



COMMUNITY

Pet of the week: meet Minou

Page 2



MONSON

Town wide clean up April 27

Page 3



SPORTS

Pioneers get win against Sci-Tech

Page 7

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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PALMER

## Street pipe repaired, Commission still has questions

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At the Conservation Commission’s April 2 meeting, the members discussed the aftermath of an emergency incident on Palmer St.

“This past Thursday there was a little bit of a situation that happened on Palmer St. down in Three Rivers,” Enright said.

Enright went on to describe an employee from the Department of Public Works informing him about a then-ongoing sinkhole situation that had formed on the straightaway by the rail line. He said that a 15-inch drain line used for stormwater had succumbed to age and over-taxation and failed, causing a spurt of water which compromised the integrity of the road and made a pathway under the rail line, before exiting into the Quaboag River.

“With this, there was a lot of silt deposition into the river,” Enright said. “As soon as those details were told to us, we got on the telephone line with the Department of Environmental Protection and immediately began formulating conditions for an emergency certification form so all the outfits that would be involved with the project, between town, private excavation and the rail line body itself, because everybody would have to act on it for them to be able to enter the area and perform the necessary work to abate the emergency and start making repairs to the area as a whole.”

By the time the meeting was held, however, Enright was able to confirm that the rail line had been repaired and was once again active. The drain line had been taken care of and filled and the riverbank had undergone treatment in order to restabilize it after the event.

“We’re on the back end of the PALMER | page 4



Superintendent Matthew Francis and Principal Sue North honored Shawn Troche, Jr., alongside his family, at the Academic Excellence Award dinner at Pathfinder’s Perso Restaurant.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Students honored with Academic Excellence Awards from Superintendents

Mass. Association of School Superintendents present Academic Excellence Awards at dinner on Pathfinder Tech campus

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

Pathfinder Technical Vocational School hosted a dinner on March 27 to recognize the winners of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents’ Academic Excellence Award.

“This is the second time I’ve hosted this since I’ve been Super-

intendent,” Eric Duda said. “There was a history prior to COVID of this being an annual event, so I try to carry on that important tradition.”

The MASS Academic Excellence Award is given to the student with the highest academic achievement as selected by the superintendents.

“For the nine towns we serve, there is no event to recognize that particular award in Western Massachusetts,” Duda said. “A couple decades ago, as is my understanding, there was a tradition started by a former superintendent that we would do a recognition here. It’s turned into a really special event.”

The event was attended by the superintendents, the students and their families, and was host-

ed in Pathfinder’s Perso Restaurant, with a table for each school district. The superintendents each submitted write-ups for the students they had awarded, which were featured in the event’s program.

From the Belchertown Public Schools, Superintendent Brian Cameron presented an award to Rainer Kristensen.

“From his earliest days at Belchertown High School, Rainer has distinguished himself as a first-rate scholar as well as a tireless worker in the arena of athletic competition,” Cameron said. “Add to this a wry and knowing sense of humor coupled with an affable personality, and a picture of Rainer Kristensen begins to emerge.”

“In a recent conversation with the educator who has facilitated

Rainer’s Advisory section over the past four years, he shared the following observation: ‘As teachers, we are always looking for students who ‘get’ what we are putting out there in class exercises and discussions. Rainer epitomizes that exemplar; engaged and engaging, wise and witty, understated and unparalleled. It has been my privilege to work with him.’”

From Granby Public Schools, Superintendent Stephen Sullivan presented an award to Cindy Kusomo.

“Academically, Cindy strives for perfection,” Sullivan said. “Teachers say her strength is her attention to detail. This keeps her focused in and out of school and has contributed to her currently

AWARDS | page 6

MONSON

## School Comm. discusses cuts to proposed budget

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The School Committee discussed the proposed budget with the superintendent at its March 27 meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke said that the town required the school to submit a budget of \$10,600,000, as opposed to the \$11 million dollar budget the school had previously submitted.

“So we went back to the drawing board,” Clarke said. “And after many, many hours, the changes are: at the Early Childhood Center, there would be one less preschool classroom; at Granite Valley, the two classroom teachers, an administrative assistant and a building age, and then the ESSER positions of math and reading interventionists would also be eliminated but we would fill those intervention spots in other ways.”

“The addition of a part-time health teacher at Granite Valley is in the budget, class sizes still remain 20 or fewer for our students, grades 1-6.”

At the high school, one science teacher, one elective teaching position, one virtual class teacher oversight, and two part-time positions for grades 7 and 8 have been proposed to be eliminated, and a guidance counselor who is retiring will not be replaced.

“We are also exploring the idea of a Dean of Students/Director of Counseling as opposed to a strict Assistant Principal,” Clarke continued. “Impacts would be, we would have instructional aid to supervise our virtual learning students, some electives and science classes would be reassigned, but not lost, and in Special Education we are adding a teacher so that grades 1-6 all have a

MONSON | page 3

FUNDRAISER

## Sock Hop at Amvets Post to support Wreaths Across America

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Recreation Department and Veterans Services are collaborating with Wreaths Across America and Amvets Post 74 to put on a 1950s style Sock Hop this weekend.

On April 12, a nostalgic dance party will be held at the AmVets Center on Main Street in Three Rivers. The Sock Hop will start at 5 p.m. and will feature dancing, trivia, food, and raffles lasting all the way to 9 p.m.

Recreation Director Andrew St. George, who had previously done a nostalgic party with last summer’s 1980s party at Hryniewicz Park, credited Veterans Services Agent Tina Brohman as having the idea of a ‘50s nostalgia night to collaborate with Wreaths Across America.

“We’re trying to mix things up,” St. George said. “We’re going to have food, dancing, it’s going to be a lot of fun.”

As a lifetime member of the organization, Brohman made ar-



“The band is called Decades,” St. George said. “Because I’m active in the music community, I put it out on a Facebook group for local musicians that I was looking for recommendations. Decades came highly recommended by several other musicians as the ones we wanted to hire.”

On their website, Decades has a list of songs that they regularly perform, including hits by Elvis Presley, The Beatles, The Monkees, Chuck Berry, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Foundations, Roy Orbison, and many, many more.

“Since 1993, Decades has been entertaining audiences all over New England and beyond with their energetic cover renditions of all your favorite songs from the 1950s and 1960s,” the Decades official website says. “The members of Decades have been entertaining audiences young and old together for over 31 years, from the most

rangements with Post 74 to hold the party at the hall.

The big draw of the dance, of course, will be the live musical entertainment. As a musician himself, St. George was able to use his connections to find a musical act that would embody the style of rock and roll from the 1950s and

SOCK HOP | page 3

SPORTS

## Meet the voice of the Palmer Panthers

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – The voice echoing through Legion Field at Palmer High School is that of public address announcer Mike Wadas.

Growing up in the village of Thorndike and Palmer, Wadas is a Panther by heart.

Starting off as a student at Palmer High School, Wadas was heavily involved in sports. As a high school athlete, Wadas participated in baseball, football and hockey.

As a hockey player, Wadas had 85 career points in high school. The highlight of playing hockey was being a part of a high school all star team, Team USA New England.

Wadas alongside his USA New England team got play in the European countries of Switzerland, Italy and France.

Wadas shared the fact that playing in Europe and representing the U.S. was one of the best memories he had as a Panther.

It was “a thrill to have USA on my jersey,” Wadas said. “Representing my country as a teenager.”

In his junior year of high school, Wadas was the alternate captain of his team and later captain in his senior year. Wadas played center as a hockey player and sported #22 on his jersey.



Submitted Photos

Mike Wadas is the public address announcer for the Palmer Panthers. His journey with the Panthers began when he was a student and athlete.

Wadas is still in contact with his former hockey coach, Jim Cerbo, to this day.

As a football player, Wadas played as a wide receiver, cornerback and linebacker.

In the years 1985 and 1986 Wadas experienced tremendous success with the Panthers. The football team went back-to-back years undefeated, 11-0 and won two consecutive Western Massachusetts High School Super Bowl championships.

Wadas also played baseball

throughout his entire high school years. The positions he played were pitcher, shortstop and center field.

After high school, Wadas did have interest in further pursuing sports and attending college. However, at some point he decided not to pursue college and start a new life outside of Palmer.

In the 1990s, Wadas resided in Katy, Texas, a small town outside of Houston. A promotion at work brought him to Texas and his son Will attended school in Katy.

Will played baseball in high school and Wadas soon came across an opportunity that would get him involved in sports again.

Will’s school was looking to assign parents as volunteers to help out throughout the school year, especially during sporting events. The school was looking for an announcer during the games and it was a role Wadas never originally thought of taking.

The idea of announcing reminded Wadas of one of his favorite New England Sports teams growing up, the Boston Red Sox.

For years, Wadas always enjoyed listening to Sherm Feller, a radio personality and PA announcer for the Red Sox at Fenway Park for over 20 years.

WADAS | page 5







**MINOU**

Minou is the Murphy-Stark family's second cat. She is 6 years old. She is a black shorthair cat. She is feisty and funny. She likes chasing her tail playing with toys and eating everything in sight. She gets the zoomies way too often, crashing through doors and yelling and waking up the entire house. However, she does have a sweet side. She loves to climb on top of sleeping people and go to sleep on them.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## Finding the stories within quilts of many colors

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

MONSON – The Keep Homestead Museum hosted historian Pamela Weeks over the weekend to share the stories the quilts tell within their stitches.

Debbie Harris, a member of the museum, wanted to create something for the community to enjoy and learn about the histories and stories that quilts can share.

"I am a part of a quilters guild and I have heard Pamela was teaching on quilts and wanted to have a program here," Harris explained. "I was amazed at how she was able to look at how a quilt was made."

The program had over 45 people in attendance, and attendees got to learn about and see many different quilts from across New England as they heard their stories.

"As an artist, I love tactile things... working with fabric makes me happy," Pamela said. "Quilts can be many things."

Weeks is the Binney Family Curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell. There, she is responsible for several exhibits, and takes care of the collection.

"(My favorite is) a silk quilt made into a very unusual quilt, as in fashion, and its dated at 1847," Weeks said. "It was probably made in Manchester, New Hampshire, and the research surrounding it is what really launched my serious interest in textile history."

The event was filled with



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas  
**Pamela Weeks holding up one of the many quilts in her collection.**

unique and beautiful pieces, and it was there that history was laid out in the delicate stitches, and the stories of those who made them came to life.

### Corrections

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



## Robert DeSteph to wed Sandra Savage Jan. 2025

Ginny and Remo Pizzichemi of Monson, are pleased to announce the Dec. 9, 2023 engagement of their son Robert DeSteph of Englewood, Florida, to Sandra Savage of Northport, Florida. Robert is a Retail Store Associate and Sandra is a Pre-School Teacher. They are planning a January 2025 wedding at Heron Creek Golf and Country Club in Florida.

### NOTICE

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

### \$500 scholarships available

MONSON— The Monson Garden Club has announced that two \$500 scholarships are available to high school seniors who reside in Monson and plan to continue school at a 2 or 4 year college to study in any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences. Applications with instructions may be obtained through their school guidance office and are due by April 23.

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# Effective Community Interviewing Training

**Please join the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council (QVFPC) for a training provided by the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES). Help us implement our Community Food Assessment by joining the data collection team and interviewing your neighbors through community chats!**

This training is focused on how important building trust is when collecting data from community members who are sharing personal stories. You will learn how to respectfully approach people's lived experience, record their responses, and provide support.

For more information please contact Caitlin at [cgeaghan@townofware.com](mailto:cgeaghan@townofware.com).

Pre-Registration is required. Register today at <https://forms.gle/dfH6F9CbAkCzfSej9> or scan the QR Code below.

[www.healthyquaboag.org](http://www.healthyquaboag.org)

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

**DEADLINE**

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

**MONSON** | from page 1

Special Education teacher at each level."

Clarke said that some of the specialized programming would be shuffled around to better meet the needs of the students. She then listed other ways that the school will seek to save money in order to lower the budget.

"For the summer bus tour, we're going to be looking to seek donations instead of having it come from our budget," Clarke said. "Some overtime and stipend eliminations, conferences, and The Loop will become a high school elective."

After Clarke's presentation of the budget changes, the Committee opened the discussion up to public comments and a resident attending the meeting via the Zoom online interface asked what the \$400,000 that was eliminated from the budget would have been used for.

"A secretary, we would put that one back," Clarke said. "And grades 1, 2, and 3, our class sizes are 19 and 20, so we would look at maybe putting a teacher back to one or both of those grade levels. That's probably it."

Clarke added that enrollment for grades 9-12 is approximately 130 students, so the school may have pursued a part-time position at the high school to make arranging electives easier, as well as an interventionist, as there is space for interventions proposed for next year's budget.

Committee member Karen Nothe-Valley provided context to the budget process.

"We put forth a budget with a modest increase when we were told that we were looking at potentially having a level services budget this year instead of level-funded like we had over a number of years," Nothe-Valley said. "That was the direction we were originally told, then we were told that we had to come in at a specific number."

Nothe-Valley described this as "not particularly fair to the school's process," but said that as a school committee, its responsibility is to talk things through and hold budget subcommittee meetings, and make some tough decisions to put forth the budget.

"I am not in favor of some of the teacher cuts and some of the obstacles that we had to accept," Nothe-Valley said. "We obviously had to be collaborative with the town and everyone, but I think that all this belt-tightening, suspender-tightening, and all this creativity that we do, we have kept Monson Public Schools afloat and doing well for all these years, but there are consequences."

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**Journal Register**

Nothe-Valley pledged to do her part to advocate for a level services budget next year. Committee Chair Emily Graves-Harrison added that this is a proposed budget, and still needs to be approved by the Finance Committee and be voted on by the town.

**Monson town wide clean up April 27**

MONSON — All Monson residents are invited to participate in the upcoming Monson Town wide clean up scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. This is an opportunity for everyone to pitch in and help beautify the town.

Any amount of time that can be contributed to this worthwhile effort will be greatly appreciated. Collection bags, gloves, and safety vests will be distributed at the Dave Grieve Gazebo Park on Main Street starting at 8 a.m. and continuing to 1 p.m.

For those in the north part of the town, they can opt to pick up supplies at the Silver Street Chapel from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Individuals may choose to clean up their own street or a street assignment can be provided.

Members of the Monson Board of Health are coordinating this event. Please register at the following link <https://forms.gle/Wy5KwbUc83KhZfAC9>, or on the Monson Board of Health website [www.monson-ma.gov/312/](http://www.monson-ma.gov/312/)



Collection bags, gloves, and safety vests will be distributed at the Dave Grieve Gazebo Park on Main Street starting at 8 a.m. and continuing to 1 p.m.

Board-of-Health. Questions can be directed to Joan Simmons at [jsimmons@springfieldcollege.edu](mailto:jsimmons@springfieldcollege.edu) or (413) 366-1147.

For anyone needing community service hours, this is a great way to fulfill that requirement. A letter showing proof of participation will

be provided. This event is also a wonderful activity for teams and clubs to do together. The organizers will be sure to assign the clubs/teams with young children to low traffic areas, such as schools and parks.

**Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants**

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

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

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April 12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

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

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

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

**Drum circle in April**

MONSON — Hearts Willing Club will be sponsoring a Drum Circle at First Church of Monson on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. Dave Curry will be the drum facilitator. If you have a drum, please feel free to bring it; if not, drums will be available to rent for the evening for \$3.00, payable at the door. Be prepared for a fun and informative evening of gentle drumming.

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

**Celebrate Earth Day in April**

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

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

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

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

**SOCK HOP** | from page 1

intimate of gatherings to crowds of over 10,000 at fireworks festivals."

St. George said that residents have been asking for the town to get involved with Wreaths Across America, the organization that created the national event where town officials and members of the military place wreaths on the graves of veterans during the holiday season. He described as many as hundreds of veterans in the public and religious cemeteries in town, and that he hopes to get that event kicked off in town soon.

"We're going to have a representative from Wreaths Across America there collecting donations," St. George said.

"The event itself is totally free, so people are welcome to donate if they want to."

There will also be food sold at the event. St. George predicted that prices will range between \$5 and \$10 for a meal, and that "basic food" like burgers and hot dogs would be provided.

To get a preview for the music, you can look up "Decades Experience" on Facebook, or go to their website at [DecadesExperience.com](http://DecadesExperience.com).

If you'd like to take a trip to the past and support Wreaths Across America, you can do so by attending the '50s Sock Hop at 2150 Main St. from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

**Palmer Town election on June 11**

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

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

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

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

**Monson Town election June 11**

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

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


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

**Monson Democrats to award scholarship**

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

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

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



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM**

**2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>Grade K</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>5</b>

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 10, 2024.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on May 10, 2024, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 9, 2024.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at [www.belchertownps.org](http://www.belchertownps.org) or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

*The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.*

3

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

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Dazed Cannabis is a local dispensary that is offering a mentorship program to a select number of residents from Monson, MA and surrounding areas. Applicants must be at least 21 years old. Preferred applicants either reside in the Town of Monson, or have a past drug conviction, but all applications are accepted.

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## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

## When should my wife claim her Social Security benefit?

## Dear Rusty

I just saw an article which said that certain spousal options were going away, but there are still good options for when a spouse can claim. I am filing for my Social Security to start in October when I turn 70. My wife's Full Retirement Age is in December, and she now plans to file then for half of what my FRA benefit would have been (our original plan was for both to file in August). My wife's main reason for delaying until her FRA is to lock her into my maximum benefit if she has to someday change to Survivor's Benefit. Will this be gone for us? Neither of us was born before Jan. 1, 1954. Please advise.

Signed: Planning for Both

## Dear Planning

I expect that the article you refer to was speaking of the option to claim only a spousal benefit first and allow one's personal SS retirement benefit to grow. That option was available only to those who were born before 1954 and had reached full retirement age. As you now know that option is not available to you.

Assuming your wife's highest benefit entitlement will be as your spouse, your current strategy — you claim your maximum benefit to start in October at age 70 and your wife starts her benefit in December at her FRA is a good one which will yield the maximum possible monthly benefit for both of you. But for clarity, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow has nothing to do with when she claims her spouse benefits now.

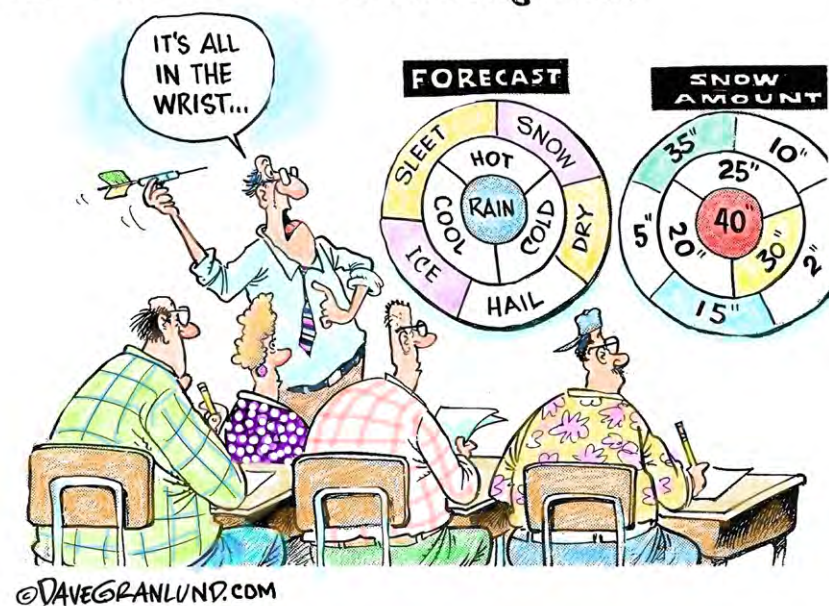
The only thing which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse is her age when she claims the survivor benefit. If she has already reached her FRA of 66 years and 8 months when you pass, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were living. Her survivor benefit would only be less than 100% of yours if she claimed it before reaching her full retirement age (which, of course, we hope would not be the case).

Just so you have the complete picture, your wife could, if desired, claim her Social Security to start at the same time as you in October but, since that would be earlier than her FRA, the amount she would get would be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. Her spouse benefit would be reduced by 0.694% for each month earlier than her FRA it starts.

For example, if your wife starts her spousal benefit in October when your benefit starts, she will get about 98.6% of the amount she would get if she waited until December to start her benefits. That's a permanent reduction, so if your wife's life expectancy is at least average about 87, it's likely still wisest for her to wait until her FRA to start benefits. But in any case, when your wife claims her spousal benefit now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

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

## Refresher course for meteorologists...



## Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soilless growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely — just what the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

Make a hole in the moistened grow-

ing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can

be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights you've rigged up.

Continue to keep the lights within inches of the plants for the stockiest growth. Or, if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom or hobby greenhouse, the seedlings will thrive there!

Shade them from direct sun for a few days after transplant to prevent wilting. Soon the roots will recover from the shock of transplant and will again be able to sustain the plant.

Night time temperatures can dip as low as 50 degrees for most plants. In fact, lower night temps will help to ensure the stocky specimen we desire.

Fertilize with half-strength liquid plant food every 10 days to two weeks. Begin to "harden-off" your transplants a couple of weeks prior to putting in the ground.

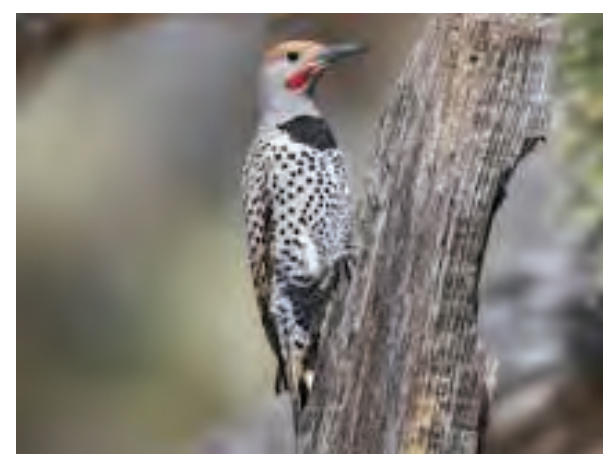
Thus far they have been kept in a carefully controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

Place them outdoors in a shady spot protected from the wind for only a few hours each day. As the days progress keep them out longer and increase their exposure to bright sun and wind.

Don't forget to water during this process, but forgo all fertilizer.

With less than two months to go until the danger of frost is officially passed, our home grown seedlings won't have long to wait, and neither will we!

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



Northern Flicker

A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black bid or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekeke" for territorial display and a "woikawoikawoka" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

## Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

## Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

## More snowstorm bird

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."

## Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

## Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

## Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Marcelo Gusmao  
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Harrison Giza  
[hgiza@turley.com](mailto:hgiza@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
[dfflynn@turley.com](mailto:dfflynn@turley.com)



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

## Campaign news

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

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

## PALMER | from page 1

repair phase right now," Enright said. "Mark Stinson from DEP also put in a suggestion that some restoration planting should be enacted down the line in between certain spots of the ripwrap to further improve stabilization of the riverbank that was affected by this event."

Commission member David Cotter asked if DEP had specified what kind of vegetation should be planted, but Enright said that this was still to be discussed.

"I'm going to make contact with some of the parties that are in charge of the repairs currently to make sure that we find the time and the appropriate window to be able to make that potential solution feasible," Enright said, adding, "Now that the rail line's active again, it is going to be a little hard trying to navigate an avenue for accessibility to make those improvements, but we'll navigate that."

The Commission had several questions about the material of the pipe and what caused it to break, but Enright said that this information was the purview of the DPW, and Commission Chair Donald Blais lamented that a representative of the DPW did not attend the meeting.

"Since I had a front-row seat to all of this, because I live literally a few houses away, this is one of the many questions that I had, because this was a major disruption for the last few days," Blais said. "How much of this was weather-related from all the rain we had?"

The commissioners agreed that the heavy rainfall from the last week was likely related, as the water passing through the pipe would inevitably deteriorate it.

Blais spoke with a meteorologist friend who was able to provide the approximate rain volume over the last few years

in the region. He reported that in 2021, the region saw 55.4 inches of rain, 42.84 in 2022, 55.43 in 2023, and then 15.57 in the first three months of this year.

Commission member Peter Izyk compared this to his own measurements, which included 7.65 inches in March, which he described as three times what's normal.

"You add all that together, it comes to 169.24 inches of rain in three years and three months," Blais said. "The reason I asked for the numbers here is just to reiterate the point that what we have been seeing in the last three years, and now the beginning of this year, is well above normal, and I have concerns that we could see more incidents like this happen."

Blais said that he would still like to speak with someone from DPW about how to prepare for and prevent further incidents like this in the future.

"The first priority is the situation at hand, though," Enright said. "The immediate emergency of the entire half of the road washing away, that part has been dealt with, but with all the stuff that still has to be done and the closing phases, you still need a lot of the people that are on that project to remain diligent on the project itself."

"A lot of the major work is done," Enright concluded. "They're still ironing out some of the closing phases of some of the more minor fixes and repairs that have to be made."

Commission member Nicholas Zeo thanked Enright and the DPW for their prompt response to the emergency, and member Lucas McDiarmid recommended that questions be sent to the DPW in writing, and a follow-up interview could be scheduled afterwards.



**WADAS** | from page 1

Wadas took up the role of PA announcer at his son's high school and was fascinated by the work behind the whole process. It was a learning curve he figured out almost immediately.

"I figured it out on the fly," Wadas said. "Got really good at it."

Wadas was a PA announcer during his son's time in high school and did it for a total of seven years.

One memorable moment while announcing in Texas was one of his son's baseball games.

Wadas happened to check the results of a Red Sox game that was happening that same day. Even though he was in a small Texas town, Wadas still briefly announced the results of the Red Sox game during a high school baseball game.

His son's baseball coach found it amusing and let Will know of his father's random announcement.

"Your dad just announced the Red Sox score," Wadas said paraphrasing what the coach said to Will that day.

For the most part, other than that brief Red Sox announcement, Wadas kept his PA announcing on a professional level during his whole time in Katy, Texas. Wadas was the PA announcer for seven years and stopped until another parent came in and wanted to take over the role of announcer.

In 2015, Wadas left Texas and returned to his hometown of Palmer. The Athletic Director and Palmer Football Coach at the time Peter Farr reached out to Wadas regarding a new opportunity.

Farr found out about Wadas' announcing experience down in Texas and was searching for someone to announce during the football games. Wadas was intrigued by the offer but was a bit hesitant since he only announced for baseball and not football.

"There's a little more work in football announcing," Wadas said. "But I'll give it a shot."

Wadas carefully studied the new tasks for his new announcing role for the Panthers. The tasks included getting a schedule of the football season, look up the opposing team's roster, the players' grade level and name memorization.

Wadas would study and prep before every game at Legion Field. At the press box, Wadas would have his whole counter flooded with notes and would always do a pre-game prep.

When it came to covering football games Wadas admitted he was extremely nervous. However, with a lot of announcing experience to his credit he just did what came naturally.

"It just kind of clicked," Wadas said. "I have this figured out."

All came together as Wadas returned to the PA announcing role but did it for the very team he was once a part of. After the game, Wadas would get to connect with the players and they always express their appreciation for Wadas announcing during the game and making it so much fun for them and the crowd.

As an announcer for the Panthers, Wadas recalls many memorable moments that happened at Legion Field.

One of his favorite years as the PA announcer was witnessing the Panthers make the State semi-finals. The team lost in a close game and were beat by Oxford, 19-17.

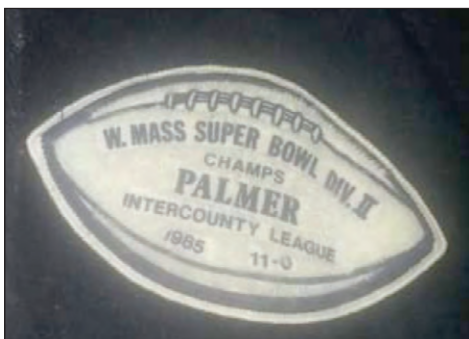
Wadas is a solo announcer and is a Panther at heart.

His passion for the team is certainly heard through his announcing. Many players and crowds can hear it echo all across Legion Field.

A lot of this passion comes from Wadas' time as a player and he recalls many competitive moments on the field. Wadas reflects moments when he



The press box in view of Legion Field in Palmer sits the public address announcer, Mike Wadas.



A patch highlighting one of Mike Wadas' victories with the Palmer Panthers. The team won the 1985 Western Mass High School Super Bowl.

was a high school football player, and the Panthers would have very competitive games with Ware High School.

Wadas believes both Palmer and Ware were big rivalries when it came to sports.

"This rivalry is a lot like the Red Sox and the Yankees," Wadas said. "As a player, it was all business."

That passion was even more at a higher rate when Wadas alongside his fellow teammates were always focused on beating Ware when it was time to play them in a football game.

As an announcer, the passion of being a Panther is still there for Wadas, but according to him, the rivalry with Ware is not as bitter as it was back when he was in high school.

Another well-known rivalry Wadas remembers was games against Frontier Regional in Deerfield. That high school team was also very competitive with Palmer when Wadas was a Panther.

As an announcer, no matter who played against the Panthers, Wadas would stay focused and never get emotional behind the microphone. The passion of being a Panther remains with Wadas today.

"I'm very passionate about my Palmer Panthers," Wadas said.

Wadas does the announcing for the Panthers from September until November. During the off season, Wadas hosts raffles and is also the MC for the annual soup cookoff at Tailgate Tavern in Palmer.

Occasionally, Palmer Legion Baseball would ask Wadas to announce their baseball games during the summer.

Wadas always looks forward to announcing for the Panthers every season but is open to more opportunities to announce in multiple places.

"I would love to go someplace bigger," Wadas said.

As of now, Wadas will continue to be the voice of the Panthers at Legion Field and will do it until he may be asked not to do it anymore. Wadas loves his gig as a PA announcer and enjoys hearing the townies of Palmer just simply call him or know him as "Wadas," a name he has gone by his whole life.

When you attend a Panther game at Legion Field, and hear the voice echoing across the field, it is the voice of the Palmer Panther, Mike Wadas.

# State Representative Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill



A view of the Quabbin Reservoir from atop Winsor Dam.



State Rep. Aaron Saunders spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin held at the Belchertown United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall this past Sunday.

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn, and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders. The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently,

Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board's 11 members representing a community outside of the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a focus on the future of the region, rather than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its stewardship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

"When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever," he said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely primarily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

"The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from

our communities," he said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, "There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it's in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption."

He said that this bill was not concerned with seeking repayment for these impacts historically, but rather was merely an attempt to recognize the worth of the region's protection of the reservoir, as well as to assure that the region will continue to be able to protect it going forward.

"The water provides such innumerable value to the people and the businesses and the communities of eastern Mass that there ought to be some consideration given to the communities that steward this resource," he said. He added that this consideration would come at a minimal cost to MWRA ratepayers, providing an estimated figure of an additional six cents per month for the average Boston water and sewer customer.

Saunders also said this proposed bill was coming at a time when the burden placed on the Quabbin Reservoir may soon be increasing.

"There are a great number of communities in the eastern part of the state who are dealing with very serious water quality issues,"

he said. "These are communities that need a reliable source of water, and they are looking to us to provide that."

He later added that he also wanted to make sure there would still be water left should communities in western Massachusetts also show an interest in joining the MWRA system.

Saunders admitted that he had encountered difficulty in trying to help those from different parts of the state understand why a bill like this would be so important.

"Oftentimes, the initial response I get back is, 'Yes, it's sad that four towns were drowned, but it was a necessary step in the Commonwealth's future' – so on and so forth," Saunders said. However, he stated that it was possible to push back against this line of thinking. "The way this is combatted is through the voice of the folks who live here in the region," he said. "Not only recounting the past, but talking about what life is like in western Mass now."

For this reason, Saunders emphasized the importance of individuals to speak out about the matter of regional equity as well as related topics such as water quality and public access to natural resources.

"The more that we can have these voices heard outside of just rooms like this, the more effective it is," he said.

## Sheryl Faye portrays Queen Elizabeth II at Keep Homestead

The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road in Monson, is excited to welcome back talented actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays *Queen Elizabeth II – "Her Majesty"* on Sunday, May 5, at 1:30 pm. during our open house.

This immersive one-woman performance will be engaging, educational, and entertaining as Queen Elizabeth comes to life. Using numerous costume changes and high-tech multi-media, Sheryl tells Elizabeth's story as British monarch for over 70 years starting February 6, 1952. In a world of constant change, she was a steady presence and a source of pride.

This event is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council. There is no admission fee; donations are always welcome. The museum will be open from 1:00 – 3:30 pm. with light refreshments. For more information about the museum visit [www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org](http://www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org).



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**SATURDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> - 4PM TO 8PM**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> - 12PM TO 4PM**







Superintendent Eric Duda, Interim Principal Brenda Turner, and Academic Director Daniel Whalley honored Victoria Watkins and her family with the award.

**AWARDS** | from page 1

being ranked number one in her class.”

Sullivan said that Kusomo has received awards in various academic subjects, as well as maintaining a position on the Principal’s List and Honor Roll for four years, taking part in the student council, and HOPE Community Service Club.

“Her ability to maintain her exceptional grades with a rigorous academic course load and allow time for extracurricular activities and volunteering is outstanding,” Sullivan said. “Her willingness to help others is an inspiration.”

From Palmer Public Schools, Superintendent Matthew Francis presented an award to Shawn Troche, Jr.

“Shawn is a young man who is well-known to students and faculty alike for his outstanding academic prowess and his passion for everything PHS,” Francis said. “Shawn has stated that he values the myriad of opportunities that Palmer has to offer and the relationships that he was able to foster during his time as a student. It is this mindset of making the most of every occasion that has allowed him to be such a success story.” Francis described Troche as excelling in honors level courses and Advanced Placement classes, as well as participating in the School to Career Externship program at Palmer Town Hall as an assistant to the Community Development Department.

“In each of these classes,



The students selected for this year’s MASS Academic Excellence Award, (from left) Shawn Troche, Jr., Kenady Sloan, Victoria Watkins, Rainer Kristensen, Cindy Kusomo, and Noah Fales.

Shawn has been, and continues to be, the epitome of success, not because he earned an A – which he did, and does – but because he invests in learning in order to seek knowledge and better himself.”

For Pathfinder, Duda presented his award to Victoria Watkins.

“Victoria is exceptional, and stands out amongst her peers as a bright, professional, and tenacious student both in and out of the classroom,” Duda said. “Her courteous, well-spoken manner makes a lasting impression.”

Duda said that Watkins is a top student in the Programming and Web Development program, and has taken seven AP classes and 12 honors classes, as well as being a Student Ambassador for her depart-

ment, in a role that she was chosen for back in the 9th grade.

“Her instructors saw early on that she possessed all of the necessary characteristics for such a role,” Duda said. “Ambassadors represent their technical program to prospective eighth graders and their families and act as a liaison between students and the school personnel during the Summer Bridge Orientation program.”

Duda described Watkins as “a problem solver, an inquisitive thinker, a team player, and a humble young woman of integrity.”

From Quaboag Regional School District, Superintendent Stephen Duff presented an award to Kenady Sloan.

“Kenady Sloan is one of the hardest working and most polite students that you’ll ever meet,” Duff said. “When a teacher recently learned of Kenady’s selection for this and another award, the teacher said that ‘she so deserves it.’”

Duff said that Sloan earned 1st Honors in each marking period since she was in the 7th grade, and has taken almost every honors and AP class offered by Quaboag Regional High School. Duff also praised her athletic accomplishments, including soccer and both indoor and outdoor track teams.

“Outside of Quaboag, Kenady has been able to secure an internship at Old Sturbridge Village which runs throughout the calendar year,” Duff said. “As part of her responsibilities for the internship



Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda presented the Academic Excellence Award to Victoria Watkins (right).



Eric Duda was proud to preside over the dinner, which was held at Pathfinder Tech’s Perso Restaurant.



Superintendent Michael Lovato honored Noah Fales (right) with the Academic Excellence Award, and spoke highly of his strength of character.

that focuses on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access, she assists with department projects and also conducting her own research from which she plans her own projects.”

From Ware Public Schools, Superintendent Michael Lovato presented an award to Noah Fales.

“Noah is a remarkable young man who excels academically, socially, and athletically at Ware Junior Senior High School,” Lovato said. “Noah was unanimously chosen to receive this prestigious award.”

Lovato said that Fales served as Class President for all four years at high school, as well as being Captain of the football team this past year. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, in addition to participating in community service projects.

“What stands out the most about him is the strength of his character,” Lovato said. “Noah is sincerely kind and one of our most charismatic students. He adds so much enthusiasm and positivity to the Ware community and is a pleasure to be around.”

In addition to the honor of receiving their awards, the students were treated to a dinner prepared by Pathfinder students.

Duda said that in addition to the opportunity to honor the students, it was also a great opportunity for members of the community to come together and share their accomplishments.

“It was nice to see everybody

show up, family members here honoring their kids, all working toward a common theme, saying we all hold success in high regard,” Duda said. “Success is also us helping create model individuals in local communities. We all want that.

“I think it’s fair to say that’s exactly why all the superintendents, ultimately, were there, because we want to see kids be the best they can be, we all want our school districts to thrive,” Duda said. “I’m just happy that we all always have that mindset. That’s powerful.”



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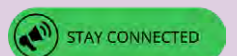
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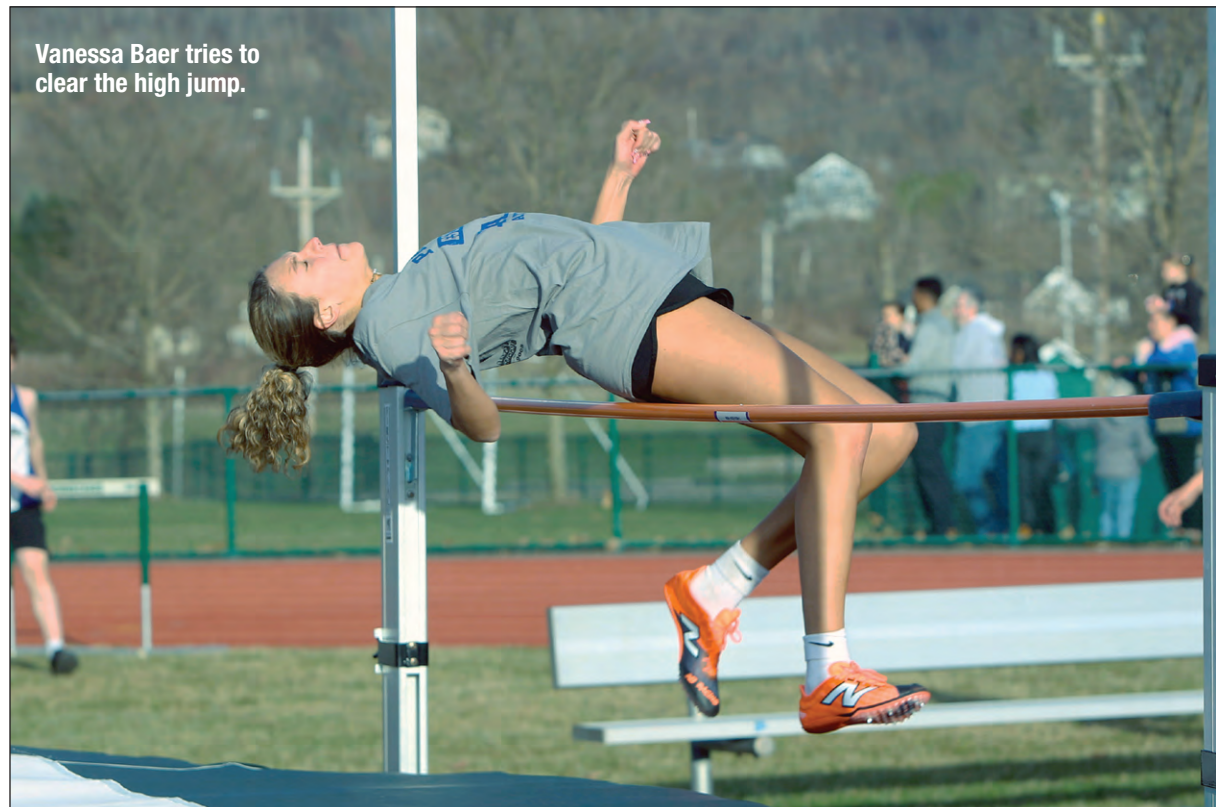
# SPORTS

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## TRACK



Vanessa Baer tries to clear the high jump.

## Palmer track competes in first meet

PALMER – Earlier this week, Palmer track faced off with South Hadley. The Panthers held their meet at Minnechaug Regional High School in neighboring Wilbraham. Palmer's track is being renovated and will not be ready until next season. Results of Monday's meet were not made available as of press time. The Panthers next face Hampshire Regional on Monday, April 15 on the road at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Annabella Ladue fires the discus away.



Aria Nompleggi competes in the long jump.



Basom Yaseen sends the shot put on the field.

## LACROSSE



Claire Wahlund picks up a loose ball.



After making a pickup on defense, Sedona Arbour heads up the field.

## Mustangs fall at Comp

CHICOPEE – On Monday night, Monson girls lacrosse suffered a defeat on the road at Chicopee Comprehensive 10-4. The Mustangs got two goals each from Nevaeh Chiacchia and Sedona Arbour. Olivia Clemons made 15 saves in a busy evening in goal. Monson will face Tantasqua in a makeup game on Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.



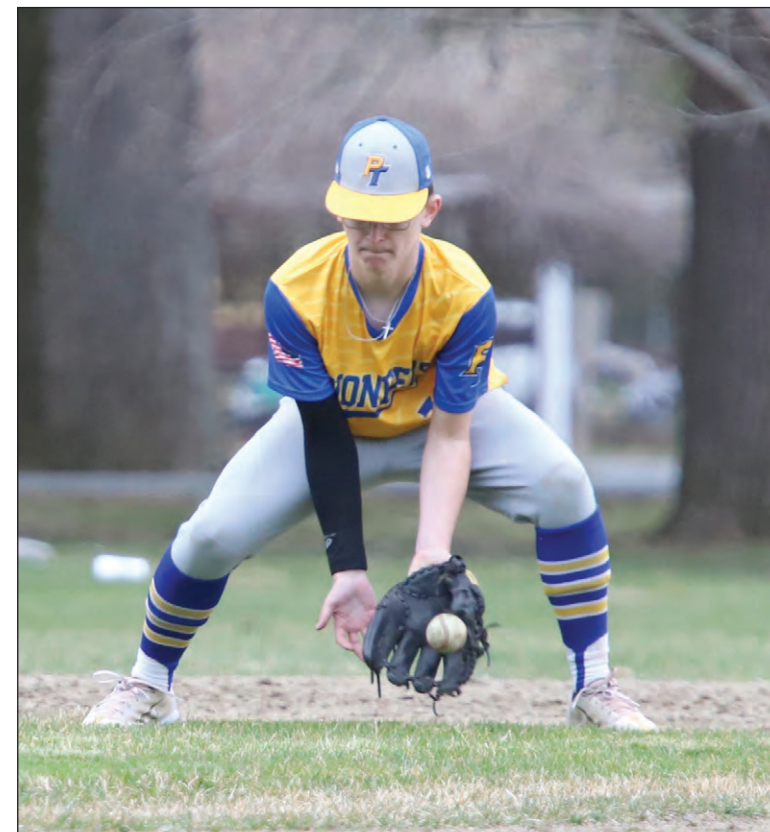
Goalie Olivia Clemons makes a save.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Nevaeh Chiacchia sprints up the field after collecting a pass.

## BASEBALL



Brayden Mega cleanly fields a ground ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Pioneers look for another win

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional baseball got the win in their first matchup of the season against the High School of Science and Technology last Monday afternoon 10-9. But the action has been limited for the Pioneers since then thanks to poor weather. The Pioneers

PIONEERS | page 8

Zander Auffrey reaches up to make a catch.



## LACROSSE

# Monson suffers loss in opener

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON-- Ella Laliberte, who graduated from Granby High School last June, scored nearly 300 career goals for the Lady Rams girls' lacrosse team.

With Laliberte no longer wearing a Granby uniform, the trio of junior Kelly-Lynne Kennedy, freshman Brenna Moreno, and freshman Kalli White led the way offensively in the Lady Rams 16-6 season opening victory at Monson High School on April 1.

"We're certainly going to miss Ella a lot, but I think we'll have several different goal scorers in each game this year," said Granby head coach Gary O'Grady. "It feels very good to start the regular season with a win. One of our goals this season is to qualify for the state tournament. It was disappointing not making the state tournament last year."

While the Lady Rams, who finished with a 9-10 overall record last year, lost to Pope Francis in the Western Mass. Class C semifinals, they just missed qualifying for the Division 4 state tournament.

During her senior season, Laliberte scored 99 goals and had 16 assists for a total of 115 points. Her younger sister, Mylin, who's a sophomore, contributed with a pair of assists against the Lady Mustangs.

Kennedy, who scored a total of 22 goals as a sophomore, finished the season opening victory with a career-high six goals.

"I thought Kelly-Lynne played very well in today's game,"

O'Grady said. "We've been working on several different things with her."

Moreno and White scored four goals apiece, while sophomore Ava-Elizabeth Loughman chipped in with the other two goals for the visiting team.

The only senior listed on the Granby roster is Abigail Landry, who was credited with an assist.

"We're a very young team this year," O'Grady said. "We started two eighth graders in today's game. We should keep improving during the next couple of years."

O'Grady also gave a lot of credit to his defense unit, which is led by junior Ava Saunders, junior Lydia Kicza, eighth grader Kaelynn Slapski, and eighth grader Emily Durham.

"The defense played really well," he said. "I'm very happy with their performance."

Granby sophomore goalie Faith Ramos was credited with only two saves. A year ago, the Lady Rams outscored the Lady Mustangs, 34-14, in the two games that they played against each other during the first week of April.

"I thought we played a lot better against Granby in today's game than we did in both of the games that we played against them last year," said Monson head coach Mickey Novak. "Everyone got some playing time."

The Lady Mustangs, who finished with a 7-11 overall record in 2023, are also a very young squad this spring.

"The majority of our players are either freshmen or sophomores."

MONSON | page 8





Owen Pear in singles action for Palmer.



Shane Normoyle sends a hit away in third singles.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

## Palmer boys tennis out to 0-2 start

PALMER – The Palmer High School boys tennis team started out the regular season 0-2. The Panthers suffered a pair of 4-1 defeats. The first came against Quaboag on Apr. 1. The second was earlier this week against Frontier. The Panthers were rained out of one other match last week.



The boys faced off with Quaboag in their season opener.

## Palmer youth team takes first place



Submitted photo

Palmer 5/6 boys Suburban team Palmer Blue Devils finished the 2023-2024 blue/green division with a 14-2 record for a three-way tie for first place with Greenfield and Turner Falls. Pictured above left back row Noel Mckee, Jase Daley, Seth Peets, Max Wilkerson, Josiel Ortiz, Riley Presho, Mason Cowher, Levi Zajac. Front row: Luke Haley, Dominic Venneri and their biggest fan Jacobe Jackson. Coaches were Aaron Mckee, coach Tim Jackson and coach Mike Cowher.

# Turleysports



## Athlete of the Week

**Nevaeh Chiacchia**  
Monson High School

In Monson's most recent girls lacrosse matchup, Chiacchia had two goals for the Mustangs.

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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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Tim Russell makes his way down the first base line.



Hunter Griswold comes in to score a run.

### PIONEERS | from page 7

have had one game postponed by rainy weather and poor field conditions, and despite warmer temperatures, the Pioneers game against SICS earlier this week was also in danger of being postponed. The Pioneers are supposed to have their home opener against Commerce on Friday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at St. Joe's Field.



Derek Castro Rivera makes a catch in left field.

### MONSON | from page 7

omores," Novak added. "We only have one senior and one junior."

Monson freshman goalie Olivia Clemons made 12 saves in her first-career varsity start.

"This was Olivia's first start in goal. She did see action in a couple of games last year," Novak said. "It was an outstanding performance by her."

Down at the other end of the field, junior Nevaeh Chiacchia scored five of the Lady Mustangs six goals.

As a sophomore, Chiacchia scored 28 goals, which was the most goals scored by a Monson player.

"Nevaeh was our leading scorer last year," Novak said. "I think she has the potential to play lacrosse in college. She's an outstanding player."

Freshman Lyla Strycharz scored the Lady Mustangs' first goal during the second period against the Lady Rams. She scored 15 goals last season.

With 9:56 left in the first period, White streaked down the middle of the field and scored the first goal of the new season.

The Lady Mustangs' first goal was scored by Chiacchia 19 seconds later, which tied the score for the only time.

The Lady Rams, who held a 4-2 lead after the first period and a 9-4 lead at halftime, outscored the Lady Mustangs, 7-2, during the second half.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball



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


Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://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.

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

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

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 14.



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# MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT



**Tuesday, April 30**  
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For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.

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Middle School building

UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW  
Mattern Science Center

RSVP: [wma.us/preview](http://wma.us/preview)



## DEATH NOTICES

**Kenneth A. "Ken" Corbett**  
Died April 5, 2024  
Services April 15-16, 2024  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Catherine A. (McCauley) Watts**  
Died April 3, 2024  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Elizabeth R. (Adams) Raymond**  
Died March 29, 2024  
Services are private  
Lombard Funeral Home



## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

## Police/Fire

### Police Logs

#### Palmer

*The Palmer Police Department reported 465 incidents on its logs for March 26 - April 1.*

#### March 26

At 1:43 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Keytman Vaerio Pinto, 23, of 56 Hubbard St., Ludlow, for no inspection sticker and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

At 4:32 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of State Street and Emery Street.

At 8:44 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

#### March 27

At 8:18 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Shearer Street.

At 2:30 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Sykes Street.

At 5:12 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Kevin Dale Brosman, 67, of 315 Plumtree Road, Springfield, for possession of class B drug, no inspection sticker and not in possession of registration. Susan R Duxbury, 57, of 38 New Ludlow Road, Granby, was also given a summons for possession of class B and failure to wear a seat belt.

At 10:26 p.m. police pulled

over and gave summons to Anibal Ramiro Bernardo Domingo, 49, of 56 Jefferson Ave., Springfield, for uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

#### March 28

At 8:57 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Rebecca Anne Seibold, 31, for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration, uninsured motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

At 3:50 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 5:38 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

#### March 30

At 9:46 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Bourne Street.

At 2:35 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Boston Road and Old Warren Road.

At 4:02 p.m. police arrested Veronica L. McRobbie, 46, of 100 Middle St., Springfield, for shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

8:19 p.m. police arrested Philip Emile Leblanc Jr., 55, of 44 Hastings St., Springfield, for OUI liquor and possession of open container of alcohol.

#### March 31

At 1:38 p.m. police arrested

Michael S. Murphy, 49, of 4 Quabog Valley Co-op, Three Rivers, for possession of a class A drug and a warrant.

At 2:54 p.m. police arrested Daniel Scott Mari, 41, of 12 Spring St., Ware, for trespass.

At 8:48 p.m. police arrested Belicha Lee Gonzalez, 26, of 75A Terrace Dr., Leominster, OUI liquor, assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, no inspection sticker, child endangerment while OUI, disorderly conduct and assault and battery on family/household member.

At 10:30 p.m. police gave summons to Shane Andrew Chase, 26, of 29 River St., Thorndike, for disorderly conduct, exploding fireworks without bond, unlawful possession of fireworks, reckless operation of a motor vehicle and throwing an object on a public way. Justin M. Nadoliski, 28, of 16 Lathrop St., Palmer, was also given a summons for disorderly conduct, exploding fireworks without bond, unlawful possession of fireworks, reckless operation of a motor vehicle and throwing an object on a public way.

#### April 1

At 3:02 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on S. Main Street.

### Fire Logs

#### Bondsville Fire Log

*For the period March 26 through April 1, Bondsville fire responded to 3 calls.*

**Tuesday, March 26** at 7:40 p.m., the department responded to High Street for the outside fire burning complaint. The department returned to service at 7:50 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 27** at 6:12 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 6:18 p.m.

**Saturday, March 30** at 2:31 p.m., the department responded to Foster Street for medical assistance. The department returned to service at 2:55 p.m.

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Kenneth A. Corbett, 1955-2024

MONSON—Kenneth A. "Ken" Corbett, 68, passed away after a brief illness, Friday April 5, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. Ken was born in Alexandria, Virginia December 20, 1955 to the late Arthur J. and Karen V. (Hansen) Corbett. He has been a lifelong resident of Monson. Ken was a graduate of Monson High School where he excelled in athletics, especially soccer and baseball. He was a professional truck driver most of his life. Ken was an avid softball player, playing in various softball leagues in the area. He had a love of golf and was a past member of Quabog Country Club where he became a club champion. Ken enjoyed spending time at the beach, hiking various nature trails and had a deep love for grandchildren. He loved the Lord and enjoyed attending services. He will be deeply missed

by family and friends.

Ken leaves the love of his life of 42 years, Christine (Bjarski) Mitchell Corbett; children, David D. Mitchell (Rebecca), Cory Chapelaine (Pierre/ "Rocky"), Heather Savage (Mike), Shannon Canavan (Vinnie), Jason Corbett (Melissa), Kenny Corbett (Adrian), Mary Kane (Matt); siblings, Arthur Corbett, Gene Corbett (Sue), Mark Corbett (Helen), Dennis Corbett, Glen Corbett, Cheryl Hatch, Alice Clark, Gary Corbett (Carrie Sue), Donna Lay (Gerry); fourteen grandchildren, Abygail, Emily and Benjamin Chapelaine, Taylor, Megan, Luke and Seth Mitchell, Natalie Jordan, Mia Canavan, Isabella Cortez, (Nehemiah) Isaac, Ian and Amelia Corbett, and Nic-



co Alves as well as many nieces, nephews, friends and his dog "Brady". Ken was predeceased by his siblings, Dotty Cohen, Douglas Corbett and sister in-law, Dawn Corbett.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St in Monson. Visiting hours will be held at the funeral home, Monday April 15, 2024 from 5-8 p.m. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the Evangel Assembly of God 348 Stony Hill Road Wilbraham, MA 01095. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Hospice 30 Capital Drive West Springfield, MA 01089.

### Elizabeth Raymond, 1939-2024

MONSON—Elizabeth R. (Adams) Raymond, 84, passed away Friday March 29, 2024. Elizabeth was born in Athol, MA August 6, 1939 to the late Collis and Paulina (Stone) Adams. She was a graduate of Athol High School and retired from Zero Manufacturing in Monson after more than 20 years. Elizabeth attended the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church over the years. She enjoyed playing cards, especially pitch. She

loved animals and always had a cat. Elizabeth was supportive of the Day Spring Masonic Lodge in Monson.

She leaves her daughter Faith Raymond and her husband Joseph Strafach of Springfield, VT, her stepdaughter Linda Hariman and her husband Gary of Enosburg Falls, VT, brothers Tom (Jane) of NH, and John of MA, a sister Barbara of FL, and a very large extended family and many friends.

She was predeceased by her husband Kenneth, two stepsons Paul and Randy, and brothers Collis, James, Clifford, Robert, George, Paul, and David."

Services are private. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary 180 Sturbridge Rd Brimfield, MA 01010. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com)

### Catherine A. Watts, 1944-2024

MONSON—Catherine A. (McCauley) Watts, 80, passed away April 3, 2024 at home surrounded by the love of family. Catherine was born in Moriah, NY to the late Doris McCauley. She was a graduate of Port Henry High School class of 1962 and Plattsburgh State University class of 1966. Catherine taught in numerous schools in New York State and Massachusetts. She was a resident of Springfield for many years before moving to Monson.

Catherine leaves her loving husband Charles L Watts; a son Charles L Watts, Jr of E.

Longmeadow; daughters, Becky Hicks and her husband Kevin of Monson, Heather Wanczyk and her husband David of W. Springfield; a brother, Walter McCauley and his wife Diane of Ticonderoga, NY; four grandchildren, Conner Hicks (Ally), Hannah Hicks (Kyle), Adam Herbert (Tori), Alison Herbert (John) and a great granddaughter, Reese Herbert. Catherine was predeceased by her mother and a sister, Dori Michener.



Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. Services will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Monson Fire Dept. Ambulance Fund PO Box 335, Mon-

son MA 01057 or to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society PO BOX 289 Canton, MA 02021. For online condolences please visit <http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com>

## Fashion show held on April 25

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

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**Police Supervisor's Position**  
**Warren Police Department**  
The Warren Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of full time Police Lieutenant.  
Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services, supervision of staff and maintain discipline and moral within the Department. It is required that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferred candidates will have the following: an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, 10 years of Law Enforcement experience and experience as a supervisor. For further position description please go to [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).  
Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Tuesday April 16th, 2024, to the attention of Chief Gerald Millette, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or [Millette@warren-ma.gov](mailto:Millette@warren-ma.gov). The Town of Warren is an EOE.

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## HELP WANTED

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*Applications will be accepted until positions have been filled.*

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

## HELP WANTED

**GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR**  
The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at [brookfieldma.us](http://brookfieldma.us). Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to [selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldma.us) Open until filled.  
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## TOWN TREASURER:

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

## FOR RENT

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

## REAL ESTATE

**FOR RENT**  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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# Public Notices

### PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Marciniec, Chairman  
04/04, 04/11/2024

### PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Marciniec, Chairman  
04/04, 04/11/2024

### Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

### Bondsville Fire and Water District

3174 Main Street,  
P O Box 179  
Bondsville MA 01009

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Bondsville Fire & Water District located in the Town of Palmer, Massachusetts proposes to file an Application for Federal Financial Assistance with the USDA, Rural Development. This application for financial assistance will be for funding under the Rural Utilities Service, Part 1780 Water and Waste Loans and Grants (CFDA 10.760) and is anticipated to be submitted by April 12, 2024. The specific elements of the project are to remove and replace the water storage tank, and to make all necessary modifications to connect it with the existing system. The project is anticipated to cost \$6,478,900.00. Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the Bondsville Fire & Water District by email [bfwd3174@comcast.net](mailto:bfwd3174@comcast.net) or by calling 413-284-1627 within fifteen (15) days of this publication.  
04/11/2024

### LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gerard H. Briggs to Ameriquet Mortgage Company, dated May 13, 2005 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15035, Page 238 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of Ameriquet Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset Backed Pass Through

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

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

### TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on **Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:30 P. M.** on the application from Bruso Liquor Mart located at 1240 Park St. Palmer MA, for a transfer of license from Daniel Bruso to Pragnesh Patel.

Licensing Commission,  
Town of Palmer  
04/11, 04/18/2024

### Monson Housing Authority Insulation & Air Sealing Project #191072 Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

MGL c.149 Over §150K The **MONSON HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Insulation & Air Sealing at State Aided Development:

- Colonial Village (667-2) 31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057
- 290 Main Street (705-1) 290 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057
- Colonial Village (667-1) 31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057

### Colonial Village (705-2) 70-72 Main Street / 21 Flynt Street, Monson, MA 01057

In accordance with the documents prepared by **LEONARDI ARAY ARCHITECTS LLC**.

The Project consists of but not limited to: Insulation and air sealing of Colonial Village 667-1 & 2, 290 Main St 705-1, & 70 Main St 705-2.

The work is estimated to cost **\$185,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 05/02/2024 at 5:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) and received no later than the date and time specified.**

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **09 May 2024** on **2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **MONSON HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to [EOHLC\(david.mcclave@mass.gov\)](mailto:EOHLC(david.mcclave@mass.gov)) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

**P R E - B I D CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:** Scheduled  
Date and Time: 04/30/2024 at 10:00AM EDT

Address: 31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057  
Instructions: None  
The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:  
Nashoba Blue Inc.  
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04/11, 04/18/2024

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket No. 24 SM 000295  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO: **George F Roe II and Heidi Roe**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

The Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 2 Deyo Drive Holland, MA 01521, given by United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service, to The Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development dated December 23, 2008, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17587, Page 453, 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 **05/06/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER** Chief Justice of this Court on 3/19/2024  
Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson,** Recorder  
04/11/2024

### LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission

will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:30 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the area of the work associated with the construction of a driveway for a new single-family home and grading in the buffer zone for the property located on Shaw Rd in the Town of Wales for the portion that falls within the boundaries of the Town Monson, identified as Assessor's Map 174 Parcel 005, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Ronald Stevenson.

Monson Conservation Commission  
04/11/2024

### Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0724EA  
Estate of:  
Anthony P Oveka  
Date of Death: 02/24/2024  
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 Kathleen T Oveka of Wales, MA requesting that the Court

enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kathleen T Oveka of Wales, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/30/2024.**

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

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESSES, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 02, 2024

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/11/2024

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



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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1099<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$1,599.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">HOTPOINT WASHER OR DRYER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$449<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$599.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$569<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1599<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$2,699</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$449<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$599.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$799<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$999.95</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$699<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$899.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$599<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFW550SSNWW</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$749<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$999.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$899<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$1099.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$729<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$999.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$229<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">WAS \$279.99</p>

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REGIONAL

# School Committee discusses Tantasqua budget

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

STURBRIDGE – The Tantasqua Regional School District Committee met to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year.

Superintendent Deborah Boyd provided a presentation of slides to discuss the budget. “This will be to talk about what is in the budget, and how we plan to pay for it,” Boyd said.

The budget is organized into six categories or “series”. The 2000 series includes a budget for paying for administration and teachers, professional development, special education, technology, library and medias, guidance counselling, and technical division teaching.

When it comes to where the revenue comes from to pay for the budget, it comes mostly from out-of-district tuition and school choice tuition.

According to a provided graph, 51.41% of students are enrolled from Sturbridge, 15.79% from Brimfield, 14.62% from Brookfield, 8.92% from Holland, and 9.27% from Wales.

“We are super proud to present a budget that takes care of student needs, but also keeps up with technology,” Boyd explained.

The main goal of the budget, according to the summary, is “to present a budget affordable to all five member towns while addressing anticipated student need in the areas of academics and mental health as well as other target areas in the District Involvement Plan.”

The presentation detailed the ways the budget will benefit and work for the students, whether from low-income families, English Language Learners, special education, or anyone else who comes to the school.

### Student Representative report

The student representative provided a report about what the seniors are up to and the ways they are serving the community and what

they are learning in their classes.

He also shared what the other high schoolers and junior high schoolers are doing, including field trips, fundraisers, and a few new menu items at the cafeteria including pulled pork macaroni and cheese.

He also shared various service projects, as well as a CPR and health course students are taking, as well as a way to bring meals to the local seniors.

### School choice slots

Boyd discussed the current number of applicants for junior high grades, and how many slots to put into place for new students to come in over the summer.

She brought to the committee, based off of numbers of the number of student applications, a number of suggested slots to make available for grades seven through nine.

### Staff reports

Members of the school staff came forward to talk about the various achievements and fun things that the students of the junior and senior high school have accomplished.

Sports, extracurricular activities, and more were discussed, as well as shared remarks about how close it is already to the end of the school year.

School absences and tardiness was gone over, and which cases were to have specific rules in place, and what protocols needed to be implemented for controlling and absences.

They also discussed student discipline, including discussing ways to alter the way suspension has been used in the past as a form of discipline.

Student publications policies were discussed, as well as the facts of rights and freedom of expression, and how to ensure students have that right. They also covered reporting for students to be able to speak up.

They also discussed and revised various additions and edits to the student handbook.

## Family & Beginner Bird Walk

US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA invite beginning birders of all ages to participate in a free, introductory bird walk to be held Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Springfield's Forest Park.

Geared toward those curious about birding, this introductory walk will focus on common local birds, identification tips, and appreciating the joy of birding. Participants must be

able to walk 1.5 - 2 miles on even footing with one, moderately steep hill. Please bring water, bug repellent, and comfortable footwear. Spare binoculars will be available for those who need them.

The Family Bird Walk will begin at the Picknelly Field parking lot at Forest Park's Route 5/Longmeadow entrance and will take place rain or shine.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## UPCOMING

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

**BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE** -Saturday, April 27, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Hryniewicz Park sponsored by the Three Rivers Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary. All proceeds will benefit the local Firefighters Association.

**PALMER HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CENTER APRIL EVENTS.** For more information or questions please email Palmerhcc@gmail.com. SantinWood Trio will be performing Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Family Travel Vision Boarding will be held on April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Songs of Ireland by the Healys will be on Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m.

Triple Creek open mic night will be on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. If individuals would like to perform please email PHCC in advance at Palmerhcc@gmail.com in advance as there are limited spots.

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

## ONGOING

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

## INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

museum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

**BINGO IS BACK** at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

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

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

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

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

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