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The Journal Register



A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 6, 2023 | Vol. CLXXII, No. 10 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

EDUCATION

Finalists vie to be head of Palmer schools

Four superintendent candidates interviewed

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – Last week on Monday, members of the committee met with William Metzger, a former principal of Monson High School; on Tuesday, they met with Matthew Francis, the assistant superintendent of the Chicopee Public Schools; on Wednesday, they met with Brian Ackerman, assistant superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional District; and finally, this past Monday, with Susan North, principal of Palmer High School.

William Metzger

The former principal of Monson High School spoke at length about his discipline practice, and how important it is for him to maintain a relationship with the school, particularly with students.

“Leaving Monson was one of the hardest things for me to do, professionally,” Metzger said, “but I got to a point in my career where I knew I wanted to take the next step.”

When asked about blended online and in-person learning, Metzger said “I think it’s important to strike a balance. I think the younger kids are, the more the balance should lean towards personal instruction, with the online tools as a supplement.”

Metzger was also asked about his disciplinary practices. He responded by asking, “Are we talking discipline, or punishment?” He spoke about how he sees the two methods as very different, and though problem children will sometimes need to be punished, “No kid’s future is set in stone at 10,” Metzger said. “You also have to teach the kids about what it is about

FINALISTS | page 5



Little Marcus Kosnicki poses for a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison



Firefighter Sam Hoy pours batter on the griddle while making pancakes for about 130 people last weekend.

Michael Harrison
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THREE RIVERS — You

know spring is here and Easter is just around the corner when the aroma of hotcakes, bacon and coffee is flowing from the Three Rivers Fire Department, beckoning residents to come inside.



The Easter Bunny gets an appreciative kiss from Three Rivers Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary President Bonnie Turner while also posing for a photo with Heidi Drawec and Marjorie Cavanaugh.



Charlotte Wystepek (left) and Sara Wystepek pose for a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Last Sunday, the department hosted the Three Rivers Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary annual Easter time pancake breakfast, which included a visit by the Easter Bunny, who was available

for photos. The organization holds several breakfasts a year and other fundraisers in support of its mission to assist the department.

BUNNY | page 6

EDUCATION

Principal North interviewed for school supt.

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer

PALMER – On Monday, the Superintendent Search Committee interviewed Palmer High School Principal Susan North, the fourth and final candidate for the position, with plans to make their selection this week.

As the current principal of Palmer High School, North has a unique perspective on the present needs for the school, as well as for the rest of the district, including re-designing the district website and forming partnerships throughout the community.



“Right now, we have an issue with attendance with students being unmotivated and unengaged in their learning,” North said.

She spoke about ways that, as principal, she had overseen projects that incentivized students, such as implementing “small group learning” or offering programs like the EMT training course. North indicated this might help to mitigate the struggles the school has been having with families moving out of the district.

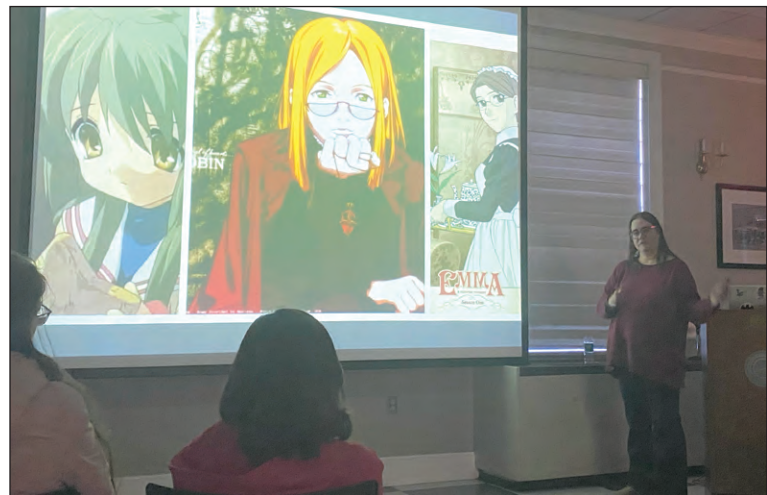
North was eager to get controversial, and spoke about the unpopular block schedule, of which both committee members and students have been critics.

“I am not in favor of the block schedule,” North said. “I think that it is very challenging for the students to be doing 84 minutes, and it’s challenging for the educators to provide 84 minutes of activities and instruction for the students.”

North said that she “(does) not feel that it maximizes the learning opportunities for our students – it actually hinders the opportunities, because it only allows students to

NORTH | page 5

LIBRARY



Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe describing to teens at the library different female character tropes in anime.

History of women in anime panel hosted

By Rebecca Wehner
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PALMER – In honor of Women’s History Month in March, the Palmer Public Library combined

pop culture with history to teach teens in town about the cartoon girls that shaped the anime industry.

Springfield librarian Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe visited town to present several of her annual fandom-related panels. On March 30, Wetherbe collaborated with the



ANIME | page 9



Veteran and cancer survivor Kevin O'Brien, right, with his mother, Betty-Jo O'Brien. They are celebrating Kevin’s decade of being free from cancer and are hoping to raise \$10,000 this year for the American Cancer Society. They are holding a comedy night fundraiser on April 14 in Three Rivers to help meet their goal. (COURTESY PHOTO)

COMMUNITY

Veteran and his family want to give back

Comedy fundraiser set to honor milestone

Eileen Kennedy
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PALMER – Kevin O’Brien and his mother, Betty-Jo O’Brien, are hoping people will come out to support a big milestone: Kevin is celebrating 10 years of being free from cancer and they want to raise \$10,000 this year for American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life.

They are holding a Relay Team Comedy Fundraiser on Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m., at the Palmer Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St. in Three Rivers.

Comedians Buddha Joe, Eddie Diesel, Serenity Jones and James Mac will perform. A donation of \$25 per person is requested, and there be a 50/50 raffle and other raffles, along with food trucks on hand to provide sustenance. Palmer Veteran’s Agent Tina Marie Brohman helped arrange the night, which is to be expected as she and Betty-Jo

are best friends.

“Kevin is a veteran and he worked at Barnes Air Force Base in Westfield, and he really cares about giving back,” Betty-Jo said. “He wants to help people who have been in his situation.”

Over 10 years ago, he had several months of not feeling well before collapsing and being brought to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a brain tumor after his mother insisted he be given a brain scan when they could find nothing else wrong with him.

That led to brain surgery, physical therapy afterward and a months-long struggle to become as independent as possible, she said.

Eventually, after apartments in Boston and a nearby community, he was able to design and have a home built in Belchertown, where he continues to live.

After he began his recovery, which continue with annual check-ups each year, the mother-son duo began taking part in the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life.

CANCER | page 6



MYA II AND KIRA

Meet Mya II and Kira, from Monson! Their owner, Deuce, shared a fun fact about Mya II, who was named after their dog that died in August. Kira's name comes from a show called Death Note. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Monson Arts Council announces mural design winners

By Rebecca Wehner
Staff Writer
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MONSON— The wait is over for the mural design content results, and the winning team has big plans for unveiling their art to the community.

Monson Arts Council President Peter Barnett and Vice President Reed Coles attended the Selectboard meeting on March 28 to present their nominee for the competition. After receiving 11 submissions from mural artists, the Arts Council voted for the design of Melissa Stratton Pandina and Shara Osgood to appear on the northwest wall of Adams Marketplace.

"There are many artists that specialize in murals, and you can see that in many towns and cities you go to where murals are painted," Coles said. "From my estimates and from what the committee has seen, these two women have a very good handle on what they do."

The MAC began accepting design proposals from the public this past January, encouraging artists to follow the theme 'A Celebration of Monson: Past, Present and Future.' Barnett said that many of the artists who sent in submissions were well versed in creating murals, with one proposal coming even as far as Colorado.

Despite many formidable submissions, the pair of women faring from Belchertown and Easthampton were selected for the best design. Their mural art will include several scenes around town, and portraits of significant members of the community.

"One section they want to do is portraiture of first responders, such as police officers and firefighters," Barnett said. "They would be based on photographs of the real first responders in town."

Barnett said that the artists also want to include the community in the mural process and hear their input throughout its creation. On April 15, Pandina and Osgood plan to collaborate with the MAC in hosting a listening session at the Monson Library for the public to share what they want to see in the mural design.

The two women also hope to invite community members to paint portions of the mural during a public paint party, in which the mural's design would officially be underway, and some of the first strokes can be done by people who live in town. The art will be painted onto polytab panels that will be applied to the wall upon completion, and is estimated to last 30 to 40 years.

"The mural will be completed by the end of the summer," Barnett said. "We've been told by the artists that at first it won't look like anything's happening, and then all of a sudden it will be done."

The Selectboard approved the nomination of Pandina and Osgood as the mural design contest winners and expressed their excitement for the project. The listening session on April 15 will be held from 10a.m. to noon in the DeSantis room of the library.

For more information about MAC events and news, visit monsonartscouncil.org.



Newly appointed firefighter Christian Sanchez Ramos and Fire Chief Brian Harris at a recent Selectboard meeting.

New Monson firefighter/EMT appointed

By Rebecca Wehner
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MONSON— The Fire Department has gained a new member this month, and Christian Sanchez Ramos hopes to use his position to defend the town and make the community proud.

Ramos was officially appointed to the position of firefighter and EMT at last week's Selectboard meeting, and was accompanied by Fire Chief Brian Harris, who praised him for his hard work training with the Fire Department within the past few weeks.

"In the weeks he's been here, Christian has shown an excellent work ethic," Harris said. "He's always willing to be involved and part of the team, I think he's a great asset to the department."

Ramos was born in Puerto Rico, and moved to Springfield when he was 5-years-old and was raised there his entire life. After completing schooling and moving out of the state, he worked for the Alexandria Fire Department in Virginia, but returned to Massachusetts this past winter.

Ramos is fully certified as a firefighter and EMT, and recently got his certifications transferred from Virginia so he is able to serve in Massachusetts.

"After I worked for the fire department in Alexandria for five years, I worked at Smith and Wesson for 10 years," Ramos. "For the time being I'm living back in Springfield, and I feel so fortunate to have gotten to work with the Fire Department in Monson so far."

The request for appointing Ramos followed a recent opening for a firefighter position in town, and Harris found Ramos' application and effort during training to be the most formidable.

The Selectboard unanimously approved Ramos' official appointment to the position, and applauded him for becoming a new first responder in town. Selectboard Chairwoman Patricia Oney congratulated Ramos and voiced her approval for the full staff of firefighters in town.

For more information regarding emergency services in town, visit monsoon-ma.gov. Selectboard meetings can be viewed at m-pact.tv.

ConCom invites residents to Earth Day cleanup

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER — The Conservation Commission is inviting members of the community to join them at the Laviolette Field this coming Earth Day, on Saturday, April 22.

The Conservation Commission has been working to establish this as a regular tradition for the department since it started.

"This town-wide cleanup has been done for the past few years," said Heidi Mannarino, an agent for the town's Conservation Commission.

The Commission will provide trash bags, gloves and other supplies to the volunteers, who are encouraged not only to clean up Laviolette Field on Main Street in Three Rivers, but also to go to other parts of town that need attention and drop off the trash at the dumpster provided by the Commission.

"Definitely bring sturdy shoes," Mannarino warned, "and high visibility clothing, because depending on where you go to clean up, you never know what kind of hazards you might come across."

Mannarino said that the Commission will be providing standard nitrile gloves, but for things like broken glass or other more dangerous materials, "More sturdy leather work gloves would probably be necessary."

Hand sanitizer was provided for the event by Country Bank, and Big Y made a donation as well. Mannarino also advised to bring a bottle of water, but added that there will be snacks and water provided.

"I just recently came on board in February, so this is my first real event with the Commission, and I'm really excited that it gets to be on Earth Day," Mannarino said.

"Gather up your friends and family, whether you want to bring a whole cleanup crew or just come by yourself, everyone is welcome and we're happy to have as many people as we can helping us on Earth Day," he said.



Boston MedFlight took a patient Sunday evening to UMass Worcester Trauma Center for serious injuries sustained in an ATV accident in the woods near the town line with Wales.

Injured ATV rider taken by MedFlight trip to UMass Trauma Center

HOLLAND — At 8:37 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, Holland Fire and Brimfield Ambulance (Action EMS) responded to the area of Old County Road by the Wales town line for a report of an ATV accident in the woods with serious injuries.

Members of Holland Fire located the patient approximately a half-mile from the access point. Due to the seriousness of the injuries, LifeFlight was requested but was unavailable. Boston MedFlight was available and able to respond to the landing zone at the town field. The patient was flown to the UMass Trauma Center.

The Fire Department urges everyone to please remember to always wear a helmet when riding a motorized recreational vehicle.

PHCC presents the music of John Prine

Enjoy local beer and wine

THREE RIVERS — The Palmer Historical & Cultural Center presents "A Tribute to John Prine: American Song Writer" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 8.

Hear the stories behind the songs and the many ways that the music of Prine has influenced Donna Lee and the Crooked Ledge Band, who will perform on the PHCC stage at 2072 Main Street in Three Rivers.

Beer and wine will be available for purchase from Brimfield Winery.

Prine, who died in 2020 following a decades-long career, was one of the most influential songwriters of his generation. He is known for his humorous style with elements of protest and social commentary. With his comic romps, melancholy reflections and beautiful songs about terrible things, Prine became and remains an icon of country-folk music.

For tickets, go to tinyurl.com/3ubm85nn.

GCM hosts 'Trees are Treasures' at Wells State Park April 22

STURBRIDGE — Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating Earth Day with its third "Trees Are Treasures" event on Saturday, April 22 at Wells State Park from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

The event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells State Park, where interpreters are stationed to discuss forest logging, the importance of wetlands and how to "read" a forest's history. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children's crafts under the pavilion, and a free tree seedling giveaway. Join GCM to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest.

For more information, visit grassrootscentralmass.org.

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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 \$100, 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.

Baystate Wing receives funding for substance treatment

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital received a \$50,000 legislative earmark to focus on the prevention and treatment of opioid related substance use disorders in the health system's region, according to a press release.

The earmark in the state budget for fiscal year 2023 was made by Massachusetts State Rep. Todd Smola. The funding will be used "to support public-health-related programs and initiatives that reduce health disparities, promote community wellness, and increase access to prevention, treatment, recovery, and referrals for people with opioid and substance-use disorders in the hospital's service area," the release states.

Opioid and substance use disorders were identified as significant health needs in BWH's 2022 community health needs assessment. The BWH Opioid Task Force is focused on addressing the many individual, environmental and societal factors individuals facing substance use disorders experience and its consequences. The task force, made up of hospital team members, has a goal to meet the needs of the local community who seek care in the Emergency Department and other outpatient departments throughout the hospital.

The team will work to increase access to prevention, treatment, recovery, and referrals for persons with opioid and substance use disorders who live in the BWH service area, which includes the following communities: Brimfield, Hampden, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Wilbraham, Belchertown, Ware, East Brookfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren and West Brookfield.

"I am pleased to have advocated for state resources to be used in my district to continue combating the serious issues related to opioid and substance use abuse," Smola, who represents the 1st Hampden District, said.

"It is critical we have well-trained health care professionals and community partners to serve our region and to work with families impacted by this deadly scourge. I look forward to seeing these good works continue."

Lauren Mansfield, Behavioral Health Practice manager of Baystate Griswold Center, said, "As the patients facing opioid related substance use disorders needs have grown more complex, focusing on coordination and communication across all the patient's health care providers has become increasingly crucial."

She added that "Our hospital Opioid Task Force and our care teams will collaborate to continue to increase access to care and resources for people with substance use disorders, reduce or eliminate the projection of stigma focusing on the care of the person, not his or her condition, and distribute harm reduction kits to those in need. Patients and their families will benefit from increased access to care as we work to build trust in our healthcare environment."

For more information, go to baystatehealth.org.

Palmer resident appointed chair of hospital board

HOLYOKE — Palmer resident Tricia L. Koss has been appointed chair of the Holyoke Medical Center board of directors.

That appointment was made as part of a broader leadership change on the HMC board, a press release states. Mike Marcotte is named vice chair and Dan McIntire recently became a new board member.

"We appreciate the time, dedication, and insight each of these board members brings to assist in guiding the decisions of our community hospital," said Spiros Hatiras, president and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems, Inc.

"Their collective leadership, experience and dedication to our community are greatly valued." Koss has been a member of the HMC board since 2016. According to the release, she "is an experienced officer/attorney with Fletcher Tilton PC. Her areas of expertise include commercial and residential real estate, financing, corporate and business law."

Koss also serves as the chair of the Gandara Human Rights Committee. A native of West Springfield, Koss previously practiced law in Holyoke for 11 years.

Marcotte has been a member of the HMC board of directors since 2019, where he also serves on the Nominating Committee, Investment Committee, and Compensation Committee. Marcotte is the dealer principal/president of Marcotte Ford. McIntire is a banking center manager at PeoplesBank. His areas of expertise include finance, banking, budgeting, and investing, according to the release.



Celebrate Earth Day at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

WALES — The staff of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation is holding an all-day open house at the sanctuary from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, to celebrate Earth Day.

Anyone who wants to find out more about Norcross or if just want to get outside and have some fun with friends and family in nature, is encouraged to head over to the Norcross Administration Building at 30 Peck Road for programs, activities, tours, representatives from other naturalist organizations, a food truck and giveaways.

Events include family-oriented, hands-on activities such as helping plant a native meadow, crafting a butterfly life cycle wheel for children, a nature scavenger hunt and more. Guided tours of our public trails will be led by Norcross staff. They will kick off the day with an early-riser birdwatching walk with Bill Cormier of Wild Bird Crossing.

Bat expert and rehabilitator Maureen Heidtmann will give a presentation on her work and will have some live bats to see. Learn about the important roles they play in the regional ecosystem. Other non-profits from the area working to protect nature and wildlife, including the Turtle Rescue League, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation and Opacum Land Trust will also be there.

May Adams, a high school student from Wales, will have a display of her nature photography.

The event is free and everyone in the region is invited to participate.

Want to know more?

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1967 by Arthur Norcross, to permanently protect the wildlife preserve he created in Wales and surrounding towns. His mission, and the mis-

sion 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 said that by protecting the large blocks of natural lands and waters that are necessary for healthy populations of plants and animals, 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, lower local temperatures during the heat of the summer, and provide new clean air through the oxygen produced by the trees and plants of the forest. Hood will be available to speak with community members who wish to know more about Norcross and its work.

'Spirit of Girls' gets a boost from Monson Savings Bank

MONSON — Monson Savings Bank is a local community bank recently donated \$2,500 to Girls Inc. of the Valley in support of its fundraising event, Spirit of Girls.

It's another example of MSB's dedication to empowering individuals to reach their highest potential, the bank said in a press release.

"We are very appreciative of this donation from Monson Savings Bank," said Suzanne Parker, Girls Inc. of the Valley Executive director.

"This donation will help us to execute our Spirit of Girls event set to take place this April. This annual fundraising event aims to raise money to provide students living in Holyoke, Springfield, Chicopee and the surrounding areas with essential summer programming at no cost to their families. On behalf of Girls Inc. of the Valley, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our partners, including Monson Savings, who help us support the Valley's youth."

Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO, said he was thrilled to visit the construction site for the new Girls Inc. of the Valley program center and headquarters in Holyoke. While touring the facility, he took the opportunity to present the donation to members of the Girls Inc. of the Valley team.

"Monson Savings Bank supports Girls Inc. and their mission to inspire girls to live up to their full potential," Moriarty said.

"This is a great community partnership, and we are pleased to donate to Girls Inc. of the Valley



Monson Savings Bank recently donated \$2,500 to Girls Inc. of the Valley in support of its fundraising event, Spirit of Girls. Shown from left are Jessica Colson, Girls Inc. of the Valley director of Development and Communications; Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank president and CEO; and Girls INC. of the Valley Campaign Director Ruth Roy.

so that they can continue to provide students in the Valley with valuable services and resources."

Girls Inc. of the Valley is a Holyoke based non-profit. The organization serves youth ages 5 to 18 who reside in Holyoke, Springfield, Chicopee, Westfield, South Hadley, and beyond. It offers after school and summer programs, at no cost to families. Girls Inc. offers students a pro-girl envi-

ronment based on mutual respect with opportunities for leadership. Its research-based programs guided by highly trained staff support students in navigating their path to independent adulthood.

To learn more about Girls Inc. of the Valley, go to girlsincvalley.org.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank go to monsonsavings.bank.

First Church of Monson to launch fabric drive

MONSON — On Nov. 1, 2022, the Textile Recovery Act was passed in Massachusetts, which prohibits discarding any textiles in their trash. In response to this new law, First Church of Monson is partnering with Savers to sponsor a textile fundrive to benefit our environment and to raise funds for First Church. Savers, located on Memorial Drive in West Springfield, has designed a collection that is an environmentally safe and profitable way to dispose of unwanted items. First Church welcomes donations from the wider community.

Residents are invited to bring donations to the parking lot of First Church, 5 High St., on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Clean used clothing, bedding (sheets, blankets, mattress covers), curtains, towels, or any other woven goods will be accepted. Household goods and books cannot be included. Donors are asked to bag clean items in large plastic bags averaging about 20 pounds each.

Start spring cleaning early and help support this worthy event. For questions, call the church office at 413-267-3312, email office@firstchurchmonson.org or go to the web site <http://www.FirstChurchMonson.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 mharrison@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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50" Hisense #H5000 \$279.99 (Regularly \$549.99)	FRIGIDAIRE SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE #FES30800 \$749.99 WAS \$899.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #FRT20800 \$899.99 WAS \$1,099.99	AMANA MICROWAVE #JM5100RFS \$229.99 WAS \$329.99

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Viewpoints

Beware posers pretending to be celebrities

By the Better Business Bureau
Guest columnists

To trick you, scammers need to earn your trust first. What better way than by posing as a popular celebrity? Recently, BBB Scam Tracker has received numerous reports involving products supposedly endorsed by well-known and trusted celebrities. With the rise in deepfake scams and ever-improving AI technology, these phony endorsements are more convincing than ever.

How the scam works

You see a post on social media of a celebrity endorsing a weight loss product, health supplement or another product. In the post, photos show the celebrity using the product or a video features their voice talking about the amazing results they've seen. It sounds too good to be true, but the photos and video look so real. Also, the social media account appears to belong to the celebrity.

For example, one consumer reported ordering "Oprah Winfrey's keto gummy bear supplements" after seeing a phony endorsement. They explained: "The ad showed Oprah's face and featured her explaining the product and offering a first-time buyer discount of buy one bottle for \$49 and get a second one free. I clicked on the link and put in my order. The next morning, I received an email stating my order had been processed for \$198!" The company denied the customer a refund and shipped the product anyway. Upon arrival, they found the gummies were from a company that had no affiliation with Oprah Winfrey.

Before you make a purchase, take a minute to reexamine the post and social media account. The photos and videos are most likely fake. If you make a purchase, you'll lose money (often more than you expected) on a product that is substandard or doesn't exist.

How to spot fake celebrity scams:

Get familiar with deepfake technology. Scammers use deepfake technology to trick people. They take real video clips and photos of a person and use them to create new videos and audio clips. Deepfake images and video can be surprisingly realistic.

Understand how AI generated images work. With AI image generators, you can type in a few words describing the image you want created and the AI generates an image based on your text. It's valuable technology, but scammers can abuse it to create images to back up their stories, products, or outright lies. The point? Don't assume a photo is proof that something is trustworthy.

BBB Accredited Businesses promise to adhere to BBB's Standards for Trust, so look for the BBB Accredited Business Seal. It's the Sign of a Better Business.

Know that scammers often impersonate celebrities. Don't assume celebrity posts, images, or videos are legitimate until you verify that they came from an official source. Just because something is shared widely on social media does not mean it's real. For example, an AI generated photo of Pope Francis in a designer puffer jacket recently went viral. This deepfake video of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy telling his soldiers to surrender was also widely circulated on social media. Always do your due diligence before you purchase or share something you saw on social media with others.

Only do business with companies you know and trust. If you want to purchase a product or make a donation, do so through a reputable business or nonprofit. If you want to buy something from a company you aren't familiar with, do plenty of research first. Look up the company name, website and contact information. Read reviews on BBB.org and do a general search with the company's name along with the word "scam." Don't skip this step, even if you're excited about the product. It's the best way to protect yourself from fraud and identity theft.

For more information

Review BBB's social media safety tips for more ways to stay safe. You may also want to read about a deepfake scam involving Elon Musk and learn about con artists using deepfake technology to create fake voicemail messages. Report an imposter account to Facebook.

Become a scam-spotting expert by subscribing to BBB's weekly Scam Alert emails.

For more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips. If you have been scammed or targeted for a scam, help us warn others by filing a report at BBB.org/ScamTracker.



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Heavenly scents define two favorite Easter plants

For the last few days my dining room has been filled with a wonderful fragrance, hyacinths in bloom.

To me, at least, they are simply the "smell of Easter." Don't worry, I didn't forget about Easter Lilies—they smell great too.

More on those beauties in a bit.

The hyacinths I speak of were purchased in the fall on clearance. I actually think I was out Christmas shopping when I spotted a bag marked 50% off.

I paid around \$3 for 10 bulbs. The bulbs looked and felt fine, no mold and not soft or dried out. Once I got them home, the mesh bag was placed in my mudroom where temperatures run about 50 to 55 degrees. There they sat for the longest time going through a chilling process.

Sometime in early March I found the bag and potted five bulbs in individual four-inch pots and the other half I placed in forcing glasses. Vases, really, the kind that are an hourglass shape, whereby all but the very bottom of the bulb stays dry.

Roots are initiated where the bulb comes in contact with the water. I put the pots and vases back in the cool mudroom to give them a chance to root.

Once roots form down the side of the vase (you can see them through the glass) and green begins to emerge from the top, it was time to share them with my friends so that they could watch the blossoms unfold.

It took about 10 days once the bulbs were moved into the warm house for the flower stalks to emerge, and for the individual flowers to open. And boy, when they do, you know it.

As I mentioned, the fragrance is heavenly!

I wish I would write dates down, so that I could time the flowers better, but with how busy life is I am happy they got planted at all, even if they are blooming a week before Easter.

There is no guarantee that flowers forced in a vase can be replanted in the garden, but those in pots should be just fine planted the ground post-bloom. Be

sure to "deadhead" the blooms and let the greens ripen before moving in the garden once the weather improves; remember, these plants have been coddled indoors and may not be able to withstand a frost.

What nice lead into a conversation about our other favorite Easter flower, the Easter lily, of course.

Most people assume that it should be hauled off to the compost pile once it has finished blooming. On the contrary, it can become a regular feature of your perennial garden providing you give it the appropriate care.

First, remove any spent flowers from the plant as you did with the hyacinth. We all know that the process of "deadheading" redirects energy away from seed making and back to the bulb. Leaves, however, are left in place until they have browned; as long as they are green they are photosynthesizing and helping the bulb grow stronger.

A large, healthy bulb will give you the best chance of return.

When the weather has warmed up, it's time to plant your lily in the garden. Sink the bulb about three inches below the soil surface, just about the depth that it was in the pot. Don't expect much out of it the first season or even next spring.

Easter lily growers manipulate the plant to bloom much earlier than it would normally. Its natural bloom time is during the summer months.

Hopefully, you will enjoy pure white blooms and a heady fragrance at the height of barbecue season. These same rules can be applied to those of you looking to rebloom colorful Asiatic or Oriental lilies you received as Easter gifts as well.

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.



Photo by Kyle Tourville

Snow Goose

A Palmer resident and bird photographer sent an email this week. He said there was a snow goose in Palmer and it was his first time seeing the bird in this area. He shared this photo he took of the snow goose.

Snow geese are about 29 inches long and are mostly white with black wing tips, which are prominent in flight. Immature snow geese are either light or dark gray with dark legs and bill.

Snow geese winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coast and summer in the tundra where they nest. They are highly colonial and winter in huge flocks, which can number in the tens of thousands. The female snow goose lays three to five white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed near the water.

They dig up roots and tubers of aquatic plants and also feed on waste grain and tender shoots of grass. They make a high-pitched honking.

Years ago, Ricky Adams in New Braintree called me to come see a flock of snow geese, which had landed in his field. It was a first-time sighting for me and a thrill. Another Oakham resident was also there to see the geese.

Blue heron rookery

I received an e-mail from a Hardwick resident. He said, "There is a great blue heron rookery at a beaver pond not far from my home in Hardwick. My wife and I often walk there. Last week my son and daughter in-law counted 20 blue herons." He said there were approximately 13 heron nests and one osprey nest. They are keeping an eye out for the return of the osprey.

Purple finch and more

An Oakham couple recently saw a purple finch at their feeder. They also have lots of goldfinches and the males are sporting their spring yellow feathers.

Bears and more

I r said in a previous column about bears being out of hibernation and the loss of my suet feeder. An Oakham resident reported in an e-mail he saw a bear crossing my road on two different occasions. He said, "I actually saw it twice. The first time was on Saturday, March 11, around 7:15 p.m. crossing between your home and your daughters, heading into the woods across from your residences. The following evening, I saw it again at 8 p.m. crossing at the same spot heading in the same direction. It wasn't a big bear and I couldn't tell if it was collared or not."

He also said he was at work Monday night during the recent heavy snowstorm. While walking outside he noticed a bird, slightly smaller than a cardinal, flying under the light, then landing on the ground, then flying again. He was not sure what kind of bird it was, but it seemed confused by the bright, exterior lighting.

More blackbirds

I now have over a dozen red-winged blackbirds coming to my feeders. Since the bears are out of hibernation, I only put a small amount of seed out in the morning for the birds. I no longer have suet cakes hanging outside.

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.

Life Together

Where is your "Holy" place?

A fishing boat? A deer stand? A beautiful sanctuary surrounded by stained glass?

In your home with loved ones, around a table or playing games on the floor? No matter any religious affiliation, it is in our human nature to find a place of peace, of safety, of something beyond ourselves.

In AA it is the "higher power".

Ramadan began last month,

and during a month of daily fasting, believers break fasting at sunset.

When I walked the streets of the old city of Jerusalem, I could see families breaking fast in their shops. In their worship so many times a day and gathering at the Mosque, they find their sense of the Holy.

Where is your Holy place?

When I spent a week at a Hermitage in California, the silence was profound. The only sound was that of the monks singing a cappella and in perfect pitch.

A man told me that every day

on his way home from work, he stopped in the shade of the trees looking at the water. In silence he became aware of his breath.

He rested and calmed down, and this was his preparation for re-entry to his home. His sense of the Holy had no images or doctrine, it was in the absence of all images and thoughts that his silence was full of grace.

Where is your Holy place?

Your heart is the home of the Holy. It is not in any other place.

When you find a holy place, it is holy because of how the images and thoughts resonate with your

heart. May your life find the moments, the places, the people, that fulfill your longing for the Holy.

Take a breath.

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn of Trinity Episcopal Church in Ware. With 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope. To contact Wilburn, email rkeithw42@gmail.com.

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The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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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 mharrison@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 editor Michael Harrison 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.

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Proposed FY24 school budget sees slight decrease

By Dallas Gagnon
dgagnon@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Tantasqua Regional School District’s budget subcommittee presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 with a projected 4.9% increase over 2023.

While the subcommittee initially saw a projected 5.5 to 5.6% increase from 2023, School Superintendent Deborah Boyd said the budget decrease was seen from oil and health insurance bids coming back lower than anticipated.

“We had a little bit of change in the last months... The budget we are talking about tonight is \$230,000 lower than it was a month ago,” said Boyd at the March 21 meeting.

Additionally, two staff members are resigning, which allows for new staff to be hired at a lower rate opposed to the “senior salaries.”

Operating budget

Slight increases in the budget are in areas such as instruction, increasing from 63.1 to 63.3% of the overall budget and building maintenance from 3.4 to 3.5%.

Boyd said one challenge with this year’s budget is “Chapter 70 did not come in as well as it was to us last year.”

Chapter 70 allowances include grants from the state, out of district tuition, miscellaneous revenue, local assessments, district reserves and school of choice tuition.

Chapter 70 financial contributions increased from 14.4% to 14.9% for fiscal 2024.

Finance Director Stephen Nembirkow said “What this does is, these are the revenues that come in to help offset your individual town assessments, so we have X amount of dollars in the budget, then we apply these revenues, whatever is left over get distributed out to the town for assessment.”

Boyd said that “as a result of it being less of an increase from last year, there’s going to be a little shift... Last year we had almost a 0% increase in assessment by tax but having less Chapter 70 certainly shifted things a little bit.”

Nembirkow said “most of our money goes to wages and salaries,” and “another big piece of our pie is student services.”

New positions

A few additions to the updated budget include three new positions, including an in-school suspension position, an instructional applied behavioral analysis assistant for the Pathways program and another adjustment counselor at the high school.

Boyd said the “big ask” was the adjustment counselor.

“Another adjustment counselor is needed to serve special needs and non-special needs... [to] Help us serve the population we have,” said Boyd.

She added the district has had “more outplacements this year than we have had in many, many years” and has “hit the point that we could not serve our students in a safe way and academically in house.”

The goal of this position would be to better accommodate the mental health needs of students.

Regarding the in-school suspension position, Boyd said the position was removed in 202, but is needed to account for changing regulations around suspension.

She said, “there’s much more rigor in evaluation before we can suspend a student... Some of those [rules] make our process more challenging and certainly more if we don’t have that in school op-

tion to work with.”

The need for an ABA assistant is prompted by “the needs [of] new students coming into the district and their level of need increasing.”

Capital planning

Nembirkow said the senior high school is looking at some “fairly significant capital plan items,” including additional security cameras “to patch up some blind spots” on campus.

The high school is also in need of replacing some old furniture and the carpentry van.

“From my understanding, it cannot pass inspection,” said Nembirkow.

One of the “big ticket items” for the junior high, includes a new piano which will cost approximately \$10,000. Nembirkow said the piano they are currently using can no longer be tuned.

Boyd said the technology director was successful in getting a \$700,000 grant to buy 1,200 Chrome books from the federal program, putting Tantasqua in “a position to be sure that every single classroom has a full set of Chrome books to be able to use for lesson plans whenever they want.”

School choice tuition will be used to purchase carts for the Chrome books or shelving units for storage.

Approvals

The budget subcommittee approved the 2024 budget in the amount of \$27,624,102.00

Additionally, the committee approved the 2024 transportation assessments, the 2024 net operating assessments and the capital plan, which is to be funded by school choice tuition.

The superintendents and budget subcommittee recommended that Tantasqua accept up to 38 incoming seventh-grade applications, nine incoming eighth-grade applications and five incoming ninth grade applications for school of choice students for fiscal 2024.

The board unanimously voted in favor of this recommendation.

The booster club donated cheer uniforms for the TRSD competition team, trifold mats, new swim flags, batting cage nets for the baseball and softball field, a batting cage turtle, tennis ball machine and 35 lacrosse helmets.

The board voted unanimously in favor of accepting the generous donations, with Boyd adding she believes the helmets alone cost about \$3,600.

“Both the TMA and the athletic booster club are extremely supportive of what we do in our programs, the booster club would like to donate these items to our athletic department,” said Boyd.

Junior high school

MCAS testing is scheduled and underway for both the junior and senior high schools.

Senior High School Principal Greg Sturges said the high school transition process is underway and parents have already participated in the transition presentation.

Spring sports are also “off and running.”

The board unanimously approved the principal’s request to donate gymnastic mats that are no longer in use at the school, though still usable.

At this point in the school year, the junior high is working on “end of year planning,” such as field trips and other activities.

Technical Division

Junior High School Principal Mark Wood was happy to report the TRHS Hospitality team won best marketing planning at ProStart at Gillette Stadium, which was a “huge event.”

Rhode Island superintendent candidate has administrative experience

By Matty Anderson
Staff writer

PALMER- Brian Ackerman met with the School Committee on Wednesday March 29, as one of the candidates to be the next school superintendent.

He is currently assistant superintendent for teaching and learning at the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District.

He left his home in Lincoln Rhode Island that day with an hour of leeway, so he could drive around the area and get a feel for his potential new workplace.

Before meeting with the School Committee, he spoke to the students of Palmer High School and asked them what changes they would like to see. One girl showed interest in an engineering pathway, which he found interesting and would potentially be interested in pursuing.

Ackerman believes the students are the number one priority, and believes their wants and needs should be met as best as possible. He puts the kids before any other shareholder, he said,

and recognizes that sixth-graders have totally different needs than seniors. It’s clear he isn’t looking for a one size fits all kind of system, because one size doesn’t actually fit all.

When asked about his values on discipline he said he will stand behind staff in their choices, given that they properly use their de-escalation skills. He firmly believes that discipline shouldn’t be a punishment, and more than anything he likes to address the “why” before finding a solution.

He showed a lot of compassion when explaining how kids from less than ideal home environments genuinely might not understand certain things that may seem obvious to most people. He pointed out everyone has a different understanding of what makes up social and emotional learning. He would much rather kids want to do the right thing than have them just do the right thing out of fear of punishment.

Some of the issues brought to his attention during the meeting included parent involve-

ment, school choice and school start times. Ackerman believes parents would be more involved if their busy work schedules were taken into account when choosing times for events. He suggested potentially giving parents more incentive to come to events, such as a raffle. As for school choice, he believes the school should focus more on meeting the students’ educational interests. They talked about potentially making school start a little later in the day as students perform much better when they are well rested. While this change would require a lot of work it could potentially be worth the effort.

Ackerman has a strong background in this profession, as he was an assistant superintendent for about nine years. During those years, he has helped raise over \$1 million for the school, and has had students work with scientists at Harvard University.

He credits the students saying “we may help students realize new interests in education, but they put in the work.” He

also places a strong emphasis on early intervention with special education and maintaining that support for their entire academic experience.

His previous school used a program that tracked students’ progress from year to year, and that data travels with them from one grade to another, making the transition from one group of teachers to another as seamless as possible.

He also showed interest in incorporating Project Lead The Way, a S.T.E.M curriculum used by his previous school. He promised not to come in and change everything overnight, and would like to work as a team and avoid undermining anyone.

He has put a lot of thought into how he can help the school flourish. He seems to have the skills and experience to back his promises up. Ackerman showed his compassion once again by saying “We are a community, respect, love, and welcome everyone period.”

He is a father, husband, basketball coach, and self-proclaimed lifelong learner.

NORTH | from page 1

have four courses or classes each semester.”

There was more controversy through the meeting, as the topic turned to Palmer High’s sixth through eighth grades. The Committee expressed concerns about the middle school and high school students sharing the same space, and North agreed that “Our sixth graders are so young.”

“So, this building is challenging because it is designed for a high school, it is not de-

signed for a middle school,” North said. “I personally would love to see a middle school.”

One parent took some time during the meeting to air a personal grievance with North, saying that her trust would be “hard won over.” North kept things professional, and assured the parent that maintaining open lines of communication would be one of her priorities as a superintendent.

“I really do appreciate everyone’s feedback – no matter

what it is,” North said. “Because it’s my job to listen and learn from people, so that I can look to see how things can be fixed, and then move forward.”

The meeting ended by addressing North’s handling of the lockdown last week, which committee members were quick to say was “Absolutely perfect.” North spoke to her own thoughts on how they could prepare better in the future, including notifying parents if their students were directly involved, or if a risk had

been identified.

Last week anonymous calls were received at PHS and Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer, along with many other schools in the state, reporting possible safety issues, necessitating police response. No threats were found when police arrived.

The Superintendent Search Committee will be evaluating their four candidates and making their selection this week.

FINALISTS | from page 4

the behavior that is unacceptable and give them the tools to make different decisions

Matthew Francis

Francis talked about getting to know students as individuals.

“Every senior, as they walk across the graduation stage, I should know them by name, I should know them by face,” Francis declared.

“I spent 15 years as a middle school principal in Chicopee, at Bellamy Middle School, with 300 eighth-graders on average, and I took pride in the fact that when they left me in eighth grade, I knew them by face, and I knew them by name.”

Earlier on that Tuesday, several false alarm bomb threats were made to schools in Massachusetts, including Palmer High School. Because of this, some of the questions directed at Francis were colored by the parents’ experience earlier that morning. Francis, who was at the school during the lockdown, was asked how he felt about the school’s response.

“I had the opportunity to talk with the school resource officer and his supervisor afterwards,” he said. “And I asked him questions in regards to today.” Francis wanted to know things like how often the schools have drills for these situations,

and why Old Mill Pond doesn’t do drills, and whether the State Police participate in the drills.

Brian Ackerman

Ackerman has a strong background in this profession, as he was an assistant superintendent for about nine years. During those years, he helped raise over \$1 million for the school, and arranged for some students work with scientists at Harvard University.

He credits the students for all of their hard work by saying “We may help students realize new interests in education, but they put in the work.”

He also places a strong emphasis on early intervention with special education and maintaining that support for their entire academic experience.

His previous school used a program that tracked students’ progress from year to year, that data travels with them from one grade to another, making the transition from one group of teachers to another as seamless as possible. He also showed interest in incorporating Project Lead The Way, a S.T.E.M curriculum used by his previous school. He promised not to come in and change everything overnight, and would like to work as a team and avoid undermining anyone.

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Brian Ackerman showed a lot of compassion when explaining how kids from less than ideal home environments genuinely might not understand certain things that may seem obvious to most people. He pointed out that everyone has a different understanding of what consists of social and emotional learning. He would much rather kids want to do the right thing for itself rather than do so out of fear they will be punished.

Susan North

As the current Principal of Palmer High School, North has a unique perspective on the present needs for the school, as well as for the rest of the district, including redesigning the district website and forming partnerships throughout the community.

“Right now, we have an issue with attendance,” North said, “with students being unmotivated and unengaged in their learning.”

She spoke about ways that, as principal, she had overseen projects that incentivized students, such as implementing “small group learning,” or offering programs like the EMT training course, and spoke about the unpopular block schedule, which both the committee members and students were cited as being against.

“I am not in favor of the block schedule,” North said. “I think that it is very challenging for the students to be doing 84 minutes, and it’s challenging for the educators to provide 84 minutes of activities and instruction for the students.”

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Staff writer Matty Anderson contributed to this story.

State Button Society to hold spring meeting

THREE RIVERS – Massachusetts State Button Society’s spring meeting will be hosted by the Metropolitan Button Club on Saturday, April 15, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main Street, 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; attendees should bring their own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided.

There is no admission fee and all are welcome.

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Rotary Club Donates \$25,000 to PHS



Contributed photo

PALMER — The Rotary Club of Palmer recently donated \$25,000 to Palmer High School for student scholarships. This money will be used to fund an annual scholarship of \$500 for seniors who rank in the top 30% of their class and are attending a college or university in the year after graduation. PHS Principal Sue North (center) and other school officials expressed their appreciation to Rotarians William Cole (left) and Steve Chiacchia (right), shown here presenting the check.

CANCER | from page 1

They participate in the Quabog Valley Relay For Life, which is held each June at Belchertown High School. This year it will be start on Friday, June 23, at about 5 p.m., and continue through noon the next day.

"They really make it fun," she said. "This year the theme is "Make Cancer Extinct," so there will be dinosaurs involved. You dress up in costumes and there are many themed laps." She said his relay team will take part, including Kevin, although he can't do too much walking.

She has also volunteered her time with ACS as an ambassador for two years and is now focused on raising the \$10,000 to celebrate her son's decade of being healthy.

In part, it is also to remember his close friend, Benjamin St. George, of Ware, who died almost two years ago of the same form of brain cancer. "They

were like twins, they were so funny together, and we want to keep his memory alive" she said. The two men were diagnosed with the same cancer within three days of each other.

She also has a book in the works about their journey from tragedy to transformation, which will be titled, "1 Bodacious Life." She already has it in draft form, she said, she just needs to get it in shape for publication.

To learn more about the O'Briens and the path they've been on for the last 10 years go to www.1bodaciouslife.com.

Tickets for the fundraiser can be purchased at the door on April 14, at www.eventbrite.com, at the Veteran's Services office in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main St., during business hours or by calling or texting Betty-Jo O'Brien at 860-338-5667.



Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner gets in the spirit for the annual Easter time pancake breakfast.



The Easter Bunny moves to the groove.



Sisters Sara Wystepek (left) and Charlotte Wystepek appreciated getting their Easter eggs.



Marcus Kosnicki with his mom, Marcie Kosnicki, at the pancake breakfast.

Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison



Delaney Young, 18 months old, with her mom Darcy Young with grandma Doreen Fortune.



Helping make sure the annual event is a success are firefighters Amber Duby (left) and Kaylee Robinson.

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More than 100 members of the community turned out to support the Three Rivers Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary.

BUNNY | from page 1

Ladies Auxiliary President Bonnie Turner, wife of Fire Chief Scott Turner, said the group helps out by providing food, snacks and drinks to firefighters during prolonged calls and purchasing equipment that's not in the department's budget. Most recently, the Ladies Auxiliary purchased a dry suit "to help support them during swift water rescues," Bonnie Turner said.

She said the latest pancake breakfast was a success, feeding approximately 130 people.

"Families were having a blast and we just want everyone to leave happy and full," she said.

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MIAA

Winter tournaments not kind to western part of state

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Conference released an analysis of the winter tournament season, which just concluded three weeks ago.

While it shows plenty of participation, it was not as kind to most Western Mass. teams not named Springfield International Charter School. Both their girls and boys basketball teams reached the state finals this year with the girls capturing the title. Pope Francis hockey, which has always played across the state with a Division 1 schedule also won a state tournament.

But most Western Mass. teams found themselves on the outside looking in for the state tournament.

Palmer girls basketball was one of the most successful programs in the playoffs, making it into the quarterfinals before finally falling.

South Hadley boys basketball would make it into the Round of 16 this year, as did Quaboag boys basketball.

Other qualifying basketball and hockey teams were defeated very early in the state tournament, either in a preliminary round game, or the Round of 32.

The MIAA reported a high participation rate in the state tournament this year among hockey teams. In the four divisions in MIAA ice hockey, nearly 74% of teams made it into one of the four state tournaments.

In Western Mass., Ludlow, Belchertown, Agawam, and Minnechaug made the state tournament. None made it past the round of 32.

Numbers were bit lower for basketball. Out of 357 boys basketball teams, 227 qualified for one of five tournaments, a 63.6% qualifying rate. The numbers were not as good for the girls, which qualified just 58.7% of teams for the state tournament. Only 209 teams made it.

The report also showed 82% of higher seeded teams won games in

TOURNAMENTS | page 8

Frigid temps, hot bats



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Veronica Ouimet winds up for a long throw to first.



Shortstop Natalie Hull watches the ball into her glove.



Chelsea Hull squeezes the out at first.



Carlee Meacham sends a throw home.



Pitcher Molly Szado delivers to the plate.

MONSON – Last Thursday, in the cold and win, Monson softball pounded out 13 hits and took advantage of errors and walks to defeat Southwick 20-1 in five innings. Molly Szado allowed just one run in three innings while Chelsea Hull pitched two innings for the Mustangs. Szado also homered on offense while Ella Corthell turned in three hits for Monson, which is 1-1 following a loss against Wahconah.

BASEBALL



Lucas Pignone gets the in-between hop for the Mustangs.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mustangs ready for regular season



Shane Szado tries to field a bouncing ball.



Caleb Crum watches the easy hop into his glove.

MONSON – Unlike their softball counterparts, Monson baseball is not scheduled to open the season until April 6 against Wachonah. But last week, the Mustangs did get into some light action with a pair of scrimmages as they prepare for the regular season. The Mustangs will face rival Ware on Monday afternoon at home.



Austin Meacham pitches for the Mustangs.



Tyler Labonte gets into the action for Monson.

BASEBALL

Pioneers prep for opener

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brayden Mega makes a throw to first.



Tim Russell pitches in the scrimmage for the Pioneers.



Trevor Millet fires a throw to first.



Miguel Velasquez fields a grounder.

PALMER – Last Wednesday, Pathfinder baseball prepared for their regular season opener with a scrimmage against Monson. The Pioneers were scheduled to scrimmage Palmer as well before opening the season earlier this week.

HIGH SCHOOL

Council seeks 'growth' for MIAA

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – For several months, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has

had a subcommittee analyzing the MIAA's operations and have developed a "Plan for Growth and Improvement."

MIAA Executive Director Robert Baldwin, who since taking

the helm of the MIAA has been issuing director updates on the MIAA website, says the committee is trying to take a proactive approach to introduce reforms because the "status quo is not an option."

In our attempt to move forward, one of the major objectives for growth and improvement is a governance initiative. One of the key actions of this initiative is to develop an organizational structure of

oversight and support that is legally sound and fiscally responsible," Baldwin said. "The goal of this process is to provide greater clarity and consistency to the membership. The execution of this plan entails con-

stitutional revisions of the MIAA and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). The process for constitutional change

MIAA | page 8

Bonsignore takes fourth at Richmond

RICHMOND, VA – Justin Bonsignore scored his second consecutive top-five finish in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on Saturday, April 1 at Richmond Raceway. Driving in the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 150, Bonsignore started from the outside of the front row after qualifying there on Friday, March 31. Following qualifying, rain fell at Richmond, and postponed the race to Saturday – following the conclusion of the NASCAR Xfinity Series 250.

Early in the 150-lap race, Bonsignore was running inside the top few rows when crew chief Ryan Stone made the decision to head down pit road for a few fresh Hoosier tires. Bonsignore raced back up to 13th in the field prior to the next caution, then stayed out when many others pitted, and rocketed to the lead quickly for a few laps. After being passed for the lead, he fell to the bottom of the top-10 before the next cau-



Submitted photo
Justin Bonsignore places fourth in an early-season race on Saturday, April 1 in Richmond, VA.

tion, then made his charge back to the front at the end.

Bonsignore passed Doug Coby for second late – and crossed the line fourth at the finish – after a tough battle with J.B. Fortin and Max McLaughlin over

the final laps. The Holtsville, New York native and his Kenneth Massa Motorsports team had Coastal Fiber LLC on the car for the Richmond race.

“All in all, it was a good day,” Bonsignore said. “The guys

you need to beat for the points, we feel like we beat today. Austin Beers (race winner) has been on point in the first few races as well. We came away with a good finish in a tough battle there in the last laps. The two guys we were racing were just a little bit better on the last lap. It was a lot of work for our team with two days here in Richmond – but we’re going to go home and start working for the next one.”

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track on Saturday, May 6, for the third race of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season – the Duel at the Dog 200 – at Monadnock Speedway. Fans can find more information on that event at JDVProductions.com and more information on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at NASCAR.com. For more information on Justin and his team, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow Justin’s Athlete page on Facebook.

T-Birds win 6-5, sweep Checkers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (36-23-2-5, 79 points) survived a roller-coaster game against the Charlotte Checkers (35-23-5-3, 78 points) and propelled themselves into solo possession of third place in the Atlantic Division with a heartstopping 6-5 overtime victory on Saturday night at Bojangles' Coliseum.

The first period proved to be one of the most chaotic 20-minute frames in recent memory, as the two clubs combined for more offensive output than the entire game on Friday. It took Springfield only 39 seconds to take the first lead of the night, as Martin Frk located a loose puck in his feet in the goal crease off a centering feed by Matthew Peca. Frk shuffled it home past J-F Berube for his 30th goal of the season, equaling the T-Birds' single-season goal-scoring record.

The early lead would evaporate quickly, though, as Zac Dalpe scooped up a rebound near Vadim Zherenko and pounded home his 200th career AHL goal, evening the score, 1-1, at 4:45.

As would become a theme in the period, the fans would not have to wait long for more offense, as Kean Washkurak spun a shot from the slot through Berube's arm at 5:08 to restore the T-Birds lead, 2-1.

Just over five more minutes later, operating on their first power play the night, the Checkers tied it again on a right-circle wrist shot by Aleksii Heponiemi at 10:16, making it a 2-2 game.

Once again, though, there was a rebuttal, as Springfield used its first power play to get right back in front, with Scott Perunovich turning into the shooter, beating Berube over the glove at 12:33 for his second of the season, making it 3-2.

Berube's night would come to an early and unceremonious end just 1:04 later when Nikita Alexandrov got his second point of the period, beating the veteran goalie off the inside of the far post at 13:37, making the T-Birds lead 4-2.

However, Charlotte continued to push the issue, and Matt Kierstedt blasted a shot through

Zherenko at 18:04 off a set play on a face-off, and the Checkers cut the deficit down to 4-3 heading into the intermission break following a seven-goal period on 22 combined shots by the two clubs.

Thunderbirds head coach Drew Bannister elected to insert Joel Hofer into the game at the start of period two, and his team responded by outshooting Charlotte 17-7 in the middle frame while also generating the only goal of the second at 2:22. Frk stopped just inside the zone on the left side, allowing Peca to join the attack, and the centerman beat newcomer Evan Fitzpatrick high to the stick side to make it a 5-3 game.

After Peca's goal, though, Fitzpatrick did his part to keep Charlotte close, denying 16 shots in the second period alone in his first AHL action since December of 2021.

Down 5-3 going into the third, the Checkers turned the game on its head, outshooting Springfield 13-4 in the final period and using their power play to

storm back. First, Dalpe got his second goal of the night and 20th of the season, as he lifted a rebound over Hofer's glove at 1:11 of the third to make it 5-4.

The Thunderbirds spent much of the final period in their own zone, and it finally hurt them with just 2:54 to play, as the Checkers tied the score with their third power-play marker of the night. Gerry Mayhew found his way to the side of Hofer's net and was able to stuff a loose puck in through the Springfield netminder to tie the score, 5-5.

For a second straight night, extra time was needed, but not before the T-Birds had to survive the final 1:35 of regulation while shorthanded once again. After killing the remaining 25 seconds of power play time for Charlotte to begin overtime, play carried on at 4-0-4. With no real numbers advantage, Alexandrov found his way into the slot area and took a wrist shot that fortuitously ricocheted off a defenseman's stick and flailed past a stunned Fitzpatrick to give the T-Birds the win at 3:26 of the extra frame.

Railers fall against Thunder

WORCESTER – Not next year, probably, but somewhere down the road Railers fans will turn on their TVs to see an episode of History's Mysteries investigating why their team can't beat the Adirondack Thunder.

This strange turn of events in the playoff drive added another chapter Saturday night at the DCU center with the Thunder beating Worcester, 3-1, even though the home team had a 33-22 edge in shots on goal.

The outcome disappointed an enthusiastic crowd of 5,681 on Military Night. It was the sixth largest crowd of the season.

Adirondack has taken 9 of a possible 10 points in the last five games between the teams. Worcester still has a one point lead in the North Division playoff race but the Thunder has two

games in hand. The Railers have four games left, three against Adirondack, so they are hardly out of the race but they have to find a way to score.

How do they do that? “Shoot the puck,” coach Jordan Smotherman said. “When we’re in scoring areas we don’t shoot the puck.”

That was really evident in this defeat. If Railers forwards did not make the extra pass when they were in scoring areas, they made one too many moves with the puck trying to get even closer.

Worcester's shots on goal margin included a 22-3 margin in the second period when there were times it seemed as though the Railers were playing with a two-man advantage.

The outcome might have been different if Worcester had

played a better first period. The Thunder scored twice to take 2-0 lead as Sebastian Vidmar registered a power play goal at 5:04, then Matt Jennings converted a breakaway at 18:55, beating Henrik Tikkanen with a backhander.

The Railers only goal came in that second period. It was also on a power play as Nolan Vesey snapped a 14-game goal drought at 12:44 by firing a 20-footer past Thunder goaltender Isaac Poulter, who was great.

The final Adirondack goal was an empty netter by Travis Broughman with 10 seconds left in the third period.

A word about Thunder goaltending in general.

Aside from Friday night when Adirondack used two rookie goaltenders in the Railers' 5-4 overtime victory, Poulter and

Jake Theut have combined to stop 121 of 125 Worcester shots in their team's four recent triumphs.

Even though they are still mathematically in fourth place, the Railers' hold on a playoff berth is tenuous. The Thunder is playing almost perfect hockey; they have earned at least one point in 11 straight games.

Worcester's road to the playoffs is a bumpy one, but the way the Railers need to play is not complicated.

“You can't play just 40 minutes of hockey,” Smotherman said. “We show it for glimpses of time, and it's on the leadership in that (dressing) room. You have to coach everybody up, bring guys together.”

And take the shot, not make the pass.

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Athlete of the Week



NAME: Chelsea Hull
SCHOOL: Monson
Hull pulled double duty in a win over Southwick at first base as well as throwing two scoreless innings for Monson.

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

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Roster spots remain open in Quabbin League

More players are needed for the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League as it seeks to infuse new talent into its league for the 2023 season.

The league recently held its open practice, but still has plenty of open roster spots remaining to fill for the 2023 season.

Registration for the 2023 season remains open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The season is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2023.

Valley Wheel tryouts set for April 8

The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League cancelled tryouts scheduled for Sunday, April 2 due to weather, moving the first tryout to this weekend.

Players looking to join the league can attend the next tryout time of Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m. at Blunt Park in Springfield.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

TOURNAMENTS | from page 7

the boys tournament and 90% of girls higher seeds won their games. The measure reflects on the ranking system used to seed teams. The system includes multiple factories in addition to win-loss record, including strength of

schedule and wins against teams that also qualify for tournaments.

For boys and girls basketball, four of the five state championship games in each sport featured the No. 1 seed making it to the finals.

MIAA | from page 7

at the MIAA is that the Board of Directors can recommend revision, and the Assembly is ultimately responsible for voting constitutional revisions. The MIAC was created in 1950. Its constitution is separate and independent of the MIAA constitution. As a result, the MIAC would need to vote to approve its own constitutional revision.”

The MIAC did just that in late January, voting to replace its current constitution. An updated version can be accessed online.

Play at the MIAA level has undergone major changes after the decision was made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to institute a new state tournament instead of holding sectional tournaments with the four sectional champions in the state facing off in a short state tournament.

The result of bringing forward the new tournament format set in motion a number of other reforms, including a very robust realignment of schools in

the state in an effort to create an even playing field.

This dramatically affected teams in Western and Central Massachusetts, as many teams found themselves in lower divisions than in the past in an effort to match schools of similar size to the schools in Eastern Massachusetts, which are in more densely populated areas. Because of this, Eastern Mass. schools have often had a decided advantage against Western Mass. schools whether it be in regular season competitions or when the short state playoffs would happen in the past.

The state tournament has been in place for two schools years, with the spring tournament putting the bow on the second year under the new format. While the state tournament is the new way going forward, Western and Central Mass. have been ending regular seasons and a week early and holding their own tournaments to name sectional champions and keeping that tradition alive.

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. 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.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including base-

ball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, 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, archery, judo, 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 orga-

nizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. “We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year,” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants.”

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State

Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.state-gamesofamerica.com.

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

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystate-games.org.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Alois, Arthur C. Died March 24, 2023 Burial was private



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 \$100, 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

Arthur C. "Art" Alois

MONSON - Arthur C. "Art" Alois, 75, passed away March 24, 2023. He was born on May 8, 1947 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania to the late Arthur A. and Doris (Laudeman) Alois. Art played football for four years at the University of Pittsburgh while earning his Bachelor's Degree. Shortly after graduating from college, Art met the love of his life, Jane, in Stroudsburg, Pa. and they eventually settled in Monson over 30 years ago.

Art worked as a transportation sales person for numerous companies before retiring. He enjoyed fishing with family and friends, golfing, and spending

time outside tending to his yard. In 1989, Art was inducted into the Pennsylvania sports hall of fame for outstanding high school and college athletic achievements. Besides his parents, Art was predeceased by his brother, Richard A. Alois. He will be dearly missed by his wife of over 50 years, Jane (Dennis) Alois; daughter, Katherine Balog and her husband, Paul, of CT; grandchildren, Jackson and Sarah Balog, of CT; sister, Caroline Trezise, of PA; niece, Robyn



Koch, of PA; nephews, Eric and Jeremy Trezise, of PA; and brother-in-law, James T. Dennis, of FL; and sister-in-law, Jacqueline Alois, of WV. Services were held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 10:00am at St. Paul's Universalist Church in Palmer. Burial will be held privately for Art's family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Art's memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Recycle your electronics, appliances at church event

BRIMFIELD - Residents of all area towns are invited to bring their unused electronics and more to a recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday April 15, at First Congregational Church of Brimfield at 20 Main Street.

Electronics, appliances, items with a plug and/or batteries, as well as bicycles in any condition will be accepted and recycled for a small cost as follows:

- \$5 each for computers, laptops, video game consoles, DVD players, VCRs, small printers, radios, speakers, table lamps, fans, hair dryers, curling irons, projectors, drills, digital cameras, clocks, trophies, frying pans and cookware, holiday lights and other small electronics. \$10 each for vacuum cleaners/roomba, toaster ovens, ceiling fans, floor lamps, air fry-

ers, electric grills, hot plates, small radiators, keyboard pianos, coffee makers, ice makers and small household appliances.

\$15 each for flat screen computer monitors and small microwaves.

\$20 each for CRT computer monitors, TVs up to 24 inches, dorm-sized refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, water coolers, large printers/copiers, heat lamps, heaters, propane tanks (empty) and range-top/large microwaves.

\$25 each for TVs between 25 and 31 inches, washing machines, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, large appliances, outdoor grills, treadmills, exercise equipment, snow blowers, lawn mowers, rototillers, power washers, large yard equipment and water tanks. \$30 each for TVs between

32 and 35 inches, large refrigerators and ride-on lawn mowers.

- \$35 each for TVs over 36 inches. \$40 each for projection TVs.

There will be no charge (cash donation recommended) for cell phones, bicycles in any condition, wires, cables, chargers, car batteries, household batteries keyboards, tablets, VHS/DVDs.

The event will be held rain or shine. Computer hard drives will be destroyed during the recycling process, but can be removed on-site at the event for an additional charge. Cash payment is preferred, but checks will be an acceptable form of payments over \$30.

For more information, email GreenDayRecyclingMA@Gmail.com.

Poetry celebration at Monson Library, April 8

MONSON - April is National Poetry Month, inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. This is the largest literary celebration in the world. Poets and poetry lovers are invited to a Poetry Sharing and Reading at the

Monson Free Library, 2 High St., on Saturday, April 8, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Those who wish to read are invited to bring their favorite poems, poems they love, or poems they have written. Poetry books will be

available for attendees to choose a selection to share. Coffee, tea and sweet refreshments will be served. There is no admission fee. Members of the public are welcome.

ANIME | from page 1

Youth Services Department at the library to discuss the evolution of female characters over time in Japanese animation, which is generally referred to as anime.

"I've been passionate about animation my whole life, and I really got into anime when I was in college in the 80s," Wetherbe said. "I saw many firsts in anime that I hadn't seen in other animation, like seeing strong and capable women as heroes on the screen."

In Weatherbe's adulthood, she became interested in the history of anime, particularly with the portrayal of women in the shows. The first anime, "Astro Boy" in 1963,

featured a prominent side character named Astro Girl that Wetherbe said set a precedent for many female characters in anime to come.

Wetherbe's panel discussed the creation of anime in Japan, which was widely influenced by American occupation in the country after the events of World War II. The United States' love of comic books and cartoons spread into Japanese culture, and anime and written manga soon became popular.

While women and girls were often featured in popular anime, Wetherbe said that it established many one-dimensional roles that reduced women to appear shallow or serve primarily as a hero's love interest.

"It took a while to see different types of female characters that were more than just the girlfriend of the little sister," Wetherbe said. "While I do think it's absolutely okay to be a girl that's bubbly, or a girl who

wants a boyfriend, it's important for girls to know that they're allowed to be lots of things at once."

Many anime series were discussed for their portrayal of female characters that have taken the world by storm, such as the magical girls of Sailor Moon and Princess Allura from Voltron. Wetherbe commended the women who worked behind the scenes as well for their contributions to the anime industry and the shaping of strong female characters, such as Rumiko Takahashi and the all-female anime creators known as CLAMP.

Wetherbe also talked to the teens about the female anime fanbase that has continued to grow in the US. She said that girls make up more than half of anime watchers in Japan, and thousands cosplay as characters and attend anime conventions every year.

"Anime has become this incredible thing that has spread all over the world," Wetherbe said. "I love that it has been able to expand girls' worldviews on what they can be."

Wetherbe holds multiple fandom panels at local libraries every year, so teens who missed this event will likely have more opportunities to hear her share her knowledge. More information about upcoming events can be found at palmerlibrary.org.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to a total of 501 calls and made the following arrests or summons for arrests March 21-28. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

March 22

Raymond Andrew Lavalley, Jr., 65, of 3123 Main Street in Bondsville, was arrested following a traffic stop near Big Y and charged with OUI liquor, possession of a Class A drug, possession of a Class B drug, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation.

Also that day, the department responded with mutual aid to the Wilbraham Fire Department on Boston Road as well as medical assistance on Stony Hill Road.

March 23

Police conducted an investiga-

tion at Pathfinder Tech. No other details were provided.

Also that day, the department responded to a call about a motor vehicle theft and brush fire on Wilbraham Street.

March 24

Alexander Nunez, 33, of 1282.5 South Main Street apt. 1R in Palmer, received summonses for operating an uninsured and unregistered vehicle with a suspended license and attaching plates to a motor vehicle following a traffic stop on Main Street.

David Antonio Pujols, 33, of 170 Walnut Street in Springfield received a summons for driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop in the vicinity of Iberia Foods.

March 25

Officers responded to call for

medical assistance on North Main Street and at Pine Elders Apartments on Stony Hill Road.

March 26

Michael Curtis Champagne, 30, of 39 Converse Street in Palmer was arrested on a warrant. No other details were provided.

March 27

David J. Gow, 45, of 420 North Liberty Street in Belchertown, was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, armed assault with attempt to commit robbery and armed robbery following a complaint at the Country Corner convenience store on Springfield Street in Three Rivers.

Also that day, police responded to an assault complaint at another Palmer business. No other details were provided.

Fire Logs

BONDSVILLE FIRE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call for the period March 28-April 4: At 6:38 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, the department responded to South Main Street for a medical assistance call and returned to service at 7:06 a.m.

Twenty-ninth annual Spring Art Exhibition & Sale, April 15 to 30

MONSON - The Monson Arts Council is inviting area artists to enter its 29th annual Spring Art Exhibition & Sale, themed "What Was... What Will Be" to be held April 15 to 30, in Monson. The call for entry offers all area artists the opportunity to make digital entries online. All information about the show and the jury process, entry fees and important is available on line at the MAC website at www.monsonartscouncil.org.

The organization offers a wide variety of awards and \$4,500 in prize money is distributed to winning work in painting, photography, multi-dimensional art including sculpture, pottery, fabric art and graphic arts, including drawing and printmaking.

A distinguished panel of jurors will view and select art digitally for the show. All prizes will be selected once work is delivered and jurors will view the work in person. Jurors

include Mahwish Chishty, associate professor in art, UMass, Amherst, Barbara Lussier, a signature painter of New England Plein Air Painters, and Lauren Szumita, curator, Fitchburg Art Museum.

For more information contact Maureen Solomon, a member of the Publicity Committee, at 413-537-8206 or by emailing maureen@go-dread.com.

C4R spring kick-off event April 20

PALMER - The Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council invites everyone to a spring kick-off event on Thursday, April 20, from 7-8 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. at Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Join C4R and catch up on who they are, what they have done and what they plan to do in 2023 for our

local rivers.

As we all get back to "normal" let's get back to the rivers, caring for them and enjoying them.

C4R created four Blue Trails to enjoy and care for, they monitor water quality, restore places, and they hope to do more. They are looking to build a stronger group of local river folk to connect more people

to our local rivers and to strengthen their work.

C4R will talk about paddling, monitoring water quality, clean-ups, how anyone can participate and begin to rebuild team C4R. All are welcome.

For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free April events

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

All ages are welcome. 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. Space is limited.

Explore the North Side

Join DCR staff for a four-mile out/back hike on Quabbin's north side of the watershed via Gate 22 on Saturday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will be walk-

ing down to the water on a dirt road through the forest.

Walking to the water, the hike covers two miles and drops 180 feet in elevation. Participants will then backtrack and head back uphill the way they came.

The parking area for Gate 22 is located at the end of Shutesbury Road in the town of New Salem. Please do not block the gate. (https://goo.gl/maps/SPqD6Si9ix-uCQt18)

Register here www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1

Investigating forest health

Curious how active management of a forest can increase diver-

sity and maintain forest health? Join DCR staff on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to noon and gain a better understanding of how active forest management leads to a healthier environment for our region.

How are various agents (invasive insects and plants, diseases etc.) impacting trees in the Quabbin and Ware River forests?

Meet at Quabbin Park East Entrance for this 1-mile moderate hike.

(https://goo.gl/maps/SW1wiHe4DnRPJL9a7)

Register here www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1

Night work to begin on railroad tracks

PALMER - The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will begin rehabilitating its main rail track starting Monday, April 3. This project is estimated to be completed between July and August.

The daily train schedule will operate Monday through Friday starting at 5 p.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period) to service the railroad's rail customers from Palmer to South Barre, and returns to Palmer. When this rail track rehabilitation project is completed, the train schedule will resume back to daytime service beginning at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period).

Anyone with questions, please contact the railroad's business office phone number from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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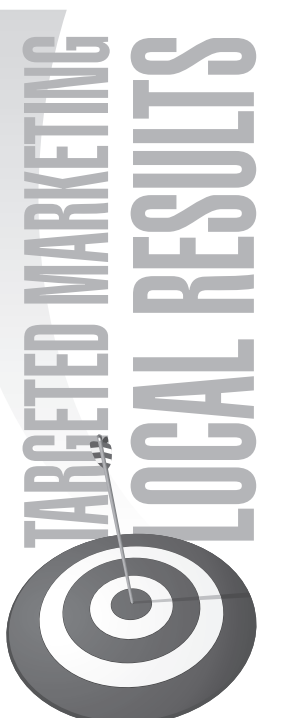
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Journal Register

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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. Part-time morning and evening hours for van operators starting at \$15.50/hour. We are also looking for full-time CDL Class B drivers starting at \$24.50-\$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.

Health Director Full-Time

The Town of Palmer is accepting applications for the position of full-time Public Health Director.

Applicant must have the ability to perform professional inspections, technical and administrative work related to the enforcement and interpretation of public health, sanitation, and environmental laws and regulations. Applicant must possess a valid motor vehicle license; registration as a Massachusetts Sanitarian and Lead Paint Determinator; ServSafe certification required. Minimum qualifications: bachelor's degree in public health or a related field; two years' experience in public health and environmental health; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Salary is up to \$65,000 per year. The Town of Palmer is a lead community in a regional shared services health grant. The grant funding is an additional \$15,000 subject to appropriation.

This is a full-time bargaining unit exempt position. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, and application to Town Manager, Town of Palmer, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

The Town of Palmer is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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Public Notices

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **April 18, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street on the application of Lord Boucher, LLC for a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval provided by § 7.3 and 7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant is seeking to convert an existing mixed-use property from one residence and three commercial spaces to three residences and 1 commercial space. The property is located at 1 Green Street assessors map 115, Parcel 181. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig, Chairman
03/30, 04/06/2023

Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413- 283-2687.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair
Palmer Conservation Commission
04/06/2023

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 6 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:15 PM** in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Kali Cannabis, is seeking a Finding under section 171.83Q for reconstruction after destruction of a pre-existing, non-conforming structure on the property located at 405-407 Shearer St, Palmer, MA. The applicant is proposing to construct a +/- 2,800 sqft retail cannabis dispensary. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 19 Lots 38 & 39, and Map 65 Lot 20.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Administrative 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 website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marciniac, Chairman
04/06, 04/13/2023

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 23 SM 001358

ORDER OF NOTICE
To: **Ann Blackburn a/k/a Melissa Ann Blackburn-Kierkla** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq).

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston Mortgage Securities Corp., Home Equity Asset Trust 2006-7, Home Equity Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-7 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 218 Cedar Swamp Road, given by Ann Blackburn to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Accredited Home Lenders, Inc., dated July 10, 2006, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16040, Page 201, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated November 13, 2017, and recorded with said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21993, Page 19, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/

have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **May 15, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on March 31, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
22898
04/06/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the area and proposed construction of a new SFH, driveway, septic system, and well on property identified as Assessors Map 53, Parcel 004A, Cote Rd, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owners are Kyle & Emily White.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission
04/07/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0087CA
In the matter of: **Ghina Ghassan Ghrear**
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Ghina Ghassan Ghrear of Palmer, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ghina Ghassan Harny
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/24/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 27, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/06/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 23 SM 001119

ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: **Amy Lanou a/k/a Amy M. Lanou** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq)

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 6 Oak Street, given by **Amy Lanou to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for Radius Financial Group, Inc., "Lender", and its successors and assigns**, dated November 13, 2017, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21943, Page 79, as may be affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated April 1, 2022 and recorded with said Registry in Book 24534, Page 174, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers

Aubree Nicole Hubbard CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Aubree Nicole Hubbard of Palmer, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Aubree Nicole Savicki
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 29, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/06/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 23 SM 001119

ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: **Amy Lanou a/k/a Amy M. Lanou** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq)

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 6 Oak Street, given by **Amy Lanou to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for Radius Financial Group, Inc., "Lender", and its successors and assigns**, dated November 13, 2017, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21943, Page 79, as may be affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated April 1, 2022 and recorded with said Registry in Book 24534, Page 174, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers

Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **05/01/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 3/17/2023

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
04/06/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P0662EA
Estate of: **James Thomas Martin**
Date of Death: **09/23/2022**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **James J Martin of North Hollywood, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **James J Martin of North Hollywood, CA** 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 04/26/2023.**

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 with-

out 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 29, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/06/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:20 P.M.** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine whether the work associated with the installation of two new utility poles adjacent to Reimers Rd and associated tree removals within the 200-foot RFA and 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW/Inland Bank are subject to Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is Massachusetts Electric Company.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission
04/06/2023

Legal Notice MONSON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT Proposed FY 23/24 Budget

****This Public Hearing will be held in-person and remote via Zoom****
The Monson School Committee will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2023-2024 School Department budget, as required by law, on **April 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** at Quarry Hill Community School-School Committee Room # 428, 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83372423565>
Meeting ID: 833 7242 3565
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,8337242 3565# US (Chicago)
+16469313860,,8337242 3565# US
Meeting ID: 833 7242 3565
Find your local number:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83372423565>
03/30, 04/06/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P0519EA

Estate of: **Coreena Lynn Torres**
Date of Death: **Feb 12, 2023**
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Jennifer M Hestad of Three Rivers, MA**
Kristie Jean Ohman of Dalton, MA.

Jennifer M Hestad of Three Rivers, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on March 30, 2023.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23486
04/06/2023

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

Docket Number: 23 SM 001348 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: **Rita G. Wakem** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Penny Mac Loan Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 38 Bourne Street, given by **Rita G. Wakem to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee**, as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, its successors and assigns, dated December 31, 2018, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22506, Page 514, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/

have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **May 15, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on March 30, 2023.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23486
04/06/2023

Jennifer M Hestad of Three Rivers, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on March 30, 2023.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23486
04/06/2023

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.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Turley Publications, an independent, family-owned newspaper company, is seeking a journalism leader to serve as its Executive Editor. This is a chance to help forge a group of enthusiastic journalists into a cohesive team that will continue to evolve hyperlocal coverage in all 12 weekly papers, and prepare the publications for the future.

He or she will have a strong voice in the department's overarching strategy in addition to where the newsroom is headed both on a day-to-day basis and its long-term goals.

The perfect candidate will have strong, proven leadership qualities as well as editing, writing and coaching abilities. They will be able to mold coverage as they work with a great group of editors and writers who know their communities.

They must have the ability to articulate and reinforce standards for ethics and professional conduct as well as excellence in journalism. Problem-solving, innovating and adapting existing procedures and techniques in the quest to put out the best papers possible is also imperative.

The company is looking for a leader who will work in a collaborative manner while setting expectations and holding staff accountable. It is also expected the editor will work well with other departments.

The right candidate would:

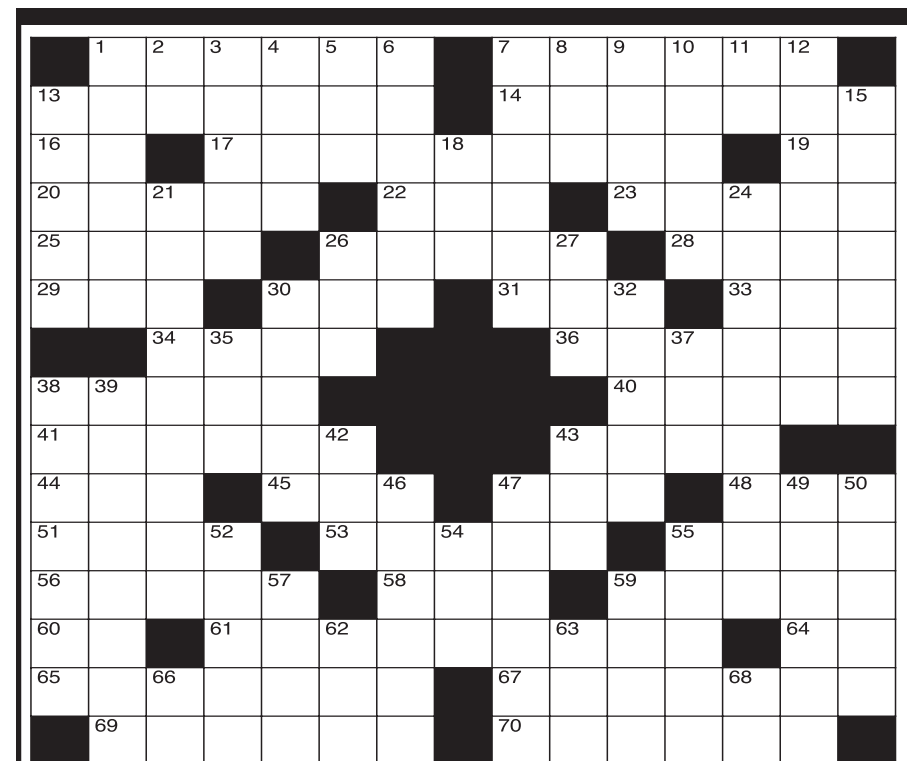
- Ensure all of the papers have a good balance of news stories.
- Be able to work with editors so they are able to provide readers with the best possible papers will also be important.
- Be a mentor to all new hires, but particularly to writers, with the goal of developing a bench of future editors.
- Be an editorial manager with a proven track record in leading newsrooms and have a bachelor's degree or the equivalent experience.
- Represent the company as the senior editorial staff member and would report to the owners, Keith and Patrick Turley.

This position may include acting as editor of the Journal Register, a weekly paper that covers Palmer, Monson, Brimfield, Wales and Holland.

The salary range would be between \$50,000 and \$60,000 a year, depending on experience. This is not a remote position.

Turley Publications Inc. is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive salaries, paid vacation and sick time, a health plan and a 401k. It is a locally-owned family business that takes pride in all of the communities we serve.

Please send a cover letter explaining why you are the best candidate for the job and how you can be a crucial component of Turley Publications' future, along with a resume, references and several clips to Eileen Kennedy at ekennedy@turley.com.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Colas
 - Single-celled animals
 - The rear car of a train
 - Endangered
 - It cools your home
 - Helper
 - "The First State"
 - More aged
 - Partner to cheese
 - Type of wrap
 - From a distance
 - Satisfies
 - "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
 - God of battle (Scandinavian)
 - Cooking utensil
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Able to perform
 - Big man on campus
 - Second epoch of the Tertiary period
 - Porticos
 - Alban and Peter are two
 - Gets up
 - Humble request for help
 - One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
 - Unhappy
 - Hint or indication
 - A way to plead
 - Digits
 - Broadway actress
 - Daisy
 - Jewish calendar month
 - Author Gore
 - Peacock network
 - White poplar
 - Promotional material
 - A period of calm
 - Take too much
 - Emit energy
 - Something you can take
 - Mended with yarn
 - Inconsistent
- CLUES DOWN**
- Calm down
 - One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
 - One who pretends
 - Hang glide
 - Distinctive practice
 - Mariner
 - Peaks
 - Queens ballplayer
 - Geological times
 - Twofold
 - Atomic #13
 - Tranquillizing
 - Metric weight unit
 - Indicates
 - Unwanted rodent
 - Partly cooked with hot water
 - One who can be recommended
 - Resembles a bag or pouch
 - Midway between south and south-east
 - Sets up for a photo
 - California white oak
 - More (Spanish)
 - After B
 - Decorated tea urn
 - Island
 - Car mechanics group
 - Wordplay joke
 - Cut a rug
 - Prickly plant
 - Speech in praise of a deceased person
 - European buzzard
 - Influent linguist
 - West African languages
 - Siskel's partner
 - Skinny
 - Oblong pulp
 - Consumed
 - Small, mischievous sprite
 - Powerful lawyer
 - Indicates position

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

THIS WEEK

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN PRINE: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Palmer Historical & Cultural Center, 2072 Main Street in Three Rivers. Hear the stories behind the songs and the many ways that the music of John Prine has influenced Donna Lee and the Crooked Ledge Band. Beer and wine will be available for purchase from Brimfield Winery. For tickets, go to tinyurl.com/3ubm85nn.

NEXT WEEK

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 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@yahoocom.

UPCOMING

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS AND MORE: First Congregational Church of Brimfield at 20 Main Street is hosting an electronics recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday April 15. Residents from all towns are welcome to recycle electronics, appliances, items

with a plug and/or batteries, as well as bicycles in any condition will be accepted and recycled for a small cost. For more information, email GreenDayRecycling-MA@gmail.com.

WILBRAHAM — The April meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will take place at noon on April 13 at the St. Cecilia's Parish Center on Main Street. Following a luncheon and a "make your own sundaes" dessert, the speaker for the day will be Matt Flatow, floral designer for flowers, FLOWERS in Springfield. He's been in the floral business for over 35 years and will bring his wealth of knowledge and demonstrate his floral arranging techniques.

FABRIC DRIVE: First Church of Monson partners with Savers of West Springfield to sponsor a soft goods FUNDrive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, in the parking lot of the church, located at 5 High Street. Clean used clothing, bedding (sheets, blankets, mattress covers), curtains, towels, or any other woven goods will be accepted. Household goods and books cannot be included. Donors are asked to bag clean items in large plastic bags averaging about 20 pounds each. For more information, call the church office at 413-267-3312, email office@firstchurchmonson.org or go to FirstChurchMonson.org.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES: The staff of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation is holding an all-day open house at the sanctuary from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, to celebrate Earth Day.

Anyone who wants to find out more about Norcross or if just want to get outside and have some fun

with friends and family in nature, is encouraged to head over to the Norcross Administration Building at 30 Peck Road for programs, activities, tours, representatives from other naturalist organizations, a food truck and giveaways. Guided tours of our public trails will be led by Norcross staff. They will kick off the day with an early-riser birdwatching walk with Bill Cormier of Wild Bird Crossing.

INTERESTS

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Rd. to learn or practice different crafts. 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 sign posts). 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.

SCHOLARSHIP opportunities

High school seniors eligible for local scholarship

MONSON — The Democratic Town Committee is once again awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Monson and pursuing post-secondary education.

According to a new release, this scholarship opportunity is not limited to students who attend Monson High School. Students who reside in the town 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 2023 Monson High School Common Scholarship Application. All materials being submitted need to be postmarked by Wednesday, April 26.

For more information, send an email to karen_monsondems@yahoo.com.

Baystate Wing seeks local scholarship applicants

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is making scholarship applications for area students available.

The Auxiliary will award scholarships of \$500 for the 2023-'24 academic year 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.

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 those receiving scholarships, including dental hygiene, health system management, nursing, pharmacy and radiology.

According to a press release, 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 include teachers, nurses, business owners, both young and retirees who live in many different area communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

The COVID-19 pandemic created some challenges for this group of committed volunteers who had to temporarily close the gift shop in March of 2020, restricting the Auxiliary's ability to raise funds for the annual scholarship awards.

"We are delighted to be back in the Baystate Wing Gift Shop and proud to continue to serve and support our hospital and our patients and visitors who come to the hospital for care," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary.

"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.

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department. Completed application forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the guidance department prior to April 14, the deadline for applications to be sent back to the Auxiliary for consideration.

Monson students eligible for \$500 award

MONSON — The Monson Garden Club recently announced that two \$500 scholarships are available to high school seniors who reside in town and plan to continue school at a two or four-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 28.

www.richardgreeninsurance.com
RICHARD R. GREEN
 Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Fax: 413-267-3496
 Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

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TUESDAY - Taco Tuesday
 2 Tacos \$5
 2 Tacos, Chips & Salsa \$8

WEDNESDAY - 1/2 Price 14" Pizza

THURSDAY - 75¢ Wings and BOGO Tenders

FRIDAY - Fish Fryday \$12 Fish & Chips

SATURDAY - Sampler Saturday \$12
 Mozzarella Sticks, Nachos, Wings & Bacon Tots

SUNDAY - \$15 Prime Rib Dinner

Some 'did-you-knows' about estate plans

If you've done any estate planning, or even if you're just familiar with it, you probably know the basics — that is, a comprehensive estate plan can help you pass on assets to your family while also achieving other goals, such as designating someone to take care of your affairs if you become unable to do so. But you may not know about some other estate-planning issues that could prove important in your life:

- **Power of attorney for students** – Children heading off to college may be considered legal adults in many states. Consequently, you, as a parent, may not have any control over medical treatment if your child faces a sudden, serious illness or is involved in an accident. Instead, a doctor who doesn't know your child or your family may decide on a course of action of which you might not approve. To help prevent this, you may want to have your college student sign a medical power of attorney form, which will allow you to make decisions on your child's behalf if doctors don't think your child can make those choices. You might also want to combine the medical power of attorney with an advance health care directive or living will, which lets you specify actions you do or don't want to happen. In any case, consult with your legal advisor before taking any of these steps.
- **Community property versus common law** – Not all states treat married couples' possessions equally. If you live in a community property state, the property you acquire during your marriage is generally considered to be owned in equal halves by each spouse, with some exceptions. But if you live in a common law state, the property you obtain while you're married is not automatically owned by both spouses. In these states, if you buy some property, you own it, unless you decide to put it in the name of yourself and your spouse.

This doesn't necessarily mean, however, that your spouse has no rights, because common law states typically have rules that guard surviving spouses from being disinherited. But here's the key point: If you move from a community property state to a common law state, or vice versa, you might not want to assume that your and your spouse's property ownership situations will remain the same. Consequently, if you do move, you may want to consult an estate-planning attorney in your new state to determine where you stand.

- **Pet trusts** – You always strive to take good care of your pets. But what might happen to them if you become incapacitated in some way? Unless you have a close family member or friend who's willing to take over care for your pet, you might want to consider setting up a pet trust, which can take effect either during your lifetime or after you pass away. A trustee typically will make payments to the caregiver you've designated for your pet, with payments continuing for the pet's lifetime or a set number of years. Again, an estate-planning attorney can help you with this arrangement.

Estate planning certainly involves the big-picture issue of leaving a legacy to the next generation. But the issues we've discussed can also be meaningful to you, so you'll want to address them properly.

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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413-454-3346
 Panchenkopower@gmail.com
 8 Bluemer Rd. Southampton, MA