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TOWN HALL

Select Board stands by Town Administrator contract

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
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MONSON – At a recent Select Board meeting, the board discussed controversies surrounding the finalized contract for the Town Administrator.

Contract renegotiations

Select Board Chair Pat Oney opened a renegotiation discussion for the employment contracts of the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, and the Town Administrator. The Fire and Police Chief's contracts were reopened as a formality in order to discuss the contract for Town Ad-

ministrator Jennifer Wolowicz.

"We began the process of reviewing those contracts back in October of 2023 and completed negotiations in mid-November," Oney said. "The board did its due diligence in reviewing and comparing comparable salaries for like positions in like-size towns, and we emphasized the towns in the surrounding area."

Oney said that after reviewing compensation, evaluating job duties, performance and experience, assessing opinions from residents, and considering the town's fiscal responsibility, including economic realities for residents, the Board found that the compensation allot-

ted to the Administrator was appropriate.

"The town's contracted employees have very specialized skills and experience," Oney said. "It's particularly important that we acquire and retain the best people that we can. In order to do that, we need to pay them on a level that reflects those skills, experience, and abilities."

"If we aren't competitive with our contracts, I think it says that we don't value their work and their contributions to the town," Oney said. "It puts us in a position of losing them to another town."

Oney described the contract negotiations with Wolowicz started

with her providing a list of requests, including salary and severance pay, which Oney described as "the two most expensive" items on the list. Oney said that the Board eventually agreed to a sum of \$10,000, which was then included in the contract as a weekly \$200 auto allowance.

"In retrospect, I can say that I clearly understand that that was a mistake, because an automobile allowance of \$200 a week looks ridiculous," Oney said. "The reason that we did it that way was really to try and be as transparent as we could, to be clear that that \$10,000 increase was a separately negotiated concession and to set it apart by calling it an auto allowance."

Oney said, "We could've just added it to the salary amount bottom line, and probably should have."

Select Board Member John Morrell said that he "didn't like that automobile allowance."

"As you said, it's extremely excessive," Morrell said. "It just doesn't look good. I think I had a misunderstanding about how that was going to work in a negotiation, because I thought it was going to be \$200 a month as it was before, but maybe I'm wrong."

Morrell also said that he didn't think the other contracts needed to be opened up for negotiation, and had no problem with either of them. Select Board Member Peter Warren

also said that retaining employees was a priority during the contract negotiations.

"I agree, too," Warren said. "Looking back at it, I don't think I would have done it that way. I'm not quite sure what the answer would have been; it's easy to say, 'gee, look at that,' but I'm comfortable with what we did, on all three contracts, to tell you the truth."

Warren said he was against reopening the contract negotiations, and when Morrell made a motion to do so, no member of the board seconded it.

Members of the public also

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Hippity Hoppity



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
 Ava, age 7 and Clara, age 4, were well-dressed to meet the Easter Bunny.



Mason, age 9, and Jackson, age 6, took a photo with the Easter Bunny after getting their eggs.

Easter is on its way

Rain makes no problem for First Church's Easter Egg Hunt

MONSON – This past weekend, an Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Congregational Church on High Street.

On Saturday, March 23, at 11

a.m., kids and families from all over the community were invited to the church to participate in their sixth annual egg hunt. The hunt was held indoors, which made the rainy

weather no problem for the egg hunters.

While the event was free for all ages, the church solicited donations

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GOVERNMENT



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

Aaron Packard addressed a meeting of the Monson Republican Town Committee to share his reasons for running to oppose Sen. Elizabeth Warren this coming November.

Republican committee welcomes Senate hopeful

By **Nick Boonstra**
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – Aaron Packard, a U.S. Army veteran and Worcester native, spoke at the March 20 meeting of the Monson Republican Town Committee to win support for his bid to challenge Senator Elizabeth Warren in this November's general election.

Packard, a self-described constitutional conservative, shared personal stories of persistence and dedication in his remarks.

Before Packard got up to speak, local resident Peter Wiggins addressed the meeting to declare his candidacy for the Monson School Committee. Wiggins, a na-

tive of the Bronx, New York who moved to Monson after a lengthy military career, said his experience with serving others throughout his life motivated him to give back to the town's schools, which his grandchildren attend as students.

"Having such a small town, I want to be a part of what makes this work," he said.

Wiggins suggested the development of the town's now-vacant State Hospital buildings as a potential means for expanding services and encouraging local students to stay within the town's school system as opposed to leaving the town for vocational programs.

Town Republican Committee Chair Peter Warren introduced

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PATHFINDER

Students organize recycle drive for old technology

Stop by Pathfinder Tech next week for a chance to properly dispose of old computer parts and technology

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – Pathfinder Technical Vocational School is inviting people to bring technology to recycle on campus on April 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The recycling drive takes



place in the back parking lot of the school, off of Panek Street. According to Sarah Malanson, Department Head of Programming and Web Development, this will be the third time the school holds the drive.

"We usually set up in the back parking lot in front of our white barn," Malanson said. "People drive in and we steer them into the area where we want them to go. The students assist people in removing

PATHFINDER | page 5

PALMER



Submitted photo

At the School Committee meeting, Palmer High's girls' soccer team unveiled the championship banner they won, which will hang in the gymnasium.

School Committee discusses three-year plan

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – At the March 20 School Committee meeting, Superintendent Matthew Francis appeared with a presentation on the implementation of evidence-based practices for the schools, including how it addresses the needs of students, and what it will cost the district.

Francis started the presentation by outlining the three objectives that the Department of Early and Secondary Education identifies.

"The presentation that I'm providing for you this evening is a 30,000 foot overview," Francis said. "Looking at all the data points throughout the year, this is all the data in the areas of growth

that I referenced in the Report of Entry Findings, along with other formal and informal data."

Francis said that the report focuses on three areas that the school district seeks to improve on; respectively early intervention and readiness, middle school learning gaps, and then low student engagement. Francis then compared these with DESE's three strategic objectives.

"Number one, to cultivate systems to support the whole student and foster joyful, healthy, and supportive learning environments so that all students feel valued, connected, nourished, and ready to learn," Francis said. "The second objective is to promote deeper learning so that all students engage in grade-level work that is real-world, relevant, and in-

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Pet of the Week



SCARLETT

This is Scarlett, going in for the catch. 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 mharrison@turley.com.

Egg-ucational Hunt raises awareness for substance abuse



Riffing on Raiders of The Lost Ark, the sought after Golden egg was hidden inside Monson High for students to find.

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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A beautiful poster displayed in the High School honoring the first day of National Drug and Alcohol Facts week. (inset) Closer look at the origami butterflies students helped make for the poster. They wrote on each wing why they choose to be substance free.



3 of the golden egg winners, Hannah Murphy (10th Grade), Austin Meacham (10th Grade) & Jake Beaupre (10th Grade).

MONSON – Easter eggs were a source of education during a recent event at Monson High School.

Rachel McRobbie, the Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator for the public schools spearheaded the project.

Recently, she hid an assortment Easter eggs at Monson High School to help educate students about drugs and safety.

"Malinda (Manley) and I recently attended a CADC (Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America) training," said McRobbie. "We were able to brainstorm ideas with coalitions around the country. As a part of the drug-free communities grant requirements, we are required to participate in a minimum of four community events a year, and we wanted to kick off participation with the National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. We also wanted to pick an activity that the kids would be excited about generating natural conversation around this week. I hope is that the event was informative and memorable and we hope to make it an annual event."

Students through the entire school participated in the event and eggs were found during passing time so classroom learning time was not disrupted.

Malinda Manley, DFC Program Director, is a big part of the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership, and praised McRobbie's efforts to hide the eggs.

"Rachel hid 280 eggs," said Manley. "Throughout the school that contained facts about drug and alcohol awareness as well as fun latex free erasers. We also hid three golden eggs and students that found those eggs received a stuffed bunny."

McRobbie hopes the exercise led to more discussions and awareness of substance abuse.

"I would love to see the community come together to combat the challenges of substance abuse," McRobbie said. "I would like to see a reduction in the stigma

that comes with addiction. And I would like for the people in this community that are struggling to know that we care and are working very hard to provide resources to help them locally. The drug-free communities grant focuses on prevention in school-age children and acts as the financial agent for a much larger network. The Monson Substance Use Community Partnership is the name of our local coalition, and they have been working very hard to better the community since 2017."

Though the event was a seasonal success, McRobbie and Manley are far from finished on their bunny trail of substance education.

"During the month of April," McRobbie said, "we have a poster contest for Monson High students with a grand prize of a family four pack of Springfield Thunderbirds tickets, generously donated by the Thunderbirds foundation. Students will be encouraged to submit posters that relate to the theme of an alcohol, free prom. We are also planning on providing a free transportation option to and from this year's prom on May 3. More information will be available soon."

McRobbie and Manley will be attending the Monson Wellness Fair at Memorial Hall with a booth exhibit containing fun giveaway for attendees. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Despite efforts, some people still question the success rate of McRobbie's communal efforts to make an effective change in Monson substance abuse. This is something she hopes to change.

"This program works," McRobbie said. "Youth substance use significantly decreases in the communities with a DFC coalition, as shown by the DFC program, national evaluation in 2022. Local problems require local solutions and that's why the coalition model is so impactful. Coalition members are from the community and deeply care about Monson's substance use issues."



Submitted photos

Manley hopes to assure residents that the Monson Drug Free Communities Grant will be a positive influencer for the youth.

"This grant is used to build connections," Manley said. "Within our local communities in order to help reduce youth substance abuse and sustain this reduction in years to come."

For a more comprehensive overview, grant information may be found on <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/grant-programs/dfc/>

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, Multidimensional 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/>.

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.

Monson Democrats to award scholarship to Monson student

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.

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 copies 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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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.

**Button show
April 13 at Amvets**

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.

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spoke on the issue, with one resident, Roxanne Gunther, opposing the board's decision. "If you would have sat up there and said this is what we negotiated, \$200 a week for auto allowance, I would have said something and I think a lot of other people would have, also," Gunther said. "That's an excessive amount for somebody that lives less than four miles from town, and I don't think she travels enough to warrant that."

When Oney said that Wolowicz was being compensated for additional duties as Human Resources Director, Gunther said that the contract should have expired, though Oney said that this was not the case. "Regardless of the label, the bottom line would be the same," Oney said. "The board feels that Ms. Wolowicz is doing a good job, as reflected in her recent job performance review from July and we negotiated a contract that reflects that."

Appointments

Kathy Anne Barnes was unanimously appointed to the Council on Aging with a term to expire June 30, 2025. Oney quoted Laurie Stacy as saying "Ms. Barnes's knowledge of the department will be a great benefit to the committee, she's been volunteering with the Council on Aging for a number of years." The board voted to reappoint Brian Harris, Steven Kozlowski, Jonathan Miller, Francis Nothe, and Ken Parks to the Fire Department Building Assessment Committee for a term expiring on June 30, 2025. "Everybody on that list has been on for more than two years now, some people have been on the entire three and a half years we've been working on this project," said Fire Chief Brian Harris, who spoke on behalf of the subcommittee. "We do have one opening, and after the appointments tonight we will be putting that opening out for fulfillment."

Oney asked Wolowicz why the terms expired in one year, and Wolowicz clarified that it's consistent with the typical handling of committees outside of the regular full-time committees.

Corrections

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

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Keep Homestead prepares for exciting spring events

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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MONSON – Keep Homestead Museum will be full of activity this spring, and the board of directors is excited to receive visitors.

"Our open house is the first Sunday of each month," Board member Deborah Harris said. "Our programs usually start at 1:30 p.m. but our house is open starting at 1 p.m."

For those unaware about the Keep Homestead Museum and their Open House events, Harris hopes to spread the word for years to come.

"What we do is we usually have a program," Harris said. "We hold it out in our barn because we can fit more people in that room, and we get different topics every month, whether it is something that interests us or there's something that one of our members heard of. Different things, and one of us just investigates it to see if it is worth bringing and it is usually around anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half long program that we have. The house is just open so that anyone can walk-through and take tours. We have a great staff here to help people through the place and educate them on what the museum is all about."

On Sunday, April 7, one of those new events will be unfolded, the "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell" program.

"Pamela Weeks is the curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell," Harris said.

"She is also a researcher and author who knows so much about quilts. She is going to talk to us about our quilts and the stories of how they came about and she is also giving people the opportunity to bring one quilt and they can either tell the story about the quilt or see if she can



Turley Photos by Harrison Giza
A look outside the Keep Homestead Museum.

provide any information to tell our attendees what she might know about it."

Harris is excited for this, primarily due to the amount of quilts inside the Keep Homestead Museum.

"We are going to have a lot of ours out for display," Harris said. "For people to come in and see ours too. I'm hoping a lot of people show up."

Quilt history is filled with myths and constant historical misinformation. With the aid of Weeks' knowledge of quilt service and tradition, the program is sure to discuss world history as well as a focus on exploring women's history.

Another event, set to take place on Tuesday, May 7, is a returning favorite for the museum, due in part to the return of actress Sheryl Faye as she is set

to portray Queen Elizabeth II.

"We have had her in the past and she does such an awesome job," Harris said. "I am sure that is going to be a full barn that day. Last year she did Eleanor Roosevelt for her presentation and it was beyond fabulous. This one is a new program she just wrote and reenacts, she tells stories, it is simply wonderful." This one-woman performance is set to be as educational as it is fun for attendees, as Faye channels Queen Elizabeth II back to life. The show is funded by a grant courtesy of the Monson Cultural Council.

Harris is an enthusiastic about educating as she ever has been, but it should be noted that she has not always worked at the Keep Homestead Museum.

"I was a school teacher for 37 years," Harris said. "A cou-



Submitted photos
A photo of the late Queen Elizabeth II, whom actress Sheryl Faye will portray at the museum later this year.



An example of a quilt that may be discussed at the New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell event.

ple of my friends who had retired before me had talked about it and kind of got me interested in it. When I retired, you know, I decided that I wanted to volunteer out here and give my time. Plus, I love history and I love knowing more about the history of the town of Monson."

Both programs are free of

charge to attend. The Keep Homestead Museum is owned by the town of Monson and is located at 35 Ely Rd. The Museum can be reached by phone at 413-267-4137 or by email khm@keep-homesteadmuseum.org.

Rate increases proposed in water, sewer budgets

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

MONSON – Sewer rates need to rise, according to the Water and Sewer Superintendent.

"It is not as brutal as it is going to seem," Jalbert said at a recent Finance Committee meeting. "For sewer single residents, it is going to go up \$68 for the year. So \$17 per quarter for residents. I think it is reasonable... but everything that everybody at home is feeling, with everything coming at them as it increases, we are feeling it. Every department is feeling it. Everything is going up. They are not giving us a break on anything."

Jalbert said the department currently holds \$637,400 in retained earnings. Finance Committee Member Nancy Johnson asked if those funds could be used to reduce sewer rates.

"It is not a good idea now," Jalbert said. "Because it is not re-occurring income. It is not from our revenue and it is basically stuff that we either did not spend it in the budget, you know, it got rolled over, and it is good for when Palmer does a capital improvement. That is minor, not like the roof thing, if we do something minor we can take it out of that money and no one feels it and we can just keep on going. I kind of think of it as stabilization... so it buys you a year, or maybe two, but after that, what do you do?"

Jalbert suggested absorbing minor capital improvements that Monson and Palmer have responsibility for.

"That is kind of the philosophy we have used for the last 15 or 20 years," Jalbert said. "So, it has worked okay. I forgot to say that I can't learn something new."

Committee Member, James Pennington, spoke next, asking about Jalbert's staff members.

Jalbert moved into issues with the water budget, including a new certified operator position.

"That is the position that we are trying to fill if you guys so approve," Jalbert said. "You know, there were some minor changes on the line items of the budget. We were able to go down \$2000 in Water Analysis because I ended up crying and whining to the Boston D.P. office and they gave us a waiver on SOC's."

Water rates, like the sewer rates, will also be on the rise.

"The water rate is going to change from \$610 to \$1000 to \$655 to \$1000," Jalbert said. "Which amounts to a change from \$3813, a minimum charge per quarter, to \$40.84 per quarter minimum charge."

I like to think of the minimum charge as basically what the senior citizens are going to be paying because they really are

not heavy water users. They are usually under a minimum of 6250 gallons per quarter so that is where they are going to be at."

He said the bump up is not going to be too heavy.

"If you look at it from an average household which uses about 90,000 gallons a year" said Jalbert. "We are looking at a total bump of \$36 a year... again it is not small, but it is also not massive either."

Jalbert was asked about the PFAS testing, which was recently completed.

"All done," Jalbert said. "All good and that is going to be something that we will continue to monitor, too."

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals characterized by a strong bond between fluorine and carbon. The

PFAS properties in discussion that night are useful to the performance of hundreds of industrial applications and consumer products. Things like carpeting, apparels, upholstery, food paper wrappings, wire and cable coatings as well as in the manufacturing of semiconductors all require PFAS testing.

Jalbert also informed the committee that he was intending to retire sometime in late 2026 or early 2027.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage

Dear Rusty

I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.

I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

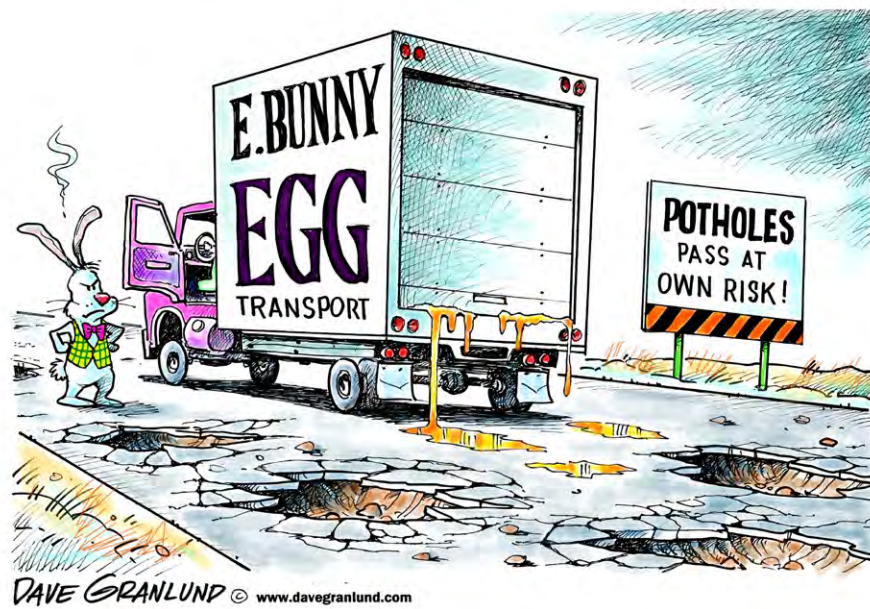
The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to www.TriCare4U.com.

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payer. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper—try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I re-vamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (*Primula* spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come — a memory of you! Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make

sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that originally started out as a potted plant.

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps.

One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (*Primula japonica*) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

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.

New funding for infrastructure

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, celebrated the Federal Highway Administration's announcement that applications will be open for \$45 million in funding unlocked by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects that expand corridors of active transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation, in communities across the United States.

FHWA's new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, made possible by Markey and Sullivan's Connecting America's Active Transportation System provision in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a competitive

grant program that will focus on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including to better connect trail networks between communities.

"When we connect bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, we connect communities to work, play, and health," said Markey. "This federal funding will enhance safety for cyclists and walkers while increasing access to transportation options that reduce emissions for residents. We cannot afford to trail behind in building healthy and safe transportation networks across the country, we must create the paths that enable everyone, regardless of neighborhood, to get where they need to go in safe and sustainable ways."



By Lee Hamilton

HAMILTON ON FOREIGN POLICY

Justice O'Connor championed civics education

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who died in December, was rightly celebrated as a trailblazing jurist who brought common sense and moderation to the Supreme Court.

She also was a champion of civics education, especially after she retired from the bench — and civics education needs champions in this era of partisanship and conspiracy theories, which thrive when Americans lack understanding of our system of government.

O'Connor, who left the court in 2006, enjoyed talking to students and promoting the study of how citizens participate in governing.

She told the National School Boards Association in 2008 that civics education would be her primary focus in retirement. She created the iCivics program to carry out that mission.

She and I served as co-chairs of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and partnered to make public service announcements promoting civics education. The Center on Representative Government at Indiana University, where I serve as a senior adviser, also promotes civics education, using similar approaches to iCivics.

O'Connor was, of course, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Her nomination by President Ronald Reagan made history.

A rancher's daughter and a proud Westerner, she built a reputation as a moderate in her 24 years on the court. She often provided a swing vote on abortion, voting rights, sex discrimination and other controversial issues.

Unlike many justices, O'Connor started out in local politics; she served as a state legislator and majority leader of the Arizona Senate. She traced her interest in civics to her days as a precinct committeewoman gathering signatures to get candidates on the ballot.

That real-world background influenced her approach to jurisprudence.

She valued facts and experience over legal theory and ideology. Her views on affirmative action, for example, evolved from serving alongside Justice Thurgood Marshall, a legendary civil-rights litigator.

She could compromise, a key quality in civic decision-making.

O'Connor's experience in local and state politics forged her commitment to civics education. She said in a 2012 interview that Americans have a never-ending obligation "to teach our young generation about citizenship."

But we haven't always fulfilled that obligation as well as we might.

In a recent survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, one-third of Americans couldn't name the three branches of government. Most could identify only one of the five rights protected by the First Amendment.

Other surveys have found a lack of knowledge about the filibuster, the length of Senate terms, the Electoral College and other matters.

When people don't understand how government works, they're more likely to believe the worst of their elected representatives. Divisions and distrust infect our politics.

Worst of all, people of good will give up and disengage from political and civic activity.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the work that O'Connor and others have done has had an impact.

The iCivics project recently found that 38 states now require stand-alone high school civics course, a significant increase from previous years, and six states require a full year of civics study. Crucially, more schools teach citizenship in the early grades.

And it works.

Studies find that young people who have taken civics classes score higher on assessments of what they know about government. They are more likely to rate voting, public service and jury duty as important.

They voted in higher numbers in the 2020 election.

On O'Connor's death, her colleague Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that she had "transformed how children learn about our shared responsibility as citizens." That alone would be a remarkable legacy, for a Supreme Court justice or anyone else.

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

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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Another Go

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— Submitted by Bill Koscher

REPUBLICANS | from page 1

Packard as a candidate who had the potential to effect change both locally and across the nation.

"I know why I'm here, and I think I know why you are all here; we have a common interest," Warren said. "Things need to change: on the Monson level, on the state level big time, and on the federal level."

Before diving into his own remarks, Packard applauded Wiggins for his initiative in getting involved with local politics. "I'm proud of you," he said. "That's where grassroots starts: School Committee, towns, everything, Select Board, you name it."

Packard began by making clear his intentions to oppose and defeat incumbent Elizabeth Warren in this coming November's election.

Packard said that his interest in running for the Senate was in part due to a desire to have a say on federal judicial appointments, expressing his sentiment that the judiciary was engaging too much in opining on the law and too little in upholding it. He also advocated for the revitalization of civics and history education in the United States.

Packard also said the impetus to run for Senate sprang from his initial oath as a member of the U.S. Army to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

He shared a story from his time at Basic Training, in which he directed the members of his platoon to get their evening meal despite not receiving authorization from his superior officer to do so. Later, he said, the officer berated him, but nevertheless lauded his assumption of responsibility and leadership instinct.

"You know, you made the wrong decision, but you made the decision, and that's what counts," he recalled being told.

He went on to say that he felt that the leaders of today failed to demonstrate the same level of accountability that he had done in Basic Training.

"Whether they're local, or all the way up to federal, they just do whatever they want to do, thinking, because they have a title, that gives them entitlement," he said.

"I'm a working man, just like the rest of you are," he added, going on to detail his current situation of working two small-business jobs, one in a restaurant kitchen and the other for a silk-screening company. "I work with my hands," he said.

Packard said it was the feeling that no one else was doing their civic duty that motivated him to engage in his own.

"That's one of your Ameri-



Local resident Peter Wiggins also announced his intention to run for the town's School Committee during the meeting.



Monson Republican Town Committee Chair Peter Warren introduced the speakers at the meeting at the Monson Polish Club on Bliss Street.

can citizenship responsibilities, is to be involved in civic duty," he said. "That's part of why this country has made it as long as it has, from people being involved."

Packard said he started volunteering in 2021 for signature-gathering efforts for a number of proposed ballot initiatives. After this, he mounted a bit to represent the state's 3rd Worcester District, largely consisting of his home city of Fitchburg, on Beacon Hill, ultimately losing to Democrat Michael Kushmerek.

He said that the defeat was hard to take at first, but that he refused to let it keep him down for long.

"The only promise that I ever made to anybody is that I don't quit," he said. "When in a fight, I won't give up."

One of the members of the audience shared during the speech that addressing illegal immigration was a priority to them, an issue that Packard said concerned him as well. Packard also shared that he grew up in a family with a parent who had immigrated from England, and spoke about his family receiving federal assistance for a period during his childhood, which he derided as "socialism under the Carter Administration."

In summarizing his campaign, Packard said, "I know that my tools, my personal traits, my skillsets, my mindset, my loyalty to God, country and family will help more than just this state. That's why I'm going after U.S. Senator Warren."

PALMER | from page 1

teractive, and the third one, develop and sustain a workforce that is diverse, culturally responsive, well-prepared, and committed to continuous improvement so that all students have equitable access to effective educators."

Francis noted that many of the points identified by the plan were consistent with issues discussed with the committee over the past year.

"There were a lot of common threads that we've discussed all this year," Francis said. "It's not just a one-off, 'these are the thoughts of the superintendent.' It's a lot of different data points and we've touched on many of these, the aspects of the full plan, throughout the year."

Francis said that the state has listed 31 evidence-based practices/programs that fall within these objectives, and that he identified three to focus on for the district.

The first such program is the Collaborative Teaching Model, which expands

co-teaching and other evidence-based models to foster collaboration in order to best serve students with disabilities and multilingual learners.

The second program would be to expand full-day pre-kindergarten programming for children aged four.

"We've talked about this quite frequently throughout this school year," Francis said.

The third program seeks to provide Diverse Enrichment Opportunities to students, which emphasizes offering an array of opportunities to engage in arts, music, enrichment, electives, athletics, and world languages.

"This one, you recall, we put in the FY25 budget when we talked about the pathways program at Palmer High in addition to the programs we are planning for at Old Mill Pond," Francis said.

Francis provided some estimated funding categories that these programs would fall into, with a collective total of \$2,884,503 over three

years. "There are funds being allocated for salaries, for other services, for curriculum materials, for professional development, underneath all of these EBPs," Francis said.

Francis outlined each of these allocations. Expanded access to pre-K from fiscal year 2025-27 is estimated to cost approximately \$906,503, inclusion and co-teaching would cost \$830,000, and enrichment opportunities would cost \$1,148,100.

Committee member Erica Nadeau asked about addendums required for communities that receive over \$70 million in funding. Francis said that because of the amount the town receives from SOA, the school does not need to meet those addendums.

Francis said that in addition to the committee, the full plan was submitted to both principals and the teacher's union for input and feedback, as well as School Councils and Parent/Teacher Organizations prior to it going to the committee.

"I feel like we've gotten a good amount of stakeholder input and feedback," Francis said.

The superintendent added that the plan calls for family and community engagement, and so there will be continued effort to seek feedback from people involved in the school.

"We recognize that we can't just do surveys," Francis said. "We have to start going to the families in the community. How do we access them throughout the different, not just school events throughout the community, but other events, to see how we're doing."

The plan included a piece about an annual survey based on these initiatives, which has not been done in the past. Nadeau asked if Francis would share comments and feedback he received on the plan, and he said he would have "no problem with that whatsoever."

"What I liked about it is it's evidence-based," said Committee member Sandra Noonan. "You've got surveys

or you've got test scores, you've got whatever that justifies what you're doing."

Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone said that she hopes to get more feedback from family engagement about the plan.

Following the discussion of the plan, Francis also recognized the retirement of Director of Student Services Colleen Culligan.

"She will be retiring at the end of this year," Francis said. "I would be remiss if I didn't say something. In short, she has been instrumental in my transition into the district. What she did for the district prior to me coming was, I think, monumental, especially with the landscape that she was given to get through the 2022-23 school year."

Francis said he will miss his daily conversations with Culligan, and that her knowledge in the field of Special Education, Early Language Learners, and her knowledge of the district will be difficult to replace.

PATHFINDER | from page 1

items from their car, and it gets put into bins. The vendor we work with will be on site and they'll have large bins to put old tech in."

The vendor for this event is UpCycle, an R2 certified recycling company that is dedicated to finding environmentally friendly ways to dispose of used technology, including a strict no-landfill policy. Malanson said that people can bring in computers, laptops, mice, keyboards, any kind of cell phone or landline, speakers, printers, cords, flatscreen and LED screen monitors, and any other kind of networking equipment.

"The only thing we can't accept are old tube monitors and TVs," Malanson said.

"Computers have toxic components inside of them," Malanson said. "If you work with a sustainable or a partner that recycles these things in a sustainable way, they have a



Pathfinder students stand in the school parking lot with bins to receive old technology equipment to recycle.

certification called R2 certified recycler."

Malanson said that though most towns have transfer stations to dispose of these kinds of materials, they often charge a fee. The

recycle drive that the students at Pathfinder do, by comparison, is free of charge.

"This recycling drive, led by students from Pathfinder Tech, exemplifies the power of education in ac-

tion," said Superintendent Eric Duda. "Through hands-on projects like these, our students not only apply classroom knowledge but also develop essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and empathy, while providing a valuable service to our local community."

Malanson said that the students work on this project "from the very beginning to the end," developing all the marketing material, including a marketing campaign on social media, working with the school's IT department to secure the vendor, and learning project management skills such as establishing timelines, deadlines, and working together to make things come together.

"The fact that this recycle drive is spearheaded by students from Pathfinder

Tech speaks volumes about the dedication and initiative of our young leaders," Duda said. "Their commitment to serving the community while gaining hands-on experience is commendable and sets a shining example for their peers."

"By organizing and executing this recycle drive, students from Pathfinder Tech are not just participants but active contributors to the betterment of our community," Duda said. "Their enthusiasm and hard work underscore their role as valuable members of society, making a tangible difference in the lives of those around them."

The recycle drive will be in the parking lot of Pathfinder Tech on April 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, with a rain date of April 9.



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Hippity Hoppity



Who looked more festive this Saturday; 6-month-old Oriyan, or the Easter Bunny himself?



The Easter Bunny waved while taking a picture with Lucas Harris, age 7.



Photos by Marcelo Guzmão

Volunteers had a table for face-painting, (from left) Lilly Bridges, Carlee Meachum, Bella Allard, Abby Forest, and Gemma Maleshefski.

Easter is on its way



Grayson gazed up at the Easter Bunny, while Hazel smiled brightly for the camera.



Mykayla Guimond brought 6-month-old Oriyan, who was all dressed up for Easter.



Rejane Freitas sat at a table with Hannah, age 3.



Rachel Carpenter and Levi, age 4, received balloons in shapes of animals and swords.



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Lili Ames, Willow Staples, and Izabella Allengena volunteered to help direct kids during the hunt.



Parts of the Easter Egg Hunt were held in the chapel of the church.



Cindy DeSellier got the attention of the crowd so she could direct them to the hunt.

Hippity Hoppity



Randy and Allie Pascale were pictured with Elliot, age 1, and Stella, who was 4 months old.



Joan Watson and Janice Muldrew volunteered at the Congregational Church.



Hazel, age 3, and Grayson, age 4, shared a hug after finding all their eggs.



Juliette, age 1, and Payton, age 3, had baskets full of eggs that they found.



Gina and Jesse Beaudoin brought Mya, age 2, and Mason, age 5, to paint eggs and make balloon animals.



Volunteers Sophia Galarneau and Adam Laverty called to the crowd to direct them to the next room.



Timmy and Jason, both aged 5, had a great time playing together at the Easter Egg Hunt.



Waiting to go to the next room of the hunt, (from left) Sarah Pedder, Logan, age 9, Mallory, age 5, and David Burden.



Christopher, age 5, smiled for the camera.



Volunteer Andrew Ward helped direct kids to the room where the hunt took place.



Mason, age 9, and Jackson, age 6 found eggs in the lower rooms of the church.

EGG HUNT

from page 1

for Shriners Hospital for Children, with suggested donations listed on the Child Life Wish List for different ways to help, including solicitations of small toys and wrapped candies.

"Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here," the church said on its official Facebook page.

For information about upcoming events, visit the church's website at firstchurchmonson.org.



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Mass Cultural Council logo and text: This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Monson Schools Administration turnover upsets residents

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

MONSON – Concerns over the rate of turnover came forward during the most recent Monson School Committee meeting last Wednesday night.

During public comment, speakers expressed an issue with the “high firing rate” seen at the schools.

One speaker said the turnover has given the schools a poor reputation.

“I think that is one of the problems that we have in this town that we get this reputation for having terrible schools for so on and so forth when somebody puts their opinion out there and recognizes it as fact,” said Karen O’Toole. “I just want to ask the community to stop doing that because as you can hear from what has been said here already tonight, it is a problem.”

Resident Jeff Lord criticized a lack of communication regarding the administration at the high school. He said there is still no information regarding the absence of the Monson High School principal.

“The concerns in social media are the absence of the principal and the vice principal from the high school,” Lord said. “There is no information that is given out as to why they have been relieved of their duties. Dr. Clarke could you tell me, are you legally allowed to give reasons?”

Superintendent Cheryl Clarke did not answer Lord’s query, due to it being a personnel issue. Lord responded by suggesting money was the main issue the administrators are no long with the district.

“I’ve talked to some of the

departing administrative staff because I have grown very close to them,” Lord said. “The overwhelming answer I hear isn’t about the ETL, which forgive me I am not familiar with, but what I hear over and over again is that they make more money everywhere else. Unfortunately, this small community like Monson that for that last few, I don’t know, 17 years, have gotten net school spending and unfortunately that goes down because our population goes down, so there is not a lot that we can do to increase administrator’s pay.”

Resident Lisa Reynolds spoke via Zoom, addressing the various rumors.

“I know it is a small town and I know there are rumors,” Reynolds said “I don’t doubt that everyone at the high school does probably the best that they can but I just implore the committee to understand that we can do better.”

Reynolds referenced her own children, saying they are both now in college despite constantly losing administrators during their time at Monson.

“I have two daughters in college,” Reynolds said. “In spite of the lack of connection that they had in high school with adults there, in spite of the fact that they never touched a microscope up at the high school, in spite of the fact that they lost two principals in their 4 years of high school, in spite of the fact they went through the pandemic, which I know is not your doing, obviously it was hard for all schools and I’ve worked at your schools for 14 years, I just think that one of the greatest things about our town is that we celebrate each other in crisis. But I just want more for our kids and clearly echo

that we cannot give more credit to rumors. They talk about an elephant in the room, the elephant is why does this keep happening? And there has not been any evidence given to the public that have made a difference to make this not happen any further.”

In other school committee news, Clarke reported a change in one of her upcoming events and recognized a Granite Valley student.

“I had to reschedule my ‘Soup with the Supe,’” Clarke said, “So it will be on Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. here at Quarry Hill. More details to follow. I changed coffee and conversation to ‘Soup with the Supe.’ So, we are going to have soup and it is going to have a focus on the budget, but I will available to answer any questions anyone has about the budget or otherwise, I’m really looking forward to that.”

Clarke recognized a sixth grader for her recently artwork, which won an award at the state level.

“For recognition, I just want to congratulate Hailey Fournier,” Clarke said. “A grade six student at Granite Valley for receiving an Award of Merit, 2nd place at the state level for her artwork in the reflections program. So, congratulations to Hailey.”

The School Committee typically meets twice a month at Quarry Hill Community School. Meetings are broadcast live, and repeated the following day over the local public access station (M-PACT) which is broadcast on channel 17 (Comcast). Meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend.

Baystate Wing awards grants to community organizations

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital has announced an investment of \$45,000 in grants to benefit local community-based nonprofit organizations.

Baystate Wing Hospital’s service area represents 15 communities comprising a population of approximately 120,000 people.

“We are happy to support these innovative, impactful, and sustainable programs to continue to address local needs in the region,” said Ron Bryant, president, Baystate Health Regional Community Hospitals, in a press release. “Everyone is strengthened when we collectively work together to build and sustain a culture of health and wellness.”

Programs supported by the hospital’s grant investments include:

QVCDC,

The Quaboag Connector:

The \$30,000 grant to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation will provide continued support to the Quaboag Connector Transportation initiative in partnership with the town of Ware, which addresses the lack of transportation to employment, education, healthcare, workforce training, shopping, and benefit services within and outside the region.

The service began in January 2017 and has provided thousands of rides to community members.

In 2022, the Quaboag Connector expanded to provide dedicated transportation for seniors, offered free rides to veterans, and launched the Baystate Wing Hospital funded

Convenient Care Van to provide free non-emergency medical transportation to Baystate Health facilities anywhere in their 10-town service area. As of Jan. 31, of this year, the Connector has provided over 65,000 rides.

The grant funded by the Baystate Wing Hospital Corporation to the Quaboag Connector is eligible for Massachusetts Community Investment Tax Credits that will leverage the grant award by \$15,000, allowing additional funding to be reinvested in the local organizations.

“We are grateful to the Baystate Wing Hospital Corporation for their ongoing support of this essential transportation service for people living and working in the Quaboag Region,” said Melissa Fales, executive director of the QVCDC.

West Brookfield Fire Department, AED

The \$3,500 grant is awarded to the West Brookfield Fire Department to purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator. The West Brookfield Fire Department assists with many medical calls throughout the day.

The purchase of the AED will allow the department to assist in potentially saving countless lives. The West Brookfield Fire Department team is trained in using an AED and looks forward to assisting in providing care to the community of West Brookfield and other local communities during mutual aid calls.

Growing a New Heart, helpline outreach

The \$7,000 grant to Growing a New Heart will support outreach activities to increase awareness and usage of the “A Call for Change Helpline.” The ACFCH Helpline receives hundreds of calls annually from people who want to become and remain safe in their relationships.

The ACFCH Helpline is a resource that touches the lives of roughly 1,000 people each year and is a means for family members, friends, and professionals to help stop someone from harming their partner.

WRVDV Task Force, education and engagement

This grant of \$4,500 will support the work of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force to strengthen and build on current education and engagement initiatives of the task force.

The initiative has four components, including a series of “Kitchen Table Conversations” with community groups about domestic violence, training for local police that will include a panel of local survivors, mailings to community members with outreach and education material, and the development and printing of outreach materials and supplies for all Task Force outreach events.

For more information about Baystate Wing Hospital visit Baystatehealth.org/wing.

Wilbraham Garden Club April meeting takes place April 4

WILBRAHAM - The April meeting of the Wilbraham Garden Club will hold a sandwich luncheon at Noon on Thurs., April 4. We do need a reservation for this meeting as we are inviting all surrounding Garden Clubs. Please call

Norma at 596-8173 for a reservation.

The speaker for the day will be the well-known, Bob Whitney, whose topic will be “Stix, Twigs, Moss, Stones & Flowers.” Bob brings a “breath of spring” to us

at this meeting. His program will consist of arrangements using items from nature that can be found in our yards. His finished creations will be raffled at the end of the program.

Ad club scholarship now available

SOUTH HADLEY—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.adclub-wm.org/scholarships or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at cecco@davidceccchi.com or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applica-

tions 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.

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Healthy Quaboag:

Improving Quality of Life for the Quaboag Hills Community

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

QUABOAG VALLEY

Food Policy Council

VISION
"THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL WILL MAKE NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

MISSION
THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MISSION IS TO CONNECT LOCAL RESOURCES, PROVIDE EDUCATION SURROUNDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD, PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOOD AVAILABILITY, INCREASE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND IMPROVE THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM FOR ALL"

Serving the towns of: Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield

Anyone is welcome to join the Council! You don't have to have prior experience or knowledge of the local food system and food policy to be involved.

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

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LACROSSE



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Monson girls lacrosse practices on Monday afternoon.

Mustangs set to open new season

MONSON – Earlier this week, the Monson High School girls lacrosse team continued its preparation for the start of the regular

season. The Mustangs have an early opener this season, hosting Bay Path Regional on Thursday, March 28 at 4 p.m. The Mustangs move



The Mustangs are hoping for a better season after a tough one last year.



The girls are preparing for the season opener this week.

TENNIS

Tennis team preps for regular season

PALMER – On a cold, but sunny Monday afternoon, Palmer's girls tennis team prepared for their regular season opener with a solid practice. The Panthers are getting ready to face Frontier Regional this Friday, March 29 at 4:30 p.m. The home opener is set for April 2 at 4 p.m. against Pioneer Valley Christian Academy.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Donovan Rayleonard sends a serve away.



Donovan Rayleonard goes after a backhand.



Adriana Roberts socks a return hit.



Gianna Perry chases down a hit near the corner.

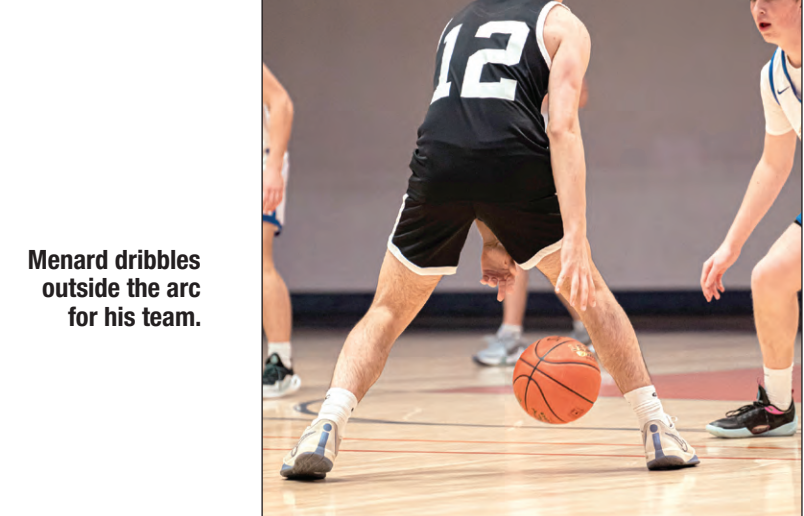
BASKETBALL

Senior All-Star showcase

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday evening, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame hosted three basketball games to honor 60 seniors throughout Western Massachusetts. Among the participants was Andrew Menard, who represented Palmer High School in the game.



Andrew Menard shoots during the game.



Menard dribbles outside the arc for his team.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

BASEBALL



Pathfinder's baseball team gathers at the start of practice.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The Pioneers practice their outfield work Monday afternoon.

Pioneers getting set to face Sci-Tech

PALMER – Earlier this week, the Pioneers baseball team continued its preparation for the upcoming regular season. The Pioneers are scheduled to travel to Sci-Tech on Monday, April 1 at 4 p.m., then return home to face Smith Vocation on Friday, April 5 at 3:30 p.m.



A Pathfinder outfielder comes up throwing with the ball.



A Pathfinder player makes a throw back to the infield after making a play.

Pioneers fall in Open Cup



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a free kick away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Abdel Talabi sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Tomas Duben and Khalid Rose fight to keep the ball with some pressure from the opposition coming on.



Santiago Blasco Gomez dribbles up the field.



Joaquin Lauria Calvo settles the ball before making a pass.

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Western Mass. Pioneers opened their season with a matchup in the US Open Cup. The Pioneers faced Union Omaha and unfortunately were shut out by a 4-0 decision. With the loss, the Pioneers

Open Cup chances have ended after just one game. The Pioneers will now gear their preparations toward the May 18 season opener. The Pioneers will also have an exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC.

@turleysports www.turleysports.com facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Andrew Menard
Palmer High School

Menard represented Palmer High School in the High School Senior All-Star Game held last Thursday night at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Railers pick up much-needed win

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-3, 62pts) beat the Reading Royals (26-31-5-2, 59pts) on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 6-3 in front of a crowd of 3,310 at Santander Arena. Worcester heads back home to take on the Newfoundland Growlers for the first time from the DCU Center this season on Wednesday, March 27th at 7:05 p.m.

Reading's Joe Nardi (1-1-2) scored his second goal of the weekend to open the scoring with 6:43 left in the first. Worcester fired back with three unanswered in the second from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Keeghan Howdeshell (1-0-1) and Anthony Callin (1-1-2) to put Worcester ahead 3-1 going into the third. Andrei Bakanov (1-1-2) scored

along with two empty net goals from Trevor Cosgrove (2-1-3), while Reading got goals from Jake Smith (1-0-1) and Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) en route to a 6-3 Railers victory.

Reading controlled the flow of play in the first, testing Tikkanen with nine shots on goal. Joe Nardi (16th) found a rebound along the near goal line and hammered it back towards Tikkanen, beating him near side to give Reading the late 1-0 advantage in the first. Worcester was outshot 9-6 in the first period.

The second period played out similarly for the Railers to their third period on Friday, which was headlined by a flurry of goals. First it was Ashton Calder (16th) in the slot off a nice feed

from Ryan Scarfo to beat Maier and tie the game 1-1 2:04 into the period. The assist was Scarfo's first point as a Railer. Just 3:21 later, Keeghan Howdeshell placed a perfect wrist shot over the blocker hand of Maier to put Worcester ahead 2-1. Mason Klee picked up his first professional point on the goal, notching the secondary assist. Worcester's Anthony Callin piled on with a goal 3:26 later. Zach White hit him with a pass on the tape while he sped into the offensive zone and sent a wrist shot top shelf past Maier and give Worcester a 3-1 lead goin into the third.

The Railers tagged on one more early in the third with a shot from Andrei Bakanov (11th). He picked up the loose puck in the slot and wristed it past

Maier to open Worcester's lead to 4-1. Reading bounced back 1:06 later as Jake Smith outwaited Henrik Tikkanen and wrapped it into the open net to make it a 4-2 game for most of the third. With the net empty, Trevor Cosgrove found the puck in open ice thanks to Andrei Bakanov chipping at it and sailed it into the empty net to make it 5-2 Worcester. Reading came back thirty seconds later with a goal from Tag Bertuzzi past the left arm of Henrik Tikkanen and cut it back down to a two-goal game. Cosgrove once again scored an empty netter, this time from 180 feet as Worcester skated away with a 6-3 win over Reading on Sunday afternoon.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League
PALMER – The team feeling lucky in the third and final round is Acres who stand in first place at 14-2. Behind Acres in second place is the Blue B's at 12-4 and in third place is the Champs R Here at 11-5. The #1 seed Acres bowled against #2 seed Blue B's on league night of March 19. In game one, Acres were victorious over #2 seed by a score of 402-358. Three out of four bowlers on Acres broke the century mark with Kenny Trudel as high bowler of the game with a 109.

In game two, Blue B's bounced back with a win 349-328. In game three, Blue B's won a close game 392-388. Mark Pafumi of Blue B's led the team in the last game with a 109.

Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1121-1099. Each team received two points.

Compression bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line won the first game 358-321. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line led the team with a 103. In game two, Compression was the winner 345-330. In game three, Last in Line won 358-349.

Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1046-1015.

Thursday Night Mixed League
This league night was the second to last league night of the season for the Thursday League.

Team Six, the winners of round one, is leading in first place as the season comes to an end. Team Five is five points out of first place and competed against Team Six on March 21.

In game one, Team Five won the first game by a score of 403-402. In game two, Team Six won by a score of 416-381. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 405-390.

Total pinfall scores were Team Six at 1223 and Team Five at 1174.

Team Three bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team Three was the winner by a score of 426-388. Wayne Hughes of Team Three led the team by starting off with a 113.

In game two, Team three won again by a score of 403-387. Jesse Danek of Team Three led the team with a 108.

In game three, Team Three won 397-394 for a three-game sweep. Danek finished with a 106. Total pinfall scores were Team Three at 1226 and Team Four at 1169.

Team One bowled against Team Two. In game one, Kris Rickson bowled a 126 to lead Team One to winning 421-413.

In game two, Team Two won the second game 413-406. In game three, Team One dominated game three with all four bowlers breaking 100 and scoring 493. Dena Rickson bowled 124, Mike Jacobs 107, Sean Comerford 114 and Kris Rickson 108.

Team Two finished with 436 and Cody Allen had his best game of the year, 115.

Total pinfall scores were Team One at 1320 and Team Two at 1262.

and Beyond!

WB&CA
Ware Business & Civic Association

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!

JOIN TODAY!

Visit warebca.com
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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.

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 Beyond!

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



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T-Birds rebound to defeat Crunch

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-29-3-2) got a hat trick from one of their key stars en route to a 6-4 triumph over the Syracuse Crunch (35-20-4-2) on Saturday night before the 11th consecutive sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

It was the home team that drew first blood on the scoreboard. Right winger Will Bitten intercepted a Syracuse pass in Springfield's defensive zone and went in alone on a breakaway. Bitten made a nifty forehand to backhand move before tucking the puck past Syracuse netminder Hugo Alnefelt, notching his 14th goal of the season and giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 3:37 of the first.

Unfortunately, the Springfield lead slipped away in the waning seconds of Syracuse's first power play. After taking off on a rush up-ice into the T-Birds zone, Felix Robert filtered a pass into the blue paint that glanced off a defender before slipping in past Vadim Zherenko at 16:22.

The T-Birds, though, responded in kind and regained their one-goal lead with less than a minute to play in the opening period. After a brief give-and-go between Hugh McGing and Hunter Skinner at the offensive blue line, Skinner made a terrific pass through traffic to the left-wing side. Ryan Suzuki received the pass and wasted no time whistling a release past Alnefelt on the glove side of the net for his 10th tally on the year. That marker gave the T-Birds a 2-1 lead going into the first intermission, and Zherenko made that stand up with a sensational diving stop on Walteri Merela with barely a second remaining on the clock on a crease scramble at the end of the frame.

It only took 30 seconds for the Thunderbirds to add to their lead in the second. Mikhail Abramov found his linemate Jakub Vrana streaking down the left wing on a stretch pass. Vrana took the feed and ripped a perfect shot past the glove of the Syracuse netminder to give Springfield a 3-1 lead.

Still, Syracuse would not go away as they narrowed the Springfield lead back to one less than three minutes later. After a Syracuse shot took a crazy carom off the plexiglass behind Zherenko, the puck found the stick of Crunch defenseman Devante Stephens, who quickly spun a turnaround shot through Zherenko to make it 3-2 at 2:44.

Tempers flared shortly thereafter as Sam Bitten and Tyson Feist dropped the gloves at the 14:11 mark of the period. As he had done all season, Bitten's fight fired up the sold-out crowd in the Thunderdome, and it, in turn, led to offensive fireworks a few minutes later. After Quinn Schmiemann was called for a hooking infraction, Will Bitten got his second of the night, taking advantage of a crazy carom off the corner glass that skittered right to him in front of Alnefelt. While the Crunch goalie got a piece, the puck squeezed home, and the two-goal lead was restored, 4-2, at 9:59 of the middle frame.

Vrana and Bitten's line was not done, either. As the game went to 4-on-4 in the closing minutes, Vrana and Abramov capitalized on a 2-on-1, as Abramov slipped a left-wing shot over Alnefelt's glove, giving Springfield a 5-2 lead at 17:46, a lead that carried into the intermission.

Syracuse did not go quietly into the night, and Ilya Usau's goal at 4:46 made it a 5-3 game. Zherenko kept the Crunch at bay until Alnefelt went to the bench for an extra skater with under six minutes to play. Just moments after the ensuing faceoff, Cole Koepke redirected a pass in the slot from Alex Barre-Boulet, and the Springfield lead was down to 5-4 with just 5:05 to go.

Things got dicey for Springfield with just over a minute to play when a Barre-Boulet shot squeezed through Zherenko's legs and rolled precariously across the goal line. Jack Finley seemed to have a wide-open net, but he could not get the puck across the line, and the T-Birds survived the threat.

Bitten capped off his sweet night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final.

Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

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

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

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

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

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.



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.

Wilbraham Women's Club meets April 11

WILBRAHAM – The April meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will be on Thursday, April 11 in St. Cecelia's Parish Center on Main St. in Wilbraham. The luncheon at noon will be "Make Your Own Sundaes". Sandwiches will also be served.

The speaker for the day will be

Big Y Dietician, Kathy Jordan, who is a consulting dietician for the Big Y. She will give us the tools to live the life we deserve. She will be sharing lots of tips and ideas to help us make healthy choices when buying food and cooking meals.

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Railers pick up much-needed win

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-3, 62pts) beat the Reading Royals (26-31-5-2, 59pts) on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 6-3 in front of a crowd of 3,310 at Santander Arena. Worcester heads back home to take on the Newfoundland Growlers for the first time from the DCU Center this season on Wednesday, March 27th at 7:05 p.m.

Reading's Joe Nardi (1-1-2) scored his second goal of the weekend to open the scoring with 6:43 left in the first. Worcester fired back with three unanswered in the second from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Keeghan Howdeshell (1-0-1) and Anthony Callin (1-1-2) to put Worcester ahead 3-1 going into the third. Andrei Bakanov (1-1-2) scored along with two empty net goals from Trevor Cosgrove (2-1-3), while Reading got goals from Jake Smith (1-0-1) and Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) en route to a 6-3 Railers victory.

Reading controlled the flow of play in the first, testing Tikkanen with nine shots on goal. Joe Nardi (16th) found a rebound along the near goal line and hammered it back towards Tikkanen, beating him near side to give Reading the late 1-0 advantage in the first. Worcester was outshot 9-6 in the first period.

The second period played out similarly for the Railers to their third period on Friday, which was headlined by a flurry of goals. First it was Ashton Calder (16th) in the slot off a nice feed from Ryan Scarfo to beat Maier and tie the game 1-1 2:04 into the period. The assist was Scarfo's first point as a Railer. Just 3:21 later, Kee-

ghan Howdeshell placed a perfect wrist shot over the blocker hand of Maier to put Worcester ahead 2-1. Mason Klee picked up his first professional point on the goal, notching the secondary assist. Worcester's Anthony Callin piled on with a goal 3:26 later. Zach White hit him with a pass on the tape while he sped into the offensive zone and sent a wrist shot top shelf past Maier and give Worcester a 3-1 lead goign into the third.

The Railers tagged on one more early in the third with a shot from Andrei Bakanov (11th). He picked up the loose puck in the slot and wristed it past Maier to open Worcester's lead to 4-1. Reading bounced back 1:06 later as Jake Smith outwaited Henrik Tikkanen and wrapped it into the open net to make it a 4-2 game for most of the third. With the net empty, Trevor Cosgrove found the puck in open ice thanks to Andrei Bakanov chipping at it and sailed it into the empty net to make it 5-2 Worcester. Reading came back thirty seconds later with a goal from Tag Bertuzzi past the left arm of Henrik Tikkanen and cut it back down to a two-goal game. Cosgrove once again scored an empty netter, this time from 180 feet as Worcester skated away with a 6-3 win over Reading on Sunday afternoon.

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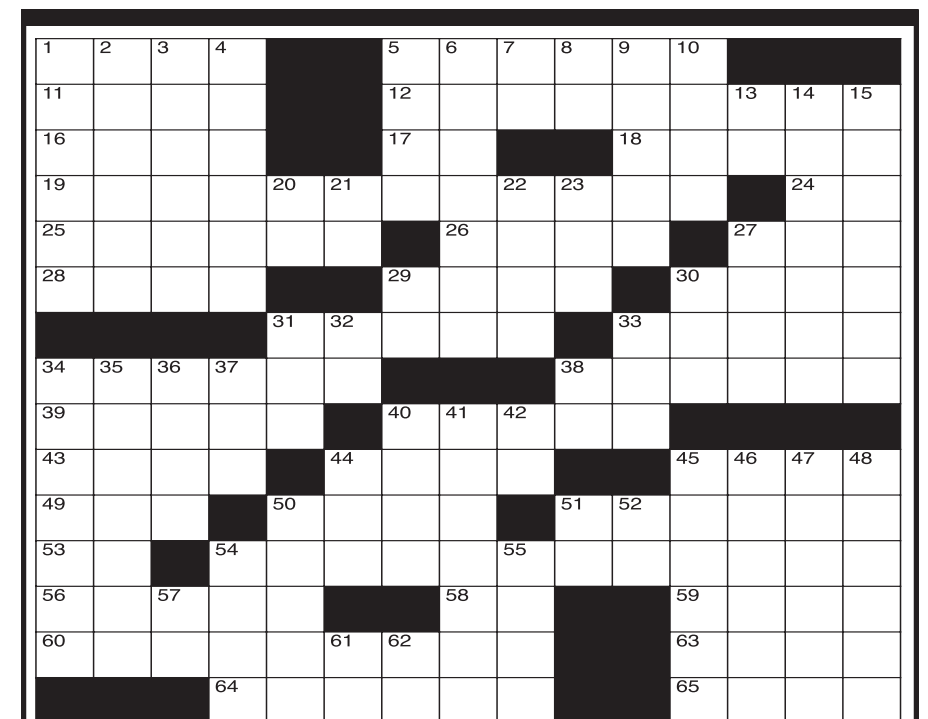
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- Ends
- Unable
- Taxi
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- A famous train station
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- Soums
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- Confused situation

CLUES DOWN

- Show a picture of
- Small sultante
- Unfortunate incident
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- Unworldly
- Yemen capital
- Type of soil
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- Dismounted
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- Observed
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- Produces anew
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- Of I
- Equally
- Changes color
- A place to stay
- Town in Galilee
- Mathematical figure
- Klingon character
- They
- Atomic #58
- Showed up extinct
- Loosen grip
- Unpleasant smell
- Innermost membranes enveloping the

brain

- Esteemed college "league"
- Partner to Pa
- Small American rail
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- Sodium
- Military figure (abbr.)
- Lighted
- Paid to get out of jail
- All of something
- Ohio city
- More abject
- A radio band
- Scientific development (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Scored perfectly
- A punch to end a fight
- The Golden State (abbr.)
- The Beehive State (abbr.)

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 492 incidents on its logs for March 12 – March 18.

March 12

At 4:01 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Camila Katherine Gonzalez, 26, of 4215 High St., Thorndike, for operating a vehicle with a suspended license, no inspection sticker and motor vehicle lights violation.

At 11:47 a.m. police arrested Jonathan Ryan Hossier, 29, unlicensed, Sturbridge, on multiple counts of shoplifting, receiving stolen goods, with holding evidence from a criminal proceeding, three counts of possession of class E substance and possession of a class A substance.

At 3:59 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Shearer Street and N. Main Street.

At 4:15 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Ashley Guadalupe Borges, 29, of 105 Wilber St., Springfield, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, using electronic device while operating a motor vehicle first offense, marked lanes violation and speeding at a rate greater than was reasonable and proper.

At 6:08 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Breckinridge Street and Park Street.

March 13

At 1:50 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:07 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Julio Cesar Cedeno, 41, of 51 Wilcox St., New Britain, CT., for operation of a motor vehicle without a license, un-

insured motor vehicle and number plate violation to conceal ID.

At 8:47 p.m. police pulled over and arrested John W. Seymour, 30, of 3267 Boston Post Road, Wilbraham, for interfering with police and disorderly conduct. Jon Micheal Leary, 31, of 18 Lariviere St., Three Rivers, for number plate violation, operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, number plate violation to conceal ID and unregistered motor vehicle.

March 14

At 2:40 p.m. police responded to an accident on Ware Street with property damage.

At 5:11 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:35 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

March 15

At 5:47 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Main Street and Thorndike Street.

At 11:24 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of N. Main Street and Wilbraham Street.

At 4:56 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

March 16

At 9:16 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Cody L. Allen, 35, of 1426 Park St., Palmer for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

At 11 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Roger T. Grenier, 39, of 218 Granby Road, Chicopee, for number plate violation to conceal ID and uninsured motor

vehicle.

At 7 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 10:16 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Luis S. Vasquez-Morales, 32, of 119 Stafford St., Springfield, for motor vehicle lights violation, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and not in possession of registration.

At 10:53 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Enriquez Morales, 18, of 119 Stafford St., Springfield, for unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop or yield.

March 17

At 11:14 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on S. Main Street.

At 4:47 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

March 18

At 6:30 p.m. police arrested Craig Thomas Henley, 42, of 1002 High St., Palmer, for multiple counts of carrying firearms without a permit, possession of ammunition without a FID card, defaced firearm serial number, improperly storing large capacity firearm, possession of a class B drug and possession of class E drug.

At 7:06 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Paulo Mateus Vieira Morais, 25, of 62 Hubbard, Ludlow, for failure to stop or yield and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

At 8:13 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Luis Edgardo Rivera, 22, of 19 Tow Path Lane, Westfield, for failure to stop or yield and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Fire Logs

Bondsville

For the period March 12 through March 18, Bondsville Fire responded to 4 calls.

On Tuesday, March 12 at 11:40 a.m., the duty officer responded to Main Street and State Street for wires down and then returned to service at 11:54 a.m.

On Wednesday, March 13 at 5:38 p.m., the department responded to Palmer Street for medical assistance. The call was cancelled enroute and the department returned to service at 5:42 p.m.

On Friday, March 15 at 10:17 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for a lockout. The department returned to service at 10:35 a.m.

On Monday, March 18 at 8:53 a.m., the department responded to

Main Street for a furnace malfunction. The department returned to service at 9:12 a.m.

Palmer

For the period of March 12 through March 16 Palmer Fire department 17 calls, including:

March 12, at 4:17 the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with extrication on Palmer Road.

March 13, at 3:26 p.m. smoke detector activated on Margaret Street. Department was back in service at 4:01 p.m.

March 13, at 4 p.m. the department responded to unauthorized burning on Old Warren Road. Department was back in service at 4:45 p.m.

March 14, at 9:57 p.m. detector activated on Beacon Drive. The

department was back in service at 10:27 p.m.

March 15, at 5:46 a.m. department responded to motor vehicle accident with no injuries on N. Main Street. The department was back in service at 6:25 a.m.

March 16, at 1:53 a.m. department responded to unauthorized burning on Ware Street. The department was back in service at 2:53 p.m.

March 16, at 2:33 p.m. department responded to unauthorized burning on Main Street. The department was back in service at 2:40 p.m.

March 16, at 7:01 p.m. department responded to unauthorized burning on Ware Street. The department was back in service at 1:01 p.m.

Palmer Fire responded to nine Medical calls for the week.

Legislation passed to prevent abuse

BOSTON— Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) joined his colleagues in the Senate to pass bipartisan legislation aimed at preventing abuse and exploitation online by criminalizing the dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos without an individual's consent.

The bill, S.2073, An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation, takes a multifaceted approach to tackling online harassment and exploitation. It includes provisions for a comprehensive educational program designed to help adolescents understand the severe consequences of posting indecent visual depictions online.

Oliveira emphasized the significance of the bill's approach, said, "With this legislation, the Senate has made it clear that this form of bullying, harassment, and exploitation will not be tolerated. Survivors will receive the justice and support they deserve. And the educational programs included in this bill will ensure that young people understand the damaging effects of this behavior."

Oliveira thanked Senate lead-

ership for their collaborative effort in developing this extensive bill. "The final bipartisan bill, unanimously passed by the Senate on Thursday, was crafted with the guidance of Senate President Spilka, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues, Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee Senator Jamie Eldridge, and the bill's primary sponsor Senator John F. Keenan. I want to recognize them for their efforts on this landmark bill."

The key features of the bill include: Comprehensive Educational Program: The bill mandates the development of a comprehensive educational diversion program by the Office of the Child Advocate. This program will educate adolescents on the consequences of sexting and posting indecent visuals online. School districts will be required to promote media literacy skills and utilize content from the OCA's program; Definition of Coercive Control: The legislation defines coercive control providing individuals with the ability to seek abuse prevention orders in threatening

situations; Increased Fines and New Offenses: The bill increases fines for criminal harassment and establishes new offenses for the unlawful distribution of explicit material; Creation of Commission: An amendment was adopted to create a commission tasked with examining the impacts of technology and the internet on protecting individuals from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Advocates across the state have voiced strong support for the bill. Deb Mann Schmill, Founder and President of the Becca Schmill Foundation, highlighted its importance in protecting individuals from online exploitation. "The passing of this legislation by the Senate today is an important milestone for all victims of online image-based sexual exploitation in Massachusetts," said Schmill.

This marks the second time the Senate has passed a version of this legislation. Following the House of Representatives previous passage of a similar bill, the two branches will now reconcile differences before sending it to the Governor for consideration.

Baystate Health to hold free events

SPRINGFIELD— Baystate Health's Loyalty Programs will offer two free events in April beginning with "When Your Kiddo Says, 'My Tummy Hurts' Series: Irritable Bowel Syndrome in Children" on April 9 from 6-7 p.m. All events are open to the general public.

Some children with tummy hurts have symptoms that alternate between diarrhea and constipation. Dr. Timothy Menz, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, Baystate Gastroenterology & Nutrition, will offer a discussion about irritable bowel syndrome including how overall diet affects IBS, as well as diagnosis and treatment options. This will be a virtual lecture.

The second lecture, "The Balancing Act," on April 10 from 4:30 to

6 p.m., will be held in person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., second entrance to the building, in Holyoke.

Participants can join neuro-physical therapists and occupational therapists from Baystate Rehabilitation Care, including Jaines Andrades, NP, Baystate Trauma Services, and Diana Chung-Edwards MSN, RN, Injury Prevention Nurse Coordinator, Trauma, for an interactive event on fall prevention. Each attendee will receive: discussion about individual risk factors with a physical therapist; instructions for specific exercises to improve balance; information about environmental safety and equipment with an occupational therapist that may help prevent falls; a fall-preven-

tion checklist and prevention strategies; and information about the types of fall injuries. Wearing comfortable clothing is recommended. Space is limited.

Registration is required for each session at BaystateHealth.org/events. For additional information, call Sue Fontaine from Loyalty Programs & Consumer Events, at 413-794-5200 or email sue.fontaine@baystate-health.org.

If individuals are interested in attending other events, join Baystate Health's free Loyalty Programs, Senior Class and Baystate Health Every Woman for updates on events and articles.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

Country Bank appoints 5 positions

Country Bank announced the appointment of four new corporators and a new trustee at its Annual Meeting on Monday, March 11.

James Phaneuf, Chair of the Board welcomed the new corpo-

rators to the Bank, stating, "We are thrilled to have these accomplished individuals join our team. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise will contribute to the continued success of Country Bank."

Ivon Gois, president of Gois Broadcasting, brings a wealth of experience to the Bank. Based in Worcester, Gois operates 12 radio stations in New England and is well-known for his contributions to the media industry, ethnic and racial diversity work and his financial expertise.

Walter Pacheco, a prominent figure in the hospitality industry, owns several Western and Central Massachusetts restaurants and investment properties. Pacheco's extensive business acumen and local ties make him a valuable addition to the Bank.

In addition to the new corporators, President-elect Mary C. McGovern was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Her expertise and leadership will help guide the Bank's strategic initiatives and ensure its continued growth as she takes over as President on April 1.

Country Bank is excited about the new appointments and looks forward to these individuals' valuable insights into the markets it serves. With their combined expertise and dedication, the Bank is well-positioned to continue to make a difference in serving its customers and communities for another 175 years.

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

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Ann Marie Corsi
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Services April 1, 2024
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Carol M. Monte
Died March 6, 2024
Services April 12-13, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

Richard „Rick“ Nash
Died on March 21, 2024
Services March 27, 2024
Halliburton Community Funeral Home, Ontario, Canada

Glenn R. Putek
1949-2024
Died March 19, 2024
Services April 29, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Carol M. Monte, 1946-2024



MONSON—Carol M. (Valcourt) Monte, 77, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. Carol was born May 24, 1946 in Holyoke to the late Charles and Irene (Casey) Valcourt. She graduated from Chicopee High School where she was a member of the National Honors Society and received her associates degree at STCC. She then continued her studies at Our Lady of the Elms College. For many years, Carol was a quality assurance representative for Tambrands in Three Rivers, retiring from Proctor and Gamble after more than 28 years. She was not only a well accomplished woman, but a well traveled one at that. She adored traveling, especially with her husband George. Together, they visited several countries throughout their lives. Although they journeyed far and wide, their favorite place to return to was Forkstown, Maine where the two owned a cabin hidden deep in the woods. Time well spent at camp was time sitting in her chair reading, fishing, or with a grandchild sitting in her lap. Their cabin was such a beloved and special place for Carol and her family.

Carol was so smart and incredibly kind. She was the type of person who could make friends anywhere she went—whether it was the grocery store or the laundromat—she would talk to anyone who would listen. Such an outgoing woman, she was active at school while her children were attending, coaching soccer and assisting with many of the school programs. You couldn't have asked for a better mother. After her retirement, she helped her two daughters care for her grandchildren, earning her well known title as their devoted Memere. For many years, she and her husband would take part in revolutionary war reenactments, dressing as settlers selling handmade tinware. The Holiday season was spent at Strawberry Banke for the candlelight stroll where the tin lanterns and ornaments that George made would be on display. Years later, her grandkids would join them, making this quality time the most sacred of family traditions.

Carol leaves her affectionate husband of 57 years, George R. Monte; their daughters, Lisa Hill, Laura Cuipenski and her

husband Michael; sisters Ruth Dulude and her husband Joseph, Loretta Goldrick and brother in-law Gary Shifflett; four grandchildren, Austin Hill, Madison Hill, Abby Cuipenski, Corbin Cuipenski, extended family members, many nieces and nephews and longtime friends Nancy Rouette and Margo Manning. Carol was predeceased by her sisters Janet Desroches and Margaret Shifflett.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours will take place Friday, April 12, 2024 from 5-8 p.m. in the funeral home. A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church 22 Green Street in Monson. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Jude Tribute Program P.O. Box 1000, Dept 142, Memphis TN 38101-9908. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com. Special thanks to the medical professionals at Mercy Medical Center. Thank you for going above and beyond to care for our Memere.

O B I T U A R I E S

Oderay Boyer, 1928-2024

WILBRAHAM—Oderay Boyer, 95, long time resident of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, died on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023.

Born Oderay Arsenia Moscoso on September 15, 1928, she was the only child of Venancia Bustamante and Antonio Moscoso Herrera. She was raised in the village of her birth, Lajamina, and in nearby Pedasi, both in the province of Los Santos in the Republic of Panama. She was educated in the public and private schools of Panama, graduating in 1945 from the Escuela Profesional Isabel Herrera Obaldia in Panama City, and was a certified IBM data input specialist. After her graduation she was employed by Guardia y Sia, SA., and later the Tribunal Electoral.

In 1955 she gave birth to her first son, Adolfo Chandeck, the son of Luis Alberto Chandeck. In early 1961 she met H. Carl Boyer, of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, then serving in the United States Army at Fort Amador in the Panama Canal Zone. They married later that year, and the following year she gave birth to her second son, Carl Peter. The new family moved to the United States in 1963, settling in Wilbraham, where she gave birth to her third son, John. In 1965 the family moved into a newly built home on Beebe Road in Wilbraham, where Oderay would reside with her husband for the rest of her life.

Known as Ode to family and friends, she quickly adapted to her New England home, falling in love with the beauty of the winter snows. Part of the last generation of stay-at-home moms, she was a fine cook, busily preparing daily meals and elaborate holiday spreads. She

was an avid gardener, transforming her multi-acre property into a veritable park, highlighted by extensive flower beds, decorative shrubs, and exotic ornamental trees. She loved embroidery, creating beautiful tablecloths, shirts, dresses, and anything else she felt could benefit from decoration. She also enjoyed reading celebrity magazines and romance novels, and was a great fan of films from Hollywood's Golden Age.

In the late 1970s, as the United States transformed into a two-income economy, she followed along, learning in her late 40s to drive a car, which she used to commute to Sunshine Art Studios in East Longmeadow, where she was employed for more than 20 years until her retirement.

On winter weekends throughout the '70s and early '80s, she could be found at her favorite table at the main lodge at Berkshire East Ski Area in Charlemont, where her husband Carl worked on weekends as a ski instructor and ski school director. There, while her husband and children were skiing, she would pass the day at her cold-weather pastime of embroidery, chatting with the ski area staff, mountain regulars, and any other ski families who chose to share her table.

While she resided in the United States for the rest of her life, becoming in 1986 a citizen, her heart remained in her native Panama. In her later years she returned home annually for several weeks to Lajamina, where she retained the rustic house of



her youth across the street from the village church. A cousin of one Panamanian president and a family friend of another, she seemed to know everyone, from the highest office holders to the most modest farmers. But no matter what his or her station, she treated everyone with the same interest and kindness.

She is survived and greatly missed by her husband of 62 years, Carl; her three sons: Adolfo and his wife, Luz, of Boca Raton, Florida; Carl Peter and his wife, Halina, of Monson, Massachusetts; and John, of North Granby, Connecticut; her three grandchildren: Michael Chandeck and his wife, Meghan, of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Marc Chandeck and his wife, Kristen, of San Jose, California; and Nicole Chandeck, of Miami, Florida; her goddaughter Sanya Moscoso Rodriguez of Panama City, Panama, and many cousins from her native country.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, April 5, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St. in Monson. A Funeral Mass will be given on Saturday, April 6, at 10:00 AM at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Wilbraham, followed by a burial service at Glendale Cemetery in Wilbraham. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Association (<https://www.alz.org/>) or the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/>). For online condolences/directions please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Ann Marie Corsi

PALMER—Ann Marie Corsi, 68, beloved mother, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away on March 23, 2024. Ann was born on September 29, 1955 in Springfield, MA to the late James and Barbara (Moorehead) Austin. Ann had a several decades long career as a Licensed Practical Nurse, loved taking care of geriatric patients, and specialised in long term care. Ann was a devout Catholic and a parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle in Palmer. She liked to cook, she enjoyed sharing car picnics with friends, and she loved to travel, particu-

larly to Ogunquit, Maine.

Besides her parents, Ann was predeceased by her former husband, Keith Corsi, and her dear friends, Janet and John Cheesey. She will be missed by her son, Aaron Corsi and his wife Maria; daughter, Jessica Corsi; brother, Michael Austin and his wife Michele; sister, Kathleen France and her husband Timothy; nieces and nephews, Elizabeth Austin and husband Sean Maher, Karen Austin and her partner Melissa Philips, Patrick Austin and wife Megan, and Alison France; as well as her longtime dear friends,

Penny and Ron Foskit.

Visitation will be on April 1, 2024, 10am-12pm with a service at 12pm at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will follow immediately in St. Thomas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ann's memory can be made to TJ O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center: tjconnoradoptioncenter.com. Ann loved dogs and had previously adopted from TJ's. To extend online condolences, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Richard "Rick" Nash

It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Rick Nash, cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Rick bid farewell to this world on the evening of March 21, 2024, at Halliburton Hospital, surrounded by the love of his family, as he entered his 77th year of life.

Rick was the beloved husband and best friend of Doris Nash, with whom he shared a deep and enduring bond for over fifty years. Together, they created a lifetime of memories filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support for each other.

As a loving father, Rick leaves behind his son Erich (Amanda) and fond memories of his late daughter, Sarah Nash, who preceded him in death in 1994. Rick's presence will forever remain in the hearts of his grandchildren Jordyn, Cameron and Olivia who were the joy of his life.

Originally hailing from Monson, Massachusetts, Rick's journey led him to find his home in Dorset, where he and Doris

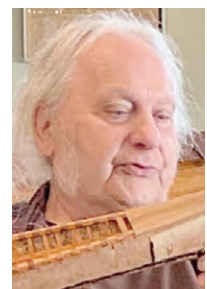
forged a life together. Rick's passion for craftsmanship and tradition led him to become a world-renowned builder of birch bark canoes, which can be seen at the Canadian Museum of History. Rick was affiliated with the

Canoe Museum at Camp Kandalore and later in Peterborough, at the Canadian Canoe Museum, where he shared his expertise and love for canoe building with others.

From a young age Rick was passionate about music. Whether photographing his favourite artist or restoring a beloved guitar his attention to detail was unprecedented.

Rick will also be remembered as a dear brother of Mark and brother-in-law to Ruth. Rick was preceded in death by his brother Peter.

His memory will live on through the beauty of the canoes he crafted, the music he played, and the many photographs he



captured in life.

A celebration of Rick's life was held in remembrance of his enduring spirit and the joy he brought to those around him on his birthday, March 27, 2024. As an expression of sympathy, the family kindly re-

quests that donations be made to The Canadian Canoe Museum in honor of Rick's memory and his passion for craftsmanship and tradition. May Rick rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the tranquility of the waters he so loved and the warmth of the memories he leaves behind. At a later date he will be interred at Paint Lake Cemetery, Dorset. Cards can be sent to Doris Nash, 19844 Highway 35, Algonquin Highlands Ontario Kom 1j2, Canada. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Halliburton Community Funeral Home 13523 Hwy. #118, Halliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Glenn R. Putek, 1949-2024



MONSON—Glenn R. Putek, 74, of Monson, passed away suddenly on March 19, 2024. He was born on Aug. 4, 1949, in Stafford, CT, to the late Robert and Barbara (Partello) Putek. Glenn was a graduate of Monson High School before honorably serving in the US Marine Corps "Semper Paratus". He was the proud owner and operator of Glenn's Mobile Service for over 35 years. Glenn was a true automobile enthusiast who had a passion for classic cars and hot rods. He enjoyed attending car shows, cruise nights and races. Additionally, Glenn loved deer hunting and found joy in teaching his granddaughter how to hunt. He also enjoyed working on his grandson's Monte Carlo.

Glenn will be dearly missed by his wife, Diane S. Putek; son, Jerome A Swanson and his partner, Susan Rader of Enfield; brothers, Rick L Putek and his wife Terry of NC, Jann W. Putek and his wife Shari of Maine; grandchildren, Brandy Swanson and her partner, Joseph Parent of Warren, Dana Swanson of Monson, Gaven Swanson of Enfield and Lilah Swanson of Enfield; cousins, Tami Zawistowski and Holly McKinney, along with nieces, nephews, extended family, friends and F-Troop. Glenn was predeceased by his parents and a son, David



J. Swanson.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours will be held Friday, March 29, 2024 from 5 - 8 p.m. in the funeral home. A Funeral service will be held Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 10 a.m. in Lombard Funeral Home with burial to follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project PO Box 758516 Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

GE called on for better clean-up

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) urged General Electric chairman and chief executive officer Lawrence Culp, Jr. to fix its proposed "On-Site and Off-Site Transportation and Disposal Plan" to better evaluate how rail could be used in the clean-up of the Housatonic River, which was contaminated by toxic chemicals decades after GE manufacturing waste was dumped into the river.

GE's current proposal heavily relies on truck transportation for its on-site disposal options, while also failing to provide a clear road map on how it plans to handle material cleaned up from further downstream. An approach that cen-

ters solely on truck transportation fails to take into consideration the efficiency, environmental, public health, and climate benefits of rail transportation, while also ignoring concerns from local stakeholders, public officials, and the Environmental Protection Agency's concerns.

As a result, Markey and Warren called on GE to resubmit a transportation and disposal plan that fully considers rail systems and their ability to dispose of waste materials, including on the furthest downstream reaches of the Rest of River clean-up.

In the letter to CEO Culp, Markey and Warren wrote, "With a truck-centric focus, the proposal fails to sufficiently consider the efficiency, environmental, public health, and climate benefits of rail transportation. It also ignores both

local concerns and recent statements from the state-owned Housatonic Railroad rail line, which expressed interest in working with GE to ensure that the rail infrastructure is able to transport waste material."

The letter continued, "Public officials representing six towns affected by the Rest of River clean-up have clearly expressed their support for the use of rail. These leaders highlight multiple benefits of prioritizing rail transport over trucks, including reducing vehicular traffic, protecting public health, limiting disruption to residents, and decreasing wear on municipal infrastructure. We urge you to listen to these key local stakeholders, as well as to the EPA, as you continue to work on the transport proposal and remedy its inadequacies."

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

WARE – People across the country are excitedly awaiting the upcoming total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 which will cross over New England.

Richard Sanderson, Adjunct Curator of Physical Science at the Springfield Museum, gave a slideshow presentation about eclipses at the Young Men's Library Association on Monday evening.

Unlike lunar eclipses, which are able to be seen by more people, solar eclipses are rare. They occur when the moon travels between the earth and the sun, effectively blocking it.

"To us, the moon and sun look the same size because of the distance and sizes of them," Sanderson explained. "The amount the moon covers the sun during an eclipse can 'change' depending on how close or far away the moon is relative to the earth as it passes in front of the sun."

There are two types of eclipses: total and annular. A total eclipse is when the moon is closer to the earth and completely covers the sun, only with a small ring of light, called a diamond ring effect.

An annular eclipse is when more of the sun is present in a ring around the moon, which is farther away from the earth on its axis.

When it comes to the best spot to view the eclipse just two weeks away, it is within the path of totality, or the path the eclipse will be able to be seen most clearly.

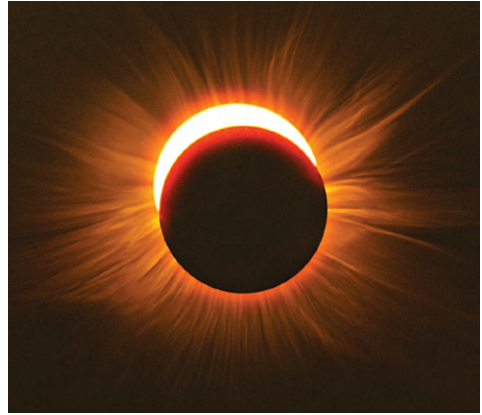
"On April 8, if you're in the right place, you'll be able to see the moon completely cover the sun," Sanderson said of the upcoming total eclipse. "The farther you are from the path of totality, the smaller the 'bite' out of the sun will be."

This "bite" is the part of the sun that is

blocked by the moon. While those who go to Vermont or northern Maine along the path of totality will see the full eclipse, those in Massachusetts may only see a partial eclipse, or only part of the sun blocked out.

While a solar eclipse is very rare, for the first time in centuries, we have had the opportunity to witness three just within a single lifetime.

Sanderson was able to see his first on June 30, 1973, which became known as the "Eclipse of the Century" because it lasted a whopping seven minutes, the second longest recorded eclipse we have ever recorded in



human history.

Sanderson viewed the 1973 total eclipse with his father and a group of researchers in the Kaisut Desert in Northern Kenya.

"When you are in an eclipse, sometimes that shadow only lasts two or three minutes," Sanderson explained. "It was a really encompassing experience. About 30 seconds before totality, it was like the sky had a dimmer effect as the sky went dark and the stars came out."

The second eclipse Sanderson experienced was on Aug. 21, 2017. This became known as the "Great American Eclipse" because its path of totality ran through the di-

rect center of the country, cutting it in half.

"There's something about eclipses that triggers a deep and emotional connection in people," Sanderson said. "Fear and excitement as the sky goes dark when it shouldn't be."

The upcoming total eclipse on April 8 has left people with a mix of fear, speculation, and excitement as people plan to take off work to see this once-in-a-lifetime event.

However, one should take into consideration the safety concerns of eclipse-viewing. During an eclipse, the sun is covered, yes, but that means its heat and light are far more concentrated.

"Think of a magnifying glass reflecting light from the sun onto a leaf, which in turn makes it burn. That can happen to your retinas if you look directly at an eclipse," Sanderson warned.

As such, special glasses with dark filters (not sunglasses) must be worn to look at an eclipse, but take care you only glance at the sun, not stare for long periods.

The upcoming eclipse, for those not travelling to get into the path of totality, can be best seen in the Greater Springfield area at specific times.

A partial eclipse will become visible at 2:14 p.m., the maximum eclipse that we in Massachusetts can see will be at 3:28 p.m., and it will wane off to a partial eclipse by 4:38 p.m.

The eclipse is said to only be visible for a total of four minutes, but again, that all depends on where you are.

"It's a really rare opportunity to be able to see an eclipse," Sanderson said. "Bring your kids and special glasses because this experience will last a lifetime."

The Museum of Springfield will be open specially on the day of the eclipse and will have two planetarium teachers available with a special telescope to view the eclipse. Arrive early for parking and enjoy the sight.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists First Thursday hikes

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, is hosting First Thursday Habitat Hikes each month.

All ages are welcome at these programs; however, dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir.

Quabbin is an area of immense diversity of habitat, from shady vernal pools to sunny mountaintops. Staff will be hosting hikes one Thursday each month (weather permitting) to spotlight some of these beautiful landscapes.

Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir or email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Wetlands Walk

A 1.5-mile easy Wetlands Walk will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/RvC5y8AMtmWToTTq5>).

This Habitat Hike will visit two different types of wetlands. It will begin at the parking area for Goodnough Dike in Quabbin Park and walk the Dike Road down to the wetlands' location and back, covering approximately 1.5 miles round trip.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for wet/muddy conditions (wear appropriate footwear).

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fe46ba08256404fa1bd-49660f68c624>.

Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands

A 1.5-mile east Gate 37 Forest Walk

to Wetlands will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/wPedFYxiN5Qp8sVv9>)

Meet at Gate 37 off Route 122 in the North of Quabbin Reservation. Parking is limited.

This Habitat Hike will be a short walk down a forest road to a stunning wetland habitat. It is a little over 1-mile round trip.

Those who are feeling adventurous may opt to hike further, up the side of Soapstone Mountain to a spectacular view of the Quabbin, though be advised this portion is difficult and will not be a part of the official hike. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c3936c4d26c8443694b6b-3fc0beb97d4>.

Tower Trail Habitat Hike

Join a 3-mile moderate Tower Trail Habitat Hike on Thursday, June 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/9K3L4xf44nbVK4bG7>)

This hike will meet at the parking area inside the Middle Entrance off Route 9. It is a moderately difficult hike, approximately 3-miles round-trip up Quabbin Hill through woodland and mountain habitat and back.

Due to safety issues, hikers will not be able to go up to the tower itself, as it is currently closed for renovations. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c2dd1551fbb7467bbd-da704a469c7929>.

Public Notices

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with §7.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing, **Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057 on the application of Bradford Medeiros for Special Permit with Site Plan Approval, Special Permit for Stormwater Management, and a Special Permit for work within the Water Supply Protection Overlay District as provided by §7.3, §7.4, §6.19 and §4.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The petitioner proposes to construct a self-storage facility comprised of four (4) buildings on a 2.558-acre site located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055 Zoned General Commercial. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Planning Board and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
03/28, 04/04/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gerard H. Briggs to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated May 13, 2005 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15035, Page 238 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Deutsche Bank

National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of July 1, 2005 is the present holder by Assignment from Ameriquest Mortgage Company to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of July 1, 2005 dated August 30, 2006 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 16210, Page 523, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 51 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 will be sold at a Public Auction at **2:00 PM on April 25, 2024**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the building thereon situated in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, on Brookfield Road, shown as Lot No. 3 on a plan entitled "Plan of Lots in Brimfield, Mass. surveyed for Bogart Builders, Inc., Scale 1" = 60', April 4, 1972, Kenneth C. Sherman, Engineer-Surveyor, Palmer, Mass." recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, in Book of Plans 135, Page 48, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the westerly line of Brookfield Road, which pin is three hundred and 68/100

(300.68) feet northerly measured on the westerly line of Brookfield Road from a concrete bound as shown on said plan;

Thence N. 76° 42' W. seven hundred eighty-one and 11/100 (781.11) feet on line of land now or formerly of Estate of Martha K. Reed to an iron pin;

Thence N. 7° 53' 10" E. one hundred three and 00/100 (103.00) feet on line of land now or formerly of Shirley E. Frye, Carolyn H. Adams and Julia F. Adams to an iron pin;

Thence S. 78° 64' E. seven hundred thirty seven and 97/100 (737.97) feet on the line of Lot No. 2 as shown on said plan to an iron pin in the westerly line of Brookfield Road;

Thence southerly one hundred forty-one and 41/100 (141.41) feet on the westerly line of Brookfield Road to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 11851, Page

180.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such

other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of July 1, 2005

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Briggs, Gerard H.,
09-054799
03/28, 04/04, 04/11/2024

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket Number: 24 SM 000988

ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Noah Paul Genereux

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

Aurora Financial Group, Inc.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 2029 Quabog Street, given by Noah Paul Genereux to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a Norcom Mortgage, dated September 25, 2019, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22870, Page 230, 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 grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on March 14, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
03/28/2024

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. HD24C0100CA

In the matter of: **Beverly Madison Williams CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Beverly Madison Williams of Palmer, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Beverly Madison Cutty 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 04/17/2024.**

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 20, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/28/2024

Saturday April 6th 5:30 PM

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner Dance

At St Mary's Church Hall South Street Ware

SOLD OUT!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Beer & Wine Available For Purchase

Adults: \$20.00
Kids : \$10.00

This Is An Event To Raise Funds For The Completion Of The Joe C. Knight Memorial Playground At St. Aloysius Catholic School

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to journalregister@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 in Palmer, Sunday April 7, Class one is at 9:30 to 10:30 am; Class Two: 11 a.m. to noon. 20\$ per person and free beer token included. Any questions feel free to reach out. Contact Ashley Bousquet 413-221-8664 or email [Lovendance@hotmail.com](mailto: Lovendance@hotmail.com)

FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON invites all interested singers in the area to attend rehearsals for a Taize service. These will be held in the Julia Sprague Chapel at First Church on April 10, 17, and 24 under the direction of Kiel Krommer, Director of Music Ministries at First Church. To register, email [pmatrow@icloud.com](mailto: pmatrow@icloud.com). Include your name, phone, and email. The Taize service will be held at First Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 28 and is free and open to the public.

PALMER RECREATION AND VETERANS

SERVICES OFFICE PRESENT A FABULOUS 50'S SOCK HOP. The event will be held at the Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers on April 12, 2024 from 5 - 9 p.m. Trivia, dancing, costume contest, hula hooping and prizes. Food & drink will be available for purchase. Free admission for the event, monetary donations will be accepted to support Wreaths Across America a non-profit organization that honors our fallen veterans.

THE PIONEER VALLEY QUILT GUILD will be presenting their "Up, Up and Away" quilt show Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will be held at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield, MA and is handicapped accessible. In addition to beautiful quilts and an 8' quilted balloon on display, there will be vendors, an appraiser, raffle baskets, a raffle quilt, and a food vendor. We will also be selling handmade items from our members at our PVQG Boutique. Admission is \$10. Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount by asking for Janet Foy upon arrival. Please come and join for a day or two of fun.

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

ONGOING

THE SWIFT RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their **FRIDAY FISH FRY** is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5. Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available. Come out and enjoy

one of the best fish dinners in the area with generous portions. For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

INTERESTS

PIONEER VALLEY QUILTERS Guild meets at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome. The mission of the guild is two-fold: to share the joy of quilting with others and to work for the betterment of the community. Monies raised (as in the biannual quilt show) support various workshops and speakers for the meetings, as well as allow the guild to buy materials that are then used to create donated items. The guild has donated quilts, baby bibs, cardiac pillows, and Christmas stockings for veterans to a variety of community agencies, including but not limited to the Springfield Rescue Mission and the Gray House.

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](mailto: 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.

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses. The market starts on April 13, and runs from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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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 Saturday, 3.30 • Luther
 Friday, 4.5 • Floyd Patterson
 Saturday, 4.6
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 Friday 3/29 Floyd Patterson
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 Mon.-Thurs. 3-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11:30am-10pm & Sun. 11:30am-9pm
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OPRO to host concert in April

WILBRAHAM— The Old Post Road Orchestra will perform on Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., at Minnechaug Regional High School.

The spring concert, titled *Bohemian Landscapes*, will include selections from Strauss, Sibelius, Smetana, and Mahler.

This concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency and the generous donations of the audiences and program book advertisers.

Vendors wanted for Relay for Life craft/vendor fair

BELCHERTOWN - Crafters and vendors are sought for the American Cancer Society, Quaboag Relay for Life's 3rd Annual Spring Craft/Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Common, Routes 9 and 202.

All proceeds from the fair will benefit the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life.

For crafter/vendor selling information, please contact Vicki McAndrew by email at [sv_jewelry@charter.net](mailto: sv_jewelry@charter.net).