.

"Delianah is a first-year varsity



Delianah Wolf goes for a shot under the hoop.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Madison Rathbone gets ready to shoot.

Palmer girls stay local in state tourney opener



Charlotte Theriault heads up for a layup.



Jaydo Pardo lets go of a long pass.



Vanessa Baer sends a pass into the arc.



Loretta Petrashewicz takes a free throw.

PALMER – Last Friday night, Palmer girls basketball found itself opening the state tournament with a familiar opponent. The Panthers faced off with neighbor Ware in the Round of 32. Palmer was able to score an easy win 57-27 over the Indians. In the victory, Charlotte Theriault scored 23 points to lead

all scorers. She has already passed 1,000 career points this season. Jaydo Pardo added eight points and Vanessa Baer scored seven points in the win. Palmer was scheduled to face Hopedale in the Round of 16 earlier this week for a chance at the quarterfinals.

BASKETBALL

Pathfinder ousted from tournament by Ware



Desiree Croteau drives to mid court.

WARE – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls basketball scored a win in the opener of the Division 5 state tournament over neighbor Pathfinder 41-22. The Pioneers would struggle on offense, falling behind 13-0 before finally scoring in the second quarter. Ware had no trouble keeping its lead from that point. Amelia Orszulak and Reese McKeever had eight points each to lead Ware. Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere led Pathfinder with seven points each. Pathfinder's season finished at 11-8 while Ware moved on to play Palmer in the Round of 32.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP, smugmug.com



Victoria Stephens splits the Lady Indians' defense.



The rebounders, Addison Doktor, Megan Clark, and Greenly Lagimoniere gang up under the net.



Taylor Allen fires up a bank shot.



Clara Green brings the ball down court.

BASKETBALL

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed

opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are re-

Warriors break away from Dennis-Yarmouth late



Nicki Vejack holds the ball up looking to make her next move.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—For the third consecutive year, the Tantasqua Lady Warriors celebrated a home victory in the Division 3 round of 32 state tournament game.

Led by senior Gabby Scanlon, who scored a game-high 22 points, the 13th-seeded Lady Warriors advanced into the round of 16 with a 47-38 win over the 20th-seeded Dennis-Yarmouth Dolphins before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"Gabby is a very good basketball player and she's also a very good leader," said Tantasqua girls' varsity basketball coach Andrew Haley. "She didn't score very many points in the first half, but she made some big baskets for us in the second half. In my opinion, she was the best player in our league this year."

The home victory improved Tantasqua's overall record to 18-4.

During the past two years, the Lady Warriors season came to an end against Dover Sherborn in the round of 16. The two teams didn't face each other in this year's round of 16.

"I'm very glad that we don't have to go to Dover Sherborn again," Haley said. "We lost to them in the round of 16 the past two years."

Instead, the Lady Warriors played against fourth-seeded Hanover in a round of 16 road game on Monday night. Hanover defeated Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester, 38-13, in the round of 32.

Scanlon is one of the Lady Warriors senior tri-captains, who played a home basketball game for the final time. The other two Tantasqua seniors are Nicki Vejack (5 points) and Riley West.

"This is a very good way for our three seniors to go out in their final home game," Haley said. "There were a lot of people here for tonight's game."

Scanlon, who has scored more than 300 points this season, made 12 of her 14 free throw attempts against the Dolphins (16-6).

The three Lady Warriors players who finished the round of 32 game with six points are junior Maya Gidopoulos, junior Maggie Johnson, and sophomore Sophie Webb. Sophomore Sophia Ezzo made an inside hoop at the start of the fourth quarter, which was her only basket of the game.

Webb suffered a right ankle injury with

3:57 left in the third quarter and had to be carried off the court. She sat on the bench for the rest of the game.

"Not having Sophie on the court is a massive loss for us. We're hoping that it's not a serious injury," Haley said. "We did face a lot of adversity in tonight's game, but the girls never folded."

Neither team scored very many points during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Tantasqua's only points of the first quarter were a Johnson lay-up and a Scanlon made free throw.

It gave the home team a 3-1 advantage entering the second stanza.

The Lady Warriors made four 3-pointers in the second quarter, which helped them hold onto the lead.

Webb made two 3-pointers, while Scanlon and Gidopoulos made the other two shots from beyond the arc.

Webb's made her second 3-pointer with 40 seconds remaining in the first half, which sent her team into the locker room holding a 17-9 lead.

With the help of a 13-4 run, the Dolphins took the lead for the first time at 22-21 following a jumper from the top of the key by senior Chloe Azoff (13 points) with 2:39 left in the third quarter.

Senior Jaylene Pires also scored 13 points for the visiting team from Cape Cod. Junior Siena Lauze added nine points.

The Lady Warriors quickly retook the lead when Scanlon made a pair of free throws.

After Dennis-Yarmouth made a free throw, Gidopoulos banked home a jump shot and Scanlon made two more foul shots giving the home team a 27-23 lead entering the final quarter.

The Dolphins did close the gap to 27-26 before the Lady Warriors put-together a 19-7 run.

Scanlon scored ten of those points, which helped the Lady Warriors build a double digit lead (46-33) for the first time.

The Lady Warriors had a couple of days off before making a long trip to Eastern Mass to play Hanover in the round of 16.



Maya Gidopoulos sends a pass inside the paint.



Gabby Scanlon heads into the arc.



Maggie Johnson looks to recover and shoot.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Sophie Ezzo takes a shot near the free throw line.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Greenly Lagimoniere Pathfinder

In Pathfinder's final game of the season, Lagimoniere would lead the team with seven points in a playoff loss to Ware.

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

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TOURNAMENT | from page 9

quired to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thus removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2,

Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Massachusetts ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.



Chelsea Hull pushes a bounce pass on the run.



Sedona Arbour makes her way across the court.



Olivia Chrzan makes a pass for the Mustangs.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Emma Boonon heads for the basket.

MONSON | from page 9

basketball player for us," Jackson said. "She played very well this season."

The main reason Wolf decided to play basketball was because of coach Jackson. She played basketball at Pope Francis as a freshman and sophomore. Jackson was an assistant girls' varsity basketball coach at Pope at that time. Wolf, who transferred to Monson High School, didn't play basketball a year ago.

"I didn't play basketball last year, but I decided to join the basket-

ball team this season because coach Jackson was the varsity coach," said Wolf, who spoke with a local college basketball coach following the game. "He has helped me improve as a player a lot."

The only other senior listed on the Lady Mustangs varsity roster is Aniah Myrie, who didn't attend last Thursday's game due to a personal reason. Eighth grader Lyliia Ellis (2 points) replaced Myrie in the starting line-up.

The duo of Chrzan and Wolf combined to score the Lady Mus-

tangs first ten points of the contest.

With 3:20 remaining in the first quarter, Chrzan made a free throw giving the Lady Mustangs a 10-2 lead.

The Lady Dragons (16-3) ended the opening quarter with a 9-2 run, which sliced their deficit to 12-11 entering the second stanza. Senior's Akire Lloyd (12 points) and Sky Grant (13 points) scored all the Academy of the Pacific Rim points during the run.

Chrzan, who scored six points during the first eight minutes of the

contest, added nine more points on a variety of inside hoops during the second quarter.

"Olivia is an outstanding basketball player," Wolf said. "It was a lot of fun playing on the same basketball team with her."

The Lady Dragons scored twelve points in the second quarter, and they held a slim 23-21 halftime lead.

Chrzan continued to lead the way offensively during the second half.

She scored 11 more points

during the third quarter giving her a total of 26 points for the game.

Monson's other five points in the third quarter were by freshman Chelsea Hull, who buried a jumper from the left corner, and eighth grader Emma Bannon, who knocked home a 3-pointer from the left side.

The score was tied 37-37 entering the final eight minutes of regulation.

That's when seventh grader Xyzla Simpson, who finished the game with 31 points, took over the

spotlight for the visiting team. She made three 3-pointers and a lay-up in a span of two minutes, which helped the Lady Dragons build a 56-43 lead late in the fourth quarter.

The trio of Simpson, Lloyd, and Grant combined to score 56 of the Lady Dragons points.

Chrzan scored the Lady Mustangs final five points of the game and she'll enter her senior season with more than 1,550 career points.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

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

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

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

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

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

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their “friendly” exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko’s first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game’s early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and outbattled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White’s first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions’ Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers’ second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The third and final round of the candlepin league season rolls on for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

As of Feb. 20, The Champs R Here, Acres, Compression and the Blue B’s started off the third round at 3-1. Life is Good, Team BK and Last in Line started off the round at 1-3. Compression was the winning team of round one and Life is Good was the winning team of round two.

The Champs R Here bowled against Last in Line on the league night of Feb. 27. In game one, Last in Line won the first game by a score of 364-360. In game two, The Champs got a win of their own by a score of 377-369. Taylor

Colkos led the Champs R Here in game two by scoring 107.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 394-368. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1127-1105.

The winners of round two, Life is Good, bowled against the Blue B’s. In game one, Life is Good defeated Blue B’s by a score of 344-318. In game two, the Blue B’s won by a score 368-348. In game three, Blue B’s won the last game by a score of 379-341.

Mike Zwirecki of Blue B’s bowled a 128 to lead his team to victory.

Blue B’s won total pinfall by a final score of 1065-1033.

Acres bowled against Compression. In game one, Acres won the first game 399-371. Dave Cobleigh of Acres started off the evening with a 113. In game two, Acres won again by a score of 430-333. Cobleigh bested his first game by scoring 136 in game two, his best game of the season.

In game three, Compression won the last game 385-372. Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1201-1089. Cobleigh’s three game series for the evening totaled 329. Cobleigh’s teammate Matt Bertelli had a consistent night of bowling. Bertelli scored 102, 106 and 106.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their last league night in the month of February.

Team Two bowled against the round one winning team, Team Six. In game one, Team Two defeated Team Six in a close first game, 397-390. In game two, Team Six returned the favor and won game two by one pin, 394-393. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 412-399.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1189.

Team Three bowled against Team

Five. In game one, Team Five won the first game 421-367. In game two, Team Three won the second game by a score of 418-403. Tyler Moore of Team Three led the team by scoring 110.

In game three, Team Three won the last game of the evening 408-372. Moore repeated his second game by scoring 110 in game three.

Thanks to a big lead after game one, Team Five managed to win total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1193.

Team Four bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 395-393. In game two both teams tied at 403. In game three, Team Four won the last game by a score of 420-417. Sean Comerford and Kris Rickson of Team One finished strong by scoring 112 and 113.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1218-1213.

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for N.E. return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jack sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke’s official home for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

“Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence,” Jack Baldwin said. “Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can’t thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough.”

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

“Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence,” Luke Baldwin said. “We showed race winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win.”

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport’s power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarzynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period,

Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some push-back in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen’s equipment. Abramov’s second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds’ best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles’ PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors’ seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.



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Public Notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Palmer Foundry Inc., is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a building addition, relocate the existing sewage disposal system, and expand the Stormwater Management system on the property located at 22 Mt. Dumplin Road, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 19, Lots 9 & 10.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
03/07, 03/14/2024

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

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

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

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

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

at the Planning Board Office.
Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
Monson Planning Board
02/29, 03/07/24

The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals 110 Main Street Monson, MA 01057 LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday March 28th, 2024 at 7:20 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, MA 01057, on the application of Antonio Dias for a Special Permit as provided by Section 6.7 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a special permit to construct an accessory apartment in the existing garage located at 127 Stafford Road, Map 101 and Parcel 006A. There are no proposed changes to the exterior or the footprint of the existing structure. The property is zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
03/07, 03/14/23

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises:
42 Washington Street,
Monson, MA 01057

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deeds in Book 14701, Page 643.

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

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

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket 24 SM 000771 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Elyzza F. Blatchley

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Freedom Mortgage Corporation,

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer (Three Rivers), numbered 70 Ruggles Street, given by Elyzza F. Blatchley to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, dated October 27, 2017, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21921, Page 7, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **April 8, 2024**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on February 22, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23-011759
03/07/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 24 SM 000797

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Monica M. Douillard**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for Renaissance Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-3

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered **22 Norma Street**, given by **Monica M. Douillard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee**, as nominee for **Fidelity Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated July 5, 2007**, and recorded in **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16809, Page 492**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **4/08/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 2/23/2024

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
03/07/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. HD24P0454EA Estate of: Matthew Bak Dufort Date of Death: 12/26/2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sara J. Slater of East Hartford, CT**.

Sara J. Slater of East Hartford, CT 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.

03/07/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0069CA

In the matter of: **Madison Maryann Gaudette**

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Madison Maryann Gaudette of Monson, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Madison Maryann Quinlan

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 01, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2024

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. HD24P0417EA Estate of: Roger S Kolasinski Date of Death: 11/08/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Mark E Pericolosi of Rockville Centre, NY** and **James Kolasinski of Coventry, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mark E Pericolosi of Rockville Centre, NY** and **James Kolasinski of Coventry, CT** 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 03/25/2024.**

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, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2024

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: **HONDA VIN:2HKRL18651H566205 Bharat Oza 92 Squire Dr. W. Springfield, MA; HONDA VIN:1HGEM22945L013598 Steven Lindberg 12 Off Lariviere Ave. Three Rivers MA; HONDA VIN:2HGFA1F59BH304668 Mark Veisine 3048 Main St. Bondsville, MA; HYUNDAI VIN:KMHLR4AF7PU594050 Autumn Hostens 47A Cottage St. W. Warren, MA; JEEP VIN:1C4NJRBB0G550145 Johnathan Lewallen 1501 N. Main St Palmer, MA; CHEVY VIN:1GCHK236X8F126027 Corey Hosting 4 Winslow Rd Ware, MA; TOYOTA VIN:2T3RFREVG6W532244 Anthony Carter 134 Union St Westfield, MA; VOLKSWAGON VIN:9BWP6H1J324075925 Robert Palmer 1034 Park St Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on **March 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.** at **LaBontas & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069. 2/22, 2/29, 3/7/2024****

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0431EA Estate of: Priscilla N Martin Also known as: Priscilla J Martin Date of Death: 01/19/2024 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 **David F Martin of Summerville, SC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests

that: **David F Martin of Summerville, SC** 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 03/27/2024.**

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, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2024

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: **HONDA VIN:2HKRL18651H566205 Bharat Oza 92 Squire Dr. W. Springfield, MA; HONDA VIN:1HGEM22945L013598 Steven Lindberg 12 Off Lariviere Ave. Three Rivers MA; HONDA VIN:2HGFA1F59BH304668 Mark Veisine 3048 Main St. Bondsville, MA; HYUNDAI VIN:KMHLR4AF7PU594050 Autumn Hostens 47A Cottage St. W. Warren, MA; JEEP VIN:1C4NJRBB0G550145 Johnathan Lewallen 1501 N. Main St Palmer, MA; CHEVY VIN:1GCHK236X8F126027 Corey Hosting 4 Winslow Rd Ware, MA; TOYOTA VIN:2T3RFREVG6W532244 Anthony Carter 134 Union St Westfield, MA; VOLKSWAGON VIN:9BWP6H1J324075925 Robert Palmer 1034 Park St Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on **March 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.** at **LaBontas & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069. 2/22, 2/29, 3/7/2024****

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0431EA Estate of: Priscilla N Martin Also known as: Priscilla J Martin Date of Death: 01/19/2024 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 **David F Martin of Summerville, SC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket 24 SM 000794 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: **Belinda L. Whitman aka Belinda Fisher**, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Norman L. Whitman aka Norman Leroy Whitman; Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Norman L. Whitman aka Norman Leroy Whitman and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

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

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Wales, numbered 198 Union Road, 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 in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14336, Page 130, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **April 8, 2024**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on February 23, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
21-004521
03/07/2024

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 000858 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: **Lydia M. Weldon as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert J. Weldon; Lydia M. Weldon**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Longbridge Financial LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 24 Lower Hampden Road, given by **Robert J. Weldon to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation**, a subsidiary of **IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.**, dated **March 25, 2008**, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17220, Page 202, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **April 15, 2024**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on February 28, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
25326
03/07/2024

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

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

To amend, the Zoning By-Law to make the By-Law easier for users to navigate, simplify and update its language, and provide a better structure for predictability and flexibility in both the interests of current use and future adaptability, by:

§1.0 through §7.5 - Making amendments such as grammatical, typographical, and orthographic errors and eliminating or updating design layout and outdated statutory references.

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

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

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

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

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE

PUBLIC NOTICES

ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

DEATH NOTICES

James C. Heffernan Jr.
Died March 1, 2024
Services March 10, 2024
Cota Funeral Home

Neil Stuart Wilson Stalker
Died Feb. 14, 2024
Services March 11, 2024
Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home

Lana Lee Wood
Died on Feb. 22, 2024
Services March 8, 2024

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

O B I T U A R I E S

James C. Heffernan Jr.

NORTH READING — James C. Heffernan Jr., 72, beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on March 1, 2024, following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Jay is survived by his loving wife of nearly 49 years, Christine Heffernan (Millett), and their three children; his daughter Dr. Sarah McPartland and her husband Ken, son James Heffernan III and daughter Jody Heffernan; his granddaughters Hannah, Rachel, Megan and Emma McPartland; His sisters Sally Mughnerini and her husband Neal, and Barbie Kiesinger and her husband Lonnie; Mother in law Dorothy Millett and her late husband Roger, Sister in law Nancy Lukfin and her late husband Ken, and brothers in law Richard and Michael Millett and Mark Millett and his wife Donna, as well as his extended family and friends. He is predeceased by his parents, James and Jean as well as his brother Tom and his sister Deb.

Jay was born in Lynn, MA the second of five children to the late James and Jean (LaPorte) Heffernan and grew up in Beverly MA. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Accounting at Salem State College and went on to spend much of his career at Cox Engineering in Brighton MA. There he formed long-lasting friendships and was known for his strong work ethic and practical jokes. He worked as a CFO at several companies before "retiring" in 2018, after which he continued consulting work until 2019.

Jay and Chris met in 1972 when some "silly girl" started hanging out with his sister Sally. As he would tell it, he eventually

succumbed to the pressures of his sisters and took that girl, Christine Millett, out on a date. Together they built a beautiful life, and they were soul mates by every definition of the word. Chris was his world and their example of love and partnership for more than 50 years benefitted everyone who had the chance to witness it, especially their three children.

In 2010 he became Papa J after the birth of his first granddaughter. He took to being a grandfather with immense love and pride. He spent his retirement in Palmer MA, enjoying as much time as possible with his granddaughters. It is impossible to describe the pure joy Jay experienced when surrounded by those four little girls, who loved every minute they spent with Mamoo and Papa J.

Jay enjoyed music (he got lost at Woodstock for 3 days!), long car rides, sports, history, the beach, travelling and most of all time with his family. He loved playing and watching sports, especially when his kids or grandkids were on the field. He won the New England championship in tennis in his 30s and competed at the USTA National Championships at the age of 66. Jay played hockey, soccer, and tennis well into his 60s, and he cherished the lifelong friendships he forged on the ice, field, and court.

If you were lucky enough to know Jay, you knew that while he had a quiet demeanor, his sarcasm and quick wit brought light to any situation. Jay was happiest outdoors and he spent many summer



weekends camping, hiking, and swimming, especially in the White Mountain National Forest. His favorite spot being site 49 at Covered Bridge Campground, where he spent time "roughing it" with his family, friends, and however many neighborhood children he could fit in the car. Stories of site 49 are legendary and often recalled by his family & friends, and maybe a few police blotters. He loved hiking and said that traversing Knife's Edge on Katahdin was the thrill of a lifetime.

Jay lived a life full of love, laughter, adventure, joy and pride for his family and will be missed beyond measure.

Our family would like to thank Drs. Kenneth Miller and Andreas Klein of Tufts Medical Center for their life sustaining care over many years.

Family and friends are cordially invited to visiting hours at the Cota Funeral Home, 335 Park St., North Reading (Corner of Park St. and Rt. 28 at Reading Line) on Sunday, March 10, 2024 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Immediately following the visitation, a Memorial Service will be Celebrated for Jay at 4:00 p.m. at the Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions can be made to the May Center School for Autism in West Springfield, Mass. (mayinstitute.org) or the White Mountain National Forest Plant-A-Tree Program (www.fs.usda.gov).

For information, directions to leave an online condolence, please visit Home | Cota Funeral Home | North Reading, MA 01864

Neil Stuart Wilson Stalker

Neil Stuart Wilson Stalker passed away Feb. 14, 2024 in Brimfield, Mass. surrounded by his family. He was born on April 12, 1923 in Melbourne, Quebec, Canada to Gladys and Stuart Stalker. Neil was raised in Springfield, Mass. during the depression. He attended AIC College before enlisting in the Army Air Corp. He was a WWII Veteran who served his country with the 858th Bombardment Squadron. He was stationed in England and flew many classified missions for the OSS. After the service he married Laurel A. Mastine of Asbestos Quebec, Canada. They lived in Boston while he studied architecture at Wentworth College. After college he built a house in Wilbraham where they started their family and lived until moving

onto the farm in Brimfield in 1957. Neil was a talented carpenter. He worked for Springfield union and built schools and many houses. He loved to build things and invent things. His greatest passion was his dairy farm. He had always wanted to be a farmer and own land. He wanted his children to be able to run free in the country. So we, his children, four of us, lived a Walton-like life here on the farm. We can never thank him enough for his foresight, and with my mother raised us in an idyllic environment. We are Sherry and husband Roger Pratt of Brimfield, David Stalker and Lynne Johnson of Warren, Wendy and Jan DePre of Texas,



and Steven and Dawn Stalker of Tennessee. He is survived also by his beloved wife, Laurel, of 75 years, his soulmate and caretaker for many years. He will also be missed by his 10 grandchildren and many great grandchildren. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Jean Hill. A calling hour will be held at Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home on March 11 from 10-11 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at the Brimfield Cemetery. Donations may be made in his name to Baystate Hospice c/o Sherri Langavin, 30 Capital Drive, W. Springfield, MA 01089.

Lana Lee Wood

BELCHERTOWN—Lana Lee Wood, 85, formerly of Palmer, passed away Feb. 22, 2024. She was born on Jan. 8, 1939 in Ware to the late Herman and Rose (Nutter) Toepfer. Lana found many ways to enjoyably fill her time. She enjoyed taking bus trips with friends, visiting many destinations and taking many pictures along the way. She found joy in watching the Boston Red Sox, playing BINGO, going for daily walks, and sitting down with a good book. Lana was very proud of her volunteer work at the Baystate Wing Auxiliary Gift Shop and volunteered her time at a number of local establishments. She was also proud of being appointed Floor Amba-

sador while residing in Christopher Heights, where she would assist new residents settling in. Most importantly, Lana loved supporting her grandsons at their sporting events. She was always their #1 fan.

Besides her parents, Lana was preceded in death by her husband, William J. Wood, and her brothers, Dean, Dale and Lowell. She will be dearly missed by her son, Jeffrey and his wife, Nell; her grandsons, Tyler and Cameron; brother-in-law, Richard and his wife, Jackie Wood; cousin, Shirley and her husband, Jim Schwartz;



as well as her nieces and nephews. The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff of Christopher Heights, all of whom Lana considered as family, for their kind and compassionate care that was provided to her. A graveside service will be held on March 8, 2024 at 11 a.m. in Oak Knoll Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lana's memory can be made to the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary. To extend online condolences, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 434 incidents on its logs for Feb. 20 – Feb. 26.

Feb. 20

At 9:01 a.m. police received sex offender registration.
At 4:48 p.m. police received sex offender registration.
At 6:29 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

Feb. 21

At 9:22 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.
At 5:40 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Feb. 23

At 2:45 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Alexander Michael Laine, 23, of 6 Cheney St., Three Rivers on a charge of OUI liquor.
At 8:35 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.
At 8:58 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.
At 10:27 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Patrick G. Sajdera, 26, of 394 Chapin St., Ludlow for uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and no inspection sticker.

At 4:42 p.m. police arrested Paul Richard Nash, 78, of 1588 N. Main St., Palmer, on a warrant.

At 8:01 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Matthew Allan Rice, 30, of 47 Walnut St., Palmer, on

charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, number plate violation, possession of an open container of alcohol in the motor vehicle and carrying a dangerous weapon.

At 9:05 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Wilbraham Street.

At 11:34 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Abdulkadir Kaya, 24, of 1622 N. Main St., Palmer for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, failure to yield at an intersection, and not having a license in possession.

Feb. 24

At 1:26 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Jayden Andrew Blackburn, 21, of 370 Rondeau Road, Thorndike, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and marked lanes violation.

At 2:17 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Emily Nicole Hiersche, 23, OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and motor vehicle lights violation.

At 12:03 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on the corner of N. Main Street and Wilbraham Road.

At 12:31 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Palmer Street.

At 5:28 p.m. police gave summons to Heriberto Morales Jr., 26, 46 Fuller Road, Bondsville, for operating motor vehicle with a suspended registration, uninsured motor vehicle and number plate violation.

At 8:23 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Kayla Marie Palomarez, 29, of 1430 Russel

Road, Westfield, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

At 10:41 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Mass Pike Eastbound mile marker 64.

At 11:23 p.m. police gave summons to Celimar Lopez Hernandez, 25, 303 Jeffery Road, Willmantic, C.T., for operating motor vehicle with a suspended registration, uninsured motor vehicle and not having a license in possession.

Feb. 25

At 1:46 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Jeeagar Patel, 37, of 32 Depot St., Belchertown, for OUI liquor, possession of class B drugs and motor vehicle lights violation. Police also arrested Nidaa Al-Zubaidy, 33, of 84 Peterson Road, Palmer, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, failure to stop or yield and failure to signal.

At 11:29 a.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Glenn Street.

At 6:41 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Shaina Ann Jarvis, 38, of 2 Jackielyn Cir., Granby for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, uninsured motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

Feb. 26

At 11:59 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 4:07 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:10 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Fire Logs

Bondsville

For the period Feb 20 through Feb. 26, Bondsville fire responded to 3 calls.

On Friday, Feb. 23 at 3:50 a.m., the department responded to Foster Street for a medical assist. The department returned to service at 4:11 a.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 24 at 12:35 p.m., the department responded to Palmer Road for a motor vehicle accident. The department returned to service at 12:43 p.m.

On Monday, Feb. 26 at 11:44 a.m., the department responded to Hillside Drive for a medical assist. The department returned to service at 12:20 p.m.

NOTICE

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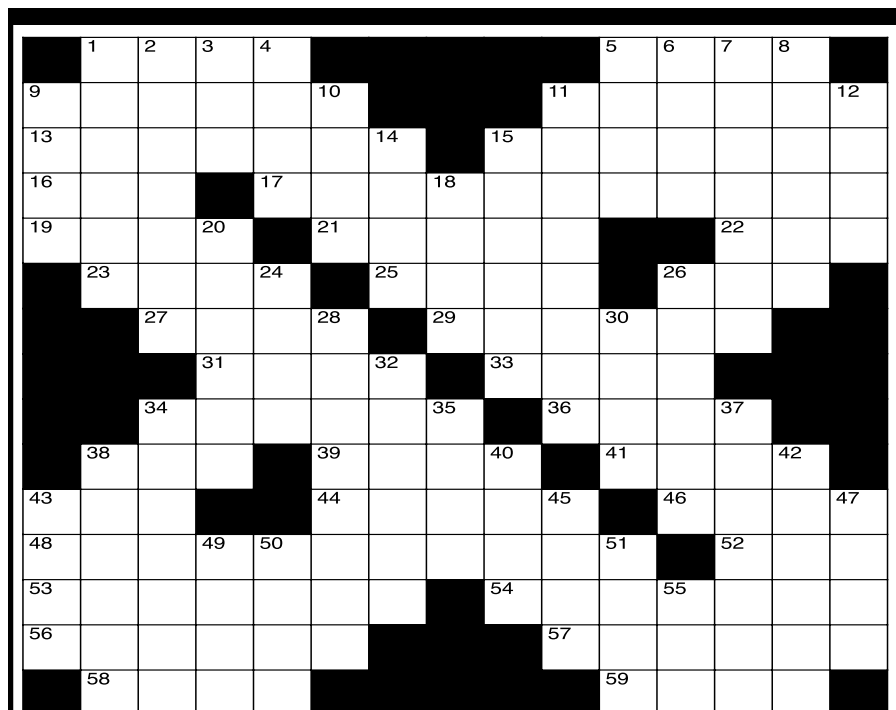
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of

- annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one

- 57. Ointments
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo

- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick

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Grand opening for new cannabis dispensary



Dazed Co-founder Rich Rainone alongside Senator Adam Gomez and Dazed Strategist Ryan McCollum.

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

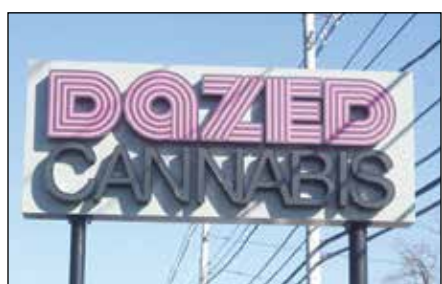
MONSON - Dazed Cannabis had their grand opening this past weekend on Boston Rd in Monson, with packed crowds around the parking lot.

Rich Rainone, a co-founder of the company, sat down to speak in his office while more and more locals piled into his dispensary.

"What drew us here is that we were always looking for a second location," said Rich Rainone, a co-founder of the company. "And we have a lobbyist that helped us find this location and kind of put the whole deal together for us. He vetted it, but it takes about two years toggled to where we are now. At the time, this was The Magic Lantern, and the town kind of had enough with what was going on with that and they kind of wanted to get into cannabis, so it was a good opportunity for us to come in... out with the old in with the new."

Rainone talked about the expectations he had for Dazed Cannabis, mentioning what aspects of his store stand out for his dispensary compared to others.

"Our staff is 100% the reason why people come to our store," Rainone said. "That is the difference maker for us. We put a lot of energy and effort into our



staff, allowing them to be ourselves and to do what they do every single day. But as far as products are concerned, we are a flower favored brand so I think that pre-rolls and flower is what we really focus on and we have done a lot of collaborations with some local; people Black Frost and Shayla who is here to today. We do lots of collaborations but flower is what makes Dazed special."

For Rainone, the future of cannabis in Monson is a bright one.

"We are modeled on that first store in Holyoke being the original," Rainone said. "And the last thing that we want to do is make a photocopy of a photocopy. With every single thing that we do we will always go back to that original store and every time we duplicate a store, we always want it to feel like it is an original. So, Dazed is here to stay in Monson. Today is kind of like our kickoff with this community, just like we did in Holyoke just like we did in New York City, and we will be here for a long time."



Representative Brian Ashe shakes hands with Dazed Co-founder, Rich Rainone.

Nick Fournier, a 30-year cannabis enthusiast, was in attendance for the grand opening.

"I am here to support my friend Ryan McCollum," Fournier said. "He is tied into the Dazed Cannabis operation and I want to support him. I am also a cannabis advocate and daily consumer. When I first hit the toké it was completely illegal, only underground only compressed brick weed, now that potency is off the charts, the strains the medicinal uses, the temperaments you can get from certain kind of stains it is fantastic. I use it medically and recreationally... and it is actually like altering for me because it has gotten me off other types of psych meds like antidepressants. I just use marijuana with a more realistic approach."

"Thank you so much for coming out here folks in the press," said McCollum said in his remarks. "And family members and supporters, this is a great, great crowd."

"On behalf of Chris, Keshawn, and myself," Rainone said. "We want to thank Jennifer, the town of Monson, and everybody who has had anything to do with helping us get licensed. We want to thank all of our investors who obviously are an important part of this. I also want to thank Ryan who without him we would have had, literally, a zero perfect chance of this ever getting done."

State Rep. Brian Ashe delivered re-

marks at the opening.

"I am honored and thrilled to be here," Ashe said. "It really is a pleasure for me to be here and I am thrilled that you chose Monson because I know that we don't have any dispensaries in Monson... I love the name too it reminds me of Led Zeppelin's Dazed and Confused. You know, I listened to that on my way up here."

State Sen. Ryan Fattman praised the Monson leadership.

"One of the things that I have come to know is that the town of Monson does it right. You've got three town leaders here, three people who listen and support the business community, and I really am grateful for that. They are always representing themselves and their board at these types of events, and that is something that everybody should be grateful for... without further or do, from the Massachusetts State Senate, the upper chamber of the legislature, I extend these congratulations to Dazed Cannabis in recognition of the auspicious occasion of the grand opening of your business."

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz thanked the community for supporting the new business.

"I just want to thank everyone who was a part of this," Wolowicz said. "Please visit, I've never been in one of these stores before, this is my first time so I'm going in as a newbie."



Senator Ryan C. Fattman talking with the Monson community.



Representative Brian Ashe came to express his sincere excitement for the dispensary opening.



Monson Town Administrator, Jennifer Wolowicz, moments before opening Dazed.

MSB raises money for UWPV

MONSON— Monson Savings Bank believes that one of its primary missions as a community bank is to be a virtuous corporate citizen. The Bank fulfills this responsibility by giving back to the communities where it conducts business. One of the many ways that Monson Savings Bank gives back to their communities is with annual efforts to support a local non-profit, United Way of the Pioneer Valley.

Every year the Bank's Human Resources department arranges a donation and pledge drive to benefit the United Way of Pioneer Valley. The annual Monson Savings Bank United Way Campaign and online pledge drive runs for two weeks. During this time employees are encouraged to donate to United Way via a one-time donation or pledge a recurring deduction from their payroll for the upcoming year. During the most recent campaign, held at the end of 2023, the generous team at Monson Savings Bank donated and pledged a total of \$5,184.

Beyond the annual pledge drive, this year Monson Savings Bank employees raised an additional \$1,063 through a fun, but competitive, internal, bank wide bingo game and \$695 through the Bank's TGIF Dress Down Program. The community bank also provided a corporate donation of \$1,000.

In total, Monson Savings Bank helped to donate \$7,942 to the United Way of the Pioneer Valley in 2023.

"The past several years have been incredibly challenging for many people. From the pandemic to economic struggles, now more than ever folks need help. This is where United Way steps in to bridge the gap by providing food and other essential services to those in need," said Dan Moriarty, president and CEO of Monson Savings Bank. "We have an amazingly generous team at Monson Savings Bank who is honored to help United Way of Pioneer Valley fulfill their mission."

For more than 90 years, United Way of Pio-



Submitted Photo

L to R: Dodie Carpentier, Monson Savings Bank First Vice President Human Resources Officer; Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO; Tracy Trial, United Way of Pioneer Valley Senior Director of Development; Megan Moynihan, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Interim President & CEO; Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank Executive Vice President & COO; Kylie LaPlante, Monson Savings Bank Assistant Vice President Business Development Officer.

neer Valley has held a reputation as the fundraiser for the local communities. By connecting the community and through strong partnerships and with volunteers, local businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, United Way accomplishes what no one can do alone. They mobilize people and resources to strengthen our communities. Learn more about United Way of Pioneer Valley at: <https://www.uwpv.org/>.

"United Way's work is intensely community focused. Whether it's connecting volunteers to area nonprofits, providing food through

our pantries, or promoting financial wellness, we simply cannot do it without community support. Monson Savings Bank is a true partner in this way, and we are proud to work alongside them in serving our neighbors," said Megan Moynihan, United Way Pioneer Valley interim president & CEO.

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

New assistant vice president of the Customer Care Center announced

PALMER— Country Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Clare Ladue as the assistant vice president of the Customer Care Center. With an impressive thirty years of financial service expertise, Ladue brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to her new role. Ladue graduated from Massachusetts Bankers Association, New England School of Financial Studies. She has a Commercial Lending Certificate from Massachusetts Bankers and numerous professional leadership certifications.

Throughout Ladue's career, she has gained extensive experience in banking, including retail banking, deposit operations, commercial lending, and regional management. This diverse background makes her the ideal candidate to lead Country Bank's Customer Care Team. Ladue's connection to the local community is evident through her previous



Submitted Photo

Country Bank Welcomes Clare Ladue as assistant vice president of the Customer Care Center.

Clare's commitment to community service is commendable. She has actively participated in numerous charitable initiatives, including the Walk of Champions, Junior Achievement, Rays of Hope, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and Link to Libraries. Her dedication to making a positive impact aligns perfectly with Country Bank's core values.

"I am thrilled to join Country Bank and utilize my leadership skills and experience to support our valued customers," said Ladue. "I will focus on their financial wellness, ensuring a superior customer experience from our exceptional Customer Care Team and I am eager to make a difference and contribute to the continued success of Country Bank."

involvement as an executive committee member of the Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce.



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Maple Days underway at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is open during the winter months with many seasonal programs and events each weekend with extended hours and the start of Maple Days.

Included with standard daytime admission on select dates in February and March, guests can 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.

Maple Days are Friday through Sunday, Feb. 23 through March 17 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Guests are encouraged to reserve tickets online and in advance for their date of arrival.

Tickets and more information can be found online: <https://www.osv.org/event/maple-days/>.

On Saturdays and Sundays during Maple Days, Ox & Yoke Café is offering a special Waffle Bar, featuring made-to-order waffles and a variety of toppings to create your own delicious masterpiece. The Waffle Bar is open on select days from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Recovery Center of HOPE

(RCH) is a community run for and by people in recovery.

We welcome those in or seeking recovery from alcohol, drugs, or any other addiction, whether that be personally and/or with a loved one.

Our community recognizes

Multiple Pathways because we understand that one size does not fit all.

RCH is open Monday through Friday, with occasional weekend events.

52 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
(413) 277 6290 • RCHinfo@wmtcinfo.org



RCH strives to create a safe, inclusive environment conducive to healing and growth. Our families and allies are valued members of our community.



Recovery on Main, a cozy and comfortable space with plenty of room for everyone to enjoy.

Building your recovery capital? Need a ride to move forward.

We're here to help! RCH is also home to Guiding Rides, a free recovery transportation support. This includes Monday through Friday transportation to nearby methadone clinics, as well as rides to treatment, providers, and other recovery supports.



Join us in community for:

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

Coming soon..

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



For current hours and offerings:

