

COMMUNITY Pet of the week: meet Meatball Page 2



ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT Dancer chosen for USA Tap Team



SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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Page 6

PALMER

Council discusses what to do with ARPA funds expiring next year

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - Town Council members are considering multiple proposals for how to use the money from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Interim Town Manager Robert Reed emphasized the importance of the timeline, as the project still needs to go out to bid. The discussions centered on whether to allot the money towards the school parking lot, and if that project could be committed in time to meet the ARPA deadline.

"I think one of the questions was, depending on how much ARPA money would be going to the parking lots, whether it could be done this season," Reed said. "I think that depends on two things; largely if and when the money would be approved, and how much.'

Reed then said that if the scope of work prevented the contractor from completing the project by the deadline, it would be in their contract that they would complete it next season.

"To answer the other question about whether it could all be done this season, we could issue a bid that would give a completion date of 2025," Reed said. "The money will be committed, it just won't be spent, so it will still be under the timeline." Councilor Phil Hebert was hesitant to commit the ARPA funds to the parking lot, saying that other departments had projects that might better serve the town. He cited a water line project that had previously been discussed, which he believed had designs ready to go and just waiting for money to be allocated.



Director of Special Education, Colette Bidus, alongside Special Education Teacher, Conor Quinn.

Program aims at helping students prepare for adulthood





COMMUNITY

High school student named to Monson **Conservation Committee**

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

MONSON - The Monson Conservation Committee welcomed high schooler Nathan Dietz.

While he believes his age will help bring a fresh perspective to the committee, he did express respect for his new colleagues.

"I feel like it is definitely helpful if anything," said Dietz. "Looking up to these people that are on the commission that are older than me because I feel like they act as mentors for what I should and how I should be participating and acting in my role as a Conservation Committee member. Since this is really my first ever experience and this is such a young age that I really don't have that much experience, I feel like its helpful that they're there guiding me along and showing me what to do in my position in order to do my job as the Conservation Commissioner. But I definitely feel that there was a lot of joy there when I first heard about it and was allowed the opportunity to be able to gain the position and it is definitely nerve-wracking at times because there is a lot of responsibility."

Dietz has a passion for nature and is looking forward to taking on the responsibilities of being on the committee.

'You are in charge of making sure you uphold all the rules, laws and regulations that come with being a Conservation Commissioner," Dietz said. "But I feel it is



Nathan Dietz releasing a newly hatched Monarch butterfly, getting ready to leave its hut to hang out with the Monson Conservation Committee.

do conservation stuff between my work with the monarch butterflies and trying to help with my school's projects.'

Dietz has always been fascinated by animals and nature. His family helped supply him with his future interests.

"Even before the monarch butterflies," said Dietz. "I think at

'To me, this is an investment

PALMER | page 6

The program has nomemade check out klosks and registers for students to use to practice real life job skills.

By Harrison Giza

Staff Writer

of Special Education for Monson

Public Schools, is a huge part of

the program and continues to give

ities of adulthood.

her all for her students.

within our district."

"The program serves students who are 18 to 22," said Bidus. "They are served until they are age hgiza@turley.com MONSON - The VIP Voca-22 and then they transition into tional Independence Program at more adult services. Our program Quarry Hill Community School is came about because our district helping give older students tools was really looking for programthey need to face the responsibilming outside, so you know, we're always sending students out of the Colette A. Bidus, the Director district in order to access these

A group of VIP students assembling their instant hit sandwich, the "V-i-panini."

Bidus aims to keep the momentum of her predecessor's ambitious program with consistence.

'On the day to day," said Bidus. "What we really are trying to assist them with are some valuable life skills with their level of access so that they can live as independently as possible as they transition into adulthood. The way we have the classroom set up is like a

VIP | page 12

SPORTS

Local runners finish St. Patrick's Road Race



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibell



Nicholas Kratovil crosses the finish line at 38:50. He was representing Monson in the race. More coverage of the race on page 7.

SELECT BOARD NOTES Monson residents seek rent control bylaw

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer

services, and so our former direc-

tor had decided to start a program

mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON - Several residents approached the Select Board this week to share information with the public, and to air complaints about the maintenance of roads and properties in town.

Mobile Home Community Park

Marie Loranger from the Monson Mobile Home Community Park on Palmer Road approached the board to advocate for the residents of the park.

"I'm asking on behalf of the tenants of the Mobile Home Park that an article be put on the Town Meeting to create a Rent Control Committee or board," Loranger said.

Loranger shared a copy of her recent five-year lease, which the owners said was mandatory to sign, at the risk of being kicked off the property.

"They said, 'if you don't sign this, you're a tenant at will,' and you could be booted and given a 30-day notice and you're out," Loranger said.

Loranger described "hatchet-

men" being sent by the owners into the community to push people out of their homes through no-contest evictions.

"I've been there almost 11 years," Loranger said, "And they are continually raising the rent \$100 a month every year. Within five years, it'll be \$970 for water and a dumpster and what land our trailers are living on."

Through conversations with Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz and the office of State Representative Brian Ashe, Loranger approached the Select Board to ask that something be done about the state of the park.

"I also called the hotline for the attorneys," Loranger said, "And luckily I got a gentleman who used to run a mobile home park and I let him know what was going on over there and he said a lot of it isn't kosher, so something needs to be done.'

In addition to potholes, Loranger described sewer lines backing up, with waste bubbling out of a vacant lot behind her home and onto her property. According to Loranger, the owners sent someone to put kitty litter on her property to try to absorb

MONSON | page 4

definitely something that is exciting because it is always something new and it is always something that I have been very passionate about. Ever since I guess I was a young age I've tried to go out and

SPORTS

Strong Panthers season ends in state semifinals



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Charlotte Theriault reaches out for a layup. More photos on page 7.

a young age my parents would always take us up for vacation to a farm that was in Vermont, so we got to see and handle and hang

DIETZ | page 9



MEATBALL

This is Meatball, a robo-hamster. She is about 4 months old. She likes tunneling, running on her wheel and nibbling strawberry treats. 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 ipg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Monson **Democrats** to award scholarship

MONSON- The Monson Democratic Town Committee is once again pleased to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of the Town of Monson and pursuing post-secondary education. This scholarship opportunity is not limited to students who attend Monson High School. Students who reside in the Town of Monson and attend Monson High School, or other high schools, including Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, are encouraged to apply.

The scholarship selection committee gives significant added weight to community service or extending service to others and takes into account extracurricular activities, strength of recommendations, personal statement, and academic/vocational achievement. There is no requirement that the student be an enrolled Democrat to be considered for this scholarship award.

The application for the Monson Democratic Town Committee scholarship award is submitted through the 2024 Monson High School Common Scholarship Application with a deadline listed on the application as all materials being submitted and postmarked by Tuesday, April 23. For more information about the Monson Democratic Town Committee Scholarship, specifically, questions may be

Local sugar house celebrates a new stand



By Emily-Rose Pappas Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

MONSON - Bryson Busiere and his family have been making maple syrup in their sugar house for 14 years, and it has grown to become a successful small business

Bryson's Maple Syrup, located at 289 Lower Hampden Road, recently got a new farmstand, and to celebrate. hosted an Open House for the state's yearly maple weekend.

"I liked being able to be outside," Busiere explained. "It started as a hobby and became more. I liked seeing the big operations doing it, and I definitely learned a thing or two watching them do it."

Busiere's maple syrup comes in a variety of fancy jars, but the stars of the show are the infused syrups - one with coffee beans and another with cinnamon.

Busiere also has maple sugar, maple cream that is as soft as butter and perfect for toast, and maple candy. He sells maple products at craft fairs and now, through his new farmstand.

"We're all a community here," Busiere said. His mother, Jodi, father, Marc, sister, Briea, and girlfriend, Grace, all help alongside their neighbors to make this business possible.

Altogether, the family and friends are able to produce anywhere from 200-300 gallons of maple syrup every year, and they have over 2,000 taps in the neighboring forests

For more information or to try any of Busiere's products, stop by the farmstand or visit their Facebook page.

MAC holds 30th art exhibition

past Sunday.

Council is pleased to announce its 30th annual Juried Art Exhibition and Sale. This year's show is sure to present some of the finest quality works of art from around the region. The works will be on display in Monson's House of Art as well as next door at the historic Memorial Hall from noon to 5 p.m., each consideration up through March https://monsonartscouncil.org/. weekend day from April 20 through

MONSON—The Monson Arts May 5. Cash prizes will be presented in four categories including: Painting, Photography, Multidimensional Art (Sculpture, Fiber Art, Ceramics, etc.) and Graphic Arts/ Mixed Media (Printmaking, Drawing, Collage, etc.). This year's cash prizes total \$4 500

org/spring-art-exhibition-andsale-2024/

Bryson Busiere in the sugar house, adds logs to keep

maple syrup production going at an open house this

This year's jurors include professional artists Kara Bigda and Cathy Liontas, as well as Curator, Eli Yung of the Fitchburg Art Museum. Admission to the Show is free and open to the general public.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Palmer Town election on June 11

- PALMER— Palmer Annual Town Election Tuesday, June 11. Term to start on July 1.
- Nomination papers available at the Clerk's office for the available seats:
 - Councilor At Large, 1seat, 3 year term Councilor At Large, 1 seat, 2 year term District Council Prct. #2, 1 seat, 3 year term District Council Prct. #3,1seat, 3 year term **Planning Board**, 1 seat, 3 year term School Committee, 1 seat, 3 year term

All nomination papers must be returned to the Clerk by April 23, or further information please contact the Town Clerk at 413-283-2608.

Celebrate the music of Taize on April 28

MONSON - Under the direction of Kiel Krommer, Director of Music Ministry, First Church of Monson will hold a service of Taize Music on Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

Taize Music comes to us from the Taize Community located in Taize, France.

About 100 brothers from Catholic and various Protestant backgrounds dedicated to reconciliation live at the monastery. The order was founded in 1940.

Much of the music is of the chanting genre and easy to sing.

First Church is inviting singers from choirs and communities in surrounding towns to join the choir for this ecumenical service of chanting and meditation.

Rehearsals will begin after Easter and are as follows: Wednesdays, April 10, 17 and 24 at 7 p.m. These will be at First Church of Monson in the Julia Sprague Chapel, second floor accessible by elevator or stairs.

Anyone who would like to participate in the Taize service is asked to contact Peter Matrow by email pmatrow@icloud.com preferably by April 1. Please send your name, email, and phone number.

First Church hopes that singers will join us for this special service, the first to be held in our area. Lift up your voice and sing in this special service of meditation and song.

Norcross open house in April

The staff of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation are holding an open house on Saturday, April 20. to celebrate the day. There will be programs, activities, tours, representatives from other naturalist organizations, Monson Pack 168 Scouts, as well as, free guest give-aways, and crafts for kids. A morning "Birding For All" walk will kick off the day at 9 a.m. presented by The Hampshire Bird Club. Horizon Wings will present a Birds of Prey Program at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. This event will take place at the Norcross Administration Building located at 30 Peck Road, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is free and open to all. The Norcross Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1967 by Arthur Norcross, to permanently protect the wildlife preserve he created in Wales, Massachusetts, and surrounding towns. His mission, and the mission of our organization today, says its Executive Director, Ed Hood, "Is to preserve a piece of nature intact so that wildlife, particularly rare plants and animals, can survive and thrive". Hood noted that by protecting the large blocks of natural lands and waters that are necessary for healthy populations of plants and animals, that Norcross is also providing a public benefit through the "green infrastructure" of healthy forests absorbing storm water and filtering it into clean streams and drinking water. Large blocks of forested land filter the air of pollutants, lowers local temperatures during the heat of the summer, and provides new clean air through WAYS TO the oxygen produced 1324(8)1 by the trees and plants of the forest. Ed will US be available to speak with community members who wish to know PHONE more about Norcross 413.283.8393 and its work. Fax: 413.283.7107 Subscriptions: 413.283.8393 For time schedule of events or more EMAIL information: norcrosswildlife.org. Advertising Sales Dan Flynn dflynn@turley.com

emailed to karen_monsondems@yahoo.com.

Artists can submit works for

22 at https://monsonartscouncil.

For more information go to:



Staff Writer Harrison Giza hqiza@turley.com

Marcello Gusmao mgusmao@turley.com

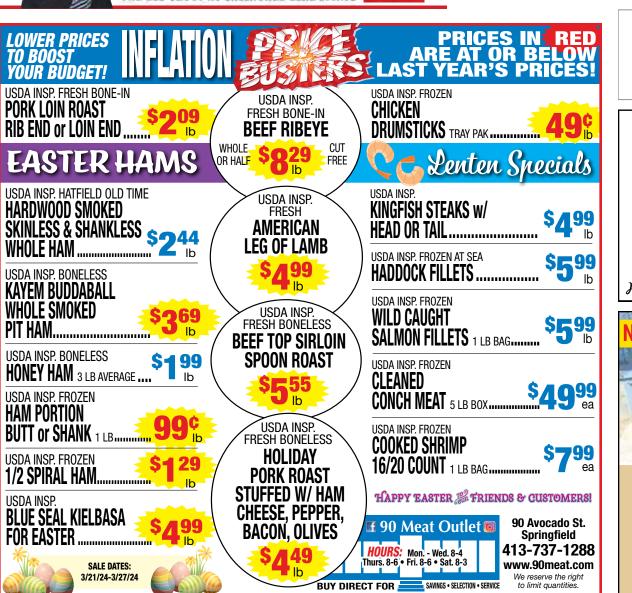
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@ The Journal Register





Mass. State Button show April 13

THREE RIVERS— Massachusetts be no button sales during the break from State Button Society spring meeting will be hosted by the Monson Button Club on Saturday, April 13, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There will

noon to 1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and auction will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting club; bring your own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

Corrections

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





The Journal Register **OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Monson Garden club to hold guest night

MONSON- Monson Garden club is sponsoring its guest night program floral design with Bob Whitney on Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m., in First Church of Monson on High St.

Whitney, a local floral designer for over 37 years working in education, retail, and wholesale, will present an instructional lecture on how to create fabulous floral arrangements using unique materials and innovative techniques.

This program is open to the public with light refreshments to be served. A suggested donation of \$5 will give guests a chance to take home one of the arrangements made during the presentation. It is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council.

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

Hops & Flow Vinyasa featuring Beyond Yoga with Ashley Bousquet at Seven Railroads Brewing Company, Park Street, Palmer on Sunday April 7, first class 9:30-10:30 a.m., class two: 11-12 p.m. Cost per class is \$20 per person. BEER token included!

Sign up with Ashley to be placed on our reservations list. You need to reserve your space ahead of time.

For more information Ashley Bousquet 413-221-8664 or email Lovendance@hotmail.com.



The Swift River Sportsman's Club, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their Friday fish fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5. Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available. Come out and eniov 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,

Quilt show on April 7

MONSON— Individuals who believe they have an antique quilt can come to the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road, when it opens for the season on Sunday, April 7, and learn more about it. Pamela Weeks, researcher, au-

thor, and curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, will be presenting her program "New

England Quilts and the Stories They Tell". Quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as tales of service and tradition. Weeks weaves world history, women's history, and wonderful stories into her presentation.

Attendees are invited to bring one quilt for identification and/or story sharing. Weeks will have cop-

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

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

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

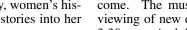
Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Public AuctioN

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH AT 11:00 A.M.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE • PALMER (THREE RIVERS) •

±3.400 S/F



ies of her books for sale.

This program starts at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge though donations are welcome. The museum is open for viewing of new displays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. And the Friends of Keep Homestead Museum meeting will take place after the Open House.



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Legal Notice

The Monson School Committee will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to discuss the proposed 2024-2025 School Department budget, as required by law,

on March 27, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Quarry Hill Community School-School Committee Room # 428 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89265447858 Meeting ID: 892 6544 7858

Ad club scholarship now available

The Advertising club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce applications are now available for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving western Massachusetts high school graduate pursuing higher education in the communication arts in 2024. Guidelines and application form can be found at www.adclubwm. org/scholarships or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at cecco@davidcecchi.com or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad

and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

The Advertising Club promotes a tradition of excellence, and with this annual scholarship, looks forward to making an important contribution to future generations of communications professionals.



Viewpoints



How do survivor benefits work for a married couple?

Dear Rusty

How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled? Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned

Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits, their own personally earned SS retirement benefit or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached Full Retirement Age: if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount.

But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own, then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced by 4.75% for each full year earlier. The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached heir FRA and if they are entitled to not nec



Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a

soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now

I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

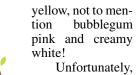
My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, Gerbera jamesonii.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.



the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to

ern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

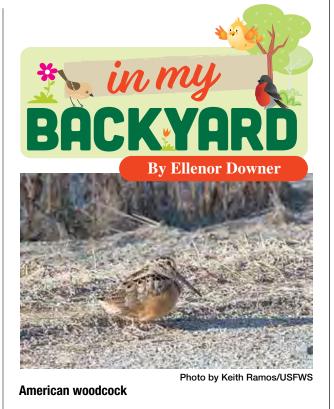
Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!



A Fiskdale couple reported seeing an American

They said, "On Saturday, March 9 we heard the

The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short

first woodcocks of the season. So happy to have them

neck, a dark back and buff breast. Its feathers blend into

the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into

the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound.

At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops. He give

a canary like flight song and begins a zig zag descent.

cocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area

and mate with the males. Males continue to display af-

The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined

with twigs or grass and placed within 100 to 200 yards

of the male's display ground. The female lays four buff

Canada geese

geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard

the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large

flocks of Canada geese fly overheard. The first flock

flew lower and lower and landed in my hayfield and the

pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and

Belted kingfisher

a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware

River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see

Black bears and more

said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a

bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second

I received an email from a Wilbraham resident. He

On Feb. 29, a spotted a pair of belted kingfishers at

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large flock of Canada

ter mating and may mate with other females.

eggs with brown splotches.

headed northward.

them this early

Several males may display in the same field. Wood-

After mating, the females raise their brood alone.

The Journal Register EDITORIAL iournalregister@turlev.com STAFF WRITER





ADVERTISING SALES Dan Flynn tflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com

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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.

the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey. It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. grow. On the east-It also easts insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas. Both sexes make a "peeent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet about

back.'

woodcock in their large field.

essarily collecting their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70 if desired.

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2,000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1,000) she was previously receiving.

If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2,000 and he will get no increase in his monthly amount. In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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.

Fashion show held on April 25

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

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in - nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine

MONSON | from page 1

the waste, but it hasn't helped.

Select Board Chair Pat Oney said that the Zoning Enforcement Officer should be sent to the property to address what's been going on. Though the board could not promise to put an article on for the next meeting, Loranger was instructed to follow up with Wolowicz.

Annual Town Election

During Public Comment, Town Clerk Mary Watson approached the board to talk about the upcoming town elections.

"The reason I'm here tonight is to talk more about civic engagement," Watson said. "The town nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office."

Watson said there is one seat open for a three-year term on the Select Board, the Board of Assessors, Highway Surveyor, Cemetery Commission, Parks and Recreation, and Water and Sewer Commission. There are two seats for threeyear terms on the School Committee, and one seat for a one-year term in the Housing Authority.

The deadline to get nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office is April 19," Watson said. "This is for the annual town election, which is June 11 in Monson. Voting will again take place at Memorial Hall and the polling hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. We will be offering early voting, and we will be offering vote-bymail as well."

Karen Nothe-Valley also approached the board to praise Watson and the Town Clerk's office for managing a successful election.

Building Department

Ben Murphy of the Building Department then approached the board to state publicly that signs that are being put up on a number of roads in town were provided by the Department of Transporta-

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

tion.

"Two years ago, the DOT did safe road adjustments for Monson off of the roads they consider to be more dangerous, where they have either had fatalities or accidents have been up," Murphy said. "We had six roads that fit the profiles. Those roads were Wilbraham Road, Upper Hampden, Lower Hampden, Margaret Street, Upper Palmer, and Brimfield Road."

Murphy said that DOT provided the town with 77 signs and 506 guardrail delineators to be put up on those roads to promote safer driving.

Finally, Robert Caddy spoke to the amount of trash on the side of the road, and proposed a solution he had talked with Murphy about.

"I've been here now for 22 years," Caddy said. "When I had a dog, I used to walk my dog from my home on Butler Road down to the intersection of Lower Hampden, and I used to bring a bag with me, a trash bag. I'd have it filled up with beer cans, nips, trash, debris. It was something that I did to make my area of town look better."

Caddy said that on a recent walk with his wife, he picked up 32 nips, along with enough beer cans, trash, and other kinds of debris to fill a large trash bag, which he described as typical of his monthly walks.

"I had an idea of how we could clean up our town's streets a lot better," Caddy said. "That is to make contact with the Sheriff's Department and get inmates from the jail, two or three with one corrections officer in a truck that can clean our streets.

Caddy insisted that the inmates chosen be only those convicted of non-violent crimes.

"I also thought that people that were sentenced to community service out of the court could do that," Caddy added.

time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."

He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feeders. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning." He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/ human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence, surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods. It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter. Loons are physiologically adapted for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water. The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location. Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time under water per dive (87 seconds, on average).

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.

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Journal Register

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from ocal residents endorsing candidate on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journa 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 numbe 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 writter 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 endorse ment 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 at torney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election as well as a question-and-answe voters guide. In order to ensure fair ness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

CREDIT FOR LIFE Country Bank brings financial literacy to schools

By Paula Ouimette and Ryan Drago pouimette@turley.com

WARE - Now in its 11th year, Country Bank kicked off the first in its series of Credit for Life fairs held across the region, offering high school seniors an opportunity to boost their financial literacy.

"It's an honor every year to work with these kids," Vice President of Community Relations Jodie Gerulaitis said at the fair held at Ware High School on March 13.

Seniors from Ware, Palmer and Belchertown high schools attended the Credit for Life fair, and also participated in an orientation led by Gerulaitis at each individual school prior to the fair.

During the Credit for Life fair, students receive a career, a salary and credit score, before visiting a number of booths designed to simulate life's expenses. These expenses range from housing, to insurance, to utilities and transportation, even furniture and "Fun, Fun, Fun."

"We try to make the fair as realistic as possible," Gerulaitis said.

Superintendent of Schools Michael Lovato greeted the students at the start of the fair and said Credit for Life was an opportunity not offered in most schools, and to be grateful for it.

"What you're about to learn here today, is going to be so beneficial for you," he said.

Incoming Country Bank President Mary McGovern, who will also be the bank's first female president in its nearly 175 year history, told the students to take advantage of the knowledge each volunteer brings to the fair with them.

"It's really a terrific opportunity," McGovern said. "I remember graduating high school and not even knowing what a credit score was. There was really no course that taught that."

McGovern said her own children have benefitted from attending Credit for Life, adding that "it's a great program," and has always been a great experience for all involved, from students to volunteers.

Volunteering at each booth are Country Bank employees, joined by members of the business community.

Helping to run the "Insurance" booth was Country Bank's Board of Trustees Chair James Phaneuf, who has been a trustee with the bank for over 25 years.

"Credit for Life is one of the many things that sets Country Bank apart from the competition," Phaneuf said. "It's a way to help young people prepare for life."

Phaneuf said the Credit for Life fair not only helps students preparing to head off to college in the fall, but it also helps those entering the workforce after graduation.



Incoming Country Bank President Mary McGovern helps students budget for 'Fun, Fun, Fun" during Credit for Life held at Ware High School.



Country Bank's Ashley Bressette explains how a rebate works to Nathan Fernandes.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Employment information is one booth that helps students find a job that supports them while balancing their budget during the Credit for Life exercise.

buying a home. In this exercise, the student's randomly assigned credit rameter of your salary. It is a true rescore helped provide them with more al-life example for the kids," he said. options the better it was.

sponsibility students must have when both selected careers as artists during they shop for a home is affordability. the fair.

"You must work within the pa-Ware High School students Lily Velez believes the biggest re- Bissonnette and Angelina Wilcox



Palmer High School students Jordan Bigda, Vanessa Baer and Grace Burke posed for a photo at Country Bank's Credit for Life.



Country Bank's Vice President of Marketing Justin Roberts explains how this student's "Reality Check" will either help or hurt their budget.

cut down on expenses.

Also deciding to be roommates were Belchertown High School students Evan Johnson and Karyna Rondeau. Johnson chose to become an electrician and Rondeau an environmental technician.

Salaries for both of these jobs were lower than either student expected.

The two also decided to adopt a dog from a shelter, which increased their monthly expenses by \$100.

Rainer Kristensen and Nathan Fernandes, also from Belchertown High School, chose careers in mehanical engineering and biology, re-

But they quickly learned that landing a second job wasn't an easy task as students competed for a select few

Palmer High School students Jordan Bigda, Grace Burke and Vanessa Baer each choose a career they will pursue when they've graduated.

Bigda decided to select law clerk, after interning at the Palmer District Court, an experience she said was "a lot of fun." Burke chose to become a dental hygienist, which comes with a higher salary than she expected.

Burke even used some of her extra income to purchase a trip to Cancun from the "Fun, Fun, Fun' hooth

to learn from the experience and be prepared to handle real life situations. "It helps to learn how to mitigate

and fix your finances," Bousquet said, as well as understanding credit.

Belchertown seniors Caleb and Conner stayed together during the exercise and appreciated the experience of Credit for Life.

Caleb's career choice for the exercise was accounting although he aims to pursue a career in science. Conner's career choice was being an architect and he plans to study construction management after high school.

Palmer High Schol senior Nyela Dupre chose registered nurse as her career and she was able to get a good credit score, as well as share an apartment with friends and share a car.

Dupre said the fair helped her "learn to cut back on expenses and balance a budget."

Dupre plans to study nursing after high school and wants to follow in her mother's footsteps.

After students visited each booth, they turned in their budgets to receive a prize, and walked away with a better understanding of their personal finances and the importance of budgeting.

Gerulaitis encouraged the students to "stick with it," as they navigated through the fair and said, "you're going to learn a valuable lesson today.'

Gerulaitis said Country Bank has been active in supporting a bill at the State House that would make financial literacy a mandatory requirement for high school students. If enacted, this bill would make the commonwealth the 26th state to have this requirement.

"This gives them an opportunity to see which jobs pay more than others." he said.

Mike Pulchtopek from Kanzaki Specialty Papers Inc. returned as a volunteer and said its "fun to see the kids learning.'

Volunteering at the "Housing" booth was JoMaria Velez, who helped students go over housing options such as

Students need to make sure they can afford a home, she said. "Know what you want," she said, whether renting or buying.

Transportation is another important purchase that involves credit as well. Transportation volunteer Michael DeMarco helped students decide between buying bus passes or leasing or owning vehicles that are fuel efficient. Interest rates also factored into transportation, and credit scores impacted them heavily

Wilcox said choosing a career was a "hard choice" and that she wouldn't mind working in an office or

retail store in her future. "A lot of these are really cool," she said of the career options.

Bissonnette said she chose to become an artist because she wants to pursue a career in animation or character art.

Both Wilcox and Bissonnette opted to become roommates, to help spectively.

While their salaries were less than expected, Kristensen said they both ended up pulling high credit scores, which gave them an advantage in housing.

Both agreed that rent was the biggest expense they faced so far at the fair. Students that needed more mon-

ey were able to apply for part-time jobs to help supplement their income.

Fionn Lydon and Thomas Marshall of Belchertown High School also selected careers in which they were interested. Marshall wants to be a State Trooper and Lydon wants to be a U.S. Marshal.

Both agreed that law enforcement, given the risk to personal safety, was paid much lower than they thought it would be.

Ware High School senior Nick Bousquet viewed the fair as a chance

Even without financial literacy as a requirement, Country Bank is still able to sponsor and provide education to high school seniors in 12 schools through its Credit for Life program.

such as renting an apartment and them heavily.	Kerc Cat
Adventure tours of Warren	Sati
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urday April 6th 5:30 PM Hi & Meatball Dinner Dance y's Church Hall South Street Ware hc Eddic Forman Band **Raffle Baskets** 50/50 Raffle & **A Super Raffle** \$10.00 Per Ticket **BIG Prizes !!** This Is An Event To Raise Funds For The Completion Of The Joe C. Knight Memorial Playground At St. Aloysius Catholic School

Wait For The New Playground! Won't You Please Help?

Dance student from local studio chosen for USA Tap Team

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - Alice Peabody, a dancer from the local dance studio, Gotta Dance, has qualified for the USA Tap Team for International Dance Organization's World Tap Dance Championship.

Gotta Dance has been at its location in the Pioneer Plaza for 18 years. The owner, Kelly Jordan, said that the opportunity to audition was offered to all her students, but that it was her daughter, Peabody, who qualified.

"This is a prestigious opportunity to compete on the world stage at the largest international event we know of," Jordan said.

Jordan described the competition as "the dance equivalent of the Olympics," and said that over 1,400 dancers from over 20 countries competed last year.

"This particular event is strictly tap dancing, but they do other dance events," Jordan said, listing world events for jazz, ballroom, and hip hop. Jordan said that tap is Peabody's specialty.

"Last year, it was in Germany," Jordan said. "They do a parade of nations at the beginning of the event following the Olympics model."

Jordan said that the dancers in Team USA come from all over the country. This year, the competition is being held in Prague, with rehearsals in upstate New York.

"There's a lot of legwork going on our end," Jordan said. "International travel is challenging, our son traveled to London a few years ago for soccer, but that was traveling with his team. We meet our team there because they're coming from all over. For the particular line that she's part of we rehearse in Brewster, NY, so we're in and out of New York to do rehearsals with them."

"This is the first time we've had a student compete at this level," Jordan said. "Alice is a regional and national title holder for competitions, but this is a much bigger deal."

As the owner of Gotta Dance, Jordan was very proud to see one of her students being recognized in a competition of this scope, let alone her own daughter.



Alice Peabody at a recent tap performance.

"Obviously I think it's great as her mom," Jordan said, "but I also think it's great as her dance teacher. We don't see this happen to a lot of kids, let alone kids from small towns or small town dance studios. If you're going to a big city dance school, like in New York City, those kids are going to have way more opportunities.

"It's really cool to see a local kid latch onto an event like this, to take something that started as a hobby to the next level," Jordan said.

Jordan said that she is part of a pre-professional tap group run by Aaron Tolson called Speaking in Taps, and that there is another dancer from the school that is part of that same group. Jordan listed a series of competitions that students from Gotta Dance compete in, such as Diamond Dance Awards, Accelerate, and the Work It Dance Challenge.

In addition to being a student, and her dedicated dance schedule, she's currently in pursuit of a sec-

ond part-time job. Jordan said that, in addition to being a student with a dedicated dance schedule and pursuing a second part-time job, Alice is looking for sponsors to help her fundraising efforts.

"I'm hoping to get some exposure for her, recognizing her numerous accomplishments and maybe to show other local kids what some hard work and dedication can get you," Jordan said.

Students at Gotta Dance also participate in community service events.

"Last year, Alice got a regional title at Diamond, she's a Diamond Dance Ambassador," Jordan said. "That's something when we have more than one ambassador at our studio, then the dancers are selected to do a lot of comm service stuff, over and above.

"The ladies at Diamond Dance choose kids to be proactive and create their own community events,"



Alice Peabody was awarded both **Technical Excellence and Highest** Score of the Event at Accelerate Dance Experience.



Alice Peabody was the recipient of the Hope Diamond Award.

Jordan said. "Last year Alice did a hygiene drive at Halloween and a breakfast drive at Christmas. That stuff went to Palmer Food Share."

Gotta Dance offers classes for students as young as two years old, with summer programs and a recital at the end of the school year.

"We toughed it out through COVID," Jordan said. "We do the Three Rivers Fireman's Barbecue every year, and back when they used to do Nostalgia Day and Celebrate Palmer, we used to do that."

Jordan said the school was invited by the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce for an event last year, but that the students would have to dance on grass, and as their instructor, Jordan chose to prioritize the dancers' safety.

"We have a great relationship with East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing," Jordan said. "My grandmother had been a resident there prior to her passing, so we had established a relationship with them, and one of our team moms is a nurse there and keeps that going for us."

PALMER | from page 1

of roughly \$1.5 million worth of tax dollars," Hebert said. "Before I was to say ves to all this other stuff, I would like to know that we're going down the right road."

Hebert said he wanted the council to "stop, look at the map, and say, 'hey, maybe this is the more beneficial way to use the money to get tax dollars for the town, versus this stuff here."

The Town Manager was less supportive of allocating the money toward the water line project, which the district said would cost the town \$2 million, which would eat up the \$1.5 million from the ARPA funds as well as \$200,000 from Chapter 90, and did not provide a timeframe for when the project would get done.

"To me, if I were a developer of this, I would think that this proposal was a great proposal because it's going to put in the water line," Reed said. "I don't understand, and I've explained this to the developer and to Bondsville, why there's no other money being leveraged, why it's being left up to the town, when it's going to be complete, who's going to supply the water – there are so many holes here, and I think you have so many questions that need to be answered.'

Reed also mentioned that the plan doesn't include a plan to replace the water tank, and said that getting answers to all these questions would mean missing the deadline for the parking lot.

Though supportive of gathering information for future projects, the other councilors expressed opinions that the school parking lot would be the most efficient use of the ARPA money within the timeline.

"If we're saying we're going to commit \$1.5 million to that water line project," said Council President Barbara Barry, "And then it does not get fully constructed and all the money spent by Dec. 31, 2026, we have to give that money back because under the guidelines of the ARPA funds. After Dec. 31, you cannot recommit those funds to a different project, so we just have to be very sure that that is going to happen."

Council Vice President Jessica Sizer advocated for prioritizing the parking lot, as it had previous-

ly been postponed.

"The parking lots at the school are in absolutely terrible shape," Sizer said. "It was our goal to do at least half of the parking lot last year, and then that got pushed off because of the track project, so I think it's our responsibility to get that project done."

Hebert was less concerned about the parking lot, saying that if the lot could be postponed before, it could be again and that he wanted to prioritize a use of the funds that would result in revenue returning to the town.

"It isn't like the town is going to die if we don't have the pickleball court or the parking lot fixed right away," Hebert said. "I'm just saying that I think the Council needs to sit down and talk with the Planning Department Chair Michael Marciniec about all the stuff that's going on."

Hebert conceded that the water line project may not be the best use of the ARPA funds, but wanted to make sure that the council made efforts to move forward on the water line project.

"I'm just saying that I thought they were ready to pull the trig-ger," Hebert said. "We aren't knowledgeable of the total spec. Is it something that we could be investing in? If not with this, then it definitely needs to stay on the radar. What do we need to do as a town to make this happen?"

"I'm very supportive of having a formal conversation about making this happen, because I do think this project would benefit the town as a whole," Sizer said, "But I will never ever make a decision based off of 'we just had a conversation here, and they're having a conversation over here, and they say this is going to be \$2 million' - no. Bring a written proposal."

Sizer clarified that this would require engineered stamp plans with relevant dates, verified by people in the profession.

The council was divided on whether or not to pave the whole parking lot or to use the ARPA money towards other infrastructure projects, and no decision was made. The discussion will continue at the next Town Council meeting on April 8.

The Recovery Center of HOPE

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





Submitted photos

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.

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Dario Camacho, of Palmer, finishes at 42:57.



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Brimfield resident Heather Fontaine crossed the finish line at 43:30.

Strong Panthers season ends in state semifinals



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Jordan Bigda attempts a layup.





Vanessa Baer goes for a basket.



More than 6,000 brighten great day at St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE - After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15.

Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 partici-

Please see **ROAD RACE**, page 8



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jayda Pardo heads down the court.

PALMER - Last Tuesday evening, Palmer girls basketball suffered a defeat in overtime against West Boylston High School in the Massachusetts Division 5 State Semifinals. The game was held on neutral turf at Worcester State University.. After finishing regulation



Madison Rathbone takes a free throw.

tied 50-50, West Boylston was just

a point better and got the big win

58-57. In her final game of the

season, Charlotte Theriault had a

31-point performance. The other offense came from Jordan Bigda and

Vanessa Baer, who had 13 points

each. Palmer would trail early in

the matchup, but had a strong second quarter to make the game a lot closer. The defense performed well in the final frame, allowing the Panthers the ability to come back and tie the game. Palmer went 15-9 overall for the 2023-2024 season.

YOUTHBASKETBALL



Aria Nompleggi hustles down the court.

Kylee Lucas fakes and makes a pass.

Palmer girls take part in Szlats

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Harper Ofouillette takes a shot.

CHICOPEE - Last weekend, the Szlats tournament, an annual girls basketball tournament at the

middle school level, took place in girls participated in three matchups Chicopee. The tournament included multiple division and Palmer's 5-6

prior to the playoffs.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey

Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

'We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their 'Time to Shine," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. 'This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games."

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames. org

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Locals named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

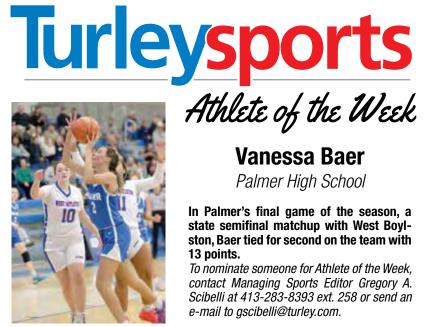
'The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys' and girls' sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby's Colin Murdock, Monson's Colin Beaupre, Ware's Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer's Andrew Menard, Minnechaug's Lylah Jeannotte, South Hadley's Drew Alley, Holyoke's Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive's Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam's Colin Smith.



💟 @turleysports

Vanessa Baer

Palmer High School

In Palmer's final game of the season, a state semifinal matchup with West Boylston, Baer tied for second on the team with 13 points.

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



Players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full

tween 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late

be played that way while the rest is an all-abilities league and all of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting,

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.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER - The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League is nearing the end of the regular season.

The top five teams in the third and final round are seeking a playoff spot at the end of the season. As of March 5, Acres are in first place at 10-2. Close behind Acres in second place is The Blue B's at 9-3.

In third place, The Champs R

The winners of round one Compression bowled against the Blue B's. In game one, Blue B's won 387-375. Bobby Ward of Blue B's started off with a 101.

In game two, Compression defeated Blue B's 369-365. In game three, Blue B's won the last game by a score of 370-360. Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1122-1104.

Thursday Night Mixed League

After league night on March 14, The Thursday Night Mixed League will have two weeks left of the season.

In one match, Team Three bowled against Team Two. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 412-379. Jesse Danek of Team Three led the team with a 106 to start the evening. In game two, Team Three dominated with another win 433-378. Danek bowled his best game of the season 132, which is now the leading high single of the league.

depth they need. To register, go to: www.quabbinvalleybaseball. org and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover be-

August with playoffs to follow. The league is also voted to

play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only. The middle five games of the schedule will

ask questions and express interwill be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

Chicopee, West Springfield, Agaest in joining. The league's board wam, and Granby being considered.

The Quabbin Valley league

pants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.

Here are at 8-4 and still lead with team high single (439) and team high triple (1253). Team BK and Last in Line are tied for fourth place at 6-6. The two lower seeded teams, Compression and Life is Good, have already clinched a playoff berth after each team won a round.

Another match was between the #1 seed Acres against Last in Line. In game one, Acres won by a score of 374-363. Paul Tereso of Acres led the team with a 107 to start in the match.

In game two, Acres continued with a strong performance on the lanes and won 381-341. Matt Bertelli bowled a 104 and Kenny Trudel led the team with a 111.

In game three, Acres won the last game by a score of 408-379. Trudel finished the night with a 121 and Dave Cobleigh finished with a 113.

Acres won total pinfall 1163-1083 and all four points to maintain their #1 seed position.

In game three, Team Three won again for a three-game sweep by a score of 402-391. Danek finished with a 99 and a series of 337

Total pinfall scores were Team Three at 1247 and Team Two at 1148.

Team Six, the winning team of round one, bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Six won 414-385. In game two, Team Six won again 416-390. Dan Mahoney of Team Six led the team in game two with a 107.

In game three, Team Six won 415-405 for a three-game sweep. Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1245-1180.

T-Birds get much-needed win over Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The situations in the period. Howev-Springfield Thunderbirds (27-27-3-2) answered a Charlotte comeback the day before with one of their own en route to a 6-4 win over the Checkers (31-23-6-0) on Sunday afternoon at Bojangles' Coliseum.

It did not take long for the Checkers to score their fourth consecutive goal of the weekend, as captain Zac Dalpe worked a 2-on-1, give-and-go rush to perfection with Cam Morrison, snapping a shot over Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 Charlotte just 2:56 into the first.

Springfield answered in kind on its first power play chance of the day, as Will Bitten hit a crashing Ryan Suzuki in the crease for a redirection past Magnus Hellberg at 5:22, making it a 1-1 game.

Charlotte continued having penalty troubles, giving the T-Birds two additional man-up er, the Checkers' PK answered the bell, and on their third kill of the afternoon, Rasmus Asplund added offense with a shorthanded shot past Ellis on the blocker at 14:32, finishing off another 2-on-1 and giving the home side the 2-1 lead at intermission.

It took Adam Gaudette just 19 seconds to restore a tie score when he stole a breakout pass and slapped a blistering shot over Hellberg's shoulder to even the game, 2-2. It brought him back into a tie for the AHL goal-scoring lead with Ontario's Samuel Fagemo.

The 2-2 tie only lasted 50 seconds, though, as Wilmer Skoog answered back on a jam shot from the right circle to give Charlotte the 3-2 advantage during a delayed Springfield penalty.

Charlotte's third power play proved to be a charm when Gerry Mayhew gave the Checkers a first minor, Jakub Vrana played two-goal lead when he poked a loose puck under Ellis at 8:32 to make it a 4-2 game.

WIth much of the momentum seemingly on Charlotte's side, the T-Birds got a wonderful stroke of luck at the 10:25 mark when a Skyler Brind'Amour pass caromed off Uvis Balinskis' skate and squeaked under Hellberg's legs. Suzuki was given credit for his second of the game, and the Charlotte lead suddenly slipped to 4-3

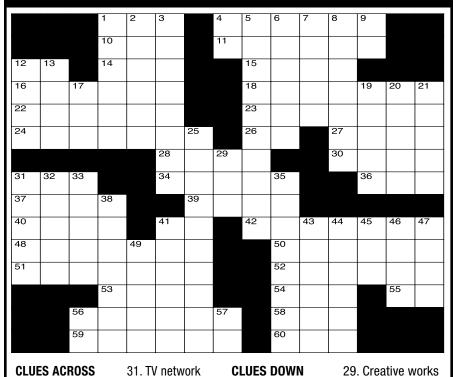
With their power play beaming with confidence, the T-Birds tied the game when Will Bitten deflected a Calle Rosen shot in behind Hellberg, tying the score, 4-4, with just 3:01 remaining in the middle period.

Early in the third, the Springfield power play again made a huge impact following a double-minor on Mayhew. With just two seconds remaining on the

the role of the deflector, as he guided a Dylan Coghlan snapshot through Hellberg, giving the T-Birds their first lead at the 2:30 mark of the third, 5-4.

After both teams committed minors just 51 seconds apart to set up 4-on-4 play, Coghlan added to the T-Birds lead on a 2-on-1, picking a spot over Hellberg's stick-side arm to make it a 6-4 lead for the visitors at 9:26 of the final period. Coghlan finished the two-game set with three goals and five points, and his goal put him atop the AHL leaderboard for goals by defensemen with 16.

From that point onward, Ellis and the T-Birds' defense stiffened, blocking countless Charlotte attempts en route to the win. Ellis, in picking up his third straight win over Charlotte, made 42 stops.



1. Small Eurasian	34. Silk or cotton	1. Make up for	31. Recesses
deer	garments	2. Baltimore	32. W. Pacific
4. Irish county	36. Soviet Socialist	ballplayer	island group
10. A major division	Republics	3. Salary	33. Tolkien
of geological	37. Retired	 Influential 	character
time	American	world body	35. Ancient symbol
11. Broadway actor	football coach	5. Engravers	co-opted by the
Lane	Dean	Declared as	Nazi party
12. Canadian	39. Hot dish	fact	38. Pioneer
province (abbr.)	40. A type of gin	7. One who steals	41. Scribe
14. Human gene	41. Atomic #84	8. Jewelry	43. Painted a
15. Two	42. Sawhorse	9. Hospital	bright color
16. A famous one	48. About ground	employee	44. Lowest
is blue	50. Medicine man	(abbr.)	members of
18. Utter repeatedly	51. Seedless raisin	12. Nonsense	British nobility
22. Ring-shaped	52. Capital of	(slang)	45. Actress
objects	Albania	13. Town in Galilee	Thurman
23. Spoils	53. Appendage	17. Value	46. Type of sugar
24. Occurs	54. OJ trial judge	19. A fake name	47. Crest of a hill
26. Commercial	55. By the way	20. Sheep in their	49. N. American
27. Near	(abbr.)	second year	people of British
28. Products you	56. Bicycle parts	21. Town in Surrey,	Columbia
may need	58. Barbie's friend	England	56. Device
30. Pledge thrown	59. Moved one's	25. Appropriate for	
down as a	neck to see	a particular time	Rushmore State
challenge	60. Commercials	of year	

ROAD RACE from page 7

DEATH NOTICES

Fred Peter Brozek Died March 14, 2024 Services March 19, 2024 Beers and Story Funeral Home

Alan R. Chase Died March 9, 2024 Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

Claire E. Rebello Died March 11, 2024

Susan M. Rebello

Died Nov. 9, 2023

Home

Services April 27, 2024

Beers and Story Funeral

Services April 27, 2024 Beers and Story Funeral Home

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.

date and place.

obituaries.

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

The Journal Register **OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of

One is a free, brief Death Notice listing

the name of deceased, date of death and funeral

В S F Fred Peter Brozek

PALMER— Fred Peter Jablon. He is also sur-Brozek, 89, died peacefully after a long illness on March 14, 2024 at Baystate Medical Center, surrounded by his family.

Fred was born at home at 57 North Street in Three Rivers, Massachusetts, on June 10, 1934, to parents Szymon and Honorata Brozek. He was predeceased by his twelve siblings: Stanley, Sophie, John, Edward, Frank, Mary, Joseph, Nellie, Vera, Joseph J., Stanley A., and Chester.

A life-long resident of Three Rivers, Fred attended Saints Peter and Paul Parochial School through eighth grade and graduated from Palmer High School in 1952. He enlisted in the United States Navy and served aboard the USS Prichett DD 561 until he was discharged in 1955. He worked at Monsanto Company in Indian Orchard and as a postal clerk at the Bulk Mail Center in Springfield.

On May 6, 1961, Fred married Betty Jacek, also of Three Rivers. Together they celebrated more than 62 years of marriage. He is survived by their four children: Paul Brozek (Margaret) of Belchertown; Teresa Nicholl (Jeff) of Camarillo, CA; Ann Jablon of Chevy Chase, MD; and Carol Brozek of Columbia, MD. He adored his five grandchildren: Joseph Brozek, and Charles, Lauren, James, and Jack vived by many nieces and nephews.

Fred was baptized, educated, confirmed, and married at Saints Peter and Paul, now Divine Mercy Parish, in Three Rivers. He served in a variety of positions, including chairman of

the Parish Council, co-chairman of the Parish Picnic Committee, member of the Men's Guild, and a caller at church bingo. He was an active member of the Saint Stanislaus Polish Lyceum of Three Rivers and recording secretary of the United Polish American Organization Council. He was a life-long member of AMVETS and a member of the Polish American Veterans of Wilbraham.

Fred loved polka music. His lawn hosted the large "Pulaski Park, Polka Capital of New England" sign for many years. As a young man, he wrote the lyrics to many Happy Louie and Julcia songs, including Freddie's Apples, Clock on the Wall, Our Beloved Senator, and Super Carl (Yastrzemski) polkas. For years, he cohosted J.D.'s Polish Variety Radio Show with John Dyl in Ware, and The New Polka Radio Show with Mitch Kupiec at Springfield Technical Community College.



Fred enjoyed a long and healthy retirement. His perfect day included going to breakfast with his friends, mowing his perfectly manicured lawn, watching the Boston Red Sox, and spending time with his family. He will be missed by family and

friends alike.

His family extends sincere thanks to his many caretakers, including those at Enhabit Home Health and Encompass in Ludlow, Baystate Wing in Palmer, and Baystate Medical Center in Springfield for the kind and compassionate care they gave at the most difficult of times.

Visitation with the family was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 4 -7 p.m. at the Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, March 20th at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish at 2267 Main Street in Three Rivers. Burial followed at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Bondsville. Those who wish to remember Fred in a special way may make a gift in his memory to Divine Mercy Parish Organ Restoration Fund, 2267 Main Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Alan R. Chase, 1958-2024

LUDLOW—Alan R. Chase, 66, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Son of Jane (Drawec) Chase and the late Richard Chase, he was born in Palmer, MA on Feb. 28,

devastating 2011 tornado. He and his sons helped re-open many of the Town's roads in the days immediately following the tornado. They further helped



also leaves his siblings Bill Chase; Scott (Madeline); Chase Linda Kershaw (Randv) and Lois Chase (John Seifert) as well as several nieces and

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer Police Department

The Palmer Police Department reported 461 incidents on its logs for March 5 – March 11.

March 5

At 4:59 p.m. police responded to an accident on Park Street with property damage.

March 6 At 6:43 a.m. police responded to an accident on the corner of Park Street and Stone Street with property damage.

At 10:58 a.m. police received sex offender registration. March 7

At 7:04 a.m. police responded to an accident on N. Main Street with property damage.

At 12:41 p.m. police responded to an accident on the Turnpike with property damage.

Fire Logs

Bondsville Fire

For the period Feb. 27 through March 11, Bondsville fire responded to 8 calls.

Thursday, Feb. 29 at 1:41 a.m., the department responded to Jim Ash Street for a smoke condition from a pellet stove. The department returned to service at 2:15 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 29 at 6:54 a.m., the department responded to High Street for a service call due to a water issue. The department returned to service at 7:19 a.m.

Sunday, March 3 at 6:56 a.m., the department responded to Second Street for medical assist. The department returned to service at 7:35 a.m.

Tuesday, March 5 at 5:37 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Franklin Street in Belchertown for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6 at 6:14 p.m., the department responded to Hillside Drive for the lift assistance. The department returned to service at 6:33 p.m.

Friday, March 8 at 10:05 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for an outside fire. The department returned to service at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 10 at 4:07 p.m., the department responded to High Street for an outside burning complaint. The department returned to service at 4:15 p.m.

Monday, March 11 at 1:47 a.m., the department responded to South Main Street for medical assistance. The department returned to service at 2:17 a.m.

DIETZ | from page 1

around with a couple of the farm son as much as he is able. animals that were there."

At 2:44 p.m. police responded with property damage. to a hit and run accident on River Street.

March 8

At 8:03 a.m. police arrested Robert Luke Chidoo, 56, of 8 Depot St., Palmer on a warrant.

At 11:23 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Sykes Street.

At 4:34 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 4:40 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 4:50 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 9:07 p.m. police arrested Timothy Casavecchia, 20, of 3108 Hillside Drive, Bondsville, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, person under 21 in possession of liquor, disturbing the peace and marked lanes violation.

March 10

At 12:19 p.m. police responded to an accident on Shearer Street

At 5:07 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:44 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

March 11

At 1:29 a.m. police arrested Jeffery S. Hunter Jr., 36, of 79 Brattle St., Worcester, on charges of OUI drugs, operating a motor vehicle with suspended license and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

At 7:34 a.m. police responded to an accident on Sykes Street with property damage.

At 9:34 a.m. police responded to an accident on the corner of Springfield Street and Bridge Street with property damage.

At 2:53 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Molly C. McCall, 38, 7 Connors Farm Road, Smithfield, RI, OUI liquor third offense and negligent operation of motor vehicle.

Palmer Fire Department

For the period March 12 through March 16, Palmer Fire Department responded to 8 calls.

Tuesday, March 12 - 16:17- MVA w/ Extrication- Palmer RD, Three Rivers (mutual aid)

Wednesday, March 13 - 15:26- Detector Activation- Margaret St- 16:01 Back in service

Wednesday, March 13- 16:00- Unauthorized Burning- Old Warren Rd- 16:45 Back in service

Thursday, March 14- 21:57- Detector Activation- Beacon Dr- 22:27 Back in service Friday, March 15- 05:46- MVA no inju-

ries- N Main St- 06:25 Back in service

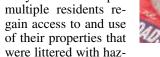
Saturday, March 16- 13:53- Unauthorized Burning- Ware St- 14:30 Back in service

Saturday, March 16- 14:33- Unauthorized Burning- Main St- 14:40 Back in service

Saturday, March 16 - 19:01- Unauthorized Burn- Ware St- 19:50 Back in service Palmer Fire responded to nine Medical calls for the week.

have always been a very stressful "I definitely want to make this person and I believe that going outside definitely helps calm me down a little bit as well as helping with the animals." Dietz is hopeful that he can help out the Monson community with his service on the committee. "I think I want to be doing a nice balance between helping the people that pass through while also at the same time going through and protecting the special environment that we have here because there's places such as our Cedar Swamp that is very, very rare indeed and I think those areas should be protected so that the public can understand how important these places are. I never want to start out on a bad foot as a new commissioner but I feel like having a good solid connection with the community and then showing them or helping them to see just how special Monson is environmentally is my main goal as a commissioner." The Monson Conservation Commission meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, every three weeks at the Monson Town Offices on 110 Main St. Agendas are made prior to meetings.

1958. Alan was a 1976 graduate of Ludlow High School. He was a devoted family man, passionate about his pets, raising livestock and building all sorts of things. He enjoyed working with his father and brothers on racecars, many of which raced at Riverside in Agawam, fueling his love of NASCAR. In his later years, he would often joke that he was "forever 38", since his mother would tell everyone she was only 39. He was a key individual in the recovery and relief for the town of Monson following the



ardous and downed trees. He was involved with Boy Scout Troop 164 in Palmer for many years. Alan also thoroughly enjoyed vacationing on Cape Cod.

In addition to his mother, Alan is survived by his wife Louise (Belisle) Chase; his two sons Mckinley Chase (Melissa) and Shane Chase; his step-child Kade Methot and his grandsons Lincoln and Jackson Chase. He

Claire E. Rebello

nephews

The family kindly requests that contributions be made in honor

dike as well as many

nieces, nephews and

at Divine Mercy Par-

ish will be held on

April 27, 2024 at 10

a.m. with burial to fol-

low at St Anne's Cem-

etery. In lieu of flow-

A memorial mass

great grandkids.

of Alan to the Bondsville Firefighter's Association, P.O. Box 1021, Bondsville, MA 01009. Your generous support will not only honor his memory, but also contribute to the community where both of his sons serve as volunteer firefighters. For more information please go to www. kapinosmazurfh.com.

He said his brother got into raising chickens, and together they started their own little farm.

"I think the big thing for me was that when my brother got into his, I guess his fad for having a bunch of chickens around," Dietz said. "So my parents decided to go and get him a couple of chickens when we were first young and I think that is kind of where it originally started because from there it kept building up and now it is to the point where my brother and I ran our own farm, Two Brothers Farm, at our own home and it was a huge success."

The venture really helped cement his interest in farming and nature.

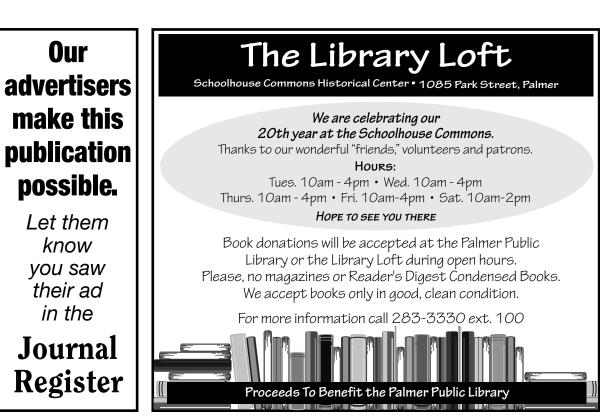
"At first we weren't sure," Dietz said. "And then it turned into a farm stand thing and then from there the community support became really widespread and really helpful, especially during hard times. That was truly the beginning of it all."

Dietz, now a senior at Tantasqua Regional High School, has a bright future ahead of him and hopes to help benefit the town Monsomething that I see as my career," Dietz said. "And really I guess the kind of the whole opportunity started when I actually sat down with

a Conservation Agent when I was on a few different committees, and I saw down with her about college options and how exactly I should go about doing this. She was the one to really hook me in and where I am today, where I am sitting, is because of her."

With college around the corner, Dietz is optimistic about what opportunities are next for him.

"I feel like I want to go into college," Dietz said. "I want to continue studying environmental science or any other conservation programs that we have, and continue through up to possibly my Masters Degree, but at the same time I want to be able to play it smart with finances and seeing what scholarships I can get. But I think I definitely want to continue going forward with this in my future for a long time, like careers and side events, because I think it Nisan important part of who I am. Nature is something that's very therapeutic for me because I



11, 2024 at Chestnut Hill Nursing Home in East Longmeadow. She was born on Jan. 3, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Cleopheus and Eva (Baeuvais) Potvin of Palmer. Claire was a longtime resident of Three Riv-She is known for her

PALMER-Claire E. Rebello, 92, passed away on March

kind-hearted spirit, always wanting to help everyone. She enjoyed the holidays and making lemon lush and fudge, playing cards and bingo, and being with her family.

She is predeceased by brother, Rev. Raymond Potvin, her sisters, Lorraine Dennis and Estelle Alderman, and her daughter, Susan Rebello. Her memory will forever remain with her son, Raymond Rebello (Betty) of South Car-

olina, granddaughters, Allison Rebello of Chicopee, Chrissy Greene (Andy) of North Carolina, and Lisa Bernier (Mark) of Virginia, and Sister-in-law Charlene Kosmider (Steve) of Thorn-



ers, donations can be sent in Claire's memory can be made to Spectrum Home Health and Hospice Care in Longmeadow. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Susan M. Rebello

PALMER-Susan M. Rebello, 68, passed away Nov. 9, 2023 at her home. She was born in Palmer on Jan. 15, 1955. She was the daughter of Claire (Potvin) Rebello and the late Roland A. Rebello of Palmer. Susan was a longtime resident of Palmer until she moved to Wilbraham and Chicopee.

In her leisure, she enjoyed gardening, playing cards, and assisting others especially the elderly.



caregiver, Donna Guerin of Chicopee as well as many cousins. A memorial mass at Divine

Mercy Parish will be held on April 27, 2024 at 10 a.m. with burial to follow at St. Anne's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in Sue's memory to Dana Farber Cancer Institute Breast Oncology in Boston or St. Jude's Children's

Hospital. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

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son, MA. Monday-Friday.

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the pos tion of Town Administrator. Re sponsibilities include professional administrative, supervisory, and echnical work. See job descrip tion at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cov letter to Selectmen@brook fieldma.us. Open until filled Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit www. wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until

The Town of Worthington is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer, Tax Collector: 7-10 Hours a week, the position consists of assisting in the collection and posting of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes. Assist in mailings and general office duties. Special requirement: Must meet the requirements to be bonded. Proficient in communicating with the public, computer skills, record keeping, and clerical skills. Please send a cover letter and resume to Town of Worthington, Tax Collector's Office, P.O. Box 213, Worthington, MA 01098

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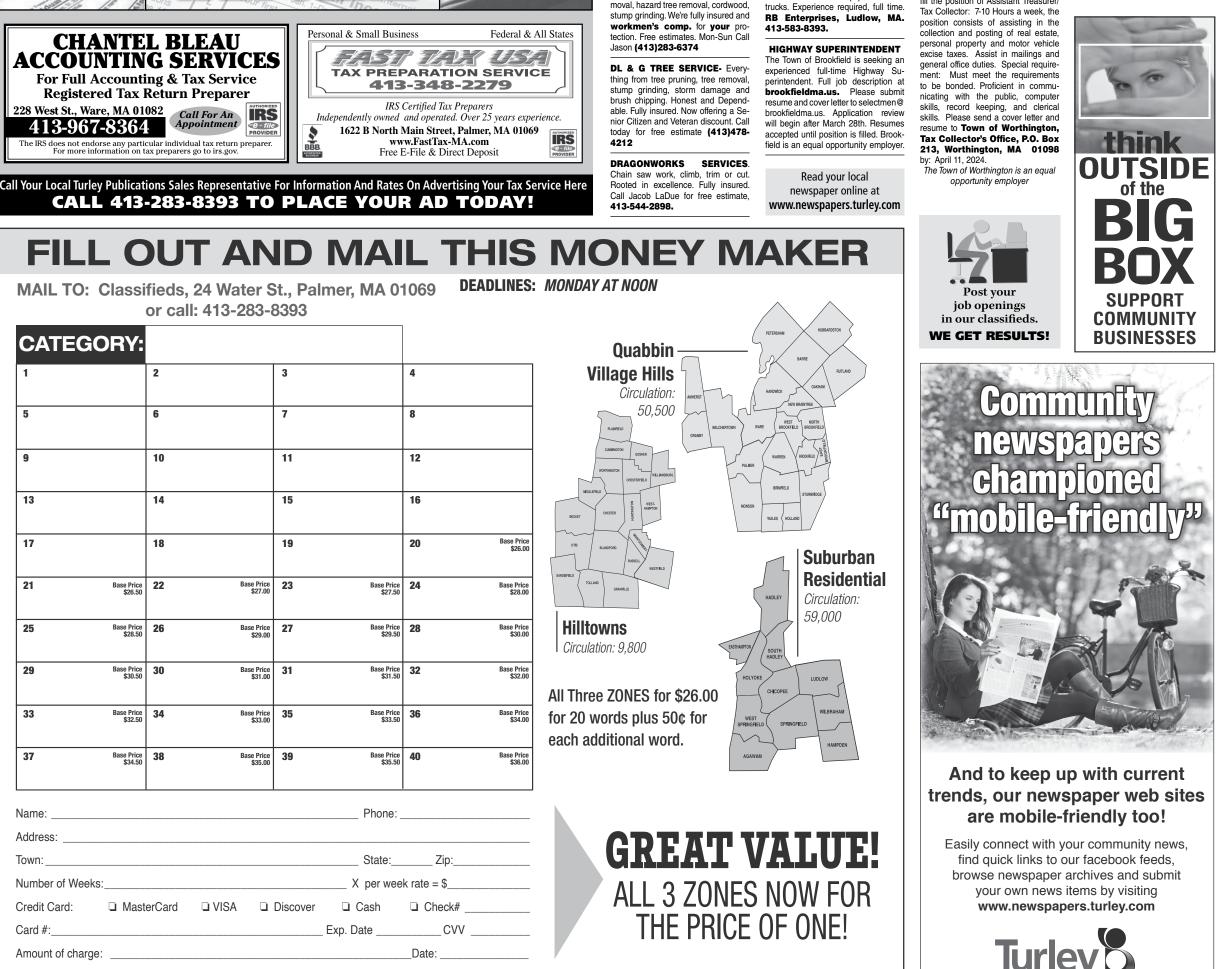
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discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about



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Viewpoints

LEGAL NOTICE

MONSON

CONSERVATION

COMMISSION

of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40,

the Monson Conservation

Commission will hold a pub-

lic hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 8:10 PM

in the Large Meeting Room,

Town Office Building, 110

Main St. Under consider-

ation is a Request for Deter-

mination of Applicability to

determine if the work asso-

ciated with the installation

of a HDPE (High Density

Polyethylene) solid wall lin-

er pipe within the existing

culvert within the ROW on

Silver St, Stafford Hollow

Rd. & Wilbraham Rd. identi-

fied as being near Assessor's

Maps 026, 106, 073, Parcels

006, 007, 006, is subject to

Under the requirements

PAGE 11

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 8:20 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the installation of a 260-foot drainage pipe for the playscape area within Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and Bank for the property located at 8 State St, identified as Assessors Map 114, Parcel 100. The Applicant is the Town of Monson.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 03/21/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the installation of two tight tanks for ADA compliant bathrooms within the Buffer Zone for the property located at 101 Wilbraham Řd, Assessor's Map 015, Parcel 013, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Richard Krupzak.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 03/21/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40. the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:50 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the resurfacing and expansion of an existing driveway with permeable hard pack gravel and open bottom carport within the Riverfront Area for the property located at 325 Main St, identified as Assessors Map 116, Parcel 045. The applicant is Donna Bourguignon.

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. HD24C0086CA In the matter of:

Jeremy Beamenderfer **CITATIÓN ON PETITION** TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been filed by Jeremy Beamenderfer of Three Rivers, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name

Melissa Rosealitta Beamenderfer 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 04/18/2024.

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 13, 2024 **Rosemary A Saccomani**

Register of Probate 03/21/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. HS22P0183EA Hampshire Probate and **Family Court** 15 Atwood Drive, Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 586-8500 CITATION ON

PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Estate of:

Judith Elaine Camarena Date of Death: 11/23/2021 To all interested persons: Petition For Order Of Complete Settlement has been filed by Diane Smith of Ware, MA requesting that: the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law. First and Final Account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 **04/11/2024**. 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. WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez, First Justice of this Court.

THE COMMONWEALTH **OF MASSACHUSETTS** Attest LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF

THE TRIAL COURT 03/21/2024 **Docket Number: 2** 4 SM 000972 ORDER OF NOTICE To: Robert H. Hayes and to all persons enti-

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

(SEAL)

Freedom Mortgage Corporation

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 2015 East Street, given by Robert H. Hayes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, dated February 8, 2022, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24403, Page 238, 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 recent-

ly 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 29, 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 March 13, 2024. **Deborah J. Patterson** Recorder

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P1891EA

25546

Estate of: Robert R. Laviolette, Sr. Also Known As: Robert R. Laviolette

Date of Death: 06/06/2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Lee A. Chester of Ware,

MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Lee A. Chester of Ware. MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/21/2024

Invitation for Sealed Bids Town of Monson Highway Department

The Highway Surveyor will accept sealed bids for **Conventional Chip Seal** and Rubber Seal for fiscal year 2025. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement - Surfacing, for the project with an estimated value of \$248,600.00 will be required. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to extend the contract for One (1) additional 12-month option. Valuation for purposes of MassDOT Prequalification is based on first year times two (2) to arrive at an estimated total value of all bid items. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to Bid is for one year. Vendors are expected to be able to provide their services over two (2) years at two (2) times the initial estimated value. All bid envelopes must be clearly marked as such. All bidders are required to be in compliance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Prevailing wage rates, where applicable. The highway surveyor reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding if he deems it in the best interest of the town to do so. Bid specifications must be obtained from the Highway Clerk's office.

Monson Conservation 03/21/2024

Frederick McDonald.

Commission

non-collusion.

03/21/2024

Ben Murphy

Highway Surveyor

Monson Highway

LEGAL NOTICE

MONSON

CONSERVATION

COMMISSION

They can be picked up at Commonwealth of 198 Main Street Monson, Massachusetts Ma 01057, rear of Memorial The Trial Court Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to **Probate and Family Court** 3:00 p.m., Monday through Hampden Division Friday or can be emailed Docket No. HD24P0393EA upon request by calling the Estate of: **ROBERT WAYNE** Highway Department at RIENDEAU (413) 267-4135. Bidders Date of Death: must be prequalified by the **JANUARY 2, 2022** Contract Engineer of Mass. **INFORMAL PROBATE** D.O.T., before specifications **PUBLICATION NOTICE** can be handed out. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., To all persons interested Friday April 05, 2024, and

in the above captioned estwill be opened and read at ate, by Petition of Petitioner JOSHUA RIENDEAU of that time in the office of the **BRIMFIELD**, MA. Highway Surveyor. The bid shall include a statement of

JOSHUA RIENDEAU of BRIMFIELD, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate Departmen 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 super-Under the requirevision by the Court. Invenments of M.G.L. Chapter tory and accounts are not 131, §40, the Monson required to be filed with the Conservation Commission Court, but interested parties will hold a public hearare entitled to notice regarding on Wednesday, April ing the administration from 3, 2024 at 8:00 PM in the the Personal Representative Large Meeting Room, Town and can petition the Court Office Building, 110 Main in any matter relating to the St. Under consideration is a estate, including distribu-Request for Determination tion of assets and expenses of Applicability to determine of administration. Interested if the work associated with parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute the construction of a new single-family home, driveway, formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating septic, and well for the propor restricting the powers of erty located on Munn Rd, identified as Assessor's Map Personal Representatives 175A Parcel 009, is subject appointed under informal to the Wetlands Protection procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can Act. The Applicant is be obtained from the Pet-Submitted by: itioner. 03/21/2024

the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Monson Highway Department. Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 03/21/2024 Please check the accuracy of

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



Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 03/21/2024

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 10 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 1st, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Stolar Realty, LLC, is requesting a variance from §171-35 Dimensional and Density Regulations. The variance request is to allow for the construction of a 20'x28' storage building within the front setback. The property is located at 2001 Calkins Road, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 67, Lot 63.

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).

Dennis Fountain Chairman, Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals 03/14, 03/21/2024

Date: March 13, 2024 Mark S. Ames, Temporary Register of Probate 03/21/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the require-ments of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:40 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the entrance cut for a new single-family home for the property located on Cedar Swamp Rd, identified as Assessor's Map 122, Parcel 012, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Ronald Bilodeau.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 03/21/2024

YOUR LOCAL HOUTED RELIABLE DEPENDABLE PROS



Palmer Domestic Violence Taskforce Raises Funds At Comedy Show

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

PALMER - Members of AMVETS (American Veterans) Post 74 Ladies Auxiliary hosted "A Night of Laughter to benefit a Serious Cause" on Saturday, March 16th. The event was completely sold out.

The comedy show was for those over 21 years of age and featured the comedic charm of radio legend, Steve Nagle, of Rock 102.1 FM. AMVETS advertised the event for weeks beforehand.

"The response was amazing," said Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator, Crystal Rondeau. "We did even better than I expected and I am really proud of what we were able to accomplish."

Due to recent successes helping

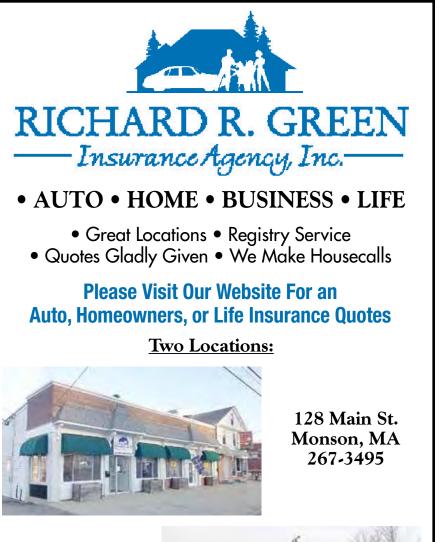
their local community, the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force was chosen by American Veterans as the recipients of the proceeds of this event. Pre-sale tickets were sold for \$30.00 and even though buying beforehand was preferred, there were still some tickets available at the



A balloon and some signs outside of Amvets Post 74 in Three Rivers.



The loyal Amvets Post 74 Ladies Auxiliary, with event headliners, Steve Nagle and his crew of funny friends.



32 Somers Rd. Hampden, MA 566-0028





Submitted photos, Crystal Rondeau **Rock 102 Morning Show Host/ Comedy Show Headliner** Steve Nagle and Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator, Crystal Rondeau.

Event organizer and Amvets Post 74 member, Andrea Sullivan, was in attendance thatnight.

"We raised some money for a great cause," Sullivan said. "It is serious cause, but it is a great one."

The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force is dedicated to promoting education and providing awareness in the Western Massachusetts community while empowering, educating and providing resources to those who have been affected by Domestic Violence in Palmer or have found Safety in Palmer

AMVETS Post is located at 2150 Main St, Three

VIP | from page 1

classroom instructional setting, but we also have an apartment type setting set up for students and that is where they can have some of their leisure time together. They cook together, they have lunches together and it is really set up in a home type of environment so that they can build skills that they will be working on as they get older."

Among the program's highlights, the students have created a mock grocery store to help develop the very regular chore of shopping for food.

"They have created a mock grocery store," Bidus said, "One of our classroom spaces has been completely set up as one and so this gives them the opportunity to practice some vocational skills that they might use they were stocking, cash registers and customer service. We also give them the opportunity to practice that shopping component, living independently and what it takes in order to kind of run the household or get food for yourself ... what we have tried to do as a crossover for our younger students is trip to the grocery store, so our VIP students are working the store and then the younger students are getting that practice in money

management as well." Special Education Teacher Conor Quinn is thankful for any and all items provided to VIP's in-training grocery store.

"We even have real flyers," said Quinn. "Adams Market in town sends these and it makes this place seem just like a regular grocery store. It really is awesome the amount of things we have been able to put up here for students."

Bidus is proud of her VIP crew and continues to implement the best foot forward for her entire team. One recurring event has been a great success in her eyes.

"The students in VIP run sort of a luncheon service every week," said make this item available to

any of the teachers available at the high school and in our central business office. They take the orders, they make all the sandwiches and they

around her, especially Monson students. On the horizon, Bidus is excited to help out and participate in another successful season of local Special Olympics.

'We have a fantastic event in the spring every year that we host here in the district," Bidus said. "And it has become something that all of the students across the district and staff really



A student admiring his handy work at the end of a try to get them to take a field busy mock up grocery store shift.



One of many VIP Vocational signs found inside the halls of Quarry Hill Community School.



Bidus "So they cook and A training station for students interested in learning they call it 'Vi-panini.' They waiter, host or general service skills.

look forward to. We invite other districts like Hampden and Wilbraham, Ludlow, Belchertown and Palmer and manage all the money on a weekly they all come and compete in competitions against their peers. They have an incredible day outside and it is such a great day of inclusion for everyone. They just have such an amazing time. We really try to partner with Special Olympics throughout the year to create as many opportunities for students as they grow and learn together."

Fax: 413-267-3496 Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com www.richardgreeninsurance.com



Rivers, MA. For more information regarding future events, call (413) 283-4518. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force office is located at 4417 Main St Suite #3 in Palmer.

basis, so this really gives them that practice of that life skills like cooking, cleaning, managing themselves in those ways.'

Bidus has always been drawn to help others in her community. She enjoys benefiting those



Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. **Businesses and organizations** from those towns are welcome to join!





Visit warebca.com email warebca@gmail.com



Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!

Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Bevond!

> Our Mission

We're not just any organization - we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth. and spark innovation.

> Why Join Us?

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our closeknit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

A Legacy of Achievement

Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings - we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

Events that Sparkle

Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

Network that Expands

With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

An Investment in Success

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem.

- Seamless Entry
- Embrace Uniqueness

Ready to take your business to new heights while having a blast? Join us on this exciting ride! Let's be partners in growth and partners in fun.





A picture of a former VIP student working hard. The classrooms are filled with Hall of Fame style graduates.

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