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# The Journal Register

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**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.

“To me, this is an investment

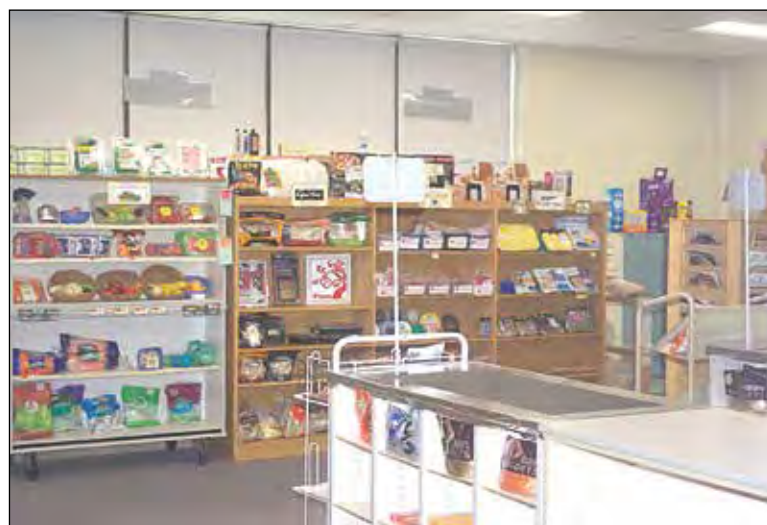
PALMER | page 6



Photos by Harrison Giza

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

## Program aims at helping students prepare for adulthood



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

By Harrison Giza  
 Staff Writer  
 hgiza@turley.com

MONSON – The VIP Vocational Independence Program at Quarry Hill Community School is helping give older students tools they need to face the responsibilities of adulthood.

Colette A. Bidus, the Director of Special Education for Monson Public Schools, is a huge part of the program and continues to give

her all for her students.

“The program serves students who are 18 to 22,” said Bidus. “They are served until they are age 22 and then they transition into more adult services. Our program came about because our district was really looking for programming outside, so you know, we’re always sending students out of the district in order to access these services, and so our former director had decided to start a program within our district.”



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 consistency.

“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

**COMMUNITY**

## High school student named to Monson Conservation Committee

By Harrison Giza  
 Staff Writer  
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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 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



Submitted photo

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 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

**SPORTS**

## Local runners finish St. Patrick’s Road Race



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Nicholas Kratochvil 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  
 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

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**SPORTS**

## Strong Panthers season ends in state semifinals

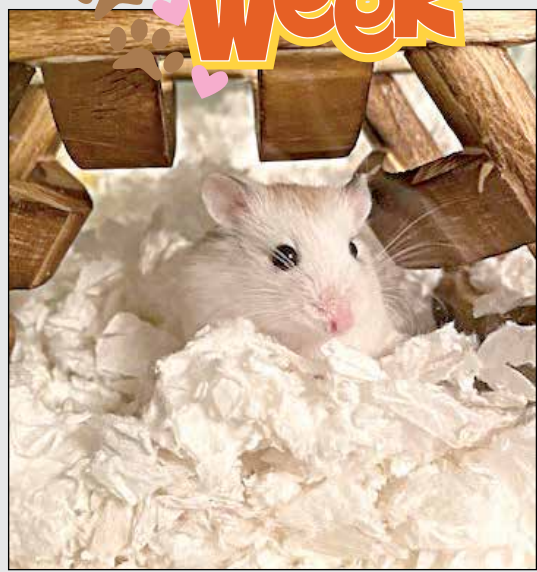


Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Charlotte Theriault reaches out for a layup. More photos on page 7.



# Pet of the Week



**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 jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## Local sugar house celebrates a new stand



By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
[epappas@turley.com](mailto: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.



Coffee-infused maple syrup is ready to be taken home and enjoyed on pancakes or waffles.

Shown from left are Bryson's girlfriend Grace, Bryson Busiere and Marc Busiere standing with their new farmstand.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas  
Bryson Busiere in the sugar house, adds logs to keep maple syrup production going at an open house this past Sunday.

## 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 emailed to [karen\\_monsondems@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_monsondems@yahoo.com).

## MAC holds 30th art exhibition

MONSON— The Monson Arts 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 weekend day from April 20 through

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

Artists can submit works for consideration up through March 22 at <https://monsonartscouncil.org/spring-art-exhibition-and-sale-2024/>.

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.

For more information go to: <https://monsonartscouncil.org/>.

## Mass. State Button show April 13

THREE RIVERS— Massachusetts 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

be no button sales during the break from 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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com), or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



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

**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](mailto:Lovendance@hotmail.com).

**ONGOING**

The Swift River Sportsman's Club, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announc-

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

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

homesteadmuseum.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](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

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

**QI GONG:** 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.

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# 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, author, 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-

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.

**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](http://www.adclubwm.org)/scholarships or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at [cecco@davidecchi.com](mailto:cecco@davidecchi.com) or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.  
Western Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition 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.

*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.**

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

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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  
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# 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.

"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 renting an apartment and



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.



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 score helped provide them with more options the better it was.

Velez believes the biggest responsibility students must have when they shop for a home is affordability.

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.

"You must work within the parameter of your salary. It is a true real-life example for the kids," he said.

Ware High School students Lily Bissonnette and Angelina Wilcox both selected careers as artists during the fair.

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



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 mechanical engineering and biology, respectively.

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

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

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" booth.

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

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 School 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.

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.

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# 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 yes 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 previously

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 fixed 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 Marciniak 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 trigger," 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.

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## ROAD RACE



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



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

## 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 participants.

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

## BASKETBALL

## Strong Panthers season ends in state semifinals



Jordan Bigda attempts a layup.



Vanessa Baer goes for a basket.



Jayda Pardo heads down the court.



Madison Rathbone takes a free throw.

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

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 Nompoggi hustles down the court.



Kylee Lucas fakes and makes a pass.



Harper Ofouillette takes a shot.



AJ Allard heads down the left side of the court.

## Palmer girls take part in Szlats

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

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

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

girls participated in three matchups prior to the playoffs.





DEATH NOTICES

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

**Claire E. Rebello**  
Died March 11, 2024  
Services April 27, 2024  
Beers and Story Funeral Home

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

**Susan M. Rebello**  
Died Nov. 9, 2023  
Services April 27, 2024  
Beers and Story Funeral Home

*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](mailto:obits@turley.com).  
*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

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.

At 2:44 p.m. police responded 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

with property damage.  
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.

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.

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/ Ex-trication- 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 injuries- 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.

O B I T U A R I E S

Fred Peter Brozek

PALMER— Fred Peter 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

Jablon. He is also survived 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 "Polaski Park, Polka Capital of New England" sign for many years. As a young man, he wrote the lyrics to many Happy Louie and Julia 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](http://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, 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

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 multiple residents regain access to and use of their properties that were littered with hazardous 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



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

The family kindly requests that contributions be made in honor of Alan to the Bondsville Fire-fighter'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](http://www.kapinosmazurfh.com).

Claire E. Rebello

PALMER—Claire E. Rebello, 92, passed away on March 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 (Baeuvals) Potvin of Palmer. Claire was a longtime resident of Three Rivers.

She is known for her 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 Carolina, 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-



dike as well as many nieces, nephews and great grandkids.

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 Claire's memory can be made to Spectrum Home Health and Hospice Care in Longmeadow. Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://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.

Besides her mother, her memory will forever remain with her brother, Raymond Rebello (Betty) of North Carolina, nieces Allison Rebello of Chicopee, Chrissy Greene (Andy) of North Carolina, and Lisa Bernier (Mark) of Virginia, and cousin/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](http://www.beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.

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# Viewpoints

**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 Assessor's 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 Rd., 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 Assessor's Map 116, Parcel 045. The applicant is Donna Bourguignon.

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

**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  
CITATION 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 to:

**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.  
Date: March 13, 2024  
**Mark S. Ames**,  
Temporary Register of  
Probate  
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 7:40 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

**(SEAL)  
THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE TRIAL COURT  
Docket Number: 2  
4 SM 000972  
ORDER OF NOTICE**

To: **Robert H. Hayes**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
**Freedom Mortgage Corporation**  
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 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 recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **April 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.  
Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
25546  
03/21/2024

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

**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.

They can be picked up at 198 Main Street Monson, Ma 01057, rear of Memorial Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or can be emailed upon request by calling the Highway Department at (413) 267-4135. Bidders must be prequalified by the Contract Engineer of Mass. D.O.T., before specifications can be handed out. Bids will be received until **10:00 a.m., Friday April 05, 2024**, and will be opened and read at that time in the office of the Highway Surveyor. The bid shall include a statement of non-collusion.

Ben Murphy  
Highway Surveyor  
Monson Highway  
Department  
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 8:00 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 construction of a new single-family home, driveway, septic, and well for the property located on Munn Rd, identified as Assessor's Map 175A Parcel 009, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Frederick McDonald.

Submitted by:  
Monson Conservation  
Commission  
03/21/2024

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD24P0393EA  
Estate of:  
ROBERT WAYNE  
RIENDEAU  
Date of Death:  
JANUARY 2, 2022**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **JOSHUA RIENDEAU of BRIMFIELD, MA.**  
**JOSHUA RIENDEAU of BRIMFIELD, 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

**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 8:10 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 a HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) solid wall liner pipe within the existing culvert within the ROW on Silver St, Stafford Hollow Rd, & Wilbraham Rd, identified as being near Assessor's Maps 026, 106, 073, Parcels 006, 007, 006, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Monson Highway Department.  
Submitted by:  
Monson  
Conservation Commission  
03/21/2024

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the accuracy of  
your legal notice  
prior to submission  
(i.e., date,  
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# 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 door.



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.



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 that night.

“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 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.

## 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 try to get them to take a field 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 Bidus “So they cook and they call it ‘Vi-panini.’ They 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 manage all the money on a weekly 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

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 busy mock up grocery store shift.



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



A training station for students interested in learning waiter, host or general service skills.

look forward to. We invite other districts like Hampden and Wilbraham, Ludlow, Belchertown and Palmer and 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.”

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## WB&CA and Beyond!



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### ► 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 close-knit 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.

