

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com April 3, 2025 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 10 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

School Committee looks over preliminary budget for FY2026

By Marcelo Gusmão
Correspondent
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At last week’s School Committee meeting, Superintendent Matthew Francis presented a preliminary budget for the district for fiscal year 2026.

“In December, we kicked off the budget season with a presentation,” Francis said. “This is the most up-to-date

information that we have.”

Francis added that there are still variables the budget is waiting on, and said that he didn’t foresee the committee needing to take action on the budget until later in the spring.

The presentation began with a discussion of impacts to the budget and outlining the priorities. He highlighted changes that have occurred since the previous meeting in

December.

“One of the budget impacts is increased enrollment,” Francis said. “These are students that are actually in our seats, as well as the foundation enrollment, which is based off of the chapter 70 funds that we get.”

Francis explained that Governor Maura Healey sent a preliminary budget to the legislative branches which showed an increase to the town’s chapter 70 funds of approximately \$350,000. He then pointed out some priorities that he had to consider while crafting the budget, such as contract obligations and Collective Bargaining Agreements with paraprofessionals, custodians, food service, and nurses.

“I’ve talked about transportation,” Francis said. “Transportation, we are watching extremely closely

because of the increase of homeless and foster care transportation that we’ve had to account for since December.”

Committee Member Erica Nadeau compared the number for transportation to fiscal year 2025, and noted that it seemed low.

“There are some entitlement grants that we have to reserve,” Francis said. “When we do the final presentation, waiting for your approval, you’ll see more of an understanding of where the grant money is going to be used, where the circuit breaker is going to be used, and how much we would have to pledge out of School Choice depending on what number we get from the town.”

Francis mentioned that the Operational Services

PALMER | page 8

MONSON

Select Board meets to discuss infrastructure plans and a drug-free Monson

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON—The Monson Select Board met on March 25 to discuss several important issues, including infrastructure upgrades, community grant challenges, and various appointments. The meeting, which began promptly at 7 p.m., also featured a public comment period where residents raised concerns and shared initiatives benefiting the town.

Public Comment and Concerns

Roxanne Gunther of Mejell Road addressed the board with concerns over an alleged investigation into the town administrator’s access to emails. Gunther questioned the expenditure of taxpayer money for the investigation and requested clarity on who authorized it.

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz clarified that there was no formal investigation, but rather a review initiated by town counsel to address potential conflicts of interest related to the town’s IT vendor. Wolowicz also

MONSON | page 3

BINGO NIGHT



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Winner Jen Deyo with her new Michael Kors Medium Duffel Satchel in Optic White.

Handbags & hand tools prizes for the night hosted by the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER — The Quaboag Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night at the Amvets 74 in Palmer on Friday, March 21 drawing in a lively crowd for a fun and unique evening of bingo with a twist. This event was an exciting combination of fashion and practical tools, offering participants a chance to win stylish handbags or high-quality hand tools.



Winner Paulene Jacek with her new Ryobi Cordless Trimmer, Edger & Jet Fan Blower Combo Kit.

The evening began at 6 p.m. with doors opening for registration, and the games kicked off at 6:30 p.m. Participants purchased game boards for \$40, which covered entry for 10 rounds of bingo, access to a cash bar, and a snack table filled with fruits, vegetables, cheese, crackers, cookies, and brownies. For those seeking additional chances to win, extra game boards were available for purchase for \$1 each, and attendees could also enter raffles for smaller prizes.

BINGO | page 6

BRIMFIELD

A community hub for all at Hitchcock



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Cindy Skowrya standing on the front steps of the Hitchcock Free Academy, where everyone is welcome.

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD—For the past five years, Cindy Skowrya has been at the helm of Hitchcock Free Academy, where she’s helped transform the historic institution into a vibrant community center. Skowrya, who was hired just two weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, has embraced the challenges that came with those early years

and continued to drive the Academy forward.

A Brimfield native, Skowrya has deep roots at the Academy. “I spent most of my childhood here,” she recalls. Her mother was the secretary of the Alumni Association, and many members of her family, including her parents, aunts, and uncles, graduated from Hitchcock when it still operated as a high school. Skowrya herself took tennis

HITCHCOCK | page 7

COMMUNITY

C4R prepares for 2025 waterway season

Work to begin on new section of Lower Quaboag Blue Trail

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council held its spring kickoff meeting this past Sunday, sharing details about water quality sampling, river restoration and cleanups, plans for a new section of Blue Trail and volunteer opportunities.

Coordinator of C4R Keith Davies welcomed people to the Palmer Historical



Cultural Center in Three Rivers on March 30 and shared the history of the watershed council, which started in 2014.

Davies said at that time, the existing Chicopee River Watershed Council was mostly defunct, and he saw an opportunity to revive it and also connect it with rivers upstream. By combining

C4R | page 5

EDUCATION

Innovative EMT Pathway for students at PHS

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER—Palmer High School is providing a unique opportunity for senior students aged 17 and older to join an innovative Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) pathway. This program, which runs outside of regular school hours, offers students the chance to gain practical skills in the medical field while earning valuable credentials.

Currently, eight seniors are taking part in this new program: Kassandra Perry, Aliyah O’Dean, Louis Alicea, twins Elijah and Keegan Jez, Rachel McNalloy, Gianna Perry, and Nayoka Williams. While students must provide their own transportation to and from the class, they can enroll as early as age 17, though they must wait until they turn 18 to take



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

(left to right) Kassandra Perry, Aaliyah O’Dean, Louis Alicea, Elijah Jez, Keegan Jez, Rachel McNalloy, Gianna Perry, Nayoka Williams are participants in the EMT Pathways program.

the state exam to earn an official EMT license.

The program fully funded by Palmer High School. It is offered free of charge to students. The school covers

the costs for both the course and the final exam. For many of the students, the opportunity to take the class at no cost is one of the biggest draws.

“This is a great opportunity for me,” says Aliyah O’dean, one of the students in the program. “It looks great on a resume, and it

EMT PATHWAY | page 15



Last call for artist entries by April 6

MONSON—The Monson Arts Council’s 31st Annual Juried Spring Art Exhibition and Sale. THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS APRIL 6 at 6 p.m.

The exhibition will be presented at Monson’s House of Art at 200 Main Street as well as the Town of Monson Memorial Hall at 198 Main Street, on three consecutive weekends beginning May 10.

Exhibition hours are from noon until 5 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday during the show. The exhibition is open to the public at no charge. A sales shop featuring works by the exhibiting artists will be open in the House of Art during the entire show.

All interested artists can go to our website at <https://monsonartscouncil.org/spring-exhibition-and-sale-2025/> for entry details. Each artist can submit up to three works for consideration to the show.

This year’s theme is: Funky is Good. There are

\$4,500 in prizes available! The four categories for submission include Painting, Photography, Multidimensional Art (Sculpture, Fiber Art, Ceramics, etc.), and Graphic Arts/Mixed Media (Prints, Drawing, Drawing, etc.).

The prizes include: Best of Show, \$1,000; First and Second Prizes in each category at \$500 and \$100 respectively. Other prizes include \$300 for the President’s Choice Award, sponsored by Monson Savings Bank - a major sponsor of the exhibition and other MAC activities; The Edward and Shirley Lastoff Memorial Prize: \$250, Sponsored and selected by Linda Lastoff; Special Award - \$75 Gift Certificate to Giclée of New England, Inc.; and the People’s Choice, which will be voted by ballot by visitors to the show. Honorable Mention certificates may also be awarded at the Jurors’ discretion.

Monson’s night out to support Special Olympics April 3

MONSON—Monson’s Night Out to support Special Olympics will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m on Thursday, April 3.

Eat in or take-out to support the athletes at one of the participating restaurants in town.

By joining this effort you are not only supporting the athletes but the local businesses.

A percentage of your total food purchase at any establishment will raise funds toward the Special Olympics be held at Monson Public Schools on May 2.

The businesses involved are Main Street Tavern, Beth’s Family Dining, Maria’s Pizzeria and Taqueria la Siguanaba.

Raffle tickets to win prizes from local businesses and 50/50 raffle tickets will be available for purchase at Beth’s and Main Street Tavern.

Jazz Bones to perform at first Church

MONSON—The Jazz Bones under the direction of David Neill will perform at First Church Monson, 5 High Street, on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

A cookies and punch reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the performance.

The Jazz Bones is the only jazz trombone ensemble in the area. The ensemble delivers a dynamic sound for four tenor trombones, one bass trombone, guitar, bass and drums. This unique trombone group has arrangements written for five part harmony, whether playing a hard swing, fast jazz or a sweet ballad. The group is backed by a first class rhythm section and is a real crowd pleaser. Their repertoire consists of swing, jazz standards, blues, rock, Latin and funk within a library consisting of more than three hundred songs. David Spotty, trombone professor at UMass, has arranged about eighty titles for the group to perform. This rhythmic presentation will appeal to persons of all ages.

Jazz Bones began as a

performance group in 1985. David Neill first heard a trombone ensemble, The Eeastman Trombone Choir, while attending college in Kansas. David joined the International Trombone Association which brought together trombone players from around the world. In 1982, David attended the International Trombone Association Convention in Nashville where he heard for the first time a trombone only jazz group “Them Bones” from Texas. He was inspired to form his own group in Massachusetts and over the years while attending several conventions, he met several groups that shared their musical arrangements for five trombones and rhythm.

Be prepared to enjoy selections from the Jazz Bones repertoire. These include songs, such as Eleanor Rigby, All of Me, Jeff’s Trombone Mambo, Bad Bad Leroy Brown, Old Devil Moon, and many more! The concert is underwritten by the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





ARTIE

This is Artie from Palmer. He is a whippet, and he competes in flyball and dock diving. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Friends of the Quabbin annual meeting

Discussion on major project to restore key historic structure

BELCHERTOWN—The Friends of the Quabbin (www.foquabbin.org) will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, located at 18 Park Street. The meeting is free and open to the public-anyone with an interest in the Quabbin region and a desire to celebrate its natural beauty and rich history is welcome to attend.

A highlight of this year’s gathering will be a presentation by Dale Monette, a noted nature photographer from New Salem. A former employee of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Monette spent years exploring the Quabbin and has amassed a remarkable collection of

wildlife and landscape photographs that capture the spirit of the region.

In addition to Monette’s presentation, the Friends will share updates on several important ongoing projects, including the restoration of the historic Keystone Bridge in New Salem. Built in 1866, the bridge is in critical condition. Recognizing its historical value, the Friends have committed initial funding to begin stabilization work and are launching a fundraising campaign to support the full restoration.

Other initiatives include continued restoration efforts at the Quabbin Cemetery, a major redesign of the Friends’ website to serve as an information hub, and a variety of other preservation and education projects.

Whether you’re a current member or just curious to learn more, this is a great opportunity to meet others who care deeply about the Quabbin. All are welcome.

For more information about the Friends of the Quabbin go to www.foquabbin.org or scan this QR code.

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

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

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

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





May 23**7-Night Bermuda Cruise**..... from \$1699

June 10-12....**Hampton Beach Getaway** \$529

June 28.....**Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175

July 12**Escape to Rockport**..... \$110

July 26 **Perkins Cove for a Day**.....\$110

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at **(413) 436-5357** or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com


NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



DEADLINE

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



THE CENTERED PLACE
SINCE 1988

Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine

Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.

413 436 7374
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM

Corrections

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

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid (\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

WEB
www.journalregister.turley.com

 @ The Journal Register

The Journal Register is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIB END or LOIN END ROAST..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... **\$2.79** lb

USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI SMOKED VIRGINIA HAM..... **\$4.44** lb

USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE..... **\$4.99** lb

SOUP'S ON!

USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS **\$9.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP CHICKEN (FOWL) ... **\$1.49** lb

PRICE BUSTERS

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE **\$9.89** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS **\$5.99** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG **\$3.99** lb

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE CHICKEN **99¢** lb

Lenten Specials

USDA INSP. 31/40 COUNT COOKED SHRIMP 2 LB BAG..... **\$12.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN PARMESAN CRUSTED TILAPIA FILLETS 24 OZ **\$4.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA KING FISH **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN TASTEE CHOICE ASSORTED BREADED SHRIMP 9-12 OZ BOX **\$5.99** ea

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES:
4/3/25-4/9/25

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Brimfield historical walking tour April 13

BRIMFIELD—The Brimfield Historical Commission will be conducting an historical walking tour of the Brimfield Center Village on Sunday, April 13 at noon. The tour will highlight the fascinating history behind the structures that have shaped our community, most of which are included on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the people who built and lived in them.

We will be starting on the sidewalk in front of St. Christopher's Church, heading west by the Windmill, to the Civil War Memorial and Hitchcock Academy and then down North Main Street to the First Congregational Church. It will take approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Egg-citing fun at Easter Pancake Breakfast

MONSON—The Monson High School Class of 2028 will be having an Easter Pancake Breakfast organized by the class officers. The event will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Monson High School in the cafeteria at 55 Margaret Street.

The cost is \$5 per adult and \$3 per child.

There will be a basket raffle, kids activities and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

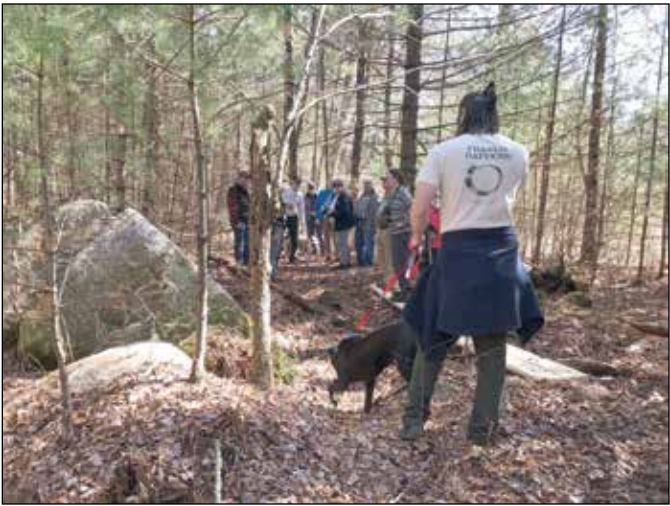
A highlight of the walk will include a discussion of the old Brimfield Hotel which burnt down in 1941 and is now the location of Hitchcock Academy's parking lot. Although the Hotel no longer exists, it served for over 130 years as a focal point of Brimfield activity.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring something to drink.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, we request that you contact the Historical Commission at historical@brimfieldma.org to let us know so that we can maintain an accurate list of participants. Additional tours are planned for later in the spring.



OLT director and VP Toni Uliana putting the finishing touches on the new footbridge in time for the Opacum walk on Monson's Skorupski Family Woodlands.



Hikers stop along the trail to talk of the geology and past use of the land.

Monson hosts Land Trust Walk

MONSON—Opacum Land Trust celebrated their 25th year anniversary with a wonderful breakfast at Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School on March 15, followed by a walk on the Skorupski Family Woodlands Conservation Area in Monson.

This is the second year OLT has held their Annual Meeting Breakfast at Pathfinder, with this year's menu featuring eggs benedict, waffles, bacon, hash browns, fresh fruit and muffins, with coffee and juices and more prepared by the Pathfinder Hospitality class.

The meeting featured a silent auction with over a dozen items including contributions

This 70-acre parcel, purchased in 2015 by the town of Monson and under the care and control of the Conservation Commission is permanently protected with a conservation restriction held by Opacum Land Trust.

Both OLT and the Conservation Commission are responsible for stewardship of the property, working as partners to care for and protect the woodlands and streams on the property.

Over a dozen attendees of the breakfast, joined by some neighbors of the conservation area, were treated to a walk led by Glenn Colburn and Toni Uliana, both on the Board of Directors of OLT.

Ms. Uliana was recently elected VP of Opacum. The 1.9-mile walk led participants over the two trails on the property and along Maxwell Brook. A new bridge allowing an easier crossing of the brook was finished the day before the hike!

You can learn more about Opacum Land Trust and the work that they do at: www.opaumlt.org. and join us for one of our guided walks.

Monson conservation areas and trails may be found at: www.monson-ma.gov. Use the menu to navigate to the Conservation Commission home page.

MONSON | from page 1

emphasized that she only has access to her own email and follows procedures for handling public records requests.

In a more positive note, Russell Brissett from Stewart Avenue presented a quilt he created for a raffle benefiting Wreaths Across America, a program dedicated to honoring veterans. The quilt, valued between \$600-\$800, will be raffled off to help fund the initiative.

Robin Carpenter of Bee-Be Road requested a public hearing on a proposed bylaw change concerning commercial recreation. The board confirmed that town counsel would review the proposed changes and that the matter would be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Valerie Bogaz Bodwin of the General Bylaw Committee reported that the committee had completed its work on proposed bylaw changes, which were reviewed by town counsel. Two public meetings were held, and feedback was incorporated into the final draft. Bodwin promised to provide a synopsis of the changes soon, and all materials will be available on the town's website for public review.

Town Administrator's Update

Wolowicz provided several updates, including her attendance at the 25th anniversary of the Opaqueum Land Trust, where she commended local volunteers and chefs, such as Laura Rogers, who prepared a meal for the event. Wolowicz also highlighted the upcoming "More Green Less Screen" event, a week-long initiative encouraging outdoor activities from April 19-27, 2025.

Infrastructure Plans: Harrison Avenue Upgrades

A key topic at the meeting was the proposal for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund infrastructure improvements on Harrison Avenue. Joe Hagopian, a community development planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), outlined the scope of the project, which includes drainage improvements, water and sewer upgrades, and roadway enhancements. The grant application, amounting to \$850,000, was prioritized after a successful income survey indicated that more than 51% of households on Harrison Avenue meet the low-to-moderate income criteria for the CDBG program.

The project will address long-standing drainage issues on the road, particularly near the hill going down to Main Street. A portion of the funds will also go toward project administration, engineering design, and construction.

Discussions are ongoing about potentially expanding the project to include Pleasant Street in the future.

Community and Volunteer Updates

The Select Board also approved several important appointments, including Michael Kobaszka to the Agricultural Commission. Kobaszka, a beekeeper, expressed his enthusiasm for contributing to the committee, which has been involved in organizing successful Farmers Markets and other community events.

In addition, Finn McCool was reappointed as Inspector of Animals, and Paul Morrissey was appointed as the Alternate Inspector of Animals. Both appointments were approved unanimously.

Lions Club Request and Shed Installation

The Lions Club made a request to install a storage shed on town property near the old Hillside School. The shed would store wheelchair ramps and eyeglasses for their "temporary wheelchair ramp program," which serves several area clubs. While the request was approved in principle, the Select Board agreed to review the proposal with town counsel to ensure it complies with insurance and future development plans.

Drug-Free Community Grant Challenges

A significant concern raised during the meeting was the status of the Drug-Free Community Grant, which was awarded to the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership nearly two years ago. The grant, which provides \$125,000 annually for five years, aims to educate youth about substance use

prevention.

However, recent staff departures and a lack of oversight have left the grant in jeopardy, with an upcoming reporting deadline approaching. Town officials discussed potential solutions, including the hiring of new staff to manage the grant and seeking an extension from the CDC.

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) Board Member Solicitation

The Select Board also addressed the need for a representative on the QVBAC board. The position, which is voluntary, will serve as a liaison between the town and the nonprofit organization, which supports small businesses across the Quaboag region. The Town Administrator will begin advertising for the position, with a focus on attracting a diverse pool of candidates.

Holistic Industries Host Community Agreement

The board approved amendments to the Host Community Agreement with Holistic Industries, a company involved in the marijuana industry. The changes align the company's licenses with state regulations and impact fees, though no fees are anticipated at this time.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments and Housing Proposals

A zoning bylaw amendment proposal related to residential districts was presented by a local developer, who is seeking approval for a new form of housing development, possibly involving cluster housing. The Select Board forwarded the request to the Planning Board for further consideration, with public hearings to follow.

In a related discussion, the board addressed misinformation circulating on social media about low-income

housing and migrant housing. They clarified that the cluster housing proposal, if approved, would likely involve affordable housing for individuals or families in the \$300,000-\$400,000 price range, not low-income housing.

Looking Ahead

The meeting concluded with a motion to approve an amendment to the zoning bylaw regarding home occupations, ensuring greater clarity in town regulations.

As the town continues to address pressing infrastructure needs, community development projects, and volunteer opportunities, residents are encouraged to stay informed and participate in upcoming public hearings and discussions.

The next Select Board meeting will be scheduled soon, and the town will continue to engage the public in the decision-making process for future developments.

Glenda's

Saturday, April 5 ~ 7pm-11pm

Pure Country

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm

Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm

Karaoke

Saturday Nights also if no band

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 26 ~ 7pm-11pm

Uncle Country

EVERY SUNDAY

DARTS

LUCK OF THE DRAW

5:30pm • All Welcome

HARDWICK CROSSING
EST. 2022
COUNTRY CLUB

Function Space Available

Prime Rib
Every Thursday,
Friday & Saturday
Online Ordering Available

Monday - 6:30 p.m.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

MUSIC BINGO

hardwickcrossing.com
262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
774-757-8907 • Pro Shop 774-261-2634

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF

Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

Upcoming

April 8 & 22, May 6 & 20, June 3

SIP AND PAINT

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Visit Our Website For More Details

BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!

KENO

Golf Course
Open April 10

Golf Memberships
Check Our Website & Facebook for Specials

See Website for More Information

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can my wife and I get spouse benefits from each other?

Dear Rusty:
My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security.

We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget. A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half of the other spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: Can we both collect on each other's SS? And Are there any pitfalls?

Signed: Seeking an Increase

Dear Seeking:
Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their Full Retirement Age is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher about 25% more than you are both currently receiving.

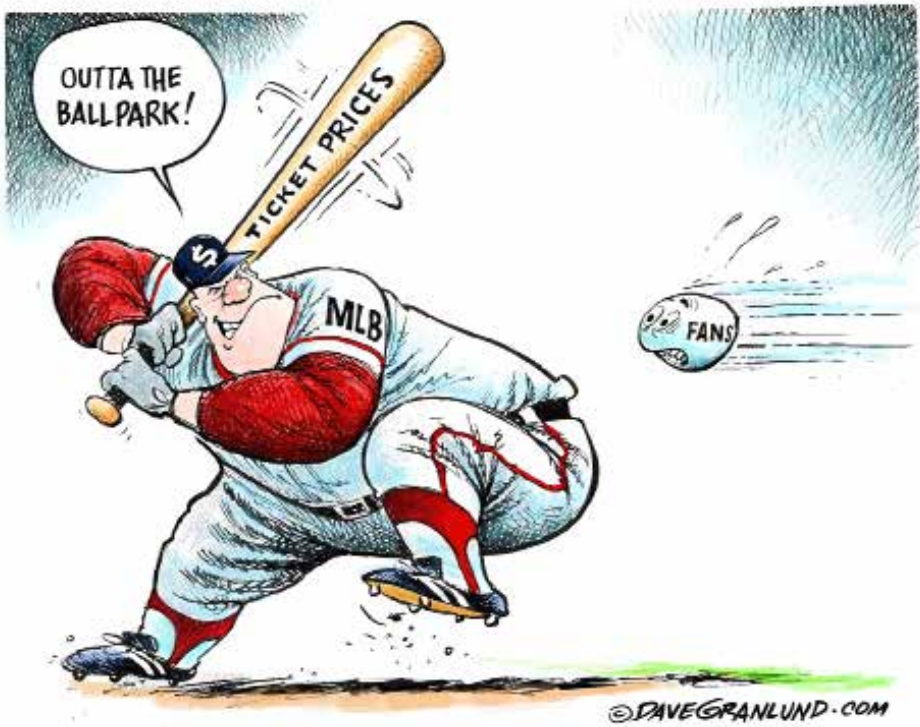
Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other's amount, it's possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for ben-

efits; you cannot both get spouse benefits from each other.

Another way to explore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process. Another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts before any deductions and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse.

But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

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



Germination tests give way to garden experiments

Although the temperatures did not cooperate this past week, I have to say that spring vibes are all around me.

I saw my first blooming crocus, and even some early daffodils. The phoebe bird that makes a nest above our porch door is back, and hanging around, much to my husband's dismay!

My pepper plants are almost in need of transplanting from their seed pack, and the tomato seeds I planted last weekend sprouted in under a week. It is all so exciting! I don't think that I will ever not be amazed at the miracle of it all.

The other day I was going through my seed stash and I found two year old seeds of Loofah Gourd, Mini Popcorn, Mouse Melon and a variety of "climbing" Zucchini all of which I never planted. These purchases were "impulse buys" I guess you'd call it. I bought them but when it came time to actually plant them, I decided that my garden square footage was too precious to waste on frivolity.

But here we are and my frugal nature shines through once more. Since I bought them I might as well try and plant them; maybe one will end up being a new favorite.

But alas, does one risk planting two year old seed? What if the seeds don't germinate? Partaking in germination testing gave me a chance to get my hands in the soil, (albeit indoors) and the outcome will help me determine how much I should "over-plant" or if that will even be necessary.

Wasting a few seeds now will save time later on.

kly looking cucumbers and allowed them to dry before peeling off the rind. What was left was fibrous matter, looking already very much like a scrubby sponge. It was a fun experiment then and it will be reminiscent to repeat it.

Next comes the Mini Colored Popcorn. This was the first to sprout in my germination test pack with five of the six seeds popping up.

I have never had extra space to grow corn, but I thought it would be fun to try these for both decoration and food. I am going to start them ahead of time, indoors in six packs and plant them out around the three week mark.

They will be spaced about a foot apart in rows about two and a half feet apart. Corn likes fertile soil, so I will amend the soil well with aged compost.

This type of corn will dry right on the plant, until the husks are brown. Then the ears will be harvested, shucked and dried some more. I have seen people remove the kernels first by using a blunt instrument such as the back of a spoon to start the kernels moving, then it looks somewhat easy to get the rest



First up, the Loofah Gourd. I planted four seeds as a trial and three popped up! That means I will be adding this to my garden come springtime.

Grow it like you would any other gourd or squash. It loves fertile soil, heat and a strong support.

When loofahs were first popular, I was a young adult and still living at home. Growing them was a project for my parents and I.

Before the first frost we harvested the fat, wrin-

GARDEN | page 5

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

How to advocate for yourself at the dentist

If you feel like you're seeing a dental office on every street corner, you're not wrong. Corporate dentistry is growing as a delivery model for dental care.

Just two decades ago, more than 90 percent of dentists owned their own practices. Today, that number has dropped to about 75 percent as more younger dentists, women and people of color opt to join a DSO – dental support organization. The thinking is that a DSO takes care of the business side of running a practice so dentists can concentrate on their patients.

One of the unfortunate side effects of this trend is

that you may not see the same dentist. This can have an impact on continuity of care when someone new is always peering into your mouth.

That said, there's no clear evidence that dental care delivered by a DSO is any different from that delivered by a solo practitioner. But in a world where it's unlikely that you will see the same dentist over a period of years, I think it is important to practice self-advocacy, just as you would at any other medical appointment.

Dr. Amit Kumar, a dentist with Smile More Today, recommends preparing for dental appointments with some of these key questions and concerns:

Check that the practice accepts your dental insurance. This is particularly important for those with Medicare Advantage plans, which often include dental, or standalone plans as a Medicare supplement.

Be ready to share any pain or sensitivity you may be

experiencing. When you call to make the appointment you may be asked if you have any particular concerns; if not, volunteer that information while you're with the dentist.

If you have fears about going to the dentist, share those as well. "Speak up about your pain tolerance and preferences," Kumar says. "Dentists can offer various options, such as local anesthetics, sedation, or numbing gels to make procedures more comfortable."

Also ask about X-rays. Some in the dental field believe X-rays are way over-used, exposing patients needlessly to radiation (even if the dosage is very small). Data reveals that the number of dental X-rays performed annually exceeds the number of Americans. The American Dental Association recommends that X-rays be taken only after the dentist has done an examination.

If X-rays are performed, be sure to ask the dentist to look at them with you and explain what they're seeing. "A good dentist will take the time to explain things in terms you understand," Kumar says.

There should be a written treatment plan outlining a schedule, benefits and drawbacks, and your potential costs so you can make an in-

formed decision and not feel pressured into taking action. "Don't hesitate to ask for alternatives or inquire about the necessity of each step in the plan," he says.

The treatment plan should show what your insurance will cover and what you will be expected to pay. These are sometimes eye-opening figures, running into thousands of dollars. (And they wonder why a lot of people want to avoid going to the dentist!) Many practices offer payment plans if you can't cover the costs up front. You might also be able to schedule the procedures over a period of months to spread out the cost.

Like you, your dentist would rather prevent problems than fix them later, so ask about at-home care: proper brushing, mouth rinses, flossing, dietary recommendations. Our gums usually recede as we age, so avoiding gum disease, also known as periodontal disease, is critical to oral health. Hate to floss? Too bad. Do it anyway.

Finally, Kumar recommends knowing when to seek a second opinion. "If a recommended treatment seems invasive, costly or unnecessary, consider getting a second opinion from another dentist," he says. "A good dentist will

respect your desire to ensure you're getting the right care for your situation."

I recently advocated for myself when I insisted my dentist do some X-rays for new tooth pain. He found an abscess in a lower molar and started talking about tooth extraction, bone graft and implant. Second opinion time! I went to an oral surgeon, who reviewed the X-rays and sent me to an endodontist who said all I needed was a redo of an old root canal. This is why second opinions from experts are so important, especially since dental insurance barely covers anything.

Corporate dentistry is making it harder to build and maintain trust with a long-time dental provider. Protect yourself by practicing advocacy in the dentist's chair.

Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

The Journal Register TEAM

EDITORIAL
Journal Register/Editorial

DEPUTY EDITOR
Allyson McQuaid
amcquaid@turley.com

ADVERTISING
SALES
Don Ryan
dryan@turley.com

SPECIALS EDITOR
Craig Schmitt
cschmitt@turley.com

The Journal Register (ISSN 0890-9404) is published every Monday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069-1977. Phone: (413) 283-8393. Fax: (413) 283-8392. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

@ Journal Register
 www.journalregister.com

MATTHEW H. TURLEY
CEO

JOHN TURLEY
President

SHARON BLAIR
Captain Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from 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.

C4R | from page 1

the Swift, Ware, Quaboag and Chicopee rivers, the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council was formed.

The Chicopee River Watershed is the largest in the commonwealth and the largest in the Connecticut River basin.

“In 2014 we did a lot of outreach,” Davies said. “We started initially with water quality monitoring.”

Davies explained the purpose of water quality sampling, which tests area waterways for bacteria to determine if the water is safe for swimming and other recreation.

“Sampling for bacteria became a basic, simple way of giving people an idea of how healthy the river is,” he said.

This year, C4R will continue its water sampling program at an expanded level, testing almost 25 sites seven times from late spring through late summer. These efforts are made possible by a group of volunteers who visit the sites on a regular basis to collect water samples.

Grant funding will help C4R sample more sites along the Quaboag River. Donations also help to support the project.

Water quality is listed for “primary” or “secondary” use, with primary being safe for swimming and secondary for boating or fishing.

Davies said both Quaboag Pond in Brookfield and East Brookfield and Forest Lake in Palmer, have some of the lowest bacteria counts in the watershed, with numbers usually staying the in the single digits.

Davies said the Connecticut River Conservancy uses the data collected by the volunteers for its “Is it Clean?” database found on its website, ctriver.org. Results are posted on Fridays after Thursday samplings.

Volunteers also monitor the water temperature when they are collecting water samples, but Davies said it will take years to track any differences caused by climate change.

C4R also works to establish and maintain the Blue Trail, which has sections along all of the rivers in the water-

shed.

This year, C4R is focusing on creating a new section, the Lower Quaboag, spanning from Route 67 to Laviolette Park. This effort will be funded through a MassTrails grant.

The new section will start at an old rest area on Route 67, passing through to Water Street, then to Laviolette Park. Davies said they are working to secure permission from the Department of Transportation to install a kiosk at the Route 67 access point.

Points of interest along this section include a former hydro dam, and Davies said more will be cataloged to be included on the trail map as the project develops. Points of interest can be historical, natural, or even cautionary.

“This will connect what’s really paddle-able on the Quaboag,” Davies said of the new section.

Davies is joined on the watershed council by Jim Emerson of Wilbraham, who serves as the events coordinator. Emerson has planned a number of paddling events meant to engage and connect people with these vital waterways.

The first event of the year is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, at Indian Orchard and Putts for a clean-up followed by a paddle on the Chicopee River.

Others include Saturday, May 17, Lower Ware River; Saturday, June 14, Upper Quaboag; Sunday, July 20, Lower Quaboag in Palmer; Sunday, Aug. 17, Swift River in Belchertown; Saturday, Sept. 20, Upper Ware River; and Saturday, Oct. 11, Upper Chicopee. Details of these events will be posted on c4rivers.org.

Restoration efforts to remove invasive water chestnuts continue at Oxford Marsh in Chicopee and Red Bridge in Ludlow. Clean-ups are scheduled at Oxford Marsh on June 7 from 12:30-4 p.m.; June 28 from 9 a.m.-noon; July 19 from 9 a.m.-noon and Aug. 16 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Davies said the June removals are especially import-

ant to keep the invasive plant’s spread in check.

He said the seeds of the water chestnut are round with spikes (similar to a mace), and it’s speculated that they get caught in the feathers of geese and fall off in the water. The seeds can last in the mud for eight to 10 years.

Davies said C4R is also working with the communities to provide basic river restoration at sites, including trash removal. C4R also teams up with various Scout troops who are participating in the Scout Waterways Program.

Davies and Emerson are also working to organize trail crews to act as stewards of Blue Trail access points and sections.

“Being a trail steward is pretty basic,” Emerson said.

Duties of a trail steward includes looking for downed trees, checking portage areas, picking up trash, talking to Blue Trail users, taking photos and reporting findings back to C4R once a month.

“It will get us a lot closer and communicate more,” he said.

Davies and Emerson said they are also looking for people to help them spread the vision of C4R.

“If you know someone who really likes these rivers, let them know we exist,” Davies said.

About C4R
Memberships and donations help C4R with resources for basic operations, including preparing events, creating and maintaining the Blue Trail, collecting samples, writing reports and performing community outreach.

C4R has established a nonprofit relationship with the Connecticut River Conservancy, which holds and manages C4R funds for tax exempt purposes for all donors who want this coverage.

To become a member, visit c4rivers.org and click on “Membership/Support – C4R.”

For more information or to get involved, visit c4rivers.org, email chicopeewater-shed@gmail.com or find Chicopee4Rivers on Facebook.



Palmer Senior Center

Activity highlights for April

Friday, April 4 - Movie - “I’m Somebody’s Child” - Regina navigates through over 30 foster homes and psychiatric facilities before age 18. But there’s one woman who believes in her. Based on a true story.

Wednesday, April 16 - Baby Photo Winner Announced

Thursday, April 17 - Memory Café - Lunch and we will be making herb pots

Friday, April 18 - CLOSING AT NOON

Monday, April 21 - CLOSED

Friday, April 25 - Movie - “Miss You Already” - Best friends since school, Milly and Jess struggle to keep their relationship strong when one receives a breast cancer diagnosis

Monday, April 28 - Healthy Eating Presen-

tation - Learn how to eat healthy on a budget with Western Mass Food Bank

Wednesday, April 16 - Baby Photo Winner Announced

Thursday, April 17 - Memory Café - Lunch and we will be making herb pots

Friday, April 18 - CLOSING AT NOON

Monday, April 21 - CLOSED

Friday, April 25 - Movie - “Miss You Already” - Best friends since school, Milly and Jess struggle to keep their relationship strong when one receives a breast cancer diagnosis

Monday, April 28 -

Marathon Bingo - \$10 for 4 cards, breakfast snack (if available), lunch will be served

Monday, April 28 - Quabbin Presentation - Dinner and presentation

Wednesday, April 30 - “Sunshine Sing-a-long” - Join us as we spread a little sunshine by singing songs about sunshine.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Boston Harbor Cruise - October 9, 2025

\$110 includes transportation & tips, cruise w/ buffet lunch and three rounds of Bingo, onboard DJ. \$55 due at sign up and \$55 due by August 1st.

GARDEN | from page 4

to push off.

Another fun thing to try, just to say I did it.

If you are growing sweet corn in your garden be sure to time these apart from one another, so that cross pollination won’t taint the taste of your sweet corn.

I was really hoping that the climbing zucchini would sprout in my test pack. It took a bit, but they finally did and therefore they will be added to my garden this spring.

This variety, known as “Incredible Escalator” has a vertical habit. Funny enough, there are all sorts of videos online about training zukes to grow upright, but this variety seems particularly suited to upward mobility.

Zucchini are not true “twining” plants, however,

so they will need to be tied to a strong trellis or stake to maintain their vertical nature. Because the plant is off the ground, there appears to be improved disease resistance, too.

Stay tuned as to whether this zucchini lives up to the hype in terms of productivity and increased vigor.

Last on my list is Mouse Melon. I saw these for the very first time at the Hardwick Fair in 2022, hence my purchase. Also known as Mexican Sour Gherkin, these fruits grow to about the size of a grape, but taste somewhere between a cucumber and a watermelon, growing more sour as they mature.

The seeds were tiny, not what I expected at all and only half of what I planted came up, so I will

definitely be sowing double the normal rate. The vine grows long – upwards of 10 feet, so be sure to trellis to make the best use of space.

I know little more than you do about this one, but I can’t wait to try it out. Will it remain a curiosity or will Mouse Melon become a regular? Will any of these?

We’ll have to wait to find out!

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

How to cope with market volatility

The financial markets always go through periods of instability. And we may see more of that now, given concerns about tariffs, inflation and the economy. As an investor, how can you deal with this volatility?

Some investors try to take advantage of market ups and downs by attempting to follow the age-old advice to “buy low and sell high” — that is, they seek to buy stocks when they feel prices have bottomed out and they sell stocks when they think the market has reached a high point. In theory, this is a great idea, but in practice, it’s essentially impossible, because no one can really predict market highs and lows.

Rather than trying to anticipate highs and lows, your best strategy for coping with the price fluctuations of the financial markets is to diversify your investment portfolio by owning a mix of stocks, bonds and other types of securities. Different types of financial assets can move in different directions at any given time — so, for example, stocks may be up while bonds are down, or vice versa. If you only owned one of these types of assets, and the market for that asset class was down, your portfolio could take a bigger hit than if you owned a variety of asset types.

And you can further diversify within individual asset categories. Stocks can be domestic or international, large-company or small-company — and these groupings can also move in different directions at the same time, depending on various market forces. As for bonds, they too don’t always move in a uniform direction, or at least with the same intensity — for instance, when interest rates rise, bond prices tend to fall, but longer-term bonds may fall more than shorter-term ones, which are closer to maturity with fewer interest payments remaining. Conversely, when rates are falling, longer-term bonds may be more attractive because they lock in higher yields for a longer time. Consequently, one diversification technique for bonds is to build a “ladder” containing bonds of varying maturities.

Some investments, by their nature, are already somewhat diversified. A mutual fund can contain dozens, or even hundreds, of stocks, or a mixture of stocks and bonds. And different mutual funds may have different investment objectives — some focus more on growth, while others are more income-oriented — so, further diversification can be achieved by owning a mix of funds.

Furthermore, some investors achieve even greater diversification by owning alternative investments, such as real estate, commodities and cryptocurrencies, although these vehicles themselves are often more volatile than those in more traditional investment categories.

While a diversified portfolio is important for every investor, your exact level of diversification — the percentages of your portfolio devoted to stocks, bonds and other securities — will depend on your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals. You may want to consult with a financial professional about creating the diversified investment mix that’s right for your needs.

Ultimately, while diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help you reduce some of the risks associated with investing and better prepare you to deal with the inevitable volatility of the financial markets — two key benefits that can help you over the many years you’ll spend as an investor.

www.edwardjones.com Member SPIC
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

This article was written by
Edward Jones for use by your local
Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC



SMART MONEY

MOULTON
Insurance Agency

Our Family Cares About Your Family.
HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

What credits and discounts do you qualify for?
We invite you to stop in or call for a quote.

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Customer Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing
Moulton Insurance is proud of its family tradition of serving both individuals and businesses since 1962. Protecting clients throughout Massachusetts, Moulton Insurance individually tailors policies to maximize your credits and give your family and business our most competitive rates.

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-3327

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7229

www.moultoninsurance.com • 1-800-521-5787

ARBELLA
INSURANCE

CHANTEL BLEAU
ACCOUNTING SERVICES

For Full Accounting,
Bookkeeping & Tax Service
Call For An Appointment

228 WEST STREET
WARE, MA 01082



413-967-8364

Edward Jones®



Hunter E. Boody ChFC
Financial Advisor

1448 Main St.
Palmer, MA 01069
413-289-1875

Member SPIC

> edwardjones.com

BINGO NIGHT



Winner Amber Strait with her new Coach Rose Print Georgia Satchel in Gold & Blush.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Winner Angela Lis with her new Kate Spade Dana Saffiano Tote in Crystal Blue.



Winner Debbie Penzias with her new Kate Spade Julia Pebbled Leather Bucket Bag in Meringue.



Winner Allison Kwasniewski with her new Kate Spade - Spade Flower Tote in Rose Smoke.



Winner Charlann Griswold with her new Michael Kors Jet Set Travel XL Signature Logo Weekender Bag in Light Cream.



Winner Carol Sikorski with her new Craftsman 4-tool Combo Kit with Reciprocating Saw, Drill, Impact Driver & Flashlight.



A wide shot from the beginning of the event when people were milling about and checking out the items on stage.

Wayne Schofield Jr. (left) and Jacqui Wahlers (right) were the volunteer bartenders for the night.



Rich Lapierre, he has his own business "Sounds by Rich" and volunteered to DJ for this event.

BINGO | from page 1

Lena Buteau, a member of the Chamber's Event Committee, had suggested the idea for the event after seeing similar bingo nights in other towns. She proposed combining handbags and hand tools to create an event that would appeal to a wide range of people, and the success of the night suggested that the concept struck a chord with the community. This marked the first time the Chamber had organized such an event, and the possibility of hosting similar events in the future is being considered based on the positive response.

A dedicated team of volunteers, along with members of the Chamber's Event Committee, worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. DJ Rich Lapierre, who also owns his own business "Sounds by Rich", provided background music throughout the night, while Will Huber, a financial planner for JStolar and former DJ, served as the bingo caller, bringing an energetic vibe to the evening's proceedings. He was assisted by Lapierre, who helped validate the winning bingo cards by calling out the winning numbers.

The event featured 10 rounds of bingo, with various patterns required to win each round. The prizes were split between luxury handbags and useful hand tools, making the competition intense and exciting. Winners were announced after each round, with many walking away with coveted prizes.

In addition to the main bingo prizes, attendees had the chance to win raffle items donated by local businesses. Among the many raffle prizes were a rustic farmhouse bird feeder with bird seed from the Hardwick Farmers Co-op, a wine-tasting experience for ten at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, and a pair of Maui Jim Hookipa Vita sunglasses valued at \$259, donated by Quabbin Valley Eye Care. Other prizes included gift cards to local restaurants and attractions, as well as scratch-off tickets and VIP tickets to a Worcester Red Sox game.

As the night went on, participants filled their bingo cards with anticipation, hoping for that winning combination. By the end of the event, a number of lucky players walked away with fabulous prizes, including handbags from top brands like Kate Spade and Coach, and tools

like a Craftsman 4-tool Combo Kit. The event proved to be a hit, with a strong turnout and plenty of excitement in the air.

Looking ahead, the Quaboag Chamber of Commerce has more events lined up for the coming months. On April 11, they will host a Chamber Chat, offering members a chance to discuss business planning, insurance, and working with municipalities in a roundtable setting. The Chamber will also hold its Choice Awards Banquet on May 8, where members and the public will have voted for winners in categories such as Educator of the Year, Community Hero, Retail Establishment, and Food & Drink Establishment.

The success of the Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night is just one example of how the Chamber is bringing the community together through innovative events. With positive feedback and strong participation, it's likely that this event will become a regular fixture in the local calendar.

For more information on upcoming events, visit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce website or follow them on social media.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333





Top Floor LEARNING

Low cost tutoring & scholarships are available!

We're a private, non-profit organization at the Palmer Public Library, here to help you meet your educational and professional goals.

**1455 N. Main St
3rd Floor
Palmer, MA
01069**

We're on Facebook!



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional And Educational Goals

TUTORS NEEDED

For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors: English, Writing & Math

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: info@topfloorlearning.org



The basement recreation area for the children's summer programs.



The upstairs exercise room where they hold all of the physical classes.

HITCHCOCK

from page 1

lessons at the Academy and participated in Girl Scouts meetings that were held there.

After working in Worcester for 20 years while commuting from Brimfield, Skowrya found out that the previous executive director was preparing for retirement.

"I started stopping by to be considered for the position of the next executive director," she says. With a background in event planning and town work, she saw the Academy as a natural fit for her vision of building a strong, connected community.

"Why start from scratch when Hitchcock Free Academy does all of that and

more?" she reflects. When the position opened, Skowrya was offered the role, and she has been running with it ever since. "I love being at this stage in my career, being back in my hometown and doing as much as I can for my community," she shares.

Under Skowrya's leadership, Hitchcock Free Academy has hosted numerous events, but one stands out as her favorite: Christmas at Hitchcock.

"It's my own personal Hallmark movie," she says. The event features Santa, food, desserts, decorations, music, and free photos with Santa. It's Skowrya's way of giving back to the community and offering a heartfelt thank you to the people who have supported the Academy over the years.

"I love being at this stage in my career, being back in my hometown and doing as much as I can for my community"

— Cindy Skowrya

Much of the work at Hitchcock Free Academy is done by dedicated volunteers. Recently, volunteers renovated two tennis courts and incorporated pickleball courts, expanding the Academy's offerings for summer programs. Skowrya explains that the Academy is currently seeking grants to further improve the tennis and basketball courts, as some areas are in dire need of repairs.

A painting of the founder, Samuel Austin Hitchcock, as it hangs in the entrance hall of the academy.

"We have a lot of space for activities, but a lot of the space hasn't been maintained, so it's all deteriorated now," she said.

The Academy is not just a hub for recreational activities; it also hosts a wide range of educational and artistic classes. The main room, right at the entrance, is often used for art classes, baby showers, anniversaries, and even weddings during the pandemic. In the back, Skowrya envisions turning the small kitchen into a community kitchen that could host cooking classes in the future.

For children, there's a dedicated area with books, art supplies, and a mini computer lab. Skowrya dreams of expanding this space into a fully-equipped computer lab to provide access for those who lack it at home. However, she acknowledges the challenge of maintaining such a facility on her own and is currently looking for an IT volunteer to assist with keeping the computers running smoothly.

The Academy also offers a variety of programs for children, including summer programs held in the basement recreation area. In the past, the basement was used for dog training sessions, and the Academy is currently looking for local dog trainers to potentially host classes there again. The basement also houses a former daycare room, which

Skowrya plans to renovate into a drop-in program for kids this fall.

One upcoming event that aligns with this new initiative is the "Intergenerational Playdate" in collaboration with the local senior center. The event, which will be held in a couple of weeks, is designed to bring together families and seniors for fun activities. For more in-

formation on attending, or to learn about other programs, visit the Academy's website at hitchcockacademy.org.

work. Skowrya says, "My dream is to have every one of these rooms full all the time with people." As the Academy continues to evolve, the spirit of community remains at its core. Many graduates, some from when it was still a high school, return to give back. One such example is a local citizen who, after a tree on the property was cut down for safety reasons, transformed a piece of the trunk into a heart-shaped side table. It now resides in the entrance hall of Hitchcock Academy as a symbol of the Academy's deep-rooted connection to its community.

Despite its rich history, Skowrya worries that many people don't realize how much Hitchcock Academy has transformed since it closed as a high school in 1954. Originally one of the first high schools to offer free education, the Academy now serves as a community center, offering programs that enrich the lives of local residents through education, recreation, and culture.

As Hitchcock Free Academy continues to grow and serve over 20,000 participants annually, Skowrya's vision for the future remains clear:

"I want this to be the village that people may not have these days." The Academy's doors are open to all, and whether you want to attend a class, volunteer, or simply connect with others, Skowrya encourages everyone to get involved. For more information, visit hitchcockacademy.org.



The grandfather of a graduate of Hitchcock Academy had painted a painting based on a postcard of the area.



The Heart Table made from the tree on the property that had to be taken down for safety reasons.



The postcard, from around 1897, that the painting was based off of.

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379



2025 Seasonal Employment

Warren Parks & Rec. Dept. is accepting applications for Seasonal Positions including:

Lifeguard and Summer Rec. Counselors

Job description and applications available online at

www.warren-ma.gov

or at Town Clerk's Office.

Mail applications to:

Warren Parks & Rec. Dept.

P.O. Box 609

Warren, MA 01083

Deadline: May 15, 2025.

The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer



www.richardgreeninsurance.com

Fax: 413-267-3496

Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

- Great Locations • Registry service
- Quotes gladly given • We make housecalls



Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes

Two Locations:



128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495



32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028

HANNOUSH JEWELERS

CHICOPEE

"A Family Business You Can Trust"

704 Memorial Dr., Chicopee

WE BUY GOLD!



GOLD Is At An All-Time High!

10%
Extra Cash
When Cashing In
Your GOLD

25% Extra
When You Use Your
GOLD Towards
A New Purchase

Offers Valid at Hannoush Jewelers Chicopee ONLY

Rural farming forum April 14

WEST BROOKFIELD — Central Massachusetts is a vibrant, mostly rural, area that often falls through the cracks. The idea for a Rural Farmers Forum here sprouted with this fact in mind.

Our Massachusetts Director of Rural Affairs, Anne Gobi, has agreed to be the keynote speaker and answer questions that speak to the needs of our area farmers. This is a special opportunity to hear how changes at the Federal and state level will likely affect the farmer's bottom line. Here is your

chance to help your state government work better for those who feed our people!

The Forum will also be populated with numerous organizations, presenters, and vendors, including the USDA, with whom local farmers can interact and glean resources.

The Rural Farming Forum will be held at the West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street on Monday, April 14, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Eric von Bleicken at evonbleicken@gmail.com.

Monson Athletic Hall of Fame request for nominations

MONSON—We are excited to announce the 12th Hall of Fame quest for Inductees. The Banquet will be held in the Fall of 2025. Nominations are due by May 3, 2025.

The Monson Athletic Hall of Fame was created with the following Rationale:

To preserve the history of and the great athletic traditions of Monson High School.

To recognize and acknowledge former athletes, teams, coaches and others associated with Monson High School Athletic programs that have distinguished themselves, either by virtue of their performance or by meritorious

HALL OF FAME | page 13

PALMER | from page 1

Division saw an increase of 3.67%, which the budget is accounting for, and advocated for raising the budget for substitute staff.

"We haven't raised the sub line in years. There is a trend of a need for more substitutes throughout the district," Francis said. "This is across many different units, so I think it's appropriate that we adjust, at this time, that sub line."

Francis noted that Sara Menard and the Student Services Department worked very hard with Medicaid reimbursements. Based on the past two reimbursements, the town will see a 50% increase to reimbursements for what is being billed for Medicaid.

"We have a commitment to PHS for the business and finance pathway that we started this year with our first cohort, and we will continue to have a commitment for PHS's EMT course, which we are considering a pathway as well; that is career and college readiness for those students, and it is a credentialed course, so I think it's important to begin to consider that a pathway that PHS is offering, in addition to the Business and Finance."

The school is also committed to continuing to expand

Pre-Kindergarten services, and Francis highlighted that the district was able to hire a fourth teacher and a paraprofessional. Because the funding for those positions come from a revolving account, he warned that the district will not be able to fund those positions come fiscal year 2027.

Public comments

Three seniors from the high school, Emily Mendrala, Sophia Brasky, and Jenna Greer, approached the committee to share concerns they had, both as students, and as members of the community who were shaped by the school system. Mendrala spoke first, addressing the trend of financial cuts the school department has faced and how it has impacted the quality of programs available to the students.

"It's because of the dedicated teachers, the variety of programs, and the resources we've had access to that we've been able to thrive," Mendrala said. "We also recognize that not every student has had the same experience, and if funding for our school is cut, future students may not have the same opportunities that we've been lucky enough to take advantage of."

Mendrala claimed that the town's funding for the schools has consistently fallen behind inflation and the rising cost of education, totalling a shortfall of \$2.2 million in the last five years. She was followed by Brasky, who highlighted how the widening financial gap creates more challenges

to maintain essential support staff, and how this impacts students' ability to succeed academically.

"With no librarians at either school, students have limited access to academic resources and learning tools that are crucial for the development of critical thinking and reading comprehension in childhood and adolescence," Brasky said. "Additionally, the absence of adequate support staff means students miss out on crucial services like personalized academic advising and emotional counseling."

Brasky said that, for budgetary reasons, administration chose not to fill 12 positions that were vacated by retirees and other leaving staff in the past year. "Without these roles filled, students are left to navigate their education with fewer tools and less guidance, forcing teachers to work overtime to compensate for the lack of support," Brasky said.

Brasky mentioned that many of these financial cuts disproportionately impacted the school's art and music programs, which was then expanded on by Greer.


"Two years ago, AP Art History was a popular elective class that provided students with the opportunity to explore the world's greatest works of art and the impact of creative expression on history," Greer said. "Because of the loss of both the history and art teachers who co-taught it, the course was unable to be offered this year. Students who

did sign up to take the course (...) were left disappointed when they learned they would be unable to pursue an academic interest that would have benefited their education and help them stand out in college applications."

"The music programs at Palmer High School are vital to many of our community events, playing a central role in local celebrations, ceremonies, and sporting events," Brasky said. "However, if they no longer have the necessary support, whether from lack of funding, resources, or staffing, these programs will be unable to continue enriching and serving the town."

Greer said that without the personnel to offer the variety of courses needed for students to grow in creative fields, the potential of creative leaders and thinkers coming up in the school system is stifled. She said that with adequate funding, future leaders often return to their hometown to serve in vital roles, mentioning Town Manager Brad Brothers and a number of Town Councilors.


"By allowing us to reach our full potential, you are not only investing in our futures but in the future of this community," Greer said. "When we are given the resources and opportunities to be our best selves, we are empowered to give back more, to contribute to the very place that has shaped us into who we are today."



THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."

— Beth from Belchertown



Liberty

EASTER TURKEYS

PASTURE-RAISED

IN LUDLOW

14 to 18 lbs.

TAKING ORDERS

through April 18

pickup April 18-19

more details on

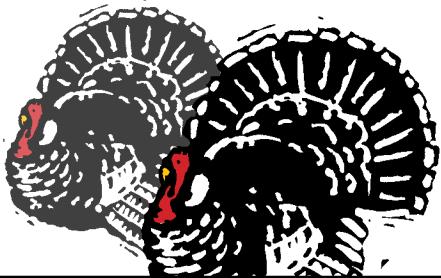
LibertyTurkeys.com

cash only

Call or text

413-426-6636

to reserve



HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED

No added salt or additives

Raised on a Ludlow farm, our turkeys run freely, hand fed on healthful grains and extra vegetables. Minimally processed, they have more meat, less water, and extra taste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones, or additives are used. IDEAL FOR RESTRICTED DIETS!

— Jeanette & Paul Johnson

COOKS 30% FASTER

than commercial birds



ROBINSON

TREE SERVICE

LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal

Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding

Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010

508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net

www.robinsontreeservice.net

Parents, Grandparents & Friends

SPECIAL!

Congratulations

Class of

2025

Honor Your Graduate

We are offering a great deal for you to CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

2 x 3 Black & White Graduation Ad

~~Regular Price \$76.00~~

SPECIAL \$55.00

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 14th

EMAIL YOUR AD TO: dflynn@turley.com

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO: Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

2 x 3 Advertisement

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love Dad. Mom & John

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS • 24 WATER STREET, PALMER, MA 01069 • 413.283.8393

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

SOFTBALL

Mustangs break out late, beat Chicopee Comp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — Matt Hull was an assistant coach for the Monson varsity softball team during the past four years. He has replaced Jill Carneglia as the Lady Mustangs head coach this spring.

It didn't take Hull very long to celebrate his first varsity win.

Monson held a 7-5 lead in their season opening game against Chicopee Comp before scoring six runs in the bottom of the fourth inning enroute to a 15-5 non-league home victory, last Friday afternoon.

Leading the way offensively for the home team were senior shortstop Natalie Hull, and sophomore second baseman Chelsea Hull.

The duo had five of the Lady Mustangs nine base hits and scored three runs.

Chelsea Hull is also an outstanding pitcher. The lefthander, who took over for senior righthander Molly Szado at the start of the fourth inning, did not allow any base hits and wound up as the winning pitcher.

Before playing the season opener, Chicopee Comp had only practiced outside two times.

"This was only the third time that we've been outside this spring," said Comp head coach Kelly Walsh. "Our scrimmages were also canceled due to the rain."

It was the second meeting ever on the softball diamond between the two schools.

Monson squeaked out a 7-5 win at Comp last April.

In last Friday's contest, the Lady Colts took a 2-0 lead

MUSTANGS | page 10

Boys lacrosse defeated in season opener



Parker Libiszewski tries to overcome pressure.



Dominic Menard is pushed by an opposing player.



Ethan Mooney looks around for an open teammate.



Anthony Arventos tries to get around a defender.

MONSON — Last Thursday afternoon, Monson High School boys lacrosse was defeated by Hoosac Valley in the season opener for both teams. The Mustangs, which have co-oped with Pathfinder Tech for the past few years, managed just a single goal in the 12-1 defeat. The Mustangs were scheduled to face Lenox and Mt. Greylock earlier this week, and are back in action on Tuesday, April 8 at home against Granby at 5 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

TENNIS



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Palmer tennis teams work out last week at practice.

Palmer tennis preps for regular season



PALMER — The Palmer High School boys and girls tennis teams practiced week at the high school courts. The boys tennis team won a league title and entered the state tournament last year. Both teams were scheduled to start the regular season on April 1, with the boys facing Greenfield and the girls going up against Renaissance. Next up, boys tennis faces SICS April 3 at 4 p.m. while girls tennis is at Hampden Charter on Friday, April 4 at 4 p.m.

The Panthers are preparing for their regular season opener.



Palmer boys tennis is looking to follow up on a 2024 season where it won the league title.



Girls tennis will be looking for an improve campaign.

BASEBALL

Pathfinder baseball gears up for regular season



Djauan O'Dean hits in the cage at practice.



Zander Auffrey makes a play during inside practice.



Sprints are a regular part of preseason.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The Pioneers are gearing up for the regular season this week.

PALMER — The Pathfinder baseball team worked out last week in order to get ready for the regular season. The Pioneers were scheduled

to get going on Monday. The Pioneers next game is at Smith Vocational on Thursday, April 3 at 4 p.m.



The Pioneers run through drills.

Weather doesn't hamper 51st Icebreaker at Thompson

THOMPSON, CT — There were 158 stock cars from across the eastern United States and Canada converged on Thompson Speedway for the opening of the 51st Icebreaker highlighted by seven different divisions to get the season rolling on high.

It was no-holds-barred fistcuffs between Garrett Hall and Derek Griffith from the drop of the green flag in the PASS Super Late Model feature to begin the afternoon. The two drove door handle-to-door handle in the opening laps before Griffith finally got a good launch off turn four to take the lead. Eddie MacDonald motored around to take the spot away for thirteen laps before his right-front tire let go, sending 'the Outlaw' into the wall on lap 63. Griffith's regained lead lasted just one turn before getting loose and colliding with the wall to end his day, gifting the lead to Oxford Plains Speedway champion Trevor Sanborn. Sanborn would go on to win the PASS Icebreaker 75 followed by D.J. Shaw and Corey Casagrande.

Jake 'The Jet' Johnson took the thirty-car Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series field to green for the Icebreaker 75 presented by Propane Plus. Anthony Nocella quickly dove under to lead lap four with Stephen Kopcik and Jon McKennedy also going to work on Johnson. Set to have the best track position for pit strategy, Kopcik took over the lead on lap nine as the field thundered the hills of Northeast Connecticut. After making the overnight haul up from his Craftsman Truck Series debut at Martinsville Speedway, Luke Baldwin got a piece of the wall on lap 15 and brought the Ryan Preece Racing-machine pit-side for a check up.

Ron Silk took a backstretch sling shot to motor under Kopcik just before the first caution on lap 32 for Tyler Berry and Dave Sapientza's scuffle in turn four. All but Luke Baldwin jumped pit-side for tires with Silk winning the race off pit road. A pair of mid-race cautions saw Silk again and again maintain a dominant lead over front but Nocella and Johnson kept him within their sights from second and third. Ron Silk never felt the pressure build, taking down the Icebreaker 75 presented by Propane Plus in a strong start on the Mona-

co Modified Tri-Track Series circuit, dedicating the win to late car owner Bob Horn in victory lane.

Thompson Speedway's two most recent Street Stock track champions, Ryan Waterman and Corey Fanning, led the R&R Race Parts NH Open Street Stock Series to green for their 50-lap main event. The two quickly showed displeasure for one-another, the Waterman vs. Fanning show boiled-over into a collision into the turn two wall and ending Waterman's day. The frequent yellow flags prompted officials to park the field and when they returned Ryan Lineham licked the field to claim the \$1,000 winner's share.

The Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge took over the track with Ryan Kuhn and Duane Knoll leading the field down to the line, but Kuhn's flat right rear tire crossed him up in turn two. Knoll took over the lead on the restart with Jaysin Beal and Bert Ouellette following close behind. Beal, Ouelette and Randy Burr began battling hard for second, allowing Knoll to increase his lead but it wasn't long till Beal found himself in the midst of the Big One for Icebreaker Saturday, careening across a group of trucks coming off turn four to collect a gaggle of trucks across frontstretch. The return to green saw a heavyweight fight between Burr, Knoll and Ouellette to the very end but it was Randy Burr who took the Icebreaker gold.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds also got their start to the 2025 track championship season on Saturday as defending champ Jon Puleo faced off with veteran standouts Todd Owen and Keith Rocco at the onset. Both wild veterans got their fill of rapid, divebomb lane-changes that allowed Puleo to gain a growing lead before Owen's left rear went flat for lone first caution on lap 9. Owen worked his way back up to battle with Puleo over the final five laps, bringing fans to their feet as the pair went toe-to-toe. At the line it was Jon Puleo who out-dueled Todd Owen with Danny Cates rounding out the top three.

The Thunderstock Crown Vics had their first official event of the new division on Saturday, ten strong around the Thompson highbanks. It was quickly the battle of the 4s between Rhode Island's

Ethan Williams and Maine's Dustin Salley. Salley got shoved into a spin from the 01 of Scott Cestodio, earning him the drive through penalty from race control. Through it all, Ethan Williams never foundered and took his Crown Victoria all the way to Thompson victory lane followed by Dylan Cabral and Salley with the rebound.

The Mini Stocks rounded out Saturday's showcase with Andrew Krzeminski getting the quick lead over Dave Trudeau. The spinning and stalled Edmond Cousineau brought out a pair of mid race cautions that created great battles between Trudeau and Krzeminski for the restart lead. In the end it was Andrew Krzeminski coming out of retirement in a big way to round out the Icebreaker Day #1 program with a Mini Stock win over Trudeau and Tim Dorr.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is back in action for the second portion of Icebreaker weekend, delayed by poor weather forecasted to next Saturday, April 5. Highlighted by the return of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 presented by FloSports.com, April 5 will also include the Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Thompson Sunoco Modifieds! The full schedule and pricing will be released by Monday afternoon.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@actour.com, or visit www.actour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSp-dwy.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

in the top of the first inning with a little bit of help from the Lady Mustangs defense.

Senior shortstop Marissa Vasquez drew a leadoff walk and junior Ariana Bird followed with a groundball single into left field. After sophomore third baseman Alexis Wojcik bounced into a fielder's choice play, which put runners at the corners. Szado struck out the next batter and she should've gotten out of that inning without allowing any runs.

The inning continued with sophomore second baseman Brielle Bennett hitting a routine grounder to the shortstop. Her throw was dropped by the first baseman, enabling both runners to cross the plate.

Comp didn't keep the lead for very long.

Monson answered with five unearned runs in the bottom half of the inning against sophomore righthander Ashlyn Warwick, who made her first varsity start.

With one-out, Chelsea Hull drew a walk and Szado was safe at first base when she hit a flyball that was dropped by the left fielder for an error. Senior centerfielder Ella Corthell also walked, which loaded the bases.

Then freshman catcher Maya Summers drove home Monson's first run of the game with a sacrifice fly to center.

Szado scored on a passed ball and Corthell crossed the plate on a wild pitch giving the home team a 3-2 advantage. Freshman first baseman Madelyn Caron (2-for-3) contributed with a ground ball single to left field scoring two more runs.

Comp had two runners on base with two-outs in the top of the second when junior centerfielder Ariana Bird drove them home with a triple to right field making the score 5-4. She had two of the Lady Colts four base hits in the game.

Comp junior left fielder Millanie Fidalgo, who drew a one-out walk in the third inning, scored on a wild pitch tying the game at 5-5.

The Lady Mustangs retook the lead again in the bottom of the third inning.

Freshman leftfielder Cali Zielinski, who walked leading off the frame, scored when a groundball hit by Caron was misplayed by the Comp shortstop for an error.

Eighth grade right fielder Evie Renna drove home another run with a sacrifice fly, which gave Monson a 7-5 lead.

Both coaches decided to make pitching changes in the fourth inning.

While Chelsea Hull retired 12 of the 14 batters that she faced, her teammates gave

her a little bit of breathing room in the bottom half of the fourth inning. They scored six runs on just three hits against Comp sophomore righthander Elynis Issac.

The Lady Mustangs' first two runs of the frame scored on a wild pitch and a passed ball. Then freshman third baseman Grace Berry put down a perfect sacrifice bunt scoring another run.

"I think the sacrifice bunt was a very important play for us in that inning," Matt Hull said. "It opened the floodgates. This is a huge win for us."

Natalie Hull drove home two more runs with a single to center before her younger sister capped off the six-run rally with a line-drive single scoring another run.

"We just had one bad inning," Walsh said. "We're a young team with six first year varsity players and this was a good learning experience for us. All the mistakes that we made are fixable."

Monson took a 14-5 lead with two-outs in the fifth following an RBI single by Caron.

Chelsea Hull smashed a triple to left leading off the bottom of the sixth and she scored on a throwing error. The two teams combined to make five errors in the season opening game.



Athlete of the Week

Chelsea Hull
Monson

Hull pitched four innings in relief and scored the win for Monson in their season opener over Chicopee Comprehensive.
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.

Moulton Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

ARBELLA INSURANCE

Late goals help T-Birds stun Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (33-26-2-4) stunned the Providence Bruins (36-22-4-3) with two goals in the final 90 seconds to pick up an astonishing 3-2 win on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. The victory shaves Springfield's magic number to just 4 in pursuit of a Calder Cup playoff berth.

The starting goaltenders had a busy first stanza on this Sunday, as the T-Birds were quick to test Brandon Bussi with 18 first-period attempts, while the Bruins pressed the gas for 11 shots on Vadim Zherenko.

Springfield broke the ice first when MacKenzie MacEachern, fresh off of being robbed by Bussi on the prior sequence, chopped a rebound over Bussi's pad at the net front following a point slapper by Nikita Alexandrov. MacEachern's third goal in as many games made it 1-0 for the visitors at 13:12.

In a penalty-free period, one of the T-Birds' few miscues wound up costing them their lead in the final minute when Tyler Pitlick blocked a point shot and raced in on a breakaway before beating Zherenko over the blocker to

even the slate, 1-1.

Zherenko needed to be at his best in the middle period as the Bruins outpaced Springfield on the shot board by a 13-4 margin. The third-year netminder made his best stop of the frame in stonewalling Oliver Wahlstrom on a breakaway in the back half of the period. Springfield got the game's first power play at 4:45 of the second, but the Bruins had the best scoring chances, including a 2-on-1 shorthanded, but Fraser Minten missed the target on a left-circle attempt.

In the final minute, the T-Birds found themselves hemmed in their own end, but Zherenko was there to save the day with back-to-back saves on Brett Harrison at point-blank range to get the game into the third period deadlocked.

Springfield finally took its first two penalties in the opening half of the third, and on the Bruins' second power play, the home team gained its first lead of the night when Matthew Poitras cleaned up a Georgii Merkulov rebound off Zherenko's right pad to make it a 2-1 game at 7:16 of the third.

The T-Birds struggled to regain its first-period form,

as they had managed just seven shots over roughly 35 minutes from the start of the second. However, when it mattered most, and with Zherenko on the bench for an extra skater, Alexandrov took it upon himself to turn the game around. It began when he raced through neutral ice and cut to the slot off his right-wing side. After his initial shot was blocked, Alexandrov followed through on the second chance to put the puck behind Bussi, tying the game with 1:24 remaining.

The star winger was far from finished, though. With time dwindling on regulation, Alexandrov won a puck battle on the left-wing boards and moved to the front of the net after the puck got to Leo Loof at the left point. Loof flipped the puck into traffic, where Alexandrov deflected it across his body and under Bussi's legs, giving Springfield the 3-2 lead with just 18.6 seconds left.

The Bruins never recovered, and Alexandrov's 20th and 21st goals of the year proved to be the difference. Zherenko finished a fantastic night of his own with 35 saves, including 12 in the final period.

Railers fall to Lions in road match

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (32-29-2-4 70pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (43-14-6-2, 94pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 2,346 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Cool Insuring Arena against the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Just 24 seconds into the game Anthony Callin (1-0-1) found the back of the net for the Railers quickest goal of the season making it a 1-0 game. Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) got the action going in the second period with a goal making it 2-0 Railers. Trois-Rivières had a quick start of their own in the third period scoring back to back goals tying the game

up 2-2 early. Then the Lions completely broke it open by scoring 3 more goals within 3 minutes of each other making it a 5-2 for Trois-Rivières.

The Railers got straight to work just 24 seconds into the start of the game. Anthony Callin (21st) ripped one into the net over the shoulder of Luke Cavallin in net for Trois-Rivières off of assists from Anthony Repaci and Mason Klee. Callin's goal gave the Railers a 1-0 lead and was the only goal in the first period. Worcester's Michael Bullion had 5 saves on 5 shots while Trois-Rivière's Luke Cavallin had 7 saves on 8 shots.

The Railers doubled their lead in the second period with a goal from Tyler Kobryn (10th) 6:01 into the

second period making the score 2-0 Worcester. Kobryn deflected a shot from Cam McDonald at the point for his eighth as a Railer. The Railers had 11 shots on net while the Lions had 5.

Trois-Rivières started the third period off hot with back-to-back goals just over 2 minutes into the third period. Anthony Beauregard (25th) and Morgan Adams-Moisan (21st) tied the game up for the Lions 2-2. Trois-Rivières continued to take control of the game by scoring three more goals making it a 5-2 game. Tyler Hylland (14th), Andrew Coxhead (4th) and Morgan Adams-Moisan (22nd) were the three goal scorers for Trois-Rivières as the game ended in a 5-2 final.

Monson nomination papers deadline April 17

MONSON—The Monson Town Clerk's Office announces that nomination papers are now available for any voter wishing to be on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on June 10, 2025. Nomination papers may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office located at 110 Main St. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays closed to public but available by phone for pick up. Call our office at

413-267-4115
The deadline for obtaining nomination papers is Thursday April 17, 2025.

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

Select Board-3 Years
Moderator-3 Years
Board Of Assessors-3 Years
Water/Sewer Commission-3 Years
Cemetery Commis-

sion-3 Years
Parks & Recreation Commission-3 Years
School Committee-3 Years (2 Seats)
Housing Authority-5 Years

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

Town of Palmer nomination papers

PALMER—The Town Clerk of Palmer will have nomination papers ready for pickup the week of March 10th. The available seats on the June 10, 2025 town election are as follows.

Councilor at Large 3 year term
District #4 (Three Rivers Councilor 3 year term
Planning Board 3 year term (2 seats)
School Committee 3

year term. (2 seats)

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

Obituaries

Glenn Roland Thayer



Glenn Roland Thayer, a loving husband, devoted father and adventurer at heart, peacefully passed away on March 17, 2025 at the age of 97. Born in 1928, Glenn grew up during the Great Depression, which shaped his life and instilled qualities that would guide him throughout his life; resilience, frugality, an appreciation of the simplest things, and a strong work ethic, to name a few.



His humble beginnings in Russell, Mass. with his 7 siblings were the source of many a great tale told of the escapades carried out by Glenn and his brothers and sisters. As a teen, he and his brothers spent many a day on their old Indian and Harley motorcycles....also the source of many tales told.

At the tender age of 17, Glenn embarked on his first great journey by joining the Merchant Marines. He fearlessly set sail and explored the vast oceans, eager to experience the world beyond the confines of his hometown. While with the Merchant Marines he found himself delivering supplies to the front lines at the Battle of The Bulge. Glenn's thirst for adventure led him to join the Navy Reserve, then the Air Force in the early 1950's, where he continued to serve his country with honor and dedication.

Glenn's favorite military story was his 4 month assignment at Fletcher Ice Island at the North Pole, "T-3", where in 1953, during the height of the Cold War, he and 8 others were based manning a weather station. He and his comrades lived in an underground shelter enduring the harsh conditions of the Arctic with its 80 degree below temps. It was Glenn's job to maintain all of the equipment and vehicles on the ice island as well as the electricity. He also maintained the runway for incoming supply carrying planes and told of chasing polar bears away while plowing with a Snow-Cat. He exhibited bravery and resilience, contributing to the scientific endeavors conducted there.

Glenn's service to his country led him to be stationed with NATO forces in Izmir, Turkey for 3 years. Upon returning to the United States, Glenn and his beloved wife, Nancy, settled in Palmer, Mass. He continued

his military service in the Air Force Reserves for 21 years as a vehicle maintenance supervisor with the 439th ABG.

and retired as a MSgt. He was a dedicated electrician for Tambrands for 30 years.

Glenn, as well as all of his brothers, was known for his uncanny mechanical ability. He could fix anything that was broken or create/invent a replacement. He could normally be found with a screwdriver in hand, tinkering in his garage. His favorite hobby was restoring old Corvettes which he would purchase at junk yards and piece by piece, restore them to pristine condition. In more recent years he enjoyed planting, harvesting, eating and sharing green peas from his extensive pea garden. If he couldn't be found, we knew to look for him on his knees amongst the peas.

Besides his father and mother, Howard and Gertrude, he was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth, and brothers Roger, Leigh and Harland. He leaves his cherished wife of 73 years, Nancy, his son Mark and wife Claudia, his daughter Rhonda and husband David, sisters Janet Maslar of Sarasota, FL, and Connie Herman and brother Richard and wife Betty of Russell. He leaves 4 Grandchildren and 6 Great Grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Glenn Thayer will be remembered as a remarkable individual who embraced life's adventures with an indomitable spirit. His legacy will live on through the memories he created, the values he instilled, and the love he shared with all those fortunate enough to have known him. As we mourn his loss, let us celebrate the extraordinary life he lived and find solace in the knowledge that his spirit will forever remain in our hearts. A memorial service to honor Glenn will be held privately at a later date. Donations in Glenn's name can be made to The Baystate Hospice.

DEATH NOTICES

Glenn Roland Thayer
Died March 17, 2025
Services are private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Monson Garden Club scholarship

MONSON—The Monson Garden Club has announced that two \$500 scholarships are available to high school seniors who reside in Monson and plan to continue school at a 2 or 4 year college to study in any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences. Applications with instructions may be obtained through their school guidance office and are due by April 29, 2025.

PHS Class of 1975 Reunion

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

Come catch up with old friends, share stories and celebrate the journey we've all been on since graduation.

We are planning a fall reunion. The venue is yet to be determined according to response.

Email Cindy at: CColburn172@comcast.net or visit our Facebook page at: Palmer High Class of 75 Reunion Page.

Northeast large scale train show

PALMER—The Northeast Large Scale Train Show will take place on May 3 & 4, 2025 at the Eastern State Exposition fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

The show includes operating large scale railroads, exhibits by the major manufacturers of large scale model railroad equipment - locomotives, track, rolling stock, and scenery - as well as clinics on all aspects of large scale railroad construction, maintenance, and operation.

The Amherst Railway Society also sponsors the Railroad Hobby Show each January at Eastern States Exposition. The Railroad Hobby Show is America's largest railroad-themed trade show.

About the Amherst Railway Society

The Amherst Railway Society is a community of people who share a fascination with railroads.

For additional information, visit: amherstrail.org.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DON'T MISS OUT!

SUMMERfest

Your Guide to Local
Summer
Activities
& Vacation
Destinations

Place your
ad in New England's
#1 Summer Activity Guide*

A SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley
Publications, Inc.

**Deadline
is May 1**

Call now to advertise
Dan Flynn 413.297.5886

McNeely Tree Service Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693



Haluch's
MEMORIALS

haluchsmemorials.com

**Cemetery Memorials • Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary • Outdoor Display**

RAY HALUCH INC.

1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

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

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Police/Fire

POLICE LOGS

Palmer Police Department

The Palmer Police Department reported 214 incidents on its logs from March 25 through April 1.

Tuesday, March 25
1 a.m. – An officer responded to Squier Street for a report of a breaking and entering/burglary report.
3:46 a.m. – An officer responded to a Thorndike Street residence for a report of harassment.
11:54 a.m. – An officer responded to Commercial Street for a report of a fire.
1:42 p.m. – An officer responded to Central Street for a report of an accident with property damage.

Wednesday, March 26
11:05 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of an unwanted person on Dublin Street.
3:26 p.m. – An officer responded to State Street for a report of a forest/brush fire.
7:09 p.m. – An officer responded to Wilbraham Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
8:44 p.m. – An officer responded to a Thorndike Street business for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
9:04 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street and Bridge Street for a report of an accident with person al injury.

Thursday, March 27
7:11 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency reported on Cheney Street.
4:15 p.m. – An officer responded to a Beason Drive residence for a report of a drug/narcotics violation.
5:10 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street and Central Street for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
8:07 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Wilbraham Street with property damage.

Friday, March 28
3:33 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of larceny on North Main Street.
4:24 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of fraud from a resident.
6:47 a.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
9:14 a.m. – An officer responded to West Ware Street for a report of a disturbance (loud noise).
2:30 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud from a resident.
3:13 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance on West Ware Road.
5:49 p.m. – An officer took a report of a motor vehicle violation on Main Street.
7:36 p.m. – An officer responded to a Palmer Road

residence for a report of breaking and entering/burglary.
8:03 p.m. – An officer responded to Wilbraham Street business for a report of motor vehicle violation.
10:49 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street business for a report of harassment.
Saturday, March 29
9:41 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident at a North Main Street business with property damage.
9:33 p.m. – An officer responded to Peterson Road for a report of an unwanted person.
9:59 p.m. – An officer responded to a Thorndike Street residence for a report of harassment.
Sunday, March 30
3:37 a.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street and Shearer Street for a report of a disabled motor vehicle. Luid Antonio Banks, 32, of 1183 Forbes Street, East Hartford Conn., was charged with operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
5:32 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
12:22 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a fire.
4:36 p.m. – An officer re-

sponded to a Thorndike Street residence for a report of a violation of a harassment order.
8:21 p.m. – An officer responded to a Burlingam Street residence for a report of a disturbance.
Monday, March 31
7:19 a.m. – An officer responded to the Massachusetts Turnpike for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
9:13 a.m. – An officer responded to Shearer Street and Oakland Street for a report of an accident with personal injury.
11:23 a.m. – An officer responded to Main Street and Fox Street for a report of an accident with personal injury. Graig Felice, 52, of 79 Bethany Road, Monay, was arrested on charges of failure to wear a seatbelt, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of drugs, assault and battery on an ambulance personnel and a marked lanes violation.
1:19 p.m. – An officer responded to the Massachusetts Turnpike for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
2:20 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of a motor vehicle violation.
7 p.m. – An officer responded to Springfield Street for a report of a fire.

Monson Police Department

The Monson Police Department reported 26 incidents and arrests on its logs from March 16 through March 22.

Sunday, March 16
1:45 a.m. – An officer did follow up/continued an investigation.
1:43 p.m. – An officer did a motor vehicle stop and a Stafford Springs Conn., was issued a summons for failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

Monday, March 17
9:05 a.m. – An officer responded to an animal complaint incident.
8:37 p.m. – An officer responded to a motor vehicle stop. Brendan Davis, 38, of 256 Monson Road, Stafford Springs Conn., resident was arrested on charges of unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, number plate violation to conceal ID and a warrant.

Wednesday, March 19
10:01 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance/nuisance in progress.
3:36 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a medical emergency.

7:41 p.m. – A 37 year old Monson resident was issued a summons for no inspection sticker, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, possession of class A drugs, possession of class B drugs, possession of ammunition without a FID card, carrying a dangerous weapon and interfering with a police officer.

Thursday, March 20
12:10 p.m. – A 46 year old Enfield Conn., resident was issued a summons for charges of operating with suspended license and speeding.
1:31 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of an injured/hunted animal incident.

Friday, March 21
4:47 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a medical emergency.

Saturday, March 22
5:35 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a motor vehicle stop. A 23 year old Springfield resident was issued a summons for charges of a number plate violation to conceal ID and an unregistered motor vehicle.

Hitchcock springs into its peak season of events

Save the dates for its Farmers' Market Reopening, annual Plant Sale, and annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

BRIMFIELD—Spring is here and it's time to mark our calendars with the musts of the season. Hitchcock will host the Brimfield Farmers' Market in April, its annual "Grow With Us" Plant Sale in May, and its annual Brimfield Town-wide Tag Sale in June.
The Brimfield Farmers Market, held in Hitchcock's parking lot, will reopen April 19, offering homemade goods and locally-grown seasonal plants, produce, meat, baked goods, maple products, ice cream, and more. The market will be open every Saturday, rain or shine, 9am to 1pm, with the exception of the Saturdays during flea market weeks (May 17, July 12, and September 6).
Hitchcock's popular annual Plant Sale will take place this year on May 10 featuring perennials, annuals, and vegetable plants, as well as hanging plants, which make a great gift for Mother's Day. Bee Boxes & Bat Houses will also be sold, with additional orders being taken if they sell out. For those thinning out their gardens, Hitchcock welcomes donations of plants on its porch the week leading up to the sale. It is requested that plants be labeled with what the plant is and if you have other information such as sun or shade, please include that on the label.
June 7th is the date for this year's annual Brimfield Town-Wide Tag Sale. Hitchcock will host sales on its lawn and sell maps with full listings of all the sales in town. Mark your calendars to hit the road in the height of tag sale season for a day of treasure hunting.
For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

WHAT IS IT?

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

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

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

• Creating a Community Survey

• How to Support Those With Substance Use

• Preventative Measures

• After Care

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month

3:00pm-4:30pm

at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:

(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

• People with lived experience

• Individuals in recovery

■ Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

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

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

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.

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

APRIL 5

STEAMPUNKINETICS
- Hands-on workshop transforming an antique wood shoe mold into a kinetic Steampunk Car with rider. At the end of the workshop — each participant will take home their own creation. Bruce Steampunkinetics workshops educate others on not only how to do Steampunk art and design, but how repurposing and the ‘combination of opposites’ creative problem solving can help repurpose and transform our own lives with meaningful connections to the past, present and future. \$80 per participant – includes EVERYTHING! Limit 8-12 participants! Contact: bruce@modvic.com for info or to register.

APRIL 26

CELEBRATE POETRY
on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the Monson Free Library DeSantis Room. The Monson Poets will host a reading of poetry and invite all interested participants to come and read a poem or two. Poems can be original or ones created by favorite poets. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

APRIL 27

PATSY CLINE TRIBUTE - Join us for an unforgettable afternoon as Donna Lee and her band, Crooked Ledge, bring the timeless music of Patsy Cline to life at 2 p.m. at PHCC. \$18 advance tickets and \$23 at the door. Get your tickets here! <https://www.eventbrite.com>

APRIL 27

THE JAZZ BONES, under the direction of David Neill, will perform at First Church of Monson, 5 High Street. on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. The ensemble consists of four tenor trombones, one bass trombone, guitar, bass, and drums. The concert is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the First Church Music Committee and the Monson Cultural Council a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

ONGOING

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips

Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keep-homesteadmuseum.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.

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at

the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose’s line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The cen-

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

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

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

UPCOMING



Quaboag Valley
Community Development Corporation
and Business Assistance Corporation

Business Development Services

Workshops and 1:1 Services

Marketing
Bookkeeping/QuickBooks
Cash Flow Projections
Writing a Business Plan
and more ...

Contact Lindsay Aucoin at:
Lindsaya@qvcdc.org or 413-497-4409

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



QVCC.org

23 West Main Street, Ware MA 01082

HALL OF FAME | from page 8

effort on behalf of athletics.

Nomination forms for an individual athlete, athletic staff, faculty and other and the nomination form for a team can be found at Monson High School, by visiting: <https://sites.google.com/view/monsonathletichalloffame/nomination-info>

You will need a google account to access these forms. Submit all forms via mail to: James Duggan, 5 Wayne Road, Monson MA 01057 or email to: jamesduggan@comcast.net. You can also email James to request the form emailed to you.


OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

Journal Register seeks **Experienced Writers/ Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- *Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines*
- *Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo*

Send writing samples with resume to



Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Deanna Sloat


24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069


or email directly to dsloat@turley.com

S	L	A	T		S	A	H	A	R	A		
C	E	R	E		A	C	I	D	U	L	O	U
R	A	R	E		M	O		B	A	D	G	E
U	N	I	M	A	G	I	N	A	B	L	E	A
F	E	V	E	R	S		I	D	L	E		A
F	R	E	D		S	T	A	T		H	A	D
				P	I	P	E	R		M	A	R
S	P	A	C	E	D				M	O	M	E
C	O	C	A	S		S	A	N	A	A		
A	S	I	N		D	O	C	S		B	A	S
L	T	D		B	A	R	E		D	R	A	P
L	W		P	A	L	A	T	A	B	I	L	I
O	A	S	E	S		A	B			L	E	T
P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E		A	C	L
			O	R	A	T	E	D		D	E	E


OPERATION SOARING EAGLE

Golf tournament







Golf tournament




Heritage Country Club
85 Sampson Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507



Friday, May 2nd 2025
9:00 a.m. - Registration
10:00 a.m. - Shotgun Start
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
3:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour
4:00 p.m. - Steak Dinner, awards & raffle



\$150 per player includes: cart, Lunch, Steak dinner, and gift bag
\$35 for dinner only
Sponsorships available at various price points (turn over for details)



Register at:

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/operation-soaring-eagle/details/registration-details>
or scan the QR code above
email Jen at jbaublitz@homefrontstrongus.org with any questions

All proceeds go towards HomeFront Strong programs that enhance resilience in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources, including community peer support and the HomeFront Strong Storytelling program.

This year, we've partnered with Golf Status to offer our golfers a fantastic experience with a live scoreboard, contests, and a course GPS, all in an app players can use throughout the tournament! You can find out more at <https://golfstatus.com/app>

Thank you to our Honorary Chairperson, Cindy Lacoste, US Navy, Chief Petty Officer, Ret.

Copyright © 2025 by The Journal Register. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor
boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

CANAMS 1973 MX1, 125, complete minus frame. Unused factored created engine 175cc. 1975 TNT 250 frame/parts, \$2000. 1947 Crosby Coupe frame off restoration, \$7500. 1999 Mom's Buick Presidential Custom Century, 54,000 miles, one owner, registered, garaged, all scheduled maintenance records, \$5500. Late 50's Toro Reel lawnmower, beautiful restored \$100. Two sheets, 4'x8' 1/2 inch new 3m plexiglas \$100. 165 milk crates, colonial thru 1920 bottle cache. Historic colonial hand-tooled redstones; Benches, Wells, Ballards, Yankee Cobbles, Darby Marble, Italian Travertine, much more. 413-262-4775.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES



A & B HAULING AND REMOVAL SERVICE

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

QUALITY FENCE INSTALLATION
20+ years experience. Free estimates.
Brodeur Construction
Call 413-388-6501

WATER IN YOUR BASEMENT?
Sump pump repairs & installations, and other draining solutions!
Call Gary Guertin Excavating (413)531-3538.

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.
Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

Residential electrical service, mini splits, EV chargers, smoke detection. Fully insured. Licensed #22882A. Mike 413-210-9140.

JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303
Free estimates. Insured. 50 years experience. No job too small. Cell (413)330-3682

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING
Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
Interior and exterior – Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured. Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/
Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

T & S LANDSCAPING

Highest quality, lowest price. Serving the Pioneer Valley. Weekly, bi-weekly mowing, Spring, Fall and Gutter clean-ups. (413)330-3917

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

SERVICES

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING.
We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL
Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

DL & G TREE SERVICE

Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

H & H TREE SERVICE

All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING
Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

SERVICES



SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

CANAMS 1973 MX1, 125, complete minus frame. Unused factored created engine 175cc. 1975 TNT 250 frame/parts, \$2000. 1947 Crosby Coupe frame off restoration, \$7500. 1999 Mom's Buick Presidential Custom Century, 54,000 miles, one owner, registered, garaged, all scheduled maintenance records, \$5500. 413-262-4775.

HELP WANTED

Light Equipment Operator/Laborer
The Granby Highway Department has a 40 hour per week position available for a Light Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position requires the ability to operate various types of machinery, hand tools and equipment (examples include lawnmowers, plows, sanders, asphalt paving equipment). The position is Grade 3 classification. Steps within this grade range from \$18.72-\$24.42 per hour. A valid Massachusetts class A or B CDL driver's license is required. Special consideration will be given to candidates who possess the higher license class, or additional licenses and or relevant construction experience that would be determined to be beneficial to the operations of the Highway Department. Please contact the Highway Superintendent at 413-467-7575 at the Highway Garage (15 Crescent St, Granby MA 01033) for further information, a copy of the job description and/or an application for employment. Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2025.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time Chief of Police. \$75,000 - \$90,000 yearly salary based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Deadline to apply is 4/28/2025. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

Human Resources Coordinator
The Town of Wilbraham is looking for an HR Coordinator to join our team. For application and more info. visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 4/11/2025

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE

advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

HILLSIDE VILLAGE APARTMENTS

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR ONE, TWO AND THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

- Heat and hot water included
- Ample Closets
- Fully Appliance
- Community Room
- Laundry Facilities
- Cats Welcome
- Extra Storage
- 24 Hour Maintenance

For Information call (413)967-7755 EHO

17 Convent Hill, Ware, MA



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



2025 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States
FAST TAX USA
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

EMT PATHWAY

from page 1

helps me get one step closer to my goal of going to med school.” Many students echo this sentiment, noting that having EMT certification can be a valuable asset when applying to medical schools or pursuing other healthcare careers.

In addition to helping their future career prospects, students also see EMT work as a potential part-time job during their college years. “Most colleges allow students to continue working as EMTs, which will be helpful to me during college and will further my career in medicine,” adds Kassandra Perry.

The program meets twice a week after school on Mondays and Fridays evenings. The first week of each month, students also attend a Wednesday session. Due to Palmer High’s block schedule, students in the EMT program receive one block off during the day to ensure their schedules remain balanced.

The students currently enrolled in the program have rigorous academic backgrounds, having taken Advanced Placement (AP) classes, either currently or in

the past. Five of the students are also part of the HCC dual-enrollment program that Palmer High offers. Completing the EMT pathway will also appear on their official transcripts, further highlighting their commitment to the field.

“I love it, it feels good putting time into something worth the effort,” said Gianna Perry, another student in the program. As students gain hands-on experience, their passion for the medical field grows stronger. “The more I experience the course, the more the field of medicine excites me,” said Rachel McNalloy.

The students also share their appreciation for the course instructors, Chris from Sturbridge and Dave from Ware, who bring local expertise and real-world experience to the lessons. The instructors’ deep understanding of local medical challenges and their emphasis on mental health has resonated with the students.

“One of the things I really like is how much they emphasize mental health,” said Nayoka Williams. “People don’t understand how traumatizing it can be... there is nothing to be ashamed of for asking for help.”

The program includes an entire chapter dedicated

to teaching students how to recognize and seek help when facing emotional or psychological challenges.

In addition to traditional lectures, the students appreciate the interactive nature of the course. “It’s not just about reading chapters and memorizing information,” said Louis Alicea. “It’s hands-on and keeps us engaged, which makes learning more interesting.”

This marks the third year that Palmer High School has offered the EMT pathway, and the program has already seen success. Previous graduates of the program have been hired by nearby towns as EMTs, and the school is eager to see what the future holds for the current group of students.

“We’re very proud of our students, and we’re excited to see where this program takes them,” said Palmer High School Principal Susan North. “This is a great opportunity that prepares them for both college and future careers in healthcare.”

As these students continue their training, they are one step closer to joining the ranks of emergency medical professionals, ready to make a difference in their communities and beyond.

Public notices

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:40 PM, Tuesday, April 15, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent application for activities associated with the proposed construction of a single-family home, domestic well, leach facility, and driveway. A portion of the work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer to bordering vegetated wetlands. The project address is Lot 8 Foster Street, Bondsville (Assessors Map 36, Parcel 45). The applicant making the request is Sherman & Frydryk c/o Cedar Construction, LLC.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission
Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
04/03/2025

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 15th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, Ma. 01057 on the application of Monson Housing Authority for Special Permit with Site Plan Approval. The Special Permit for work within the Water Supply Protection District as provided by §7.3, §4.2 and Site Plan approval provided by §7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The petitioner proposes expanding the existing parking lot located on 31 State Street, Map 114, Parcel 093 Zoned Residential Village. 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
03/27, 04/03/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 15th, 2025, at 7:05 P.M.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street, Monson. It is proposed to amend § 3.0 Schedule of Use Regulations (Table 1) and replace §1.7 Definition as it relates to Home Occupation. A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw amendments are on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board, and is available on the Town website.
03/27, 04/03/2025

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on **Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Warren Road: #31103564
Reason: Warren Road – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Warren Road beginning at a point approximately 2168 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of North Main Street. A approximately 2168 feet North of the centerline of North Main Street, National Grid proposes to install pole# 24-84 and anchor, Brimfield, MA.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly
Select Board, Chairperson
Town of Brimfield
04/03, 04/10/2025

TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:35 PM, Tuesday, April 15, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent application for the proposed water line extension and associated site work within the 50-foot No Disturb Zone and 100-foot buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands. The project location is State Street (from High St. to Jim Ash St.), Palmer, MA. The applicant making the request is EcoTec Inc. Environmental Consulting Services, on behalf of Bondsville Fire & Water District.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
04/03/2025



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

Never a Dull Moment



SUBSCRIBE TODAY and don't miss a local thing!

Local Shopping
New Restaurants
Sporting Events
Fairs & Festivals
Live Music
Family Fun
Job Opportunities
Area News
Community Health
and so much more weekly!

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

One Full Year Delivered to your door \$35.00

Includes special supplements.
Plus, subscribe on the application form online only, call 413.283.8393, or go online to www.journalregister.com



Everything Local
subscribe • support • rockwell
413.283.8393 • www.journalregister.com

FRANK INCORPORATED
President/Editor: Frank Inc.



Nat Falk offers best men's clothing for 88 years

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

The business was started on Main Street by Nat Falk in 1936. With his son, Nat Falk, Jr., and his son, Nat Falk, III, the business has been passed down through three generations.

Since then, Nat Falk has expanded the business, offering a wide variety of men's clothing, including suits, shirts, and ties. Nat Falk's commitment to quality and personalized service has made it a popular destination for men's clothing in the area.

THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS

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

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

ALL FOR ONLY \$275

This special section will run in the April 24th issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News.

Ad deadline: April 9, 2025

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

Customer Service The Way It Should Be for 88 Years

All at prices below what you'll pay in a department store.

FORMALWEAR SALES & RENTALS

YOUR DESTINATION FOR WEDDING, PROM OR ANY FORMAL OCCASION

Top Brand Clothing from head to toe

VAN HEUSEN SHIRTS TO FLORENCE SHOES

YOUR CARHARTT WORKMAN HEADQUARTERS AT EVERYDAY GREAT PRICES!

KNOWLEDGEABLE SALES HELP ALTERATIONS AT FREE OR LITTLE COST

NAT FALK
64 Main Street, Ware • 967-6721

Turley Publications, Inc.
— A TURLEY PUBLICATION —
WWW.TURLEY.COM

CLUES ACROSS

- Narrow piece of wood
- Without covering
- Show up
- Seethed
- Ancient Greek city
- Poisonous plant
- Hello
- College sports official
- Monetary unit of Russia
- Wings
- Take too much of a substance
- A citizen of Uganda
- Most appealing
- Atomic #18
- Global investment bank (abbr.)
- Jewish calendar month
- Popular sandwich
- Swiss river
- Incorrect letters
- Popular entry
- Foot (Latin)
- A driver's license is one form

CLUES DOWN

- Unshaven facial hair
- More thin
- Yemen capital
- Spanish municipality
- Medical professionals
- Fibrous material
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Without covering
- "Mad Men" honcho
- Don
- Hockey position
- Taste property
- Fertile spots in a desert
- They precede C
- "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
- Try a criminal case
- Liberal rights organization
- Spoke
- Insect repellent

- Extinct flightless bird
- Appetizer
- After battles
- It neutralizes alkalis
- Beverage container
- Partner to "Pa"
- Gray American rail
- Salt of acetic acid
- Canadian province
- Dish made with lentils
- Narrative poem of popular origin
- For each one
- Come to terms
- Test
- More dishonorable
- Unit of loudness
- The Ocean State
- Monetary unit in Mexico
- Lying down
- Thus
- Where LA is located
- Western State

‘Friday Night Rocks’ at PHCC Brings Local Music to Life



(From left to right) Nic Quinlivan, Josh Honeywell, Torie Jock, and Dan Baer, all members of Torie Jock & Damage Control.

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER—Every other Friday night, the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center (PHCC) in Three Rivers becomes the epicenter of rock music, thanks to a vibrant new initiative known as Friday Night Rocks. Launched by local performer and multi-talented artist Torie Jock, this event has quickly become a beloved fixture in the community. Now in its second week, Friday Night Rocks promises to deliver a regular dose of live music, local bands, and a sense of community for all music lovers in the area.

Torie Jock, whose career spans music, acting, writing, and directing, is no stranger to the stage. Starting her performance career at just one year old, Jock has continuously expanded her talents, from competing in dance to starring in theatrical productions and films. She has also carved out a name for herself as a

songwriter and musician, releasing multiple albums over the years, including her most recent, *Damaged Goods*, in 2021. Her band, Torie Jock & Damage Control, performed at the PHCC in January, where the impressive turnout inspired Jock to pursue her next venture: creating a regular rock night for local bands.

“Local Bands for Local People” is the mantra that drives Jock’s vision for Friday Night Rocks. In an era where live rock performances are becoming rarer, Jock is committed to providing a platform for local musicians to connect with other artists and their audience. She explains, “There are not a lot of spaces for rock these days, and I want to create a homebase where musicians can meet other like-minded individuals. The more we support each other, the stronger our local scene will be.”

The concept for the event began when Jock met a man in Holyoke in January who approached her with a sim-



Erie House Ruins singing “Jolene” as one of the later songs in their set.

ilar idea for a rock night. Though the collaboration fell through when he decided to pursue other interests, Jock took matters into her own hands. With a background as a board member at PHCC, she presented the idea to the president of the center, who was immediately on board. Together, they worked to establish Friday Night Rocks as a regular event, starting in early March 2025.

On the evening of March 28th, Friday Night Rocks featured a stellar performance by Erie House Ruins, a country-rock-gothic band that captivated the audience with their eclectic sound. The group, led by frontman Rich Desgres, included banjo, bass, electric violin, and drums, offering a unique twist on traditional rock music. The night was a success, drawing a crowd eager to embrace the energy and creativity of local talent.

Looking ahead, Friday Night Rocks is booked solid with a diverse array of bands through the summer, and



The acoustic changeover performance on March 28th before Torie Jock & Damage Control played.

Jock is actively seeking even more talent. Bands already lined up include Horse Fight, Reverend Dan and the Dirty Catechism, The Prozacs, Donut Kings, Moonlight Saints, Bliss 42, Wonderland Mafia, Lost Town Ramblers, and The Blares, just to name a few. There’s still room for more performers in the coming months, so local rock bands are encouraged to reach out to Jock for booking opportunities.



A picture taken by Torie Jock during the opening night when the building was packed with people.

In addition to live music, Jock is planning to bring food trucks and vendors to the event, with one food truck and two vendors present each night. Given the limited space, she has set clear guidelines for food truck applications, and interested vendors can find more information on her website.

Friday Night Rocks runs from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., offering a late-night escape for music fans. While some may wonder if the hours could disturb the neighborhood, Jock assures attendees that the PHCC’s location ensures minimal impact. “All the nearby businesses close at that time, and the residential areas are far enough away that noise isn’t an issue,” she explains.

When she’s not managing her rock nights or performing, Jock continues to teach dance and drama, a passion she’s nurtured since childhood. As an assistant dance teacher at just twelve years old and later a drama instructor, Jock believes that teaching is not only

about sharing knowledge but also about personal growth. “Teaching something makes you better at it yourself,” she says.

For those eager to stay updated on the latest acts, Jock encourages everyone to follow @FridayNightRocksatPHCC on Instagram, where concert details and announcements are shared regularly. For those interested in booking, purchasing merchandise, or learning more about the event, Jock’s website, toriejock.com, serves as the central hub for all information related to Friday Night Rocks.

With its unique combination of live music, community-building, and a strong support system for local talent, Friday Night Rocks at PHCC is setting the stage for an exciting year of music and creativity. Whether you’re a rock enthusiast, a local band, or simply looking for a fun night out, this event promises to deliver a memorable experience for all.

Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com.

Please include your name and your pet’s name.

PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Ruby!

She is a 3 1/2-year-old miniature Australian Labradoodle. She has fun no matter what the season. Her favorite past time is playing ball. She is an essential part of the Pilon family. They love her very much and believe she is the best dog ever!

To Kiss or Not To Kiss: Should You Let Your Dog Kiss Your Face?

There is no greater feeling when you get home to get an affectionate, although slobbery, greeting from the four-legged members of your family!

However animal experts are in agreement on one scientifically proven fact: It is highly unsanitary for your dog to lick around your face, eyes, and nose! Dogs have been proven to carry various bacteria in their mouths that can be beneficial or non-effective to their overall health but are not meant to be absorbed by the human body through thin membranes such as our eyes, nose and mouth.

The top five bacteria that could be transferred through the face and/or mouth are outlined in a short summary below:

- 1. Capnocytophaga Canimorsus:** An organism carried in the mouths of dogs, and it causes a very bad sepsis infection.
- 2. Staphylococcus Aureu (Staph Infection):** The majority of time your dog can safely carry this virus strain without it affecting their overall health, but when transferred to a human it can have life-threatening consequences.
- 3. Ringworm or Hookworm:** Can cause either painful itchy infections or inflammation, or even intestinal bleeding depending on the point of entry.
- 4. E.Coli:** A potentially fatal bacterial disease with symptoms ranging from diarrhea to nausea to intestinal bleeding.
- 5. Salmonella:** A painful bacterial disease that can cause diarrhea, intestinal cramping, nausea and vomiting.

Showing affection with your dog is good for both you and your dog. Setting boundaries, however, in how our dogs display that affection can be beneficial for everyone!

ELDOTC

East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club

Classes held at
546 Main Street, Hampden, MA

Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings

Start Your
Puppy or Rescue
Off Right With
Obedience Training
at ELDOTC!

Obedience Training -
Beginner to Utility

Facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience
For Information or to Register
Call (413) 355-0553
eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com
We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

WILBRAHAM

Animal Hospital

Andrew R. Hersman, DVM
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM
William D. Anderson, DVM
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
Denise Chiminiello, DVM
Leah Guidry, DVM
Madison Harris, DVM
Nicholas Schipper, DVM

Now Accepting
New Patients!

Wilbraham Animal Hospital
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA
413.596.8395
wilbrahamanimalhospital.com

East Springfield Veterinary Hospital
525 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA
413.739.6389 • esvhospital.com
(Less than 1 mile from Rt. 291)
Open Evenings & Saturdays

Porter Road Pet Care

141 Porter Road
East Longmeadow MA
413-525-3532

www.porterroadpetcare.com

- Day Care
- Boarding

- SPA Services Available

- Web Cams
- Heated
- Large
- Indoor/Outdoor
- Accommodations
- Playtime Available -
- Fenced in
- 1/4 Acre Lot

Save \$5
on Daycare,
Grooming
or Boarding
Services

Limit 1 coupon per pet.
Expires 4/30/25

Harmony

Personalized
Dog
Training

Servicing Wilbraham & the Surrounding Towns

413-246-0859

AKC Certified

- “Saturday In the Park!”
Every Saturday at Post Office Park, Wilbraham
12 noon - Pack Walk
1:30 p.m - Basic Obedience & Socialization
(Both Weather Permitting)

- Private training in your home
- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Behavior modification
- Group “Pack” walks & socialization

NEW Board & Train Programs Starting This Spring