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SPORTS

Master Plan Committee meets to discuss presentation to Town Council

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
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PALMER — Last week, the Master Plan Implementation Committee met to go over the discussions that have been had with various town departments, in preparation for a presentation to be made to the Town Council in November.

Amber Kumpulanian, who now serves as the chair of the committee, described her initial interest in

the committee as “selfish,” as she sought a position on the Open Spaces Committee in order to help maintain the Midura Conservation Area.

“I live across from Midura Conservation Area, and we use that trail on weekly basis, if not daily,” Kumpulanian said. “I like those trails want to see them maintained well, so I applied for the committee.”

In addition to Kumpulanian, the committee members include Town Councilor Jessica Sizer, Pa-

tiencia Hartley of the Historical Comm, Nick Zio of the Conservation Commission, and Dave Golden, who Kumpulanian described as the “man about town,” and involved with many different things in town.

The Master Plan Committee was assembled as a way to ensure that stakeholders involved in the plan’s major goals could see it through, after its creation in 2020-21.

“Our main purpose is to make a presentation to Town Council, and we make recommendations based

on conversations with those various stakeholders,” Kumpulanian said.

One of the concerns that led to the creation of the committee was that a lot of time and effort would go into the plan, but with no one to coordinate with town departments and keep the plan on track, it could sit on the shelf for years.

“What we’ve done as a Master Plan Committee is we’ve identified various stakeholders including the Conservation Committee, Community Development, Planning Board,

etc., and we pull in the heads of the departments and discuss with them what the goals of the plan are,” Kumpulanian said.

These conversations often center on what progress is being made toward the Master Plan, and if progress hasn’t been made, the committee can ask the departments about any conflicts or barriers they’re encountering.

The committee’s last presentation was in June of 2023. The committee will be meeting with new

Town Manager Brad Brothers soon, and expects to make its annual presentation in November of this year.

Kumpulanian described the discussions with town departments as “very relaxed.” She described meeting with, among others, the Historical Commission, the Recreation Department, Citizens for Palmer Rail, Conservation Commission, and Pathfinder Technical Vocational School, and keeping a

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MONSON

State govt. working to allocate budget to the region

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
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MONSON — Last week, area legislators met with the Select Board to discuss the budgetary needs of the town.

State Representative Brian Ashe, State Representative Angelo Puppolo, and Senator Ryan Fattman were all present during the March 26 meeting of the town’s Select Board. Select Board Chair Pat Oney started the conversation by asking about the Developmental Center, which has been under the purview of Division of Capital Asset Management Maintenance.

“DCAMM has been great so far about helping us move it along,” Oney said, “if you can just keep us apprised of how things are going, money-wise.”

Ashe said that the project has been in production since he was first elected, “so it’s been a long time coming.”

“Obviously, that’s been a burden on the town for years and it’s a lost piece of property,” Ashe said. “This is the furthest we’ve moved along, so I’m very happy to see the potential for something to happen

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SCHOOLS



Turley photos by Harrison Giza
 Clarke explaining budgeting while parent and meeting attendee, Erica Nissenbaum, took notes.

Monson Superintendent serves soup with side of budget review

By **Harrison Giza**
 Staff Writer
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MONSON — The Monson Public Schools at this time have no intention to cut any teaching positions after its superintendent shared the fiscal 2025 budget proposal.

Superintendent of Schools, Cheryl Clarke, held her “Soup

With The Supt.” event this Tuesday at Quarry Hill Community School.

The heavy rain outside Room 422 could not have come at a better time as Clarke spoke to a classroom of parents, teachers and other concerned parties who wished to learn about the district, review the 2024 - 2025 budget and fill up on delicious broccoli cheddar soup, provided by Granite Valley employee, Nancy Sexton.

A major concern addressed that night regarded the future of Monson’s special education programs as well as personnel changes at Granite Valley Middle School.

“We are going to add a special education teacher to the budget,” Clarke said. “We really feel strongly that we need one at each grade level at Granite Valley. So every

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EDUCATION

Pathfinder mathematics teacher scores national recognition

By **Harrison Giza**
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PALMER — Each school year, National Life Group receives hundreds of nominations across the United States from members of school districts hoping to secure a spot for the LifeChanger of the Year award.

This year, an anonymous party nominated Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School Mathematics Department Head, Joshua Dusza for the opportunity.

“He teaches students that every problem has a solution, both in the classroom and throughout their lives,” the anonymous nominator stated.

Brand Affinity Manager, Camilla Williams, had positive things to say about the Mathematics Department head.

“National Life Group is thrilled to honor Joshua Dusza of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School as a LifeChanger of the Year nominee,” said Williams. “Joshua doesn’t just teach math, he also strives to inspire his students and to make a positive impact on their lives, both in and out of the classroom. We created LifeChanger of the Year to recognize and reward kindergarten and 12th grade teachers and school employees, like Joshua, who go above and beyond to make a difference.”

Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of



Submitted photos
 Mathematics Department Head and LifeChanger of the Year nominee, Joshua Dusza.

former winners and teaching professionals. All nominees must be K-12 teachers or long-term school district employees.

To even be considered, here are the six rules to each nominee must embody: 1.) be able to make a positive impact in the lives of students, 2.) Enhance their school or district’s atmosphere, culture and pride, 3.) Demonstrate exemplary leadership at the school and or district level, 4.) possess a proven record of professional excellence, 5.) show commitment to building a nurturing environment that supports learning, and 6.) adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards in the current year.

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POLITICS



Oliveira bolstering support for his campaign by doing what he does best, speaking from his heart.

Oliveira fundraiser kickstarts re-election campaign

By **Harrison Giza**
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LUDLOW — The re-election kickoff fundraiser for State Sen. Jake Oliveira took place on Monday in front of a packed dining hall at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

Senator Michael J Rodrigues, current Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, spoke for his former padawan Oliveira.

“It is great to be here especially to spend some time with my good friend Jake Oliveira,” said Rodrigues. “It was a little over 15 years ago that I actually hired Jake for my office because I realized at that time the amount of talent that this young man had. He has since proven himself to be someone I can rely on.”

Rodrigues said Oliveira cares about the issues going on in the district, and that he is a great spokesperson for the area at the State House.

“I can assure you that your issues, your voices, your concerns could not be better expressed by someone other than Jake Oliveira,” Rodrigues said. “It is so good to see so many friends here. Jake and I speak regularly all the time while sharing

our commutes to the state house and I continue to support him.”

Oliveira appreciated the comments from Rodrigues, and recalled their time together many years ago.

“What he (Rodrigues) did not tell you is that 15 years ago, I was working on the State Rep’s campaign over near my alma mater of Framingham State, and we met at an event like this, a fundraiser,” Oliveira said. “We had dinner afterwards and from then on, when I was looking for a job after the campaign ended, obviously he saw my last name, a Portuguese last name. What he didn’t tell you is that was the number one job requirement in his office at that time. So, I think I had a little bit of an advantage working for him at that point in time.”

Oliveira asked the supporters in attendance to vote for him again this year.

“I am again asking you humbly to if you have not already done so,” Oliveira said. “Sign my papers in the back of the room to get me on the ballot, and then in September for the Democratic primary, I’d appreciate your support and vote. Hopefully in November we are successful in continuing the work that we’ve started.”

Oliveira spoke about major wins he

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Bondsville Water Department seeks remediation from Palmer

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
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BONDSVILLE — The Water Department expressed disappointment at Palmer’s decision to deny aid to the infrastructure problems that have been plaguing the villages.

At a recent meeting with the Town Council, Robert Reed complained about what he described as holes in the proposal for a water line from the Bondsville Water Department. The Chairman of the department, David LaVallie, expressed his disappointment at the statement.

“I had a meeting last week with the interim town manager, and it was a very good discussion,” LaVallie said. “We were somewhat disappointed with his position.”

Bondsville’s Water Commissioners are asking who they see as responsible parties to fix problems that have made it so many residents have no access to public water.

“We’re not begging for money,” LaVallie said. “All we’re asking is for them to give us \$1.4 million out of the federal infra-

structure program. This is a perfect opportunity for us to work together and fix this problem. Then we can interconnect with Thorndike and we’re going to be able to supply water all the way up to a section of the town that never had it.”

LaVallie mentioned the old burn dump that was operating in Bondsville in the 1950s, which was capped, but never sealed, and has been leaking into the ground.

“They’re getting samples from Tighe & Bond regularly, and no one has the results. They won’t tell me what they’re finding in the ground.”

Bondsville recently secured funding for a new tank to be built in the district, which is going to facilitate water access to all three of the town’s villages, Bondsville, Thorndike, and Three Rivers. The villages have been working together since 2012 to fulfill this plan, and are looking forward to being able to supply Thorndike with not only water, but also necessary fire protection.

“Camp Rama is in trouble,

WATER | page 5





PINOT

The Murphy-Stark family lives in Palmer with three pets. Here is Pinot, pictured hiding behind the plants. She is a gray shorthair cat. She is 11 years old. Pinot is a little shy, she likes to hide a lot. She also loves cuddles and treats. She is very sweet. 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.

Old Mill Pond Elementary PTO kicks off Calendar raffle

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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PALMER — Old Mill Pond Students will be selling calendar raffle tickets throughout the month of April to fundraise for the school PTO. The raffle will be held daily during the month of May.

"What we do is we have area businesses sponsor a different calendar day during the month of May," said School Council member and Secretary of the PTO Kristine Camacho. "Most of these are cash prizes but we also have businesses that have been very generous and have given us gift certificates as well. So, each day there'll be a daily cash prize or a gift certificate that individuals can win, ranging anywhere from \$25 to, I believe, our largest donation of \$250. However, we divided that amount across a couple of different days, so currently \$150 is our biggest prize to win."

The objective of the OMP PTO PAWS (Parents Are Welcome Supporters) is to help provide the high-quality education of Old Mill Pond students by trying to foster relationships among the school staff, parents and teachers. Their goal of providing support for the students' educational and recreational needs goes far beyond the classroom.

With much anticipation building for the event, students have already begun to start selling their calendars.

"This will continue all the way through Apr. 26," Camacho said. "Starting on May 1 we'll pull a winner daily for that certain day's prize."

Camacho made up a figurative example to explain the system in place for intended prize winners.

"Let's say it was a \$100," Camacho said. "We would pull an individual on May 1 and that person wins \$100. Their name goes back in the pot and that person does have the potential to win 31 times. Then, on May 2 we would pull the next individual and they'll win whatever cash prizes that we have on the calendar for that day."

Camacho is excited for the future of Old Mill Pond and their PTO (Parent Teacher Organization).

"The PTO really tries to provide a range of different opportunities for students and families to get involved with the school," said Camacho. "This year through some of our community sponsorships, we have been able to offer successful swim nights at the high school for

families. We'd like to continue to partner with the school to offset the cost of our field trips. We do craft fairs for the holidays and then at the end of the year, on June 7th, we have our block party that we would encourage all of our families to come out to."

That end of the year celebration has become popular over the past few years for its good vibes and fun events for parents and kids to attend.

"We'll have food truck and various different activities for the kids," said Camacho. "It really is just a fun night to celebrate everything that has gone on during the school year before students head off to the summer."

Camacho is dedicated to helping her community, as a school council member, PTO representative and most importantly, mother.

"This is only my second year with the PTO," Camacho said. "My son is in first grade but I joined last year when he was in kindergarten and this year I am currently Secretary of the PTO."

If interested in helping out with this year' calendar raffle, please contact OMP directly by phone at (413) 283-4300.

Palmer Town election on June 11

PALMER— Palmer Annual Town Election Tuesday, June 11. Term to start on July 1.

Nomination papers available at the Clerk's office for the available seats:

- Councilor At Large, 1 seat, 3 year term
- Councilor At Large, 1 seat, 2 year term
- District Council Prct. #2, 1 seat, 3 year term
- District Council Prct. #3, 1 seat, 3 year term
- Planning Board, 1 seat, 3 year term
- School Committee, 1 seat, 3 year term

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

Monson Town Election on June 11

Nomination papers are now available in the Monson Town Clerk's office for the Annual Town Election to be held on June 11 for following slate of offices:

- Select Board -3 years
- Board of Assessors-3 years
- School Committee-3 years (2 seats available)
- Highway Surveyor- 3 years.
- Water/Sewer Commission-3 years
- Cemetery Commission-3 years
- Parks and Recreation Commission-3 years
- Housing Authority- 1 year

The deadline to pick up papers is April 19. For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk's office 413-267-4115 or email us: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

MAC holds 30th art exhibition

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council is pleased to announce its 30th annual Juried Art Exhibition and Sale. This year's show is sure to present some of the finest quality works of art from around the region. The works will be on display in Monson's House of Art as well as next door at the historic Memorial Hall from noon to 5 p.m., each weekend day from April 20 through May 5. Cash prizes will be presented in four categories including: Painting, Photography, Multidimensional Art (Sculpture, Fiber Art, Ceramics, etc.) and Graphic Arts/Mixed Media (Printmaking, Drawing, Collage, etc.). This year's cash prizes total \$4,500.

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

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

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

Keep Homestead Quilt show on April 7

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

Pamela Weeks, researcher, author, and curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, will be presenting her program "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell". Quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as tales of service and tradition. Weeks weaves world history, women's history, and wonderful stories into her presentation.

Attendees are invited to bring one quilt for identification and/or story sharing. Weeks will have copies of her books for sale.

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

Celebrate the music of Taize on April 28

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

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

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

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

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

of chanting and meditation.

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

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

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

Button show April 13

THREE RIVERS— Massachusetts State Button Society spring meeting will be hosted by the Monson Button Club on Saturday, April 13, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There will be no button sales during the break from noon to 1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and auction will take place.

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



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Rates do not include potential differentials of \$1.25-\$4.00/hr.

***Must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license to qualify.**

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

Monson Garden Club \$500 scholarships available

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 23.

Monson Democrats to award scholarship

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

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

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

Baystate Health names Peter D. Banko as incoming President and CEO

Banko to succeed Dr. Mark Keroack; brings national experience as president and CEO

SPRINGFIELD - The Baystate Health Board of Trustees today announced it has appointed Peter D. Banko as Baystate Health's new president and chief executive officer. He succeeds Dr. Mark Keroack, who previously announced his plans to retire after serving as the system's leader for 10 years.

A transformational executive experienced in leading multi-faceted health systems in markets throughout the country, Banko was chosen after an extensive national search by the Board of Trustees. Banko will officially join Baystate Health the beginning of June 2024.

Banko most recently served as president and CEO of Centura Health, in Centennial, Colo., which was a part of the national system CommonSpirit Health. The \$3.8 billion hospital and health services system comprised more than 20 owned and affiliated tertiary and rural hospitals, an extensive network of physician partners, and numerous community-based services and clinics across Colorado, Kansas, and Utah.

"Among a slate of high-qualified candidates, Peter stood out for both his commitment to our com-

munity-based healthcare mission and decades of experience leading complex health systems in diverse and competitive markets. He offers a proven track record of strengthening programs and services, growing revenue and market share, improving operations and operating discipline, and serving as a workforce champion," said Harriet A. DeVerry, chair, Baystate Health Board of Trustees. "We look forward to him joining the organization."

"Baystate Health has a stellar reputation around the country, and I greatly appreciate the immense responsibility that comes with joining such a truly mission- and values-driven team," said Banko. "I am beyond excited to embark on an exciting new era of healthy growth with my fellow 13,000 caregivers - in care for our patients, in community, in business, and in spirit. The possibilities for us together are endless in redefining health and health care in western Massachusetts and beyond."

Banko, a native of New Jersey, started his calling in healthcare as a junior volunteer and has served in CEO-level roles for several health systems for nearly two decades. He has an industry reputation of leading innovation, transformation, integration, and partnerships



Peter D Banko

with hospitals, physician groups, and health plans. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and his Master of Health Administration degree from the Sloan Program in Health Services Administration at Cornell University.

In his role, Keroack was a leading voice during the COVID-19 pandemic for the region, offering public-health information and partnering with public-health officials to address the crisis. A native of Springfield, Mass. he joined Baystate Health in 2011 as chief physician executive and president of Baystate Medical Practices and was appointed to the CEO role in 2014. He has had a long career in both medicine and health administration, serving in leadership roles at UMass Memorial Medical Group and the University HealthSystem Consortium.

"We are immensely grateful for the contributions of Dr. Mark Keroack as an exceptional leader and clinician who has successfully led the organization for the last 10 years with a deep commitment to Baystate Health and to our community," said Colleen W. Holmes, vice chair, Baystate Health Board of Trustees. "We congratulate him on his upcoming retirement."

Country Bank appoints new Senior Vice President

LUDLOW—Country Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas Dufault as the senior vice president of the Retail Lending Department. With an impressive thirty-five years in the mortgage industry and an entrepreneurial and construction background, Tom brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to his new role.



Thomas Dufault

Dufault has gained extensive experience in construction standards, business acumen, and process improvements throughout his career. His diverse background, including being a previous business owner, makes him the ideal candidate to lead Country Bank's Retail Lending team.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dufault is also committed to community service. He has served on the Board of Habitat for Humanity North Central MA for ten years, with the past four years as the Board President. Dufault supports various charitable initiatives, including the United Way of North Central MA, the American Cancer Society, Heifer Project International, and the Alzheimer's Association. Dufault has also served on various committees and boards in the town of Rutland where he lived for twenty-six years with his wife and two daughters.

"I am excited to join Country Bank and contribute to its continued success in helping customers obtain their dreams of homeownership," said Dufault. "I will focus on offering innovative products to help meet our customers' needs with a simple application and approval process while offering a superior customer experience. I am eager to make a difference for the retail lending team and for our customers."

"We are incredibly pleased to welcome Tom to our leadership team; his extensive background in Retail Lending brings an exciting level of strategic insight and direction to the Country Bank brand of Community Banking. His commitment to strategic and empathetic leadership, community support, and entrepreneurial spirit align with our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are proud that Tom has chosen Country Bank as his Employer of Choice," stated Miriam Siegel, first senior vice president and chief Culture & Development officer.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

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

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

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April

12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

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

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

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

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

Drum circle in April at First Church of Monson

MONSON — Hearts Willing Club will be sponsoring a Drum Circle at First Church of Monson on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. Dave Curry will be the drum facilitator. If you have a drum, please feel free to bring it; if not, drums will be available to rent for the evening for

\$3.00, payable at the door. Be prepared for a fun and informative evening of gentle drumming.

Reservations are required. To reserve a place, please call Lee at First Church of Monson and/or leave a message at 413 267 3312 or email Lee at lee@firstchurchmonson.org before Sunday, April 21. Please be sure to let her know whether you will be bringing your own drum or if you'll be needing to rent one. The evening is free if you bring your own drum.

Refreshments will be served after the Drum Circle.

National Poetry festival in May

WORCESTER—Announcing the second National Baseball Poetry Festival, which will be held in Worcester, from May 3 to May 5, and features youth and adult poetry contests. All poets everywhere are invited to submit baseball- and softball-related poems.

The youth contest invites all 4th to 12th graders and Little Leaguers to submit a poem. Winners will include up to 20 elementary-, 20 middle-, and 20 high school students, as well as 20 Little Leaguers.

The adult contest invites submissions from college-age students and adults, up to 20 of whom will be selected for recognition and published on BaseballBard.com. All winners, youth and adult, will additionally receive a National Baseball Poetry Festival t-shirt.

The deadline to submit poems is noon on Thursday, April 18. All details about the Festival and submission requirements can be found here: <https://baseballpoetryfest.org/>.



Corrections

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



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Three Rivers Fire & Water District ANNUAL ELECTION
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
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Three Rivers Fire Dept. Headquarters
• One Prudential Committee Member (3 Year Term)
• One District Clerk (1 Year Term)
Nomination papers available at the Three Rivers Water Dept., 2031 Main St.
Nomination papers must be returned no later than 5 p.m. on April 15, 2024

Glenda's
Friday, April 5th ~ 7pm-10pm
Moonlight Saints
Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!
Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke
948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491
Upcoming Events
Saturday, April 27th
7:30pm-10:30pm
Kidd Hurricane
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LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

When should we claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits.

We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is two years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be?

Signed Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready

The first thing to understand is that Full Retirement Age for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount.

The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some or all benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up to age 70.

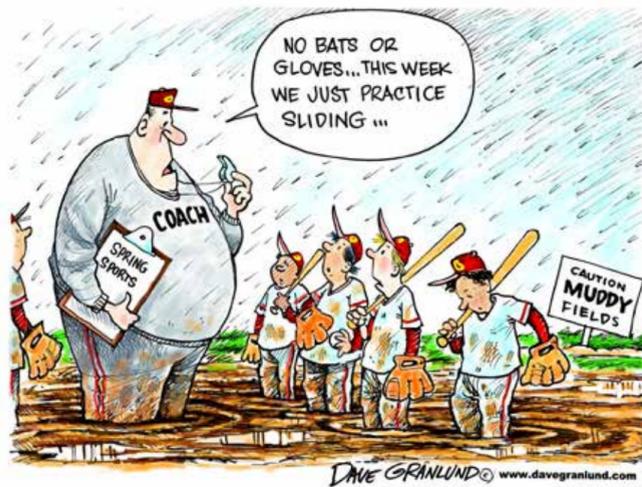
So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages. And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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Asparagus plants- upkeep, harvest and oddities

It was so much fun to be outdoors on Easter Sunday.

I enjoyed just sitting on the deck, talking with family and moseying around the yard while the little kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. It's funny that being outside is one of those things that once you do it, you want to do it more often.

It got me thinking of some of the tasks back home I have to do to get the gardens ship-shape.

One of the tasks concerns my asparagus bed. The grocery stores are teasing us lately, with spears from Mexico making an appearance in the sales circular.

I usually hold off buying it, preferring my home-grown to anything store-bought. I never did get to cut back the foliage in the fall after the first frost.

Presently, its laying down in the beds, making a catch-all for leaves. I'll get in there with a pair of sharp clippers, cutting away the foliage, then with a rake to further tidy up.

Once complete, I'll sprinkle lime on the beds, followed by some compost, since asparagus prefers fertile soil on the alkaline side.

It'll be a few weeks still before the spears start to poke through the surface. Since my beds are several years old at this point, I will be able to harvest for a good eight weeks.

Be on the look-out for the asparagus beetle midstream and the black eggs that are laid horizontally shortly thereafter, usually apparent on the upper portion of the spears. I monitor my beds often and flick the bugs into a yogurt container of soapy water while squishing the eggs in-situ.

I don't do more than that in terms of pest control and I'm able to keep populations down.

Weeds are another foe. It's important to keep the beds weeded - especially free of perennial grasses, and you will likely have a productive asparagus patch for decades to come.

I usually harvest asparagus with a

knife, so that the cut is clean. If the spear has gotten a bit too tall, but the buds haven't opened too much, I will still harvest it at the appropriate length of 6-8" long, and cut the rest of the stem off at ground level.

If the buds have opened and are too far gone to be edible (at least in terms of looking like traditional asparagus) I will

just allow the foliage to grow, figuring that the photosynthesizing will benefit the roots in the long run, just as later foliage does after the harvest period is over. I usually let really skinny spears go to foliage as well - they are usually kind of tough.

Speaking of tough, what about those really thick spears, the kind that are "thumb-thick?"

If you notice the base of these spears to be woody and tough in appearance, get out the potato peeler and remove the outer skin, revealing a much more tender interior portion. An old friend taught me this trick, and it works out pretty well.

I'd be in remiss if I didn't address the stinky smell associated with eating asparagus.

Yesiree, it can happen even 15 minutes after ingesting it. Use the bathroom and voila, your urine will have a pungent, asparagus-like smell. Only maybe worse.

Our bodies convert asparagusic acid into sulfur-containing chemicals that are volatile enough to fly from the toilet up your nose, that is, if you have the ability to perceive it. Some people don't.

Call them lucky, perhaps. I consider myself lucky to have such an amazing vegetable growing right in my backyard, stinky or not.

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

MEET OUR FAMILIES:

The faces behind the Habitat homeownership mission

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat
for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHF) recently celebrated its newest homeowner. Single mother Antonia Santos purchased a 1,500-square-foot colonial home in Holyoke for herself and her four youngest children. Like her predecessors and someday successors, Antonia came from a challenging background in which homeownership would not be attainable through traditional means.

Greater Springfield Habitat believes its homeownership mission is a crucial foundation for any family. By moving out of substandard housing and into a Habitat home, homeowners and their families become more likely to improve their health, attain a better education, and increase their safety and personal wealth.

"I think we all gain inspiration from our partner families to continue helping others become homeowners," said Olga Callirgos, GSHFH Homeowner Programs coordinator. "It isn't easy to overcome language barriers, health issues, domestic violence, or any other bumps in the path of life, but yet it has made our

partner families more driven and dedicated to a fresh start."

Antonia and her children are survivors of domestic violence. After leaving an abusive husband, Antonia sought help from nonprofits to get a fresh start. She found counseling, training, and employment. She learned to live by a budget, save regularly, give back to the community, and build a support system through her work and church families.

"It has been a hard road, but I made it. No, we made it, my family and me," said Antonia at the Valentine's Day dedication, a ceremony celebrating the completion of the new home's construction. She closed on the house the next day. "God is good. He has blessed me tremendously, especially with my family and the opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity to help make my dreams come true."

In January 2023, Greater Springfield Habitat sold a home, which neighbors Antonia's residence, to a family of four. Lifelong renters Juan Gonzalez and Ireydiza Perez purchased the home to give their two young children better lives.

Several years before they partnered with GSHFH, Juan and Ireydiza

HABITAT | page 6



By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now.

Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking. It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name.

It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feeders, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them. My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their songs, which are distinct to each male.

Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb. 28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this location.

He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated sparrow.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at

Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen then at this location in past years.

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

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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:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
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or by e-mail to:
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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

MONSON | from page 1

there.”
 “The new DCAMM Commissioner is committed,” Puppolo said. “We talked to them and even after the meeting they’ve been in contact as well. I think the impetus to do something is better than ever.”

Select Board Member Peter Warren asked if a state project number had been assigned to the Developmental Center, but Ashe said that nothing is “in stone yet.”

“They’ve allocated it, put money aside for the cleanup,” Ashe said. “Our next step is we have to wait and see what happens. There will have to be a (Request for Proposal), I would assume, put out there, and then it has to be decided what wants to be done.”

“It seems very serious from the governor right down through the administrator to get something done,” Ashe said. “It’s a liability and something bad waiting to happen there for the town. Knock on wood, thank God nothing has happened over the years. Just with the amount of things falling apart there, old buildings – to make that a useful property would be fantastic.”

Senator Fattman said that he had just heard from Tom Petrolati that conversations with the Lieutenant Governor about filing language with a non-profit “sounded very promising.”

“I also have my meeting tomorrow with Chair Rodricks,” Fattman said. “(Wolowicz) has been kind enough to send a list along with some other department heads of priorities for the town, from the senior van to a fire apparatus, to salt shed and some bigger items, so we’re going to advocate for those tomorrow in our annual meeting.”

Fattman said that though he was concerned about the budget as expenses continue to rise, he hopes to be able to help the town to offset some of the corresponding challenges.

Ashe mentioned that he had already been communicating with Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz about vans for the Council on Aging.

“I reached out to Representatives Ashe and Puppolo and Senator Fattman to assist us with the Council on Aging because we’re looking to replace the transportation van they have, and also replace a Meals on Wheels vehicle that they have,” Wolowicz said. “We do have some grant funding that goes to it already for one of them, and then if the representatives and the senator can get us some monies from the state, that’s always appreciated.”

“One thing we need you gentlemen to do is push for increases in the Chapter 90 formula,” said Select Board Member John Morrell. “It should be an easy sell, because every city and town in the state benefits from it in some way, depending on the formula.”

“It’s been stagnant for a long time,” Morrell said, and Ashe agreed, saying that the state “needs a formula that makes sense for every part of the state.”

Puppolo asked the Select Board what they would do with the money if the state saw an increase to Chapter 90.

“That bridge on Hospital Road,” Morrell said. “It makes so much sense to get that bridge replaced. It’s not a difficult bridge, not like the one that just collapsed; it’s very simple. For some reason, the State Department of Transportation has refused to replace that bridge.”

Wolowicz added that the town has been using money from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Act to work on another bridge of concern to the town, and praised the work done by the Conservation Department on that project.

“We also brought the delegation out to Bunyan Road Bridge, the temporary army corps bridge,” Wolowicz said. “We’ve been about that bridge because that’s a dead end, the residents that are on the opposite side of the bridge have no way to get out if that bridge is not usable, so that’s a huge concern for us.”

Ashe described the budget process for the commonwealth in order to give perspective for how these negotiations would go for the coming Fiscal Year.

“We’ll be starting our budget the third week of April, I think it starts April 22,” Ashe said. “The governor comes out with the budget early in the year, then a couple months later, in the beginning of April or mid-April, we’ll get the House budget out. (...) Then the following month in May, the Senate will do their budget.”

Ashe said that the state then puts a Conference Committee together, with representatives from the House, the Senate, and the Governor’s office.

“That’s when we try to fight for whatever we got in our House budget to make sure it stays in there,” Ashe said. “At the end of all that, we’ll both vote on the final budget.”

These conversations are still ongoing, and state legislators will continue to advocate for the district’s budget throughout this process.

Junior Achievement of Western Mass. welcoming nominations for its 18 Under 18 Class of 2024

SPRINGFIELD.—Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts (JAWM) is now welcoming nominations for its 18 Under 18 Class of 2024 presented by Teddy Bear Pools and Spas. This event provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding young people throughout the region who exemplify innovative spirit, leadership and community involvement.

“This is the third year we are holding this event, and after the high caliber of nominees we received during first two years, we’re even more excited to review this year’s candidates,” said Amie Miare-

cki, JAWM president. “As we have seen, there are many students who are making meaningful impacts in their local communities across our service area. We encourage teachers, youth group leaders, mentors, parents or other community members to submit nominations.”

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, April 5, 2024. The judges will then select finalists to interview via Zoom. The final 18 will be notified of their selection in late April.

Recipients will be honored at an event at Tower Square in Springfield, MA on

May 16. They will also be featured in various local media outlets and benefit from a meaningful new network of community leaders and peers. They may also receive additional opportunities through event partners.

Nominations are open to students 18 years or younger who attend school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties; Tantasqua and Quaboag Regional School Districts; or the State of Vermont. Involvement in JAWM programs is not required; however, it is considered favorably during the evaluation process. A

letter of reference and an academic submission to support the nomination are required.

The judging criteria is divided into three categories:

- Innovative Spirit
- Leadership
- Community Involvement

For more information about the criteria and the event, or to request a nomination form, please email amiarecki@jawm.org.

MASTER PLAN | from page 1

spreadsheet to organize the different departments’ needs and priorities.

“One of things I did as Chair is, my type-A teacher instinct kicked in and I made a grid,” Kumpulian said. “We have a grid that looks at high priority items, so if we’re working with Parks or DPW, we can look at the high-priority goals that relate to their department.”

The committee will then reconvene to go over notes, make sure no one has missed anything, and see if there are any follow-up questions needed from other town departments in order to coordinate the improvements outlined in the Master Plan.

“It’s been really fun,” Kumpulian said, saying that she’s enjoyed learning about the responsibilities of the town’s government.

“The Historical Commission was very interesting,” Kumpulian said. “One of their main things they need help with is they don’t have space for many many of the historical items they have. There’s a very small area in the library they use, so their top priority is to be able to take the many artifacts that are being housed in people’s private homes and bring them together in space where they can be protected.”

Kumpulian went on to talk about how Recreation Director Andrew St. George is hoping to expand Burleigh Park to include a disc golf course, which would require the town to purchase a parcel of land currently owned by the Thorndike Water Department.

The committee also had conversations with former Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino, who had advocated for a place to purchase and store trail maintenance equipment.

“Palmer has a ton of trails, and the responsibilities for who maintains the trails is divided up by Conservation, Recreation, and the DPW,” Kumpulian said. “We’d like to see it sorted out who’s responsible, and if we can create citizen groups that would help with maintenance.”

“We also spoke with Superintendent Eric Duda from Pathfinder about their role in the community, how much they’ve grown, and what they might need to make their program work for Palmer,” Kumpulian said. “One of the things Duda talked about was that their athletics are expanding, and they would love to have athletic fields. Tight now they shared spaces; when Pathfinder has football they have to run down to Laviolette Field. They don’t have dedicated fields.”

Kumpulian said that there was talk of a regional complex that would be shared with the other communities that Pathfinder serves.

“Their top priority was to look for some way to get them recreation space that would allow them to expand the desire for athletics,” Kumpulian said.

The committee has also been coordinating with Superintendent Matthew Francis about the public schools, though Kumpulian described him as “very busy.”

“Next on our list is going to be new Town Manager Brad Brothers,” Kumpulian said. “Obviously the Town Manager is involved in a ton of stuff in the Master Plan, and since Brothers is brand new to the job, we want to see where his priorities are, and then later on, once he gets settled, we’ll meet about high priority action items.”

The committee has many meetings scheduled with other department heads in the lead up to the presentation in November.

“One of the things important to all members is that priorities don’t get dropped,” Kumpulian said. “We can’t do much, but we can definitely point the right people in right direction. It’s been really fun, we’ve learned a lot about our town and why things are the way they are. It’s a very positive committee.”

Norcross open house in April

PALMER— The staff of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation are holding an open house on Saturday, April 20, to celebrate the day. There will be programs, activities, tours, representatives from other naturalist organizations, Monson Pack 168 Scouts, as well as, free guest giveaways, and crafts for kids. A morning “Birding For All” walk will kick off the day at 9 a.m. presented by The Hampshire Bird Club. Horizon Wings will present a Birds of Prey Program at 1 p.m. in the afternoon.

This event will take place at the Norcross Administration Building located at

30 Peck Road, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is free and open to all.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1967 by Arthur Norcross, to permanently protect the wildlife preserve he created in Wales, Massachusetts, and surrounding towns. His mission, and the mission of our organization today, says its Executive Director, Ed Hood, “Is to preserve a piece of nature intact so that wildlife, particularly rare plants and animals, can survive and thrive”. Hood noted that by protecting the large blocks of natural lands and waters that are necessary for healthy popula-

tions of plants and animals, that Norcross is also providing a public benefit through the “green infrastructure” of healthy forests absorbing storm water and filtering it into clean streams and drinking water. Large blocks of forested land filter the air of pollutants, lowers local temperatures during the heat of the summer, and provides new clean air through the oxygen produced by the trees and plants of the forest. Ed will be available to speak with community members who wish to know more about Norcross and its work.

For time schedule of events or more information: norcrosswildlife.org.

WATER | from page 1

that’s the Jewish camp that’s been in town since I was a kid,” LaVallie said. “Those folks are having problems getting water. Their well is dried and they can’t get the well running, and the Department of Environmental Protection is on their back. They’re our customers and our district. Those people deserve to have a hearing and have clean water pumped into their house, not have to live on bottled water.”

LaVallie expressed his disappointment that the money from the ARPA funds is going to the parking lot at the high school, as he believes is a poor use of the funding.

“I’ll tell you why it can’t go to the parking lot,” LaVallie said. “You can’t fix it because it was built on clay. The whole

high school area, the athletic fields, everything, is unusable because they built it all on clay. You can’t fix that parking lot, you have to excavate it.”

LaVallie lamented that he had to turn to the press to speak about this issue, saying that “this is not how we like to do business.” However, he felt that the time for dealing with these issues privately had passed.

“We like to cooperate with everyone,” LaVallie said. “Our frustration has grown to the point we have said we can no longer deal with this thing in low-key discussions because we go nowhere.”

Another reason that LaVallie advocated for updating the town’s water infrastructure is the development of the East/West Rail, and the effect it’s going to have in the community.

“The railroad is going to be open by 2029 according to the state,” LaVallie said. “You don’t have to be a genius to see where this development is going.”

While LaVallie was disappointed in the Interim Town Manager’s comments, he was also considerate of new Town Manager Brad Brothers, who started this week.

“We are not going to be jumping on the new Town Manager,” LaVallie said. “We are more than willing to let him get himself situated. We’re not trying to take advantage of anyone.”

Nonetheless, Bondsville’s Water Department will be pursuing its own solutions to these problems, and continues to hope for some collaboration with the Town of Palmer going forward.

LIFECHANGER | from page 1

Caitlin Sabourin, who works for the organization, is a big help putting together these events. She notes that anonymity is key to the Lifechanger of the Year awards.

“There are a few anonymous nominations within our program,” said Sabourin. “We keep this option to allow for privacy, that way anyone can submit a nomination.”

LifeChanger of the Year is sponsored and run by National Life Group, an organization with over 175-year-old financial services company that serves kindergarten to 12th grade educators nationwide. Along with their distribution partners, National LifeGroup strives to focus on helping school employees retire with dignity. The program itself was created to shine a light on the field of education, celebrate adverse array of school employees, and provide those educational members with any and all resources they may need to succeed while in the class-

room and beyond its doors.

“We do this in several ways,” said Sabourin. “Providing grants to nonprofit and educational organizations, giving our employees 40 hours of paid volunteer time annually, sponsoring events, and offering in-kind donations. We also support mental health and wellness programs for kindergarten to 12th grade students and returning school employees.”

National Life Group’s charitable arm, the National Life Group Foundation, also provides cash prizes through

their LifeChanger of the Year program. Since its inception in early 2006, the goal of the National Life Group Foundation has been to build solid connections and do good in the communities in which they live and work.

There will be 17th individual LifeChanger of the Year awards to be given out during the 2023-2024 school year.

For any and all information regarding the LifeChanger of the Year Award, visit lifechangeroftheyear.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

Hops & Flow Vinyasa featuring Beyond Yoga with Ashley Bousquet at Seven Railroads Brewing Company in Palmer, Sunday April 7. Class one is at 9:30 to 10:30 am; Class Two: 11 a.m. to noon. 20\$ per person and free beer token included. Any questions feel free to reach out. Contact Ashley Bousquet 413-221-8664 or email Lovendance@hotmail.com

First Church of Monson invites all interested singers in the area to attend rehearsals for a Taize service. These will be held in the Julia Sprague Chapel at First Church on April 10, 17, and 24 under the direction of Kiel Krommer, Director of Music Ministries at First Church.

To register, email pmatrow@icloud.com. Include your name, phone, and email. The Taize service will be held at First Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 28 and is free and open to the public.

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

Tickets for the 25th annual Second Chance Dinner Auction are now available for purchase. This significant fundraising event marks the kickoff of Second Chance's

yearlong 25th-anniversary celebration, promising an evening of philanthropy and joy to benefit homeless shelter pets in need of veterinary care. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge. For individuals interested in sponsoring, donating items, or attending the event, complete information and tickets can be found at <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.

ONGOING

The Swift River Sportsman's Club, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their Friday fish fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5. Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available. Come out and enjoy one of the best fish dinners in the area with generous portions. For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

BINGO IS BACK at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens

at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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

HABITAT | from page 4

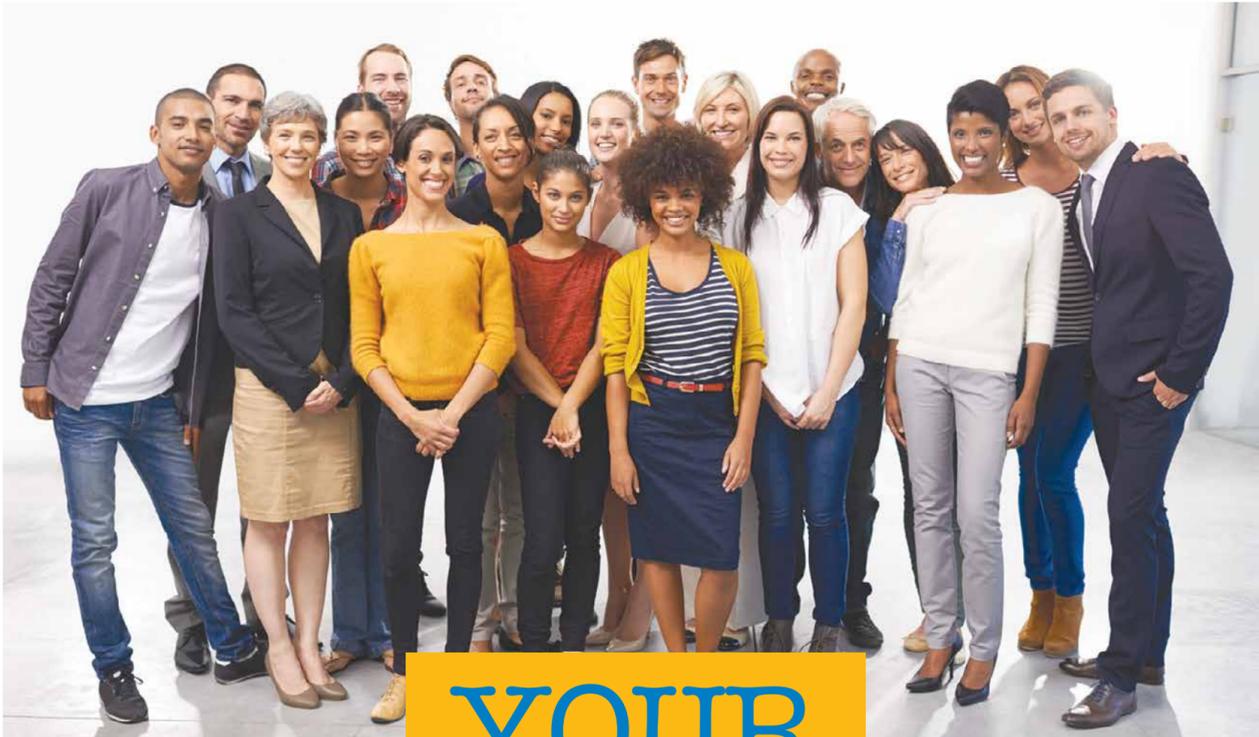
dreamed of purchasing their first home through traditional means. Then, tragedy struck. A workplace injury disabled Juan, the breadwinner. Following several surgeries and two strokes, their dreams were put on hold. Juan was unable to return to work. Ireydiza left school to become the sole breadwinner, and create time to care for their children and her recuperating husband.

"I know we all experience unexpected hardships in our life and these times are when our trust in God is tested," Juan said. "After my stroke and losing my career, my family and I got tested. I didn't think getting a house for them would be possible. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity, y'all are making our dream come true. ... Not only do you build houses and sell them at affordable prices, but you also save lives through this program. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving us the opportunity to be homeowners."

In September 2023, Greater Springfield Habitat accepted the newest family into the homeowner program – Driss and Majda Errahali with their four children. The family emigrated from Morocco in 2018 in search of better opportunities. They lived in a house in West Springfield until a car crashed into the home causing structural damage. It was condemned and the family was moved to a tiny two-bedroom apartment in the same town. The girls who are 8- and 11-years old share one bedroom, while the Driss, Majda, and the two youngest boys share the other bedroom.

"We applied through the homeownership program to get a home so that our children would have a better life," said Driss, the patriarch who works as a truck driver, while his wife Majda cares for the children. "My dream is for my children to be good people and useful to society and do good deeds for the environment and achieve their dreams."

Construction on Driss and Majda's home is scheduled to begin this spring.



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Turley photos by Harrison Giza
Two of Oliveira's biggest supporters, his mother Carol, and sister Georgie, were all smiles at the re-election fundraiser.



The Senator posing with his mother in front of the podium at the Gremio Lusitano Club.



The event was packed with a diverse array of Ludlow residents, all feasting on cold booze and fresh hot food.

OLIVEIRA | from page 1



Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, spoke for his longtime friend.

in those programs now and at the same time make Massachusetts a much more affordable state to buy a house or place to live with our housing bill that we rewording on now.

The candidate expressed the importance of democracy and emphasized he needs his constituents to make it happen. "Democracy is a two way street," Oliveira said. "Without you advocating to us, we do not know what to fight for. We don't have all the answers. It is about interaction and that is what I promise to do as a State Representative and that is what I promise to do as a State Senator, but I need your help sending me back there for another two years."

The event was catered by Ludlow staple Villa Rose and the recently opened Brazilian restaurant, Monster's Den.

Interested parties that were not able to attend but still wished to support the campaign were suggested to consider making a virtual contribution through a secure email link Oliveira's team provided.

The Jake Oliveira Re-Election Committee may be reached at PO Box 302 Ludlow, MA or email committeetoelect-jakeoliveira@gmail.com.

has been a part of; from legislature that made universal school lunch permanent for every child attending K - 12 schools, continued efforts to help health-care workers get the financial support they deserve, and seniors struggling to get the proper medication they need to function.

"But there is more work to be done," Oliveira said. "We have a major economic development bill with projects here in Western Massachusetts that we need to continue to invest and build upon. To invest in our gateway cities like Springfield or Chicopee and in Holyoke, but also making sure that some of our smaller projects, that are in each one of our cities and towns, things like the Ludlow Mills, Belcher-town State Schools, clean up for certain sites for the disastrous effects on climate change, we have an opportunity to invest

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Palmer Senior Center

The Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., has many activities for seniors Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to reserve a meal please call 413-283-2670.

April events always on Mondays- Zumba at 8:30 a.m., Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Lunch 11:30 and Pool table at 12:15 p.m. Always on Tuesdays- Knit/crochet group at 9 a.m., walking group at 9 a.m., Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Arthritis/ROM at 10 a.m. and painting group at 1 p.m. Always on Wednesdays- Strength training at 10 a.m., Reiki by appt. is canceled and 11:30 a.m. Lunch. Always on Thursdays- Walking group at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi at 10 a.m., pool table at 12:15 p.m. and Big Y at 1 p.m. Always on Fridays - Gentle stretch at 10 a.m., Dancing mind body and soul at 10 a.m. and Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Special events for April:

Tuesday, April 2 - 1 p.m. trip to McKinstry Market Garden. They accept snap.
Wednesday, April 3 - Wii bowling at 1 p.m.
Friday, April 5 - 1 p.m. showing movie "Behind Enemy Lines"

Monday, April 8 - Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 10 - 11 a.m. Lunch and Learn, Beers and story.

Thursday, April 11 - 10-1 p.m. massage by appt., Sunshine Craft at 1 p.m.

Friday, April 12 - 1-3 p.m. Brown bag pick up.

Monday, April 15 - Closed for President's Day.

Thursday, April 18 - Memory Café from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Entertainment Jimmy Rag Tag.

Friday, April 19 - At 10:45 a.m. Book signing "Harvest of Hope", At 1 p.m. showing the movie "Snow falling on Cedars."

Wednesday, April 24 - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Footcare by appt. and 1 p.m. Wii Bowling.

Thursday, April 25 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. massage by appt., Sunshine Village Paint at 1 p.m.

Friday, April 26 - 9 a.m. Chair yoga rescheduled.

Menu

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at

413-283-2670. Individuals must sign up for breakfast, otherwise a meal will not be ordered for them.

Monday, April 1 - Breakfast sausage with spiced apples, potatoes O'Brien, mini maple chip waffle and fruit.

Tuesday, April 2 - All breakfasts are served with milk, chocolate milk, juice, tea, or coffee and fresh fruit, cinnamon buns.

Wednesday, April 3 - Butter chicken with spinach, white rice, buttermilk biscuit and mandarin oranges.

Thursday, April 4 - Ham and cheese roll.

Friday, April 5 - Shrimp scampi with steamed broccoli, spaghetti noodles, ww roll and regular/ diet Jello.

Monday, April 8 - Traditional egg salad with broccoli slaw, creamy tomato soup, LS wheat bread and raisins.

Tuesday, April 9 - Egg, sausage and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, April 10 - Crab cakes with tartar sauce, steamed corn, coleslaw, ww bread and fresh fruit.

Thursday, April 11 - Egg, bacon and cheese croissant.

Friday, April 12 - Ham with pineapple, green beans, Au Gratin potatoes, WW dinner roll

and birthday cake.

Monday, April 15 - Closed for President's Day.

Tuesday, April 16 - TBD
Wednesday, April 17 - Chicken pesto salad with steamed spinach, cranberry juice, WW roll and chilled pineapple.

Thursday, April 18 - TBD
Friday, April 19 - Crispy fish sandwich with cheese, coleslaw, steamed corn, hamburger bun and applesauce.

Monday, April 22 - American Chop Suey with roman blend veggies, WW roll, and rice Krispies treats.

Tuesday, April 23 - Egg, bacon, and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, April 24 - Ham and swiss with citrus carrot salad, chicken veggie soup, hamburger bun and fresh fruit.

Thursday, April 25 - Ham, egg and cheese croissant.

Friday, April 26 - Pasta primavera with tossed salad, garlic bread, Italian dressing, orange juice and diet/ regular Jello.

Monday, April 29 - Shepherd's Pie with steamed peas, mashed potato topping, 12 grain bread with spiced peaches.

Tuesday, April 30 - Waffles and sausage.

Ad club scholarship now available

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

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

Western Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

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

Lawmakers push for mental health services

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, and Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-02) urged Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to further strengthen the Department's proposed disability non-discrimination protections to ensure people with disabilities, including rare or complex conditions, have equitable access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment facilities.

It has been reported to Markey's office that patients with rare or complex conditions such as bleeding disorders have been denied care at residential mental health and SUD treatment facilities due to their rare or complex conditions. Facilities have expressed concerns regarding the management of rare or complex disorders, even if the care is self-managed by the patients. These denials are contrary to guidance from leading medical organizations such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine who advise that these conditions should not be con-

sidered when determining whether they should receive care.

In the letter to Becerra, the lawmakers wrote, "Patients with complex or rare conditions are not burdens on their providers or treatment centers, but rather people in need of care and support. We believe that this proposed rule is an opportunity to offer patients the clarity that their rare or unfamiliar condition is protected against health care discrimination."

The lawmakers wrote "People with disabilities should not be denied access to medical care they need, including mental or behavioral health care. We welcome HHS's revising the proposed rule to protect access to mental and behavioral health facilities for people with complex, rare, or unfamiliar conditions. We believe this clarification would ensure that patients with rare or complex conditions received the services and supports that they need for their recovery."

Cosigners in the House include Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20), Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24), and Rep. Stephen Lynch (MA-08).

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Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in April and May.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed. Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

On Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed with a moderate 4.4 mile looped group hike near Muddy Pond.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Route 122 rest area parking lot in Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jWs-gofmrd6NDYGzB6>)

The route climbs/descends roughly 140 feet in elevation. The foot path hikers will travel on is non-technical.

The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail. The hike begins/ends north of Muddy Pond.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/>

route/4mi-loop-near-muddy-pond-from-rest-area.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4dfda9847662d-fe78286>.

Exploring Quabbin Park

On Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., exploring Quabbin Park via the Tower Trail and Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown.

The hike will begin at the Tower Trail parking area which is located just inside the Middle Gate off Route 9 in Belchertown.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMJmKDSjjMFz8>)

Participants will hike up to the Observation Tower and take in the scenic view. The tower is currently closed indefinitely for repairs, so people won't be able to go inside.

Hikers will then utilize a connector trail down to Webster Road, and then loop back to where they began. The trail to the tower gains 475 feet of elevation.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce6482df-ca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c>.

Quabbin's Hidden History

On Sunday, May 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. learn about Quabbin's Hidden History: Webster Road on this approximately .5 mile easy hike.

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/4Ri-Eq17PCNef6s9E7>)

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road.

Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8fa0a8815fd-1474c801926220047b22f>.

Memorial Day at Quabbin Park Cemetery

On Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m.-noon, a Memorial Day Commemoration will be held at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Refreshments will be offered at 10 a.m. and the parade and services begin at 11 a.m. No registration required.

In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30 as a special day for honoring the soldiers that had died in the Civil War. Like communities across the United States, the towns of the Swift River Valley commemorated their war dead each year on Memorial Day until the towns' demise in 1938.

Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has been the center of Memorial Day services for the four towns. Please join the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Historical Society, the Veterans Council of Belchertown, Chauncey D. Walker Post #239, American Legion and the staff of the DCR Quabbin Reservoir for our annual Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

The public is welcome but please, no dogs.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/tDuKU-2VLjxnhVbdc8>)

Quabbin Park Cemetery tour

Following Memorial Day events on Sunday, May 26 from 2-3 p.m. take an easy walking tour of Quabbin Park Cemetery. The walk is on uneven ground

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rv4tzdEPrrba1jV9>)

After they Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, join DCR staff for a cemetery tour focused on the stories of some of the Valley residents that served and lost their lives in service to the United States. The tour will begin at the town monuments.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/31306340e82941628d5e7fb-1bee3b017>.

BARC holds 8th Annual Craft Fair on April 6

BELCHERTOWN – Please join Belchertown Animal Relief Committee on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jabish Brook Middle School, 62 North Washington St. for its 8th Annual BARC

Craft Fair.

There will be over 60 local artisans displaying their crafts. Roosters Roaming Cantina will also be there at 11 a.m. for lunch.

Oliver, Belchertown Police

Department's Comfort Dog will be there with Officer Austin. There will also be BARC swag, dog tails, catnip fish toys plus much more – there will be something for everyone.



Dr. Clarke spoke with confidence and care as much as she listened and respond to attendees' concerns.



A slide detailing more information that Clarke discussed on Tuesday night.



Broccoli cheddar soup served at the event for those who came to meet with the Superintendent.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

Fashion show held on April 25

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

Wilbraham Women's Club meets April 11

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

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



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SUPERINTENDENT | from page 1

grade level, 1 through 6, would have their dedicated special ed teacher and instructional aides depending on the needs of the kids."

Clarke followed up the special education announcement with more good news.

"All other positions are staying," said Clarke. "We did say we are going to cut two instructional aides positions again. We had one resignation and we had one that was just a year long position and that would be replaced."

Clarke then explained to attendees about the amount of Team Leaders that will be scaled back over the next year.

"We have a lot of team leaders in this district," Clarke said. "We have a counseling team leader, for example, for each building. Those would be eliminated because of regular counseling. We are just kind of tightening up a little bit on team leaders."

Clarke did emphasize a need to look at how much resources are going into groups that use the school

buildings outside of school hours.

"We are looking at public building use," Clarke said. "That is something that is a real expense to us. I just had Eric Fontaine, who does our building, using permissions I asked him, 'can you just print out what Parks & Rec uses?' And it's like 497 events in a year, which is great, and we want to have our building open, but we pay for our utilities for the pool and that is a lot, and to keep it open for pickleball 4 nights a week and birthday parties and camps and we have our custodial staff clean up after all that. So, can we maybe share a little bit of the wealth with them for building use? The Housing Sub Committee will be looking at that."

Event attendee, Karen O'Toole, then asked to speak about what Clarke had addressed to the room.

"So in my mind, this is what I am picturing and please tell me I am wrong," O'Toole said. "It seems Parks & Recreation collects money from all these programs and events that they have the school district

Clarke said the schools are not and she is currently looking at that issue, looking for a piece of those fees to come back to the schools to cover things such as utility costs and custodial staff that has to be in the buildings.

Clarke is submitting an overall budget of \$10,638,329.

"It is a little bit more compared to last year," Clarke said. "But then there was an issue with the electric line. They told us last year to put \$41,000 in our electricity line. It has always been \$261,000.

"It turned out we needed more than \$41,000. So we had to go back to the town for some more money to fund that because it did not work. Then they told us for this year that we should put \$390,000 in our electric line initially, but then that got changed and it came back down to \$261,000. So that is where we are at and have been forever and that is very close to what actually spend that \$261,000."

Erica Nissenbaum asked Clarke if other departments experienced the same type of request.

"We are the largest budget in town," Clarke said. "I know there were some other reductions. I did not take the time to figure out about the Police or Fire Departments."

While many other educational concerns were mentioned that night, Clarke answered each one, giving every person in the room time for some communal conversation that evening.

For more information on the future of Monson School District, budgeting or general concerns, email Superintendent Clarke clarkec@monsonschoos.com.

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ATHLETICS

Games being delayed or moved off Monday for eclipse

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Athletes, parents, and fans are seeing changes to their schedules related to next Monday, April 8.

Several games and contests being held outdoors have had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun."

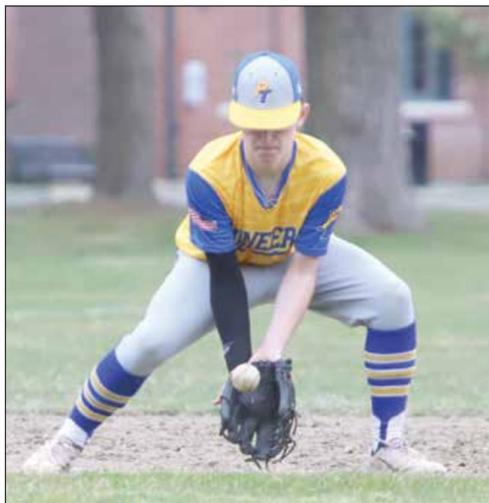
South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline. "I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for

ECLIPSE | page 11



Dayne Shanley reaches high to get an out at first.



Brayden Mega fields a ground to shortstop.

Pioneers hold off Sci-Tech

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday afternoon, Pathfinder was able to get its baseball season started with a matchup against Sci-Tech at Forest Park. Though leading 6-1, Sci-Tech was relentless in the late innings. The Pioneers were able to overcome a late rally in the seventh for a 10-9 victory. Sci-Tech was able to get three runs in the seventh off Brayden Mega, but Mega was able to get the final out for the save for the Pioneers. Tim Russell got the win, allowing just two earned runs on seven hits. Errors hurt the Pioneers a bit, resulting in some unearned runs scoring for the Cybercats. On offense, Russell had a two-run double, and had three hits, three RBI and scored three times. Ethan Nempleggi had two hits and two RBI.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Zander Auffrey makes the long throw to first.



Tim Russell delivers a pitch for the Pioneers.

LACROSSE



Monson boys lacrosse works out last week in practice.



The boys were scheduled to open the season earlier this week.



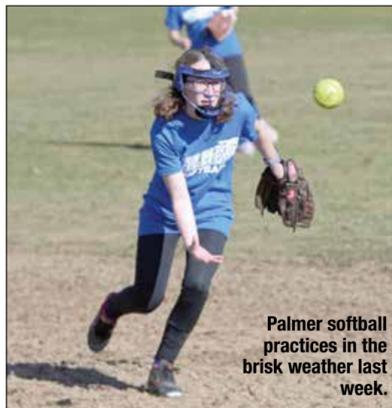
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Monson co-ops with Pathfinder in the sport.

Boys lacrosse looks for improved season

MONSON – Last year, the Monson boys lacrosse team, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, had a tough season overall. The Mustangs are hoping to change their fortunes, starting with a matchup against Lenox. The Panthers were scheduled for their home opener on April 4 against St. Mary's, but severe weather, as of press time, was threatening that matchup. Monson's next game is on Monday against Granby High School at 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL



Palmer softball practices in the brisk weather last week.



The Panthers work on outfield drills on a sun-splashed afternoon.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Panthers are hoping to get the regular season started this week.



A scrimmage against neighbor Pathfinder was cancelled last week.

Panthers getting set for 2024 campaign

PALMER – Last week, practices continued for Palmer softball as the Panthers ventured outside to

practice in the sunny, but cold and windy conditions. Palmer was scheduled to face Pathfinder in a scrim-

mage last Friday morning, but rains on Thursday caused for muddy field conditions, cancelling the exhibition.

Palmer is scheduled to be at Granby on Friday, April 5 at 4 p.m., and then host SICS on Monday at 5:45 p.m.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

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

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

requirements. The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey. Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year

hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

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Athlete of the Week

Tim Russell
Pathfinder

In addition to pitching Pathfinder to a win on Monday, Russell also collected three hits against Sci-Tech, including a two-run double.

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.





Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Abdel Talabi settles the ball for the Pioneers.



Tomas Duben looks to get through an opponent during an Open Cup match.



Ben Awashie works on the offensive side of the field.



Juri Schlingmann looks to avoid losing possession.

Pioneers look to keep adding

LUDLOW – With about a month remaining until the regular season begins, the Western Mass. Pioneers got a look at their potential 2024 team in the Open Cup match, a loss, held two weeks ago. Now, the Pioneers will continue practice at Lusitano Stadium until they have a “friendly game” exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC. The home opener for the Pioneers will be on Thursday, May 18 against Pathfinder FC, a familiar opponent for the Pioneers.

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Bonsignore picks up win ahead of Thompson Speedway return

RICHMOND, Va. – For the 41st time in his NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour career, Justin Bonsignore was celebrating in Victory Lane on Friday night. Bonsignore bested defending series champion Ron Silk in a final dash to the finish to score his second career Richmond Raceway victory and first of the 2024 season driving the No. 51 Modified for Kenneth Massa Motorsports. Bonsignore started from the second spot, and swapped the lead back and forth with Silk for most of the race. But, the real battle started on the final restart, with just three laps to go, when Silk restarted first and Bonsignore second. Bonsignore got behind Silk coming off turn two coming to the white flag and crossed underneath him going into turn three. The two drivers raced side-by-side for the final lap with Bonsignore on the bottom of Silk coming to the checkered flag, edging out for the win. The victory - his 41st career - all driving for Kenneth Massa Motorsports - places Bonsignore just one win away from tying the late Ted Christopher for third all-time on the NASCAR Whelen Modified

Tour wins list. He is also just three away from tying Reggie Ruggerio for second on the all-time list as the series heads for Thompson Speedway next weekend. “The last restart went pretty smooth, it was a wild finish,” Bonsignore said. “Ron and I have had a rivalry going and tonight was some good, hard racing. For 150 laps, we just battled our guts out. Anytime our series gets to run at a NASCAR Cup Series venue - it’s huge. These facilities are unbelievable and we’ve been able to win at a handful of them. The trophies definitely stay out front and center when you get home.” The win came with Coastal Fiber LLC on the side of the Kenneth Massa Motorsports machine. Coastal Fiber, LLC, a local Virginia business that is a full service fiber optic construction and splicing company, is owned by Mark Langevin, the owner of Phoenix Communications Inc. – Bonsignore’s normal primary sponsor. Justin will return to the track at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Ice-breaker 150 on Sunday, April 7.

2024 SPRING VARSITY SCHEDULES

PALMER

Baseball			
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Easthampton	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	Ware	7 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Granby	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 20	Home	Hopkins	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Lenox	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Southbridge	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Softball			
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Granby	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	SICS	5:45 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Chicopee Comp.	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Home	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Chicopee	1 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Ware	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Central	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 27	Home	Quaboag	10 a.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Granby	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	SICS	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Home	Monson	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Holyoke	6 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Home	Ware	6:30 p.m.
Boys Track			
Wed. April 3	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	South Hadley	5:45 p.m.

Wed, April 24	Away	Monson	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Girls Track			
Wed. April 3	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	South Hadley	5:45 p.m.
Wed., April 17	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	PVCA	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	SICS	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	PVCA	4 p.m.
Boys Tennis			
Thursday, March 28	Away	Frontier	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Away	Quaboag	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3	Away	SICS	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Wed., April 17	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	PVCA	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	SICS	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	PVCA	4 p.m.
Girls Tennis			
Friday, March 29	Away	Frontier	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Home	PVCA	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	SICS	5:45 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Away	Mohawk	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	PVCA	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Away	SICS	3:30 p.m.

MONSON

Baseball			
Thursday, April 4	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Ware	6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Southbridge	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Lee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	SICS	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Ludlow	4:45 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Away	Granby	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Athol	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Home	Pathfinder	12 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Ware	4 p.m.
Boys Lacrosse (co-op with Pathfinder)			
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Lenox	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Hoosac	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Bay Path	5 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Home	Central	1 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Girls Lacrosse			
Monday, April 1	Home	Granby	4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Tantasqua	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Chicopee Comp.	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Bay Path	4 p.m.
Wed. April 24	Away	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.
Softball			
Thursday, April 25	Away	Hampshire	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Home	Central	11 a.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	Hampshire	4:45 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Boys Track			
Monday, April 1	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3	Home	East Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	South Hadley	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	East Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wed, April 17	Away	Chicopee Comp.	1 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Wed. April 24	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Minnechaug	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Wed. May 1	Away	Lenox	4 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Away	Palmer	6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Home	South Hadley	2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	Hopkins	4 p.m.
Boys Track			
Wed., April 3	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Home	Palmer	4:30 p.m.
Wed., May 1	Home	Belchertown	4:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Home	Hampshire	4:30 p.m.
Girls Track			
Wed., April 3	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Home	Palmer	4:30 p.m.
Wed., May 1	Home	Belchertown	4:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Home	Hampshire	4:30 p.m.

2024 SPRING VARSITY SCHEDULES

PATHFINDER

Baseball			
Monday, April 1	Away	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Smith Vocational	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Away	SICS	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Commerce	2 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Gateway	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Away	Westfield Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	St. Mary's	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Putnam	2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Quaboag	7:15 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	SICS	7:15 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Away	Monson	12 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Westfield Tech	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Granby	3:30 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse (co-op with Monson)			
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Lenox	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Hoosac	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Bay Path	5 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Home	Central	1 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.

Softball			
Wednesday, April 3	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Belchertown	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	North Brookfield	11 a.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Commerce	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Putnam	2 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Home	Renaissance	2 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Hampden Charter	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Pope Francis	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Franklin Tech	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Commerce	7 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Putnam	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	North Brookfield	3:30 p.m.

TANTASQUA

Baseball			
Wed., April 3	Away	Southbridge	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	David Prouty	4 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Millbury	3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Ahearn Tourny	11 a.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Ahearn Tourny	11 a.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Grafton	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Away	Bartlett	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Saint Paul	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wed. May 1	Away	Uxbridge	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Away	Auburn	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Wed. May 15	Home	Doherty	4 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	Wachusett	4 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse			
Thurs., March 28	Home	Shepherd Hill	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Doherty	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 13	Away	Wachusett	11 a.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	North Middlesex	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Minnechaug	6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Nipmuc	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Doherty	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Blackstone Valley	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Grafton	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Longmeadow	5 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Shrewsbury	7 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Nipmuc	4 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse			
Thurs., March 28	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Thurs. April 4	Away	Notre Dame Acad.	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6	Away	Shepherd Hill	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	Hopedale	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Nipmuc	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Shepherd Hill	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Grafton	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Auburn	6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Notre Dame Acad.	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Home	Nipmuc	7 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Bay Path	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Hopedale	4 p.m.

Softball			
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Whitinsville Christian	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 3	Away	Southbridge	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Millbury	3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Doherty	3:45 p.m.
Wed., April 17	Home	South	11 a.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Grafton	4 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Away	Bartlett	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Saint Paul	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 1	Away	Uxbridge	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Auburn	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Nipmuc	4 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Away	Shepherd Hill	3:30 p.m.

Boys Track			
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Away	League Meet	2:30 p.m.

Girls Track			
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wed. April 24	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Away	League Meet	2:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis			
Monday, April 1	Away	Whitinsville Christian	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 3	Home	Southbridge	3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wed. April 10	Away	Doherty	3:45 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Home	Bartlett	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Sutton	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 1	Home	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Shepherd Hill	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Away	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	South	3:45 p.m.

Girls Tennis			
Monday, April 1	Home	Whitinsville Christian	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 3	Away	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 10	Home	Doherty	3:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Shepherd Hill	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wed., April 24	Away	Bartlett	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Sutton	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Southbridge	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Home	North	3:45 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Wed., May 15	Home	Notre Dame Acad.	3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Away	South	3:45 p.m.

Late power-play goal sinks T-Birds

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-30-3-2) battled back from an early two-goal deficit, but a late power-play goal from the Utica Comets (29-26-4-5) resulted in a 4-3 Comets win on Saturday night at Adirondack Bank Center.

For a second straight evening, the T-Birds re-vented a goal to their opposition in the opening half of the first period. Just 4:00 into the action, Shane Bowers skated the puck across the T-Birds blue line, creating a 2-on-1. Bowers opted to take it himself, beating Colten Ellis on the glove side and making it 1-0 for Utica.

Springfield's power play had two chances in short order to try to equalize, but the man-advantage came up empty each time. Utica made the T-Birds pay for that at 12:26 when Will MacKinnon let go a seeing-eye wrist shot from the blue line that nicked the inside of the post and beat Ellis to give the Comets a 2-0 lead.

The Comets continued to have penalty troubles, though, and at 16:28, Tanner Dickinson got Springfield's power play on the board with a perfectly placed wrist shot over the glove of Akira Schmid, and the lead was cut to 2-1.

The Comets, though, were undeterred, and they restored the two-goal cushion just 1:29 later when Erik Middendorf crashed the net from the right-wing side. Ellis made the first save, but the rebound sat in the crease, and Middendorf polished it off to give Utica a 3-1 advantage at 17:57, a lead that carried through to the break.

The T-Birds' power play again had a chance to turn the tide of the game when a pair of Utica penalties gave Springfield some time on both 4-on-3 and 5-on-3 advantages. Unlike the night before, though, the T-Birds came up empty, and the 3-1 score carried past the midpoint of the game.

With Utica on a power play at 12:15 of the period, Springfield used its shorthanded unit to claw back into the game when Will Bitten won a footrace to a loose puck at the Utica blue line, storming in on Schmid and roofing a shot over the goaltender's trapper to make it a 3-2 game on Bitten's 17th goal of the season.

Bitten's goal got the T-Birds' mojo back, and 3:12 later, Ryan Suzuki tied the game on his second point of the night. After Adam Gaudette narrowly missed the top corner, the T-Birds' leading scorer retrieved the puck in the left corner and laid it off to Hugh McGing. With little space available, McGing slid a perfect pass through the top of the blue paint to Suzuki, who one-timed it through Schmid to tie the score.

The stalemate carried to the second intermission, and the two teams cautiously played the opening 15 minutes of the third scoreless. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, a Bitten minor penalty opened the door for Utica's power play, and after a Justin Dowling shot rang off the post, Bowers was in the right place to lift the loose change into the twine with 3:18 to play. Bowers' fourth point of the night and eighth goal of the season proved to be the dagger, and for the fourth straight time in the season series between Springfield and Utica, the home team came away victorious.

Railers suffer loss to Newfoundland

WORCESTER – Newfoundland beat Worcester, 9-3, to pile more logs into the jam that has become the North Division playoff race. After Saturday night's various scores there are three teams tied for third place with 66 points. They are Worcester, Trois-Rivieres and Newfoundland.

Maine has 65 points but games in hand. Reading has 61 points.

"It was the worst game we've played all year, by far," coach Jordan Smotherman said.

Isaac Johnson, just down from the AHL, registered a hat trick by scoring with five seconds left in the third period. He also had an assist. Neil Shea scored two goals for the Growlers.

The Railers got single goals from Brendan Robbins, Connor Welsh and Jake Pivonka. Robbins' was his first since Jan. 5. Pivonka's was his 20th. He is the first rookie in Railers history with a 20-goal season.

Newfoundland's first eight goals were scored against John Muse, who faced a relentless onslaught of breakaways and 2 on 1 rushes. After the eighth goal, which came at 4:44 of the third period, Smotherman pulled the veteran in favor of emergency backup Joe Spagnoli.

Until this season, the Railers had never used an EBUG in a game. It has happened twice this year with Joel Eisenhower taking over for Tristan Lennox in Reading on Dec. 15 after Lennox suffered what turned out to be a season-ending injury.

Spagnoli has served as a Railers, and opposition, EBUG often through the years and practices with Worcester if needed. Smotherman had hoped to get him into a regulation game at some point.

"But not like that," the coach added.

Spagnoli is a 40-year-old Rhode Islander, a professional goalie coach. He replaced the 35-year-old Muse, which might be some kind of ECHL record. Spagnoli stopped 11 of 12 shots, only allowing Johnson's late goal.

He played sparingly in the Federal League into 2014-15, his most recent appearance a four-minute stint for the Watertown Wolves. Since then Spagnoli has served as an EBUG for, he guessed, about 40 to 45 games.

"He is the ultimate EBUG," Smotherman said.

Spagnoli knows the job description.

"Usually something pretty bad has to happen for an EBUG to come in," he said. He was not the EBUG for the Lennox injury, but joined the Railers in Glens Falls the next day.

Nine years after his last pro appearance, Spagnoli was in a game against a high-powered team. He did not appear to be nervous.

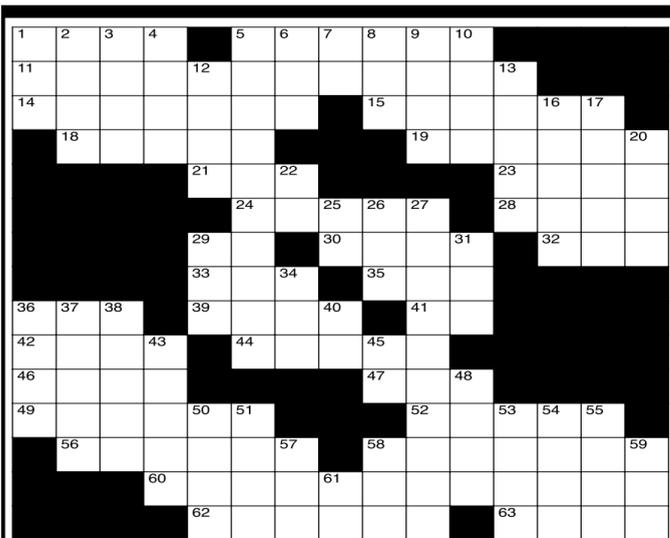
"Honestly, I thought I would be," he said, "at least a little more than I was. I felt like I settled in pretty quickly. A couple touches of the puck and you're right into it."

The cities of St. John's and Worcester have had a lot of similarities.

Both had two different AHL franchises. Worcester had the IceCats and Sharks. St. John's had the Maple Leafs and IceCaps. Both have an ECHL team. Worcester leads the all-time series by 45-43-12. The American Hockey League teams were 29-18-9. The Growlers prevailed in this league, 25-16-3.

ECLIPSE | from page 9

Monday, April 8, is actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse. It is currently forecasted to be sunny with temperatures in the low 60's. For more information on what contests have been moved to different times or off the date altogether depending on the availability of officials, go to www.arbiterlive.com for up-to-date schedules.



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A minute amount (British) | 41. Commercial | 4. Clip | 37. Doctor ... children's book author |
| 5. Mystical or magical | 42. Spots where golfers start | 5. In a way, misleads | 38. Hebrew calendar month |
| 11. Shortening | 44. Polite form of address (Indian) | 6. Human gene | 40. Designated hitter |
| 14. More satisfying | 46. French river | 7. The Golden State (abbr.) | 43. Northern Poland village |
| 15. Other side | 47. Reduce the light | 8. Lizard genus | 45. A passport is one form |
| 18. Philippine island | 49. Blood-sucking fly | 9. Parasites that invade the skin | 48. Hand (Spanish) |
| 19. More unnatural | 52. A way to categorize | 10. Took apart | 50. Hit with the open hand |
| 21. Mutual savings bank | 56. Procrastinates | 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese | 51. Actor Idris |
| 23. Famed designer Chanel | 58. Tall slender tower | 13. S. California town | 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The ..." |
| 24. Makes less wild | 60. Where researchers work | 16. Suffix plural | 54. Northern U.S. lake |
| 28. At some prior time | 62. Office of the Pope | 17. Painting technique | 55. Marvin and Horsley are two |
| 30. Immune system response | 63. Office furnishing | 20. Small Eurasian deer | 57. Soak |
| 32. Distress signal | | 22. Mr. T character | 58. Partner to cheese |
| 33. Engine additive | | 25. Microsoft | 59. Expression of disappointment |
| 35. "No Scrubs" trio | | 26. Shock therapy | 61. College dorm employee |
| 36. Very fast airplane | | 27. Able to be sold | |
| 39. A reward | | 29. A doctrine | |
| | | 31. These three follow A | |
| | | 34. Pulse | |
| | | 36. Quantitative fact | |

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DEATH NOTICES

Michael E. "Mickey" Gralinski
Died March 30, 2024
Services April 5, 2024
Beers and Story Funeral Home

Ann Louise Misiaszek
Died Jan. 21, 2024
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Michael E. "Mickey" Gralinski

WILBRAHAM/PALMER — Retired State Trooper Michael E. "Mickey" Gralinski (53rd RTT), 77, passed away in his home with the love of his family surrounding him on March 30, 2024. Born July 17, 1946, in Palmer, Michael was the son of Constantine P. and Juanita J. (Harding) Gralinski. He attended Sts. Peter & Paul Polish school in Three Rivers, Palmer High School, Westfield State College, and American International College. Mike was known throughout his life for his thoughtfulness, generosity, and caring for his family and friends. Mike was a longtime resident of Palmer and Wilbraham and proudly was employed by the Massachusetts State Police for 33 years. At the time that Canine Troopers were reintroduced, Mike was in the first class and was part of the Canine Unit for many years. After his retirement in 2002, Mike enjoyed time in

Florida, walks with his dog, Milo, and he continued to be an avid reader of WWII and history books. He also spent the last two years of his life happily in a relationship with his partner Marilyn Snyder. He was a communicant of Divine Mercy Parish along with a member of St. Stan's in Three Rivers. Mike was predeceased by his first wife, Beverly A. (Picard), as well as his second wife, Ruth P. (Guerra) and his brother, Scott Gralinski. His memory will forever remain with his children, Michael P. Gralinski and his wife Julieann of Springfield, Shawn M. Gralinski and his wife Jessica of Martins Ferry, OH, Jared S. Gralinski and his wife Gina of Bastrop, TX and Thomas J. Gralinski of Raleigh, NC. Mike will also be missed by his grandchildren, Victoria, Zacha-



ry, Veronica, Juliette, Michael G., Matthew, Erik, Julian, Anna and great-grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jaime, Mia, Rosalia, and Elijah, all of whom he dearly loved. Mickey will not be forgotten by his siblings, Jayne Heede, Helena Jalbert and husband, Roger, Fred Gralinski and wife, Terri and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Friday, April 5 from 4-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers. Please meet directly at the church. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Baystate Hospice or a hospice of choice. Please visit www.beersandstory.com

Ann Louise Misiaszek, 1955-2024

MONSON—Ann Louise Misiaszek, a former life-long resident of Monson, died on Jan. 21, 2024 in Los Angeles, California. She was the daughter of the late Konstanty and Phyllis (Sullivan) Misiaszek of Monson. She was educated in the Monson Public Schools, and went on to work in dispatching for the Monson Police Department, and the Amherst Police Department.

Ann, as she was known to her family, and Annie, as she was known to her many friends, was a bright, kind, and enthusiastic person with a great sense of humor and a warm endearing smile. After just meeting a new

family member who had come to help move a piano, Annie jumped on the back of the truck with the piano, and proceeded to play and sing, through the town of Monson as it was delivered to the new owner. She loved her home and family, friends, and all animals, especially dogs. She always loved being at the family farm where she spent a lot of time when she was growing up with her grandparents, and 2 of her favorite people, Uncle Frank and Aunt Lizzy.

She leaves her brother John of Monson, her sister Mary Furey of Oakdale, CT, her brother David (Anita) of Chicopee,

her brother Michael of Ware, her nephews Peter Mathew Stred (Jen) of Thompson CT, and Andrew Misiaszek (Dyan) of Florida; and niece, Ellen Mongeau (Jason) of Old Lyme, CT. She also leaves many extraordinary life-long friends including Betty Morin of Ware, Diane Opel of Monson, Bruce Kennett of Branford, CT and Earl Heath of Los Angeles, CA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Ann's name to the SPCA.

Funeral arrangements will be private. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Celebrate Earth Day in April at Wells State Park

STURBRIDGE—Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating Earth Day with its fourth "Trees Are Treasures" event on Saturday, April 20, at Wells State Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GCM, a local affiliate of Indivisible Mass Coalition (IMC), is again co-sponsoring this year's events with Brookfields Fight Fear. Both GCM and BFF are local groups dedicated to serving the communities they live in through finding and supporting solutions to issues in the communities, the state, and the nation.

The event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells State Park, where costumed interpreters are stationed to discuss the importance of wetlands and forest ecosystems, at both child and adult levels. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children's crafts under the pavilion, storytelling, and a free tree seedling giveaway. Join us to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest. For more information visit our webpage: <https://grassrootscentralmass.org/>.

Train For Life hosts event to benefit Shriners Children's Hospital

CHICOPEE—Train For Life, 340 McKinstry Ave., #220, has announced their Glow Sweat & Stretch Workout to benefit Shriners Children's Hospitals. A portion of all entry fees will be donated to Shriners Children's Hospitals. The event will take place on Friday, March 29, at 6 p.m., Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

The event will consist of two 45-minute workouts. The workouts will be Glow in the Dark Strength Circuit Workout and Candlelit Power Yoga with celebrity Instructor Liz from the Yoga Shop in Ludlow. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own yoga mat and music will be provided by DJ Steve Grindle and DJ Gregory James.

Participants can reserve a spot for the event and receive an automatic entry to the door prize raffle if they register by March 26.

Diagnosed over a year ago with Dysplasia Epiphysealis Hemimelica, also known as Trevor's disease, Andrew Bennett, of Springfield, was a patient at Shriners Children's New England Hospital. His condition, a rare congenital bone development disorder, occurs in only one in one million children. The Bennett family will be attending Train For Life's event.

Train For Life's mission is to inspire others to move well, be strong, and enjoy life. This event is the perfect opportunity for them to help build strength and confidence in the community while benefiting a wonderful organization.

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

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 437 incidents on its logs for March 19 – March 25.

March 19

At 11:26 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Tainie Pierre-Jacques, 23, of 1701 Ware St., Thorndike, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

At 5:44 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Main Street.

March 21

At 4:30 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

At 5:58 p.m. police arrested Donna-Jo Ann Cantin, 57, of 8 Christine St., Palmer, for possession of a class A drug and two counts of possession of a class B drug.

At 10:31 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 10:46 p.m. police arrested Anastasia Foster, 23, of 10 Crane Hill Road, Suffield, CT, for leaving the scene of property damage, OUI drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured vehicle and marked lanes violation.

March 22

At 4:56 p.m. police gave summons to Stacy Ann Parent, 36, of 144 Beacon Dr., Palmer, for larceny under \$1200.

At 4:57 p.m. police arrested Wesson G. Lussier Jr., 60, unhusband, on two warrants.

March 23

At 10:04 p.m. police arrested Milagro Behnk, 56, of 154 Garnet St., Springfield, for assault with a dangerous weapon. Police also arrested Jessica Lynn Levesque, 33, of 19 Spencer St., Agawam, for possession of a class A substance. Police also arrested William C. Farley Jr., 43, of 832 St. James Ave., Springfield, for possession of a class A and class B drug and a warrant.

March 24

At 2:37 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Steven A. Brooks, 52, of 384 Barr Road, New Braintree, for OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, negligent operation of motor vehicle and leaving the scene of property damage.

At 10:50 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Gates Street and Old Warren Road.

At 12:40 p.m. police responded to an accident with property dam-

age on Thorndike Street.

At 4:50 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Louis G. Cote, 46, of 55 James Road, Ware, for unregistered motor vehicle and number plate violation to conceal ID.

At 10:24 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to David G. Lane, 47, of 119 State St., Bonds-ville, operation of a motor vehicle with suspended license and no inspection sticker.

At 11:01 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Heidi Soriano, 31, of 23 Elm St., Monson for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, not in possession of registration and no inspection sticker.

At 11:27 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Leo Davis Jr., 36, of 21 Chandler St., of Worcester, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, failure to yield/stop and Miscellaneous Motor vehicle equipment violation.

March 25

At 11:18 p.m. police arrested Michael Mensah, 40, of 1290 S. Main St., Palmer, for assault and battery on family/household member.

Fire Logs

Bondsville Fire Log

For the period March 19 through March 25, Bondsville Fire responded to 1 call.

On Thursday, March 21 at 8:36 p.m., the department responded to State Street for the report of a CO detector activation. The department returned to service at 9:01 p.m.

Healing from the inside out

Holistic nursing becoming a way of life for nurses at Baystate Health

SPRINGFIELD – Holistic nursing is becoming a way of life for many nurses providing care at Baystate Health, where some patients have been benefiting from a holistic approach to nursing practice.

"The nurses of Baystate Health are dedicated to the co-creation of a caring and healing environment for the health and well-being, care, and comfort of our patients, team members, families, and community," said Cidalia Vital, RN, program director, Nursing Research and Holistic Nursing at Baystate Health.

"With the challenging and difficult times healthcare has seen over the past three years, nurses are looking to get back to the basics of nursing that includes healing the whole person," she added.

Yet it is not everyone who is familiar with the term "holistic nursing."

Holistic nursing is defined as "all nursing practice that has healing the whole person as its goal," according to the American Holistic Nurses' Association. Florence Nightingale, who is considered to be the founder of holistic nursing, taught nurses to focus on the principles of holism: unity, wellness and the interrelationship of human beings and their environment.

"Holistic nursing is not merely something we do. It is also an attitude, a philosophy and a way of being that requires nurses to integrate self-care, self-responsibility, spirituality, and reflection in their lives. This often leads the nurse to greater awareness of the interconnectedness of self, others, nature, spirit and relationship with the global community," said Vital.

"Baystate Health has spent the last six years on a holistic journey to improve holistic care at the bedside as well as improve staff resilience and promote self-care," she added.

And their efforts are being recognized.

Baystate Medical Center holistic nurses attending the recent American Holistic Nurses Conference in Orlando, Florida, accepted the Institution Excellence in Ho-

listic Nursing Practice Award. The award recognizes an organization for incorporating holistic nursing practice and demonstrating the core values of holistic nursing.

"Holistic nursing is the artful blend of the art and science of nursing. Thanks to the extraordinary support from the Baystate Health Foundation and our generous donors, Baystate Health now has a total of 1,170 team members trained in holistic modalities. I am proud of our extraordinary nurses and caregivers for their commitment to lifelong learning, nursing excellence and for creating a healing environment for themselves, each other, and for our patients and their loved ones," said Joanne Miller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Chief Nurse Executive, Baystate Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Baystate Medical Center.

The Baystate Medical Center Nursing Model of Care, founded on Swanson's Caring Theory, utilizes a holistic approach to promote quality care to nurture the body, mind, and spirit. The journey to incorporating holistic nursing into practice started in 2017 with the training of staff on M technique®. M technique® is a form of gentle touch performed on the hands and feet of recipients using a set sequence of varying pressure and completed in three to five minutes. The "M" in M technique® stands for "mindful" and is appropriate for the most fragile patients, including terminally ill cancer patients, the elderly, critically ill, and surgical patients.

"One of our nurses, Magdalena "Lenny" Barranda, RN, has performed M technique® on many of her coworkers. The nurses who received M technique® from Lenny reported feeling relaxed, a release of tension, and overall reduction in stress. Additionally, Lenny kept a log of patients with whom she provided M technique®, and overwhelmingly, patients reported a decrease in anxiety, a sense of relaxation, and the ability to sleep. Both our patients and our caregivers, nurses, patient care technicians and operations associates, receive the therapeutic benefits of M technique®," said Vital.

She noted as an organization, Baystate is striving for all nurses to understand how holistic nursing is a foundational element of their profession. The holistic approach draws on nursing practice, knowledge, and expertise to facilitate

healing. Baystate has trained nurses in its holistic model of care, including training on M technique®, aromatherapy, and foundational elements of holistic nursing through the Integrative Healing Arts Academy by the BirchTree Center, and Reiki.

"Holistic nursing is a way of being and many nurses at Baystate may be practicing holistic nursing without even realizing it. We have a dedicated committee of holistic nurses who have further defined for Baystate what it means to be a holistic nurse," said Vital.

Examples of what defines a holistic nurse include in their words:

"Compassionate presence including authentic presence that describes a staff member who is consciously being in the moment while creating a trusting relationship. Through listening and viewing the patient as a human being instead of an object, we honor the patient's belief system and enable them to expand their own sense of faith/hope."

"From authentic presence, one can provide a caring presence which is caring for another person and it is the essence of our clinical practice. It begins with being fully present in compassion, gentleness and kindness with ourselves, our colleagues and the patients we serve. This method potentiates states of wholeness and aligns mind, body and spirit to promote a healing environment."

For those interested in learning more about holistic nursing, Baystate Health holistic nurse Caitlyn Waddell, RN, BSN, HN-BC developed a podcast called Elemental Healing (Baystate) on Spotify. The podcast focuses on holistic and self-care practices and ways to incorporate them into work and personal life. Listeners will learn about the many initiatives Baystate is making toward the shift to holistic practice and opportunities to get involved and learn from the holistic community.

Baystate Medical Center's high quality nursing care has earned it prestigious status for an unprecedented fourth consecutive time achieving Magnet® recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a distinction that places the hospital's nursing staff among the finest in the nation.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION
for
Wally Roberts

There will be a celebration for the life of Wally Roberts at **St Joe's Club, Thorndike, Monday, Patriots Day, April 15**, beginning at **12:30** reception and luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers donation can be made to **Timothy's NexGen, care of Modern Woodsman of America, 211 Enfield Rd., Lincoln, Maine 04457.**

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Around the Region

A look into the 285 Three Rivers Rd. solar project

By Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - After learning about a solar project on 285 Three Rivers Rd., Wilbraham during the March 4 Select Board meeting, Turley Publications wanted to investigate further.

On March 22, we got a firsthand look and learned how it's impacting residents from public safety concerns to health and quality of life.

Mura Bacon-Erickson provided the project timeline, explaining the solar company, named AMP US at the time and later named PureSky Energy, approached the town to propose a 20-acre solar field and remove the mature timber on the property.

The town denied the request. "So, the solar company went through Land Court and won against the town. We have a bylaw from 2021 --which I later found out--that would have controlled some of the solar issues here. They would only be allowed to have 25% of the 20 acres paneled," Bacon-Erickson said. "But, unfortunately, because they went through Land Court and lost, they are following a very old bylaw. So they are not following the new bylaw the town has approved."

Bacon-Erickson shared she got involved when she researched what Hampden was doing with their solar fields, later seeing Allison Ouellette's posts of moose and "very loud horrible, noise, drilling noise" on the Wilbraham Open Community Forum on Facebook.

"I, also, in the interim, had, twice, log trucks going up and down Maynard Road where I live that took out my cable line just underneath my electric line. We repaired it and they took it out again and I was like, 'Where were all these trees coming from?'" Bacon-Erickson said. "So that all happened at the same time. Ally was posting the noise and I had realized those trees were coming from this area."

Ouellette, an abutter, who has lived in the area for 35 years, said it was "very emotional" to see the trees cut down and the loss of wildlife.

Redistributing animal migration patterns is also a concern.

"It was devastating, to be honest with you," Ouellette said. "I retired two years ago, so for me, with this going on, with all the noise and stuff, it's been bad. It's just been bad. I don't want to be home, it's too loud."

After Ouellette and Bacon-Erickson connected to see what they could do, Bacon-Erickson then learned about Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section Three, established in 1985 and known as the "The Dover Amendment."

"What it is is to loosen up zoning for schools and churches," Bacon-Erickson said. "What they've done at Boston level and why we lost in Land Court is because they've added solar fields, now, to that."

From there, she examined Hampden's bylaw, which was tested, for solar fields and later organized a petition for a warrant article to be put on Town Meeting to put Hampden's bylaw in for Wilbraham.

Wilbraham also has three other solar fields, which were approved before the new solar bylaw was approved.

"Ours is good. It's just this is not under the bylaw, which I was not aware of," Bacon-Erickson said.

William Jebb got involved five years ago, explaining in the last few months there's been a rock pile right behind his house due to boulders being crushed.

"The noise is relentless from 7:30 in the morning to about 3:30, 4 p.m. in the evening, every day, nonstop, to the point where it was so disturbing, I had to make a phone call and file a complaint with the town," Jebb said. "My house is vibrating. I got dust all over my car from the smashing of these rocks, all over the house."

Ouellette later added the noise level was 86 decibels. This equates to the sound of a hairdryer, blender, forklift, lawn mower or subway train.

Jebb said in addition to these concerns, the unknowns greatly worry him, including the potential effects on wells, his septic system and foundation and the overall value of his house.

Public safety is another issue concerning a walking path for foot



A shot of construction vehicles working with piles of boulders and dirt in the construction area of the 285 Three Rivers Rd. solar project.



An aerial shot of the land cut down for the 285 Three Rivers Rd. solar project.



Another aerial drone shot of the construction of the 285 Three Rivers Rd. solar project.

Photos courtesy of Joe Roberts

traffic.

"I'm concerned that, potentially, people could fall victim walking on that bike path. People could become victims with their houses broken into, have easy access in and out based on that bike path alone," Jebb said. "So there's just so many unknowns, so many factors that

we're starting to look into."

Jebb stressed he wants to meet with the developer and stay on top of this to "try to avoid some of those concerns" along with documenting them.

"I've lived here for almost 30 years, and in 30 years, I've been able to enjoy peace and tranquility,

watch nature at its best," Jebb said. "It's all just a beautiful environment that is now gone."

On the walking path, Bacon-Erickson explained the residents learned about this during the March 21 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, adding she wished the public had an opportunity to learn more.

"It's felt, to me, like I've had to pull teeth to get the information, that it was not free-flowing information. There's not a place for people to voice opinions, there's not a place for people to voice concerns," Bacon-Erickson said.

Currently, at the state level, House Bill 3230 from State Reps. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) and Joanne Comerford (D-Northampton) and Senate Bill 1319 from State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) would change MGL Chapter 40A, section three if passed.

"It's not anti-solar. It's just to return zoning back to the local people," Bacon-Erickson said.

The bills, Bacon-Erickson explained, are currently stuck in the Telecommunications, Energy and Utility Committee, overseen by State Sen. Michael Barrett (D-Middlesex), and would need to be petitioned to get them out of committee and on the floor for a vote around mid or late April.

"It's already been looked at by the House and Senate and then it went back into committee. Those happen in a year cycle. If we don't get it out of that and into a vote and have it vote in the affirmative, we would not have a chance for another year," Bacon-Erickson said.

On the current solar project, Bacon-Erickson said the focus would be to keep safety and health "under control," citing small signs poorly placed about the construction site and the number of trucks on residential streets carrying or delivering materials.

During our visit, one of these trucks was on the road, struggling to back up and turn around.

"I am asking that the town and the DPW increase signage with the construction manager and they do a safety audit of the area," Bacon-Erickson said.

Going from here, all three residents are looking for the commu-

nity to reach out to them through the Wilbraham Open Community Forum or individually to share their concerns.

Residents can also email their testimonies and concerns to noah-green@mahouse.gov.

Ouellette stressed the developer would need to work with and listen to the residents, hoping they do.

"We didn't want this to begin with and it's here. It's here, but at least make it less traumatic for the people that have to look at it, that have to deal with this. Have some compassion," Ouellette said.

Jebb stressed he understands the construction and hopes it ends soon, but the concerns about the long-term effects are important and need to be heard.

"We don't know what we don't know and that's part of why we're starting to activate more now than before. Because they won in a lawsuit, they're developing that, we can't control that. But there are some components of this project that we would like to get under control and that's where we're at right now," Jebb said.

Bacon-Erickson encouraged anyone being affected to document everything, also hoping the developer will listen to the abutters.

"As I speak, I bet 80% of this town does not know this is here," Bacon-Erickson said.

Jebb summed it up best on the importance of being concerned and speaking up.

"I'm not looking for support from the residents in town. I'm looking to ensure that the safety and peace and tranquility of the abutters in this general area is somehow maintained," Jebb said.

Updates

Since this report, we have received several updates. They are the following.

On March 26, signage was put in, rock removal began on March 27, plans for a walking path will not be taking place at this time, well testing for abutters will be paid for by the solar company and additional shrubbery for abutters will be considered for anyone after the buffer is installed.

Gun buy back April

SPRINGFIELD— The Hampden District Attorney's Office and Baystate Medical Center will be conducting a gun buyback on Saturday, April 6, at the Raymond Sullivan Safety complex at 1212 Carew St. Members of the public that are in possession of any unwanted firearm(s) may safely dispose of them anonymously at the buyback, ammunition may be disposed of as well.

Pew Research noted in an April 2023 article, in 2021, 48,830 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S., 54% of all gun-related deaths in the U.S. were suicides (26,328), while 43% were murders (20,958), about 81% of U.S. murders and 55% of all suicides (48,183), involved a firearm according to the CDC.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni said "Nationally, Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates of gun fatalities at 3.4 per 100,000 people, Mississippi at 33.9 per 100,000 people is the highest. This is not by accident, our state's preventative and educational efforts factor significantly in contributing to this. It is through partnerships like the one we have with Baystate Health that contributes to reducing the risks of suicide, violence, series injury, and death posed by un-wanted guns in our community. If any member of the public is in possession of an un-wanted firearm/s or ammunition, please take this opportunity to safely dispose of them."

According to the latest national statistics, in 2020 and 2021, firearms were involved in the deaths of more children ages 1-17 in the United States than any other type of injury or illness, surpassing deaths due to motor vehicles, which had long been the number one factor in child deaths.

But, they can be avoided, noted Dr. Kevin P. Moriarty, FACS, FAAP, Surgeon in Chief, Baystate Children's Hospital.

"The point is to increase public safety by removing the potential that unwanted and unmonitored guns might fall into the wrong hands such as following a burglary. Sometimes a curious child finds an unlocked loaded gun and harms themselves or a friend or family member or in a worst-case scenario even multiple people. Saturday's buyback may also help with suicide prevention," Moriarty said.

The firearms can be turned in anonymously, identification is not required. The firearms must be in working condition, unloaded and transported in a bag in the trunk of a vehicle. Ammunition will be accepted and it must be placed in a separate bag. Firearms that are turned in will be scrapped at a later date.

Being offered once again will be one \$50 Big Y gift card for a handgun, rifle, or shotgun and two \$50 Big Y gift cards for an assault weapon. Organizers reserve the right to limit the amount of cards an individual can receive.

This event is a partnership between the Hampden District Attorney's Office, Baystate Health, Springfield Fire Department, and Baystate Health's Family Advocacy Center.

Slow and steady: A smart way to invest

You've probably heard stories about fortunate investors who "get in the ground floor" of a new, hot company and quickly make a fortune. But while these things may happen, they are exceedingly rare and often depend on hard-to-duplicate circumstances — and they really don't represent a viable way of investing for one's goals. A far more tried-and-true approach is the "slow-and-steady" method.

To follow this strategy, consider these suggestions:

- **Start small** — and add more when you can. When you're first starting out in the working world, you may not have a lot of extra money with which to invest, especially if you're carrying student loan debt. But one of the key advantages of the slow-and-steady method is that it does not require large investment sums to get going. If you can afford to put away even \$50 or \$100 a month into individual stocks or mutual funds, month after month, you may be surprised and pleased at how your account can grow. And when your salary goes up, you can put away more money each month.

- **Take advantage of an employer's retirement plan.** If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar tax-advantaged retirement plan, try to take full advantage of it. Again, if you're just beginning your career, you may not be able to put away much in this type of plan, but even a small amount is better than nothing. And as soon as you can possibly afford it, try to put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. These types of plans can offer some key benefits — and perhaps the biggest one is that investing is automatic, in that the money is moved directly from your paycheck into the investments you've chosen within your 401(k) or other plan.

- **Be prepared for downturns.** The financial markets will always experience ups and downs. So, you need to be prepared for those times when your investment statements may show negative results. By understanding that these downturns are a normal part of the investment environment, you can avoid overreactions, such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their price has temporarily dropped.

- **Chart your progress regularly.** A key element of a slow-and-steady investment approach is knowing how well it's working. But it's important to measure your progress in a way that makes sense for you. So, for example, instead of measuring your portfolio's performance against that of an external stock market index, such as the S&P 500, you may want to assess where you are today versus one year ago, or whether the overall progress you're making is sufficient to help you meet the financial goals you've set for yourself well into the future. Another reason not to use a market index as a measuring tool is that the index only looks at a certain pool of investments, which, in the case of the S&P 500, is simply the largest companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges. But long-term investors try to own a range of assets — U.S. and foreign stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit, and so on.

"Slow and steady" may not sound like an exciting approach to investing. But it's often the case that a little less excitement, and a lot more diligence, can prove to be quite effective.

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



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The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

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Public Notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Sections 9 & 11, the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:15PM** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

Truss Pine is seeking a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as required by sections 171-28, 171-29, & 171-67 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to convert the existing building into a wood truss manufacturing facility with outdoor storage of wood and truss materials on the property located at 25 Ware Street, Palmer, MA. This parcel is known as Assessor's Map 73, Lot 57.

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

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
04/04, 04/11/2024

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Sections 9 & 11, the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00PM** in the Town Hall Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Triana Marrero, is seeking a Special Permit under sections 171.28 & 171.81 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance for the operation of a home occupation nail salon. The property is located at 89 Ford Street, Three Rivers, MA and is also known as Assessor's Map 67 Lot 43.

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

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
04/04, 04/11/2024

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with §7.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws the Planning Board

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

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

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Bradford Medeiros 149 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned General Commercial and located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
04/04, 04/11/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gerard H. Briggs to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated May 13, 2005 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15035, Page 238 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of July 1, 2005 is the present holder by Assignment from Ameriquest Mortgage Company to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of July 1, 2005 dated August 30, 2006 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 16210, Page 523, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises locat-

ed at 51 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 will be sold at a Public Auction at **2:00 PM on April 25, 2024**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

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

Beginning at an iron pin in the westerly line of Brookfield Road, which pin is three hundred and 68/100 (300.68) feet northerly measured on the westerly line of Brookfield Road from a concrete bound as shown on said plan;

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

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

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

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

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 11851, Page 180.

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

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are

exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P0570GD

In the matter of: Donna Peach Of: Wales, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept Of Developmental Services of Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Donna Peach** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **TLC Trust, Inc. of Fitchburg, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/19/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 19, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/04/2024

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter 143, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM** for the application of Duane Whitcomb c/o Hancock Associates, of 3 Converse St., Suite 203, Palmer, MA 01069.

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for activities associated with the proposed construction of a single-family home with a private sewage disposal system, driveway, and domestic well. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). No work is proposed to occur within the 50-foot No Disturb Zone to this wetland resource area.

The project site is

located on Lot 3 Peterson Road, Palmer, MA, 01069. Assessor's Map 14 Parcel 17-9 Lot 3.

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair,
Palmer Conservation Commission
04/04/2024

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:20 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Ronald Florek 149 Stafford Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Rural Residential and located on 149 Stafford Road, Map 80, Parcel 21 and Map 101 Parcel 2. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
04/04, 04/11/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0636EA

Estate of: Jean M Antonovitch Date of Death: 02/12/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Robert A Pellicane of Holland, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Robert A Pellicane of Holland, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/22/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further

notice to you. **UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/04/2024

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

Job Connection

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DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Description
Drivers wanted for the Quaboag Connector community transportation service! The Connector operates in ten towns in the Quaboag Region, connecting residents to their everyday needs. We are seeking friendly, responsible drivers to be the face that community members see while traveling to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, and beyond.

Hours and Salary:
We are looking for van and bus drivers for full and part time opportunities. 6AM-2PM shifts and 3PM-7PM shifts for van operators available starting at \$16.00/hour. We are also looking for full-time CDL Class B drivers starting at \$27/hour.

Application Process:
Interested applicants should visit the Ware Town Hall for an application or visit our website at www.rideconnector.com/driveforus. If you have any questions, please call (413) 667-7196.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and committed to excellence through diversity. Qualified applicants are considered for all positions regardless of race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or military status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Police Supervisor's Position Warren Police Department

The Warren Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of full time Police Lieutenant.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services, supervision of staff and maintain discipline and moral within the Department. It is required that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferred candidates will have the following: an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, 10 years of Law Enforcement experience and experience as a supervisor. For further position description please go to www.warren-ma.gov.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Tuesday April 16th, 2024, to the attention of Chief Gerald Millette, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Millette@warren-ma.gov. The Town of Warren is an EOE.



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Annual Mousehole Run returns for second year



Turley Photos by Derick Veliz

Patrick Lizak is the director of the Mousehole run and was at Lucy Stone park for the 2nd annual Mousehole Run.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The second annual Mousehole Run Canoe, Kayak and SUP Race passed through Lucy Stone Park last weekend, a fun tradition of racing down the Quaboag River.

Directing the Mousehole Run is Patrick Lizak. Lizak grew up paddling canoes with his family on the Quaboag River without ever knowing that racing existed.

Many years later he learned of a race in Sturbridge called the All-American River Race.

“My brother and I entered the race and I was hooked,” Lizak said.

Lizak joined the racing organization New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association and wanted to put on a race of his own someday. However, with a busy schedule Lizak had put the idea of organizing a race aside for many years.

Lizak discovered race results from the Lucy Stone Downriver Open Canoe Race in 1976 that his father Michael Lizak and grandfather Rodney Perkins participated in.

After the passing of his father, Lizak used the discovery as an inspiration to start the Mousehole Run on the very same river that his dad had participated in long ago.

Last year was the first running of the annual race and in 2024, The Mousehole Run returned to Lucy Stone Park for its second run.

“I plan to do this for years to come,” Lizak said.

Lizak aims to host the Mousehole Run at Lucy Stone Park every year in late March. The race gets its name after a popular rapid just downstream from the finish line.

This is the only Mousehole Run but it is part of the NECKRA points series. The entire race is operated by a team of volunteers including Lizak’s fiancée Christine and his children Logan, Beckett and Ted.

The Warren and West Brookfield fire departments were on hand to ensure the safety for the participants in the race as they go down the Quaboag River for about four miles.

As the Mousehole Run continues to be a fun race and a family tradition, Lizak hopes to start some sort of charity in the future to give back to the community.

A place like Lucy Stone Park is a place that Lizak cherishes and is the



Patrick Lizak's son Logan was ready for the Mousehole Run.



Alex Ciampa took sixth place with a time of 40:02



Amanda Bater and Joseph Riopel make their way downstream.



Submitted Photo

The Mousehole Run is roughly four-mile race on the Quaboag River that includes class 2 rapids on the course.



Ted Kenyon and Theo Kenyon were the second place finishers.



Amy Thornton and Eric Jones paddled their canoe to a third place finish.

home of the Mousehole Run.

“Lucy Stone Park is a special place to me and provides a wonderful place for spectators to get close to the action,” Lizak said.

Lizak plans to continue hosting the event on an annual basis.

“I look forward to the Mousehole Run every year in late March,” Lizak said.

The Recovery Center of HOPE

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

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

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- Yoga
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- Meeting exploration trips
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