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The Journal Register



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SCHOOLS

Matthew Francis announced as new supt. for Palmer

By Rebecca Wehner
 Staff Writer

PALMER—After a public deliberation process, the Palmer school committee has at last announced the chosen candidate to take on the role of superintendent.

Matthew Francis, assistant superintendent at Chicopee public schools, was unanimously elected to become the district superintendent during a special meeting on April 4. The committee members shared their experiences with each of the four final candidates, eventually deciding that Francis was the best fit for the role.

"After getting to know him during the site visit and hearing from students and colleagues about the impact he has made, I think that Matt will make a wonderful superintendent," said School Committee Chairwoman Bonny Rathbone. "I very much look forward to working with him."

During the month of March, Francis was interviewed for the position, along with William Metzger, Brian Ackerman, and Susan North. They also attended individual meet-and-greet sessions with the community so that members of the public could share their thoughts about each person and give input to the committee.

Vice-chairwoman Sandra Noonan compiled a list of traits and quotes regarding each candidate to present during the meeting, and said that Francis was viewed as consistent with good follow-through. Noonan said that teachers felt defended and supported by Francis, and Chicopee Comprehensive High School students said that Francis always helped get struggling students back on track.

"He has worked with surrounding districts to collaborate on funding opportunities," Noonan said. "This struck me in particular, because Chicopee is a city, and yet he still found the time to meet up with other districts and work alongside them."

Prior to his current position as assistant superintendent, Francis has worked as an elementary school teacher, union officer, and middle school principal. Francis has overseen grant management, and orchestrated a mental health grant for Chicopee schools.

Noonan said that Francis has been known to love challenges and isn't afraid to take on risks. When students were asked about Francis' character, they said he was always "kids first".

After the school committee members deliberated on each candidate, they all agreed to nominate Francis as superintendent pending negotiations and approval. During a brief recess, Rathbone called Francis to give him the news.

"I could tell how excited he was when I told him," Rathbone

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CULTURAL COUNCIL

Residents needed to help steer funds for local events

By Michael Harrison
 Correspondent

PALMER — For residents who want to make a difference in their town, but think they might not have enough time to spare, this might be the perfect opportunity.

The Palmer Cultural Council has more vacancies than applicants to fill out the next term and the future of some local programming, including funding for individual

artists, could be at stake. The Cultural Council is part of a grassroots network of 329 area councils that serve every city and town in the commonwealth – the largest of its kind in the nation.

Besides funding an eclectic array of events and providing support for residents who want to showcase their creativity, the Cultural Council, according to Chair Beth Zelazo, is an example of how state tax dollars can work their way back

to local communities where the residents decide how they're used.

In Palmer, the Cultural Council also is a way for civic-minded folks with busy schedules to serve, she said.

"I think you get the greatest bang for your time," Zelazo, a lifelong Palmer resident, said.

"We don't meet every month and when we do, we try to keep meetings to no more than two hours. We've been meeting during

the day because that's when (current) members are available, but it's flexible. If most members are busy during the day and need to meet in the evening, we can do that."

According to Zelazo, serving as a Cultural Council member is a chance to make an impact with a relatively minimal commitment.

"You can do a lot of good by putting in a small amount of time," she said. "We're just a small handful of people trying to serve a town

of close to 13,000 people. There isn't a lot of politics involved in it. There are not a lot of rules. You can put in as much or as little time as you want."

"And, we're great people!" she laughed.

The Palmer Cultural Council was allocated \$11,400 for the current fiscal year and awarded 13 grants from 25 requests to help

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Lucy (July Delaney) accepts payment from Charlie Brown (Jonas Toutant) for psychiatric help.

Staff photo by Marcelo Gusmao

Presented by Palmer High School

By Marcelo Gusmao
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – The high school put on a production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" earlier last weekend.

Featuring a cast of sixth grade and up, the 1999 revision of the original 1967 play was chosen for its small cast, and also due to Evaluation Team Leader and the play's director Jenifer Stockdale's affinity for the series.

As Stockdale said in a "Note

from the Director" in the show's program, "The Peanuts gang was very special to me growing up. I had a set of hardcover books that I read over and over. Friends came and went, but Charlie Brown and the gang were always there for me."

The play is the first in an effort to build up Palmer High's drama program, and included posters of the characters made by Genesis McGivney that were auctioned off after the show.

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SCHOOLS

Conservation approves extension of Forest Lake cottage project

By Rebecca Wehner
 Staff Writer
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PALMER— A four-year-long project to bring a seasonal resort to the area near Forest Lake in town has been granted an extension to continue assembling a final design.

This extension gives the team involved with the project three more years to present the details and associated costs of the cottages that will be built. Joseph and Faith Paolini, who own 90 acres surrounding the lake, spent the past four years acquiring permits for necessary construction around the area.

"This project has been largely passed over to me by my husband, so I am still a bit new with this," Faith Paolini said. "But I've been very involved in this process and hope to have all answers clarified along the way."

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued the original permit in June 2019, and was granted an extension by Gov. Baker when the COVID-19 pandemic caused delays in the planning process. The permit was set to expire in summer 2023, but the extension will now stretch the project to 2026.

Paolini appeared at the conservation commission meeting alongside Paul McManus, president of environmental consulting company EcoTec, Inc. McManus contributed to the project's planning by ensuring that construction will not have

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Alzheimer's Association shares info at Palmer Library

By Marcelo Gusmao
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – The library put on an event to share information about Alzheimer's and dementia last week, in cooperation with the Alzheimer's Association.

The regional manager, Meghan Lamay, shared a great deal of information about the disease, its most common misconceptions, and the best ways to prevent it.

"At this point, we tell people the same advice," Lamay said, "which is, you can try to reduce your risk for getting dementia by

doing things like exercising, keeping your brain active, socializing – just doing things like reading, keeping your brain learning new things."

"There is this kind of myth out there that everyone has a 'little touch of dementia,' or everyone will at some point," Lamay said during the event. "We want to say that that's actually not true."

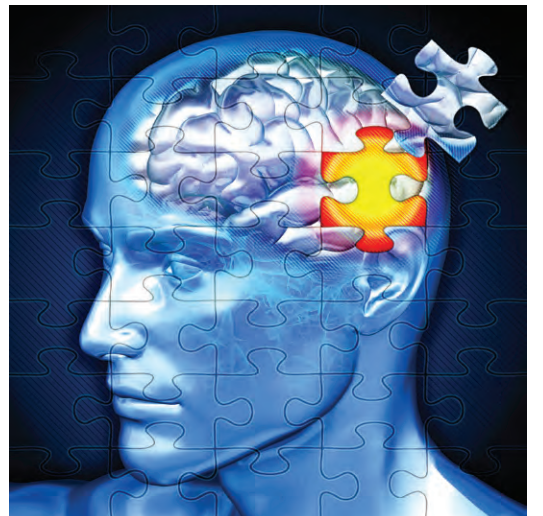
According to the most up-to-date research done by the Association, Alzheimer's is a specific disease that's separate from normal aging, and it falls into a category with other specific diseases that we refer to as dementia.

"Dementia is just the general term," Lamay said, "the umbrella term used to describe a set of symptoms of changes in thinking and behavior."

Though dementia does not automatically develop during aging, "age is the greatest risk factor," Lamay said. It's also been noted that the disease is much more common in cisgender women, and though the longer lifespans of women might be a factor, Lamay noted that this "does not explain the full discrepancy around why women are at a much higher risk."

Another element that Lamay wanted to

ALZHEIMERS | page 3



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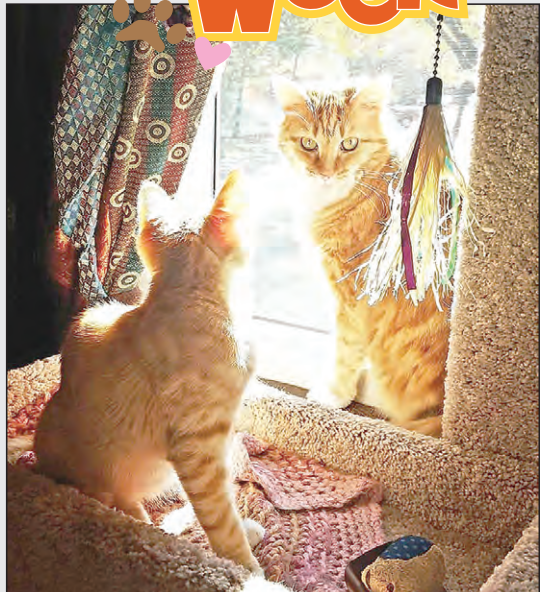
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Pet of the Week



COPPER & AURORA

This is Tami Elaine Prince's favorite pic of feline rescues Copper and Aurora. Copper was a kitten at the time, and Aurora was just warming up to the idea of having a roommate. Tami loves the way they're looking at each other. Aurora is very shy, but Copper is fearless, so Tami has him to teach Aurora how to cat. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Council looks at Quaboag Valley's food needs

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council kicked off the first in a series of meetings last week to discuss the Valley's food system.

Those attending the meeting ranged from farmers to health care and outreach workers, local business members, food pantry coordinators to municipal employees and community members. Each person shared their thoughts about our region's connection to food, and how to improve access to this vital need.

The Council is open to anyone, regardless of their background and whether or not they have professional knowledge of food systems or policy.

"You do not have to have extensive knowledge," Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan said. "Just an interest in the lo-

cal food system."

A food policy council, Geaghan said, is "a group of community members who come together to improve their local food system through actions such as education, policy and connection."

She said many food policy councils in the region run community food assessments, start community and school gardens, host composting webinar series, advocate for Healthy Incentives Programs, sponsor healthy eating and cooking classes, support existing programs such as Breakfast in the Classroom and Farm-to-School, as well as aiding those that do not qualify for government assistance but still need help.

"Our first question we wanted to ask everyone, are what issues related to food do you think need to be addressed in this region?" she said.

Responses included offering cooking classes, teaching

young families how to prepare healthy food that is both easy and inexpensive to make.

Transportation to farmers' markets was another suggestion, especially for locations that do not have a nearby grocery store or farmers market, making them "food deserts."

A Brimfield farmer said many elderly people cannot drive or afford transportation to farmers' markets where they can use HIP dollars.

Increasing the awareness about eligibility and availability of the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program was also discussed to address food needs.

The Council could also work to identify unofficial networks of food distribution, outside of government assistance and food pantries.

Geaghan asked those attending how they think the Council could work toward impacting these issues.

Ideas include networking,

providing financial and other resources and starting community gardens at housing authorities and teaching the residents how to grow vegetables and prepare them for nutritious meals.

Part of the Council's mission is working on laws and advocating for change, Geaghan said.

Food laws can be both complicated and confusing, she said, and the Council could bring in an expert to explain them.

One person in attendance said food laws can also be prohibitive, preventing neighborhoods from being self-sufficient.

She said the law and regulations can prevent anyone with smaller acreage from selling food that they grow.

"Anyone that doesn't have five plus acres is considered 'black market'...you can produce a year's worth of pumpkins on a quarter of an acre,"

she said. Others said it is important for the Council to be present at community events.

About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Project Coordinator for Community Health, Emily Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

Free Fanfare Brass Ensemble concert this Sunday, April 16

PALMER – St. Paul Unitarian Universalist Church of Palmer, at 1060 Central St., is hosting a concert by the Fanfare Brass Ensemble on Sunday, April 16, at 2 pm. They will perform classical and light popular music.

The crowd will hear music by Duke Ellington as well as a Glenn Miller medley and music from Phantom of the Opera, the Sound of Music and West Side Story. They will also play the Hungarian March, the William Tell Overture, Stars and Stripes, America the Beautiful and others.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact David Neill at 413-696-5027 or tbn8@aol.com.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is a state agency.

Silver Street Chapel to host street cleanup on April 29

MONSON – Silver Street Chapel in Monson is hosting a street cleanup on April 29 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All area residents are invited to join. Trash bags may be picked up at the Chapel between 8 - 9:30 a.m. As bags are filled, they may be left by the side of the road for pickup. The neighborhood streets include silver, Maxwell, Hovey, Thayer, Lemon, Reimers, Nieske, Sand Hill, Stebbins, Wilbraham, Lakeshore and Brookside.

C4R spring kick-off event April 20

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com

Go 'Into the Woods' with Exit 7 stage show

LUDLOW — The Exit 7 Players Theater is getting ready to present "Into the Woods," the Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Brothers Grimm inspired musical.

The theater is located at 37 Chestnut Street and the show runs April 21 to May 7.

Tales of getting what you wished for include The Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella who wishes to go to the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give some milk. Also in the woods, meet Little Red, who is trying to visit her grandmother.

For showtimes and tickets, go to Exit7players.org or call 413-583-4301. For group tickets (10 or more tickets to a performance) enter Promo10 to receive a discount.



Cast members rehearse for the upcoming Exit 7 production of "Into the Woods." Contributed photo

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FRANCIS | from page 1

said. "He said he really considers this an honor and privilege, and is enthusiastic about getting started."

Francis will be appearing at the next school committee meeting in his new position.

For more information on previous school committee meeting agendas, videos can be streamed at m-pact.tv.

Look Who's Turning 80!

Dorothy (Dottie) Holcomb

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM!

LOVE, PAUL

80

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FOREST LAKE | from page 1

a negative impact on the surrounding wetlands.

"We had the Natural Heritage Endangered Species program come out to the site and issue a no-take letter," McManus said. "The lake contains bridle shiners, endangered little fish, so we agreed to not do any work around their habitat and ensure that no one fishes along where they live."

Paolini said that the project will involve hooking into the Thorndike water system and laying down underground pipes that will run through Bondsville. While earlier designs depicted the pipes going down River St., the updated plans have the pipes along State St. instead.

The water flow at the bridge on Church St will also face alterations, with the intent of either hanging a water main on the bridge or adding a new pipe underneath the river.

Several members of the public came forward during the meeting with questions regarding the extension of the permit. The residents neighboring Forest Lake expressed concerns that due to the longevity of the project, the land and wildlife could have changed over time without proper examination along the way.

"The entire conservation commission team did recently visit the site on April 3 to survey the land and its quality," Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino said. "The planning board has also

been doing a water quality study on the lake and inspecting the surrounding septic tanks for contamination."

Other citizens felt that the community has not been adequately informed throughout the planning process, and had requested hearings with no response. The commission members agreed to call the Commonwealth to follow-up on a second public hearing, and contact the planning board for further details of the extension.

Other concerns from the community included an uptick in traffic around the lake with the addition of a new boat ramp.

The permit's extension was approved by the conservation commission, with the plan to hold a hearing after the designs were finalized. While several citizens at the meeting opposed the approval, Chairman Donald Blais said that he would attempt to seek answers for their questions.

Conservation commission meetings and other town meetings can be streamed at m-pact.tv.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

DEADLINE

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

EVENTS | from page 1

fund musical performances, art and crafts fairs, the Palmer Villages/Palmer Voices – Preserving Palmer Villages History initiative and even paid for a Palmer High School field trip to Washington, D.C. Without enough members, Zelazo worries the Cultural Council won't be able to do the work needed for review and award grants for fiscal year 2024.

"If we get down to just three members, I don't think we can function," she said.

The council can have up to 22 members, but Zelazo said if she can fill eight of the vacant spots, that will suffice.

Why it matters

Zelazo said she wants residents in general and prospective Cultural Council members in particular to realize the value of participating in the commonwealth's program.

"One is that it's free money," Zelazo said. "It comes from their (state) taxes. If you follow it, it trickles back to each one of us."

Also, "I've lived in Palmer my whole life and I hear so frequently 'there's nothing to do in Palmer' and to them I say, I don't know where you're looking, but there are things to do, something for everyone. The library, which I think is the gem of our community, has so many programs going on" thanks in part to Cultural Council grants, Zelazo said.

She mentioned the range of entertainment offered at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center in Three Rivers, including a monthly open mic night, performances by award-winning artists and presentations on local history – just to name a few.

"Anytime you can bring cultural events into our community, support local artists and engage people and provide entertainment, it benefits all of us," Zelazo said.

What people want

As part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, towns conduct regular surveys to help gauge what kinds of events residents want their town's council to support. Last year, among 188 responses, a majority said community-wide programs should get the highest priority and, by demographic, "seniors" and "families" should be the focus of most of them.

Asked "What other programs would enrich our community?" residents suggested "community gardens, programs to encourage and reward property owners to keep up their properties, recorded history of seniors, videos or written form, getting businesses involved, kid programs, adult programs, concerts and preserving community history."

Want to know more?

The Palmer Cultural Council meets approximately six to eight times a year on a day and time convenient to most members. Anyone interested in serving on the council or who wants more information should email Zelazo at palmerculturalcouncil@gmail.com. More information is available on the town's website and on the Cultural Council's page on Facebook.

Local genealogist and poet brings her generational art to the community

By **Rebecca Wehner**
Staff Writer
rwehner@turley.com

PALMER— Seven generations of family legacies that occurred right in town will be displayed at the Palmer Public Library in the form of poetry, art and photography.

Palmer native Denise Fontaine Pincince has been fascinated by genealogy ever since she was a child. Growing up, she heard stories about her family history and was always eager to learn more.

Pincince worked as an elementary school teacher and daycare owner for 25 years before selling her business in 2005 to pursue her true passion for art and poetry. Her newest work features many stories of her family's past, interpreting them through her art and including authentic photographs from each time period.

"Five years ago, I decided it was time to share with the world everything I have compiled and all that I know about my family," Pincince said. "This is about my dad's side of the family, the Duludes and the Fontaines."

In 2018, Pincince began emailing family members every day during the month of April, compiling stories, letters, and pictures. She was able to make deeper connections with distant family members, and continue piecing together the story of her family's history.

Pincince created paintings to go along with many of the stories, and po-

etry that captured the essence of her life and the lives of her relatives. Pincince said her family immigrated to Palmer from Canada, and has laid down many roots here right in town ever since.

"Everyone's families started out as immigrants from somewhere," Pincince said. "So I think it's important to capture that in my exhibit, and what I have included is only a small glimpse into all of the stories and memories I have collected."

Pincince gathered much of her inspiration growing up from her father and grandfather, both of whom had jobs as icemen, whose duty was to sell and deliver ice. The men in her family had many tales working in the iceman field until the 1940s when refrigeration was invented.

There are many more stories Pincince is ready to share, but she said that the public will have to come to the library to hear the rest.

"It isn't just an exhibit for me," Pincince said. "It is a journey, and it is a piece of my heart and a link to my entire family."

The event will take place on April 26, with the exhibit open to the public with no registration fee required. An open poetry night will also occur the same day alongside the exhibit, with Pincince serving as the MC for those who participate.

To learn more about the upcoming exhibit, visit palmerlibrary.org. Pincince's work and story can be viewed at her website at poetryandpaint.com.

Eleanor Roosevelt to be portrayed at Keep Homestead

MONSON — The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road, presents actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays Eleanor Roosevelt in a program, "First Lady Of The World" at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, during an open house event.

According to a news release, "this immersive historical performance will be engaging, educational, and entertaining as Eleanor Roosevelt comes to life."

Using costumes, audio, slides and attention to detail, Faye tells Roosevelt's story as a child, wife, mother, first lady and widow. This dynamic and beloved first lady, who wrote a

syndicated newspaper column, held press conferences, was a delegate to the United Nations and advocated for expanded roles for women, is amazingly brought to life.

Faye, who has a bachelor of fine arts in acting from Emerson College in Boston, presents live historical performances that help audiences understand the positive impact women have made in history. She portrays women whom she admires because of their courage, determination, strength, and caring.

There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome. The museum will be open from 1-3:30 p.m. with light refreshments.

ALZHEIMERS | from page 4

clarify was the idea that dementia "runs in the family."

"This is partially true," Lamay said, "you can get genetic testing, if you're interested in learning about your genetic history. You can find out if you have the APOE4 gene, (but) this just tells you that you're at a higher risk."

As Lamay explained, APOE4 is not an uncommon gene, and it is linked to later onset Alzheimer's disease, but that it's very possible that someone with the gene will never get Alzheimer's.

"There's a lot more evidence now, in research, showing the brain and body connection, and the connection between brain and heart health, as well," Lamay said.

The presentation also discussed common warning signs, such as difficulty with favored activities, which Lamay said are not part of normal aging.

"If someone had always kept track of the finances and bills for the family, and now suddenly they're starting to struggle with that, that could be a warning sign," Lamay said.

Other warning signs include spatial awareness, misplacing things, and particularly paranoia.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends discussing these symptoms seriously and getting a full diagnostic, and mentioned some specific medications that might help manage the disease, such as lecanemab.

"Medicare has said they don't want to cover (lecanemab), which is extremely unusual," said Lamay, "Medicare covers all kind of experimental drugs around cancer and other medical conditions."

"That's something we're doing a lot of advocacy around right now, because we feel like, if there's going to be new drugs, people deserve access to them, if they want to choose to take them and try to prolong a high quality of life for as long as possible. People deserve to do that and (the medications) shouldn't cost an astronomical amount of money to be able to access them."



Michael Rondeau, pictured in his newly refurbished kitchen.

Rondeau's Dairy Bar kitchen prepares to reopen



Logann Beaulieu and Emily Roy washed dishes while the restaurant prepared to open for the day.

By **Marcelo Gusmao**
Staff Writer

PALMER — Alvin Rondeau's Dairy Bar is preparing to reopen now that their kitchen has been fully refurbished.

"We put in new stainless steel air suction overhead exhaust vents," said Michael Rondeau, "We got an eight-footer and a five-footer; we're into the 20th century."

Rondeau explained that while the vents were being replaced, the restaurant had to go six months without serving hot dogs or hamburgers. They started making hot dogs again at the end of last year, and have been open on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., selling fish and chips.

"Last Friday, we sold out over 50 or-

ders," Rondeau said, "And this week we had almost 80 orders ready to go."

Rondeau's is in its 83rd year, originally started by Michael's grandfather in 1940. This is the restaurant's second kitchen remodeling, having been redone back in 1957.

"It hasn't been done in 67 years," Rondeau said, "in 1957 it was an up-to-date kitchen area, but now we had to re-visit it again for insurance purposes."

"On the weekend we'll be opening at 11 a.m., and we'll be going to at least 8 p.m.," Rondeau said, "And more than likely we'll be closed on Mondays, but I'm trying to space out my girls so we can stay open for lunch hours and sell some more hot dogs."

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Corrections

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



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Viewpoints

Comments on
CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Why trustworthiness
matters in our
democracy

Early this year, the Gallup organization came out with a survey of Americans on how they view the ethics of various professions. Nurses ranked at the top. Doctors, pharmacists, and high school teachers did well, too.

Real estate agents and bankers were considered about average. Down at the bottom? Telemarketers. And, members of Congress.

So you can imagine how our representatives in Washington feel, knowing that a proven liar in their midst, George Santos, continues to garner headlines and public attention.

He casts a shadow over the entire body. The GOP House leadership seems reluctant to take any steps to expel him. Members of the New York Republican delegation, concerned about how he reflects on them, are agitating for his ouster.

And his constituents? They're the people who should be most concerned.

This isn't just because Santos won office by misrepresenting pretty much everything about himself. It's also because as voters, we depend on our representatives to speak and act effectively on our behalf. With a reputation for untrustworthiness, Santos will struggle to do that.

Over the course of my career in Congress, I dealt with hundreds of legislators over many decades and found the vast majority to be honest and ethical. Most understood that in Congress and other legislative bodies in this country, trust is the coin of the realm. One of the worst things that can happen to a legislator is to have word get around that he or she is not trustworthy.

This is because you're constantly making deals – hammering out the details of a bill, striving to get funding for a key infrastructure project at home, working with the leadership or other members of your state delegation or even legislators from the other party to craft language that can command a majority on the floor. And as part of that process, you have to make commitments. If you don't follow through or you shade your language or you misrepresent your intentions, word gets around.

So why do so many people hold the ethics of members of Congress in such low esteem and often tell pollsters that you can't trust what they say? I think in part it's because many politicians learn quickly to be very careful about how they use language in public – not for nefarious purposes, but because it's natural to want an audience's support even though, quite often, the issue in question is far more complicated than it's possible to convey in a few words.

Or, especially these days, a politician may be entirely sincere in expressing a point of view, but it's based on misinformation or information that comes from what proves to be an untrustworthy source.

At the same time, issues evolve.

Policy is a dynamic process and circumstances and legislation change: What you said a year ago might no longer be relevant or even useful today. In fact, as a member of Congress, I became very cautious in answering when a constituent or lobbyist asked me whether I would support a particular bill because, by the time it reached the floor, it might have gone through so many changes that it was unrecognizable.

The problem is, as a legislator you don't get to vote "Maybe." A vote is a blunt response to a difficult issue; "yes" or "no" rarely reflects a member's complete thoughts because of the complexities inherent in legislation.

Intriguingly, it's that changeability – in how legislation evolves, politics unfolds, and politicians think – that makes trustworthiness so important. If other legislators conclude they can't take you at your word, then you're sidelined. As deals get struck and the details change, you have no influence. In the end, you're just occupying a seat.

As Santos has found, you may have a megaphone in the press, but when it comes to affecting public policy or the course of legislative events, you're frozen out. And the losers are your constituents.

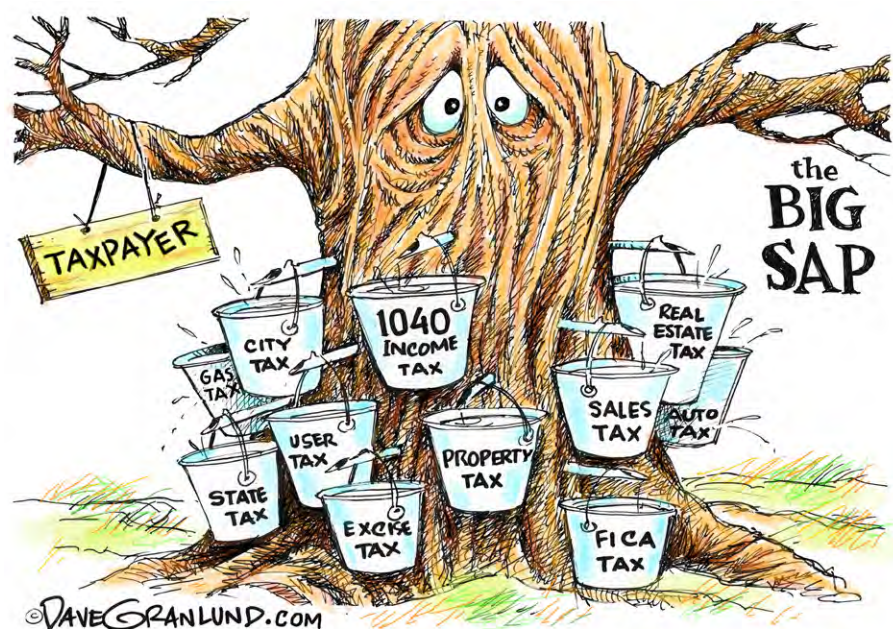
Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the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

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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A dad-worthy lawn

My dad would have celebrated his birthday this week.

I think of him often and I remember how he used to get great joy out of the simple things in life. In fact, when he was sick, he stated more than once how much he missed putting around the house and yard.

One of my dad's spring rituals was to rake the lawn. I remember him out

there working his way across the yard a little at a time, making pile after pile of dead grass, leaves and small sticks. This was just the first job in a season's worth of work aimed at growing good turf.

Read on for this refresher on what else can be done to achieve an attractive greenscape with a minimal commitment.

Don't mow so low, or as often. Mowing at a height of about three inches will encourage a healthy lawn.

Why? Taller grass shades out developing weed seedlings. It also makes large, established weeds more susceptible to mower damage (the more surface area of the weed that is removed, the more weakened it becomes.)

High mowing also fosters deep root growth. Deep roots sustain the lawn during periods of drought. Keep mower blades sharpened for the cleanest possible cut.

Water efficiently and effectively. If you set up sprinklers each season to water the lawn for you, take some time early in the season to position them so that water isn't wasted on sidewalks or driveways.

Mark the location and set up will be a no-brainer each time.

To grow best, grass requires an inch of moisture each week, more if your soil is sandy. Do the tea cup test to determine how much water your sprinklers emit and at what rate.

Simply place a tea cup or other container on the lawn and turn on the sprinkler, check every five minutes or so until water reaches the inch mark. Now you can set a timer, or turn off the sprinklers manually knowing your lawn has gotten

its weekly drink.

Most people know that early morning is the best time to water the lawn. By watering early in the day less moisture is lost to evaporation.

Grass is also less prone to fungal diseases because it has a chance to dry before nightfall.

Know your soil. A friend of mine who knew a lot about turf once told me that if I were to apply one thing to my lawn each season it should be lime.

Grass can't grow well, or fight off diseases or bugs for that matter, if it isn't getting the nutrients it needs. Many nutrients are bound up until the pH is corrected.

Get a soil test and specify on the order form that you wish to grow grass, as results for flower or veggie gardening may differ. Based on the results of your test, recommendations will be made as to the type of lime to use and at what application rate.

For more information contact <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>

Here are some interesting grass facts: Did you know that according to a poll (sponsored by Briggs and Stratton) 64% of homeowners wish they had a better lawn?

Or that 65% of American homeowners own at least one lawn mower? The Professional Lawn Care Association estimates that a well-maintained lawn can increase the value of a home by up to 15%.

So, like my dad many years ago, enjoy some putting on your property this spring. Your lawn will thank you!

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

Goosebumps

Editor's Note: Monson resident Beverly Lemon saw a news report of several people who each brought a lonesome goose together so they could have company once again, and she wrote this poem to honor the result.

By Beverly Lemon

Blossom's heart was broken the day she lost her mate,
It was not easy for her to just go out and find a date.
People as well as animals were never meant to live alone,
Blossom did not have the ability to just reach out by phone.
A close friend of Blossom felt very sad,
The friend cared enough to go on a dating site and find her a lad.
A kind couple read all about her awful plight,
Frankie was a lonely soul as well maybe they might meet some day or night.
Alone with no one to love is never good for the heart or soul,
Finding someone to love was always Blossom's goal.
She was often seen wandering around looking at her reflection in a glass door,
What Blossom really needed was something more.
For Blossom, her own reflection to lean on was all she had,
What she desperately needed was someone so she would no longer be sad.
One day they met, everyone could see it was love at first sight.
Oh what a delight!
Alone no more they had become a great pair,
It was plain to see the love they shared.
As they swam around their pond together,
You knew that their love would last forever.
Goosebumps appeared all over them and me,
They became a goose couple and were happy as could be.
Love conquers all!
Beverly Lemon is a longtime resident of Monson and enjoys writing poetry.

Clarification

The poem "Goosebumps" on the opinion page is being rerun because there were errors introduced in the editing process when it ran three weeks ago.

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell GloorRetired public servant
feels Government
Pension Offset 'unjust'By Rusty Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm a retired firefighter and live in Ohio. I earned Social Security from my side employment, but the Windfall Elimination Provision hit my Social Security very hard.

My wife worked in the school system and earned a state "SERS" pension. I understand the WEP offset and that doesn't bother me as much as the fact that my wife doesn't get my Social Security benefits when I die – her state pension is above the monthly limit for her to receive my Social Security. I earned that benefit by working extra jobs and being away from my family, and it seems unjust that my benefits expire with me. Thanks for letting me vent. Signed: Retired Public Servant

Dear Retired Public Servant: The provision you deem as "unjust" isn't the Windfall Elimination Provision, which affects Social Security retirement benefits for those who also have a "non-covered" pension, a pension earned without contributing to Social Security; rather it is the Government Pension Offset, which also affects those who have a pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

Though I know it is no consolation, your frustration about the Government Pension Offset is shared by nearly a million other Americans in a similar situation. The GPO has been law since 1983, and is intended to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits are paid to all beneficiaries. I'm certainly not defending it, but I've researched why the GPO was enacted decades ago.

Historically, ever since spousal and survivor benefits became part of Social Security's benefit structure in the late 1930s, if a spouse also has their own personally earned SS benefit, any spousal/survivor benefit they also became entitled to was offset by their personally earned Social Security retirement amount. The prevailing opinion in the 1983 Congress was that because regular spousal and survivor benefits are normally offset by the spouse's own earned Social Security benefit, it was unfair that a spouse who had a "non-covered pension" didn't incur the same offset as those who had no such non-covered pension. Thus, GPO was enacted in 1983 to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits were paid. It is the GPO that will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse because she earned her state pension while not contributing to Social Security.

To give you a more personal perspective, if your wife had, instead, worked outside of the Ohio school system and was entitled to a full Social Security benefit based on her own earnings from which she contributed to Social Security, any survivor benefit she might become entitled to from you would still be offset by her personally earned Social Security retirement benefit. If her own Social Security retirement benefit was more than her entitlement as your widow, she would get no additional amount as your surviving spouse. Or if her own Social Security retirement benefit was smaller than yours, her survivor benefit would still be offset by her own benefit (her benefit would be paid first and only a supplement added to bring her payment to the higher amount she was entitled to as your widow). The purpose of the Government Pension Offset is to equalize how spousal or survivor benefits are paid to those with, and to those without, a non-covered pension. Indeed, because the GPO only offsets the potential spousal/survivor benefit by two thirds of a spouse's non-covered pension, the GPO is actually a bit more forgiving.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters
to the editor
welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



(Courtesy Photos)

Local filmmaker Geno McGahee is shown with the cast and crew on the set of "Deadly Western".

Filmmaker Geno McGahee takes on La La Land

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

Geno McGahee has been making movies in the Western Central Massachusetts region for many years.

His work has consisted mostly of horror films, and he has a rep in the genre.



Actress Lorrie Bacon is shown during the filming of "Deadly Western".

Of late, he has branched out in what can be called a departure. The term departure could be considered an understatement.

With his wife, he was watching a Hallmark Channel movie. Now, in what also might be called an understatement, roughly 99% of "guys" are not fans of such entertainment (though, oddly enough, they know of its existence).

Nevertheless, he found himself a bit intrigued, maybe it was because the filmmaker in him thought he could do better.

The result of his self-challenge was premiered at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield last October.

The movie, "A Christmas Invitation", was covered by Turley Publications. It is the story of a dysfunctional family who's dying matriarch sends out deathbed invitations for the members to do Christmas together.

It looks to be a disaster, but fate intervened.

"A Christmas Invitation" did well enough that it was Cinema Epoch's best performer for a time and the movie is available on streaming services.

Cinema Epoch is the movie company McGahee works for.

For his next assignment he was to go on location. Oddly enough he was to go on location where people usually go on location from.

Hooray for Hollywood!

This was the idea of Gregory Hatanaka, owner of Cinema Epoch, the company that distributes McGahee's movies. Hatanaka flew McGahee and his team out to the City of Angels to make a couple of films and have a great time which was obvious as he described the adventure beginning with flying over the iconic Hollywood sign.

It was work, of course, as McGahee spoke about the two films that were produced.

"Fatal Justice" is the story of Dennis, played by Eric Michaelian, an accused killer who is released from prison due to police misconduct. A young college girl murdered, it's not over. "The

family of the victim comes face to face with Dennis and hold their own trial to decide his fate. When the system fails, family justice is the only way and FATAL JUSTICE will be executed."

There is a reason why McGahee wanted to make this movie. His favorite film is "Twelve Angry Men".

"Twelve Angry Men" has tugged at the heart strings of many for decades, and has been done in several versions, including the most famous, as well as a number of foreign language incarnations.

"Fatal Justice" is a courtroom drama, but not in a courtroom?

"Deadly Western" is a unique take on the horse opera theme. Of course, there is the sheriff who will defend the town, but has to ask why?

"Deadly Western" is where Science Fiction meets the Western.

It is the story of "a Sheriff that awakens with amnesia and the imminent threat of a deadly group coming to take over the town. Struggling to find out who he is and how to defend the town lead to secrets being exposed and not everything being what it seemed."

Gary Cooper never faced that dilemma in "High Noon".

McGahee is a Twilight Zone guy so you can expect even more surprises at the end.

Your man has high hopes for "Deadly Western". He wants people to come out of the theater saying to friends, "ya gotta see it."

So it was a great week out on set. What's up back here in the Bay State?

We can look forward to the eventual premiere again at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield.

In June he will be filming "Scary Tales 3". Did we mention McGahee does horror?

But, again, a twist. It will be a comedy. It does fit, as what I've seen of his oeuvre, there is usually at least a tinge of humor.

It will be more than a tinge this time. The man's heart is in comedy, and he wants to prove that comedy works on a budget.

McGahee described himself as a natural goofball, and if you follow the man on social media, there is that in him. So, watch out for the announcement of the premiere of his Hollywood flicks and then watch out for comedy/horror made in New England. One could die laughing.

Professor talks geology at Keep Homestead

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

MONSON – While many in the area can agree that living in the Connecticut River Valley "rocks," most are unaware it's also home to one of the rarest geological formations; lithified armored mud balls from the Jurassic Period.

Dr. Richard Little, professor emeritus at Greenfield Community College presented "Dinosaurs, Dunes & Drifting Continents" during the Keep Homestead Museum's opening day for the season on April 2.

Little, the author of two books, "Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley" and "Exploring Franklin County", has been the driving force behind a bill to make sure armored mud balls, or AMBs, get the recognition they deserve.

Little said the commonwealth has about 50 state symbols including the corn muffin and Boston cream donut.

"My goal is to make these a state symbol," he said.

This year, the bill will be presented to state legislature to help start the process of making AMBs the state's official "sedimentary structure."

"We have the best place in the world to study geology in Franklin County," Little said. "You can go all across a billion years of history, most from the roadside."

In 1970, Little discovered AMBs in the quarried stone supports of a bridge in Turners Falls, located near the parking lot.

"They're extremely rare... up until this point, you've probably never heard of armored mud balls," he said.

AMBs are created when pieces of mud erode from the top of streambeds, rolling downstream and getting coated with pebbles, which stick to the mud and form an armor. During the Jurassic Period, these mudballs were covered by stream deposits and lithified over a process that took millions of years.

"Franklin County is the only place on the planet to easily see lithified armored mud balls," Little said.

Greenfield Community College's Geology Path, located to the left of the front of the main building, has many AMBs, with more locations in Gill and Turners Falls. For a complete listing, visit armoredmudballs.rocks.

Little has even found AMBs on geology trips he has taken across the country.

"Most geologists never see



(Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouimette)

Dr. Richard Little admires the rock foundation of the barn at the Keep Homestead Museum during his recent presentation, "Dinosaurs, Dunes & Drifting Continents."

one," he said.

AMBs are not the only piece of geology that is important in Massachusetts, rocks also play a major role.

The commonwealth's official building and monument stone is granite, a rock that has great significance to Monson and surrounding towns.

Home of Flynt Quarry, Monson is famous for its gneiss, a type of metamorphic rock that used to be granite but has been affected by heat and pressure, resulting in stripes and a unique texture.

"There's only three ways that rocks form," Little said. "Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic."

Granite is an igneous rock that forms when magma cools underground and then when it is subjected to heat and pressure, it becomes metamorphic, resulting in gneiss.

The biggest stone quarried from Flynt was 354 feet long, 11 feet wide and four feet thick and many buildings present today were built from this stone's pieces, including Memorial Hall.

The iconic Trinitarian Congregational Church in Gil-

bertville was also made from Monson granite.

Gneiss is a hard rock, but is easily split along its strata Little said. It also doesn't have a lot of iron in it, which makes it ideal for building facades.

Flynt Quarry closed in 1935 and is now preserved as open space by the town and Opacum Land Trust.

"Flynt Quarry looks very different today," Little said. The boulders that remain at the site, "don't reflect the scale and importance of the Quarry."

For more information about Little, visit earthview.rocks or email rdlittle2000@aol.com.

About Keep Homestead Museum

The Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road, is open

April through October and has open houses the first Sunday of each month from 1:30-3 p.m. Visitors are also welcome by appointment by calling 413-267-4137.

Upcoming events include Sunday, May 7, Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the World; Sunday, June 4, Sarah the Fiddler; Sunday, July 2, Ice Cream Social on the Lawn; Sunday, Aug. 6, Wildlife on Wheels from Forest Park; Sunday, Sept. 3, Open House; Sunday, Oct. 1, Open House; Sunday, Nov. 5, Button Appraisal Day at the Keep; and Sunday, Dec. 3, Victorian Christmas Traditions.

For more information, call the phone number listed above or visit keeplibrarymuseum.org.

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The cast (from left) Jonas Toutant, Grace Stafford, Juli Delaney, Adeline Leissner, Rylee Santiago, Maddy Rathbone, and July Delaney.



Maddy Rathbone as Schroeder and July Delaney as Lucy.



A flock of Woodstocks bother Snoopy, played by Rylee Santiago.



Charlie Brown (played by Jonas Toutant) chases the school bus – driven by Snoopy.



The full cast (from left: Grace Stafford, Adeline Leissner, Juli Delaney, Rylee Santiago, July Delaney, Maddy Rathbone, and Jonas Toutant) performed "My Blanket & Me."



The cast performed in the auditorium at Palmer High School



Jonas Toutant as the titular Charlie Brown



PHS | from page 1

Many organizations and businesses helped to sponsor the event, including Nick's Sport Shop, Steaming Tender, Girly's Grill, as well as many others, and a special thanks to TLC Upholstery for a generous donation.

The program also advertises a production of Little Women, to be put on in the autumn 2023 semester.

The acknowledgements section of the program thanks the Palmer School District, Principal Susan North, and then-acting Superintendent Colleen Culligan.

Jonas Toutant received flowers for his performance, and posed with an auctioned picture of his character, Charlie "Chuck" Brown.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

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We are looking for community members and local organizations to help in the process of creating and implementing the Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Plan (QHCHIP). We want the QHCHIP to reflect the needs and experiences of the Quaboag Hills community.

COME JOIN US AT OUR NEXT GENERAL BODY MEETING:

- Wednesday April 12, 2023 from 5:30pm-7pm at 308 Lakeside East Brookfield (dinner provided)
- Thursday April 20, 2023 from 5:30pm-7pm at Palmer Library, Palmer (dinner provided)
- Wednesday April 26, 2023 from 1pm-2:30pm via zoom

*Identical meetings, only attend one date

PRE-REGISTER USING THE QR CODE OR GO TO: [TINYURL.COM/2596DAXU](https://tinyurl.com/2596DAXU)

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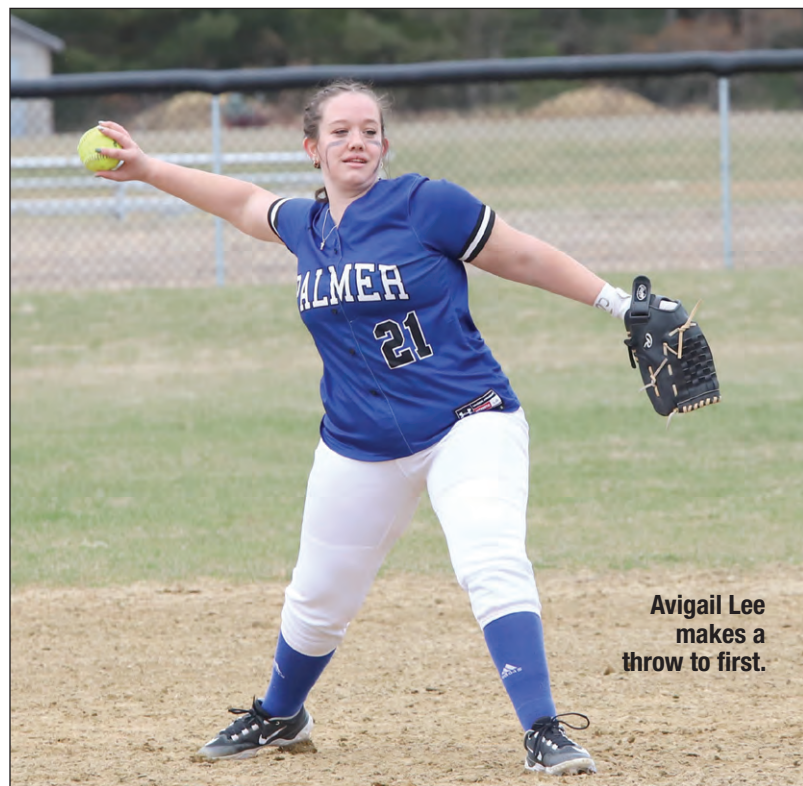
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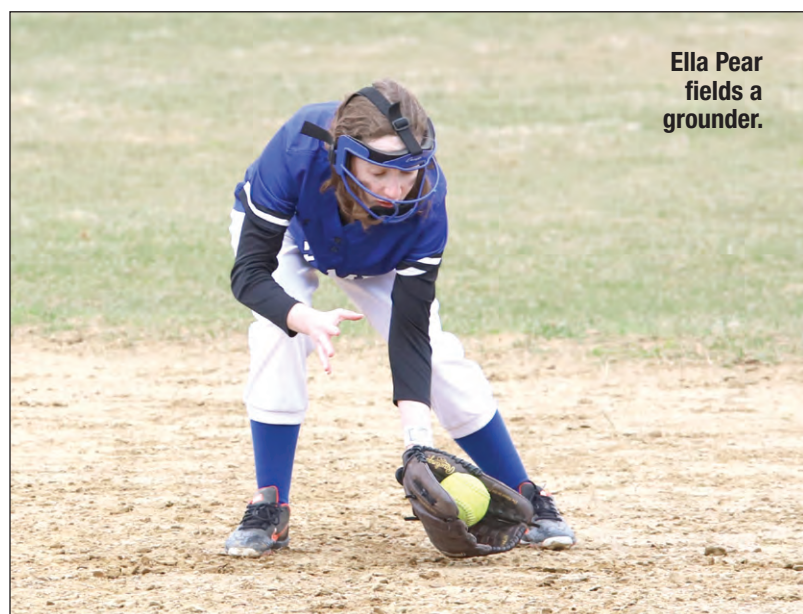
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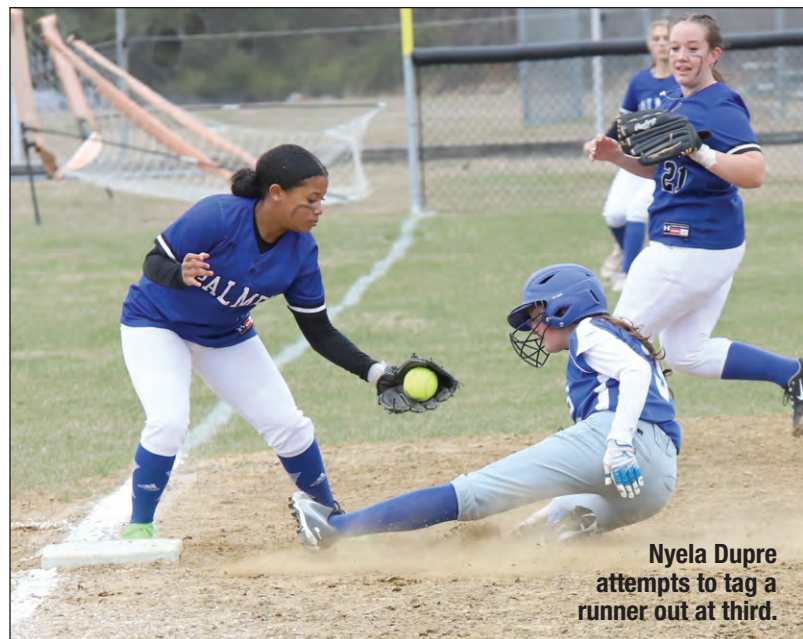


Avigail Lee makes a throw to first.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Ella Pear fields a grounder.

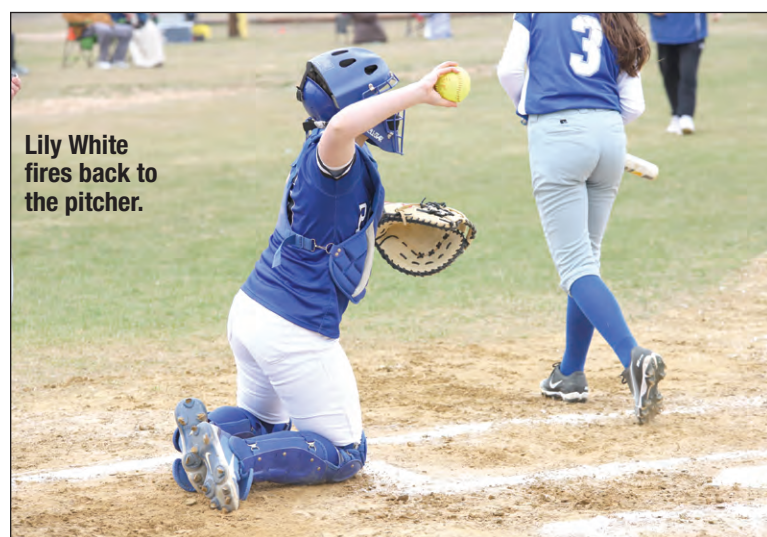


Nyela Dupre attempts to tag a runner out at third.

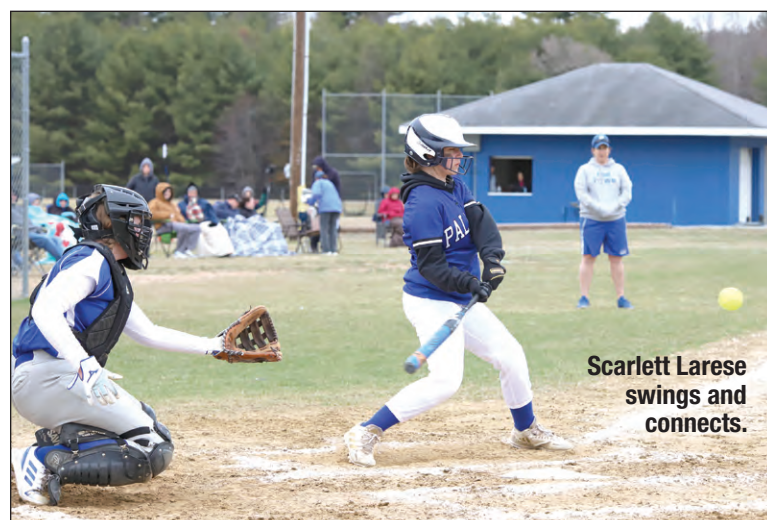
Panthers outlasted by Rams

GRANBY — Last Friday on a frigid afternoon, Granby High School defeated visiting Palmer 12-11. The game went back and forth for several innings before the Rams walked off in the bottom

of the seventh. Palmer dropped to 0-2 on the season. Palmer has also lost to Belchertown. The Panthers hope for their first win this week with three games scheduled.



Lily White fires back to the pitcher.



Scarlett Larese swings and connects.



Pitcher Ashley Bransky fires to the plate.

TRACK



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The 100 meter race starts.

Track season opens



Abi Soule lands her attempt in the long jump.



Evan Hershovite throws the shot put.



Grace Burke attempts a long jump.



Gustavo Calcano follows through on a throw.



Keith Lavallie throws the javelin.

LACROSSE

Monson falls to league rival Granby

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — Kate Sarnacki scored 336 goals as a member of the Granby girls' varsity lacrosse team from 2014-2017. She also had 134 assists for a total of 470 career points.

Senior Ella Laliberte became the second member of the Granby girls' lacrosse team to reach 200 career goals last week. She entered the regular season needing only ten goals to reach the elite milestone.

Led by Laliberte, who scored seven of her team leading eight goals during the first half, the Lady Rams kicked off the 2023 campaign by posting a 17-9 non-league road victory over the Monson Lady Mustangs on April 3.

"It feels very good to start my senior season with a win. We worked very hard in today's game," Laliberte said. "I'm also only two goals away from 200. I didn't score very many goals during the second half because I really wanted to wait until our home opener on Wednesday to do it."

The same two teams met in that contest, as the Lady Rams celebrated a 17-5 victory in their first home game. Laliberte scored six more goals, including her 200th.

"It's a great accomplishment," said Laliberte, who'll be attending UMass Amherst in the fall. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my amazing teammates."

Laliberte picked up the lacrosse stick for the first time when she was in the seventh grade. "I think I only scored two goals when I was in the seventh grade," she said. "I've really improved a lot during the past couple of years."

Laliberte is a co-captain of this year's team, along with sophomore Kelly-Lynne Kennedy. The only other senior listed on the Lady Rams varsity roster is Katherine Vallee.

Laliberte and Sarnacki weren't high school teammates, but they've known each other for a long time.

"I've known Kate since I was a little girl," Laliberte said. "I used to go watch her play lacrosse for the first time when she was in the seventh grade, and it's cool following in her footsteps. She had an amazing career in high school and in college."

Sarnacki scored 124 goals and had 72 assists for a total of 196 career points as a member of the Springfield College women's lacrosse team.

Laliberte has had three different head coaches during her high school lacrosse career.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Lyla Strycharz tries to evade a defender.

Gary O'Grady, who was previously an assistant coach at Northampton High School, is the Lady Ram first year head coach.

O'Grady had a little bit of a rocky start to his varsity coaching career. He was ejected with 13:58 remaining in the season opener after arguing with one of the

referees. Because of the ejection, O'Grady was suspended for the home opener.

"It's nice to have a coach who wants to stand up for his players," Laliberte said. "Coach O'Grady has been very supportive of us,

BASEBALL

Young Panthers fall to Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Matt Foley has been coaching the South Hadley varsity baseball team since the 1990's.

During that time, Foley, who's approaching his 250th career victory, has coached many outstanding pitchers. He had never seen a freshman pitcher win a varsity game prior to this season.

Freshman righthander Justin Moskal made a little bit of history by defeating Suburban Central Division Palmer, 12-2, on a chilly afternoon at Landers Diamond in South Hadley last Friday.

"I've coached some outstand-

ing pitchers, but this is the first time that I've ever had a freshman win a varsity game," Foley said. "Ryan Horstman, who played professional baseball, didn't join the varsity baseball team until he was a sophomore. Freshmen never played for the varsity team in the past!"

Moskal is one of the six freshmen listed on this year's Tigers varsity roster. He allowed two runs on four hits in five innings against Palmer. (The game ended with no outs in the bottom of the fifth due to the ten run mercy rule). He also recorded three strikeouts and walked three.

"I thought Justin pitched very

Mustangs fall on the road



Dominic Kierkla tries to get the loose ball before his opponent.

GRANBY – The Monson High School boys lacrosse team, which co-ops now with Pathfinder Regional, fell on the road last Thursday afternoon at Granby High School 8-2. The Mustangs managed a couple of goals in the first half, but were shut out the rest of the way. Monson fell to 0-2 on the season. The Mustangs hope to rebound on April 14 against Lenox.

Karter Benoit picks up the ground ball.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kyle Beaudry gets the pickup.



Seth Mitchell brings the ball in from out of bounds.



Domanic Fleming looks for an open teammate.



Samuel Lauzier goes after a shot rebound.

T-Birds lose to Phantoms, will make playoffs

ALLENTOWN, PA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (36-25-3-5, 80 points) fell victim to a third-period charge by the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (37-26-3-3, 80 points) in a 4-3 loss on Saturday night inside the PPL Center. Despite the defeat, the T-Birds did secure their second straight Calder Cup playoff berth thanks to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's 8-2 win over the Bridgeport Islanders.

After relenting the first goal of each of their past two games, Springfield wasted little time jumping to the advantage in Pennsylvania, as Nikita Alexandrov moved in on the left side looking to get a wrist shot in on Sam Ersson's net. Alexandrov's shot was ultimately blocked, but defenseman Tyler Tucker alertly followed up on the play, picked up the loose puck, and squeezed it

through Ersson on the stick side, and the T-Birds had a 1-0 lead just 34 seconds into play.

Scoring chances were prevalent for each team in a first period that netted 24 combined shots on net, but Ersson settled in nicely, while T-Birds starter Garret Sparks was stellar, turning away 14 Lehigh Valley offerings, including a handful of point-blank chances from his former teammate Adam Brooks.

Springfield gave Sparks a bit of insurance when Hugh McGing finished off a 2-on-1 pass from Will Bitten at 4:14 of the second, extending the lead to 2-0 on his 15th goal of the season.

A frenetic and high-paced second period, which featured exclusively even-strength hockey, finally allowed Lehigh Valley to cut the lead in half when Jordy Bellerive beat Sparks with a slot

writer at 16:07 to send the game to the third in a 2-1 score.

It appeared the T-Birds had withstood the Phantoms' toughest rebuttal when Mikhail Abramov beat Ersson at 2:11 of the third off a cross-ice pass from Mathias Laferriere. Springfield's 3-1 lead would prove to be the most dangerous one of all.

Just a minute later, after a penalty put the Phantoms on a power play, Emil Andrae beat Sparks with a seeing-eye wrist shot through traffic, and it was a 3-2 game at 3:11 of the third.

Before the midpoint of the third, Kevin Connauton joined a rush, accepting a drop pass from Adam Brooks and slipping a wrist shot through Sparks' left arm to tie the score, 3-3 at 9:05.

The momentum jolt for the Phantoms proved to be too much to overcome, and Olle Lycksell

slipped in behind two defenders following a Springfield turnover and cashed in on a one-timer on the doorstep, set up by Brooks, with just 3:24 to go to ice the game.

Lehigh Valley's win propelled the Phantoms all the way up into a three-way tie for third at 80 points. The Phantoms own the tiebreaker over both Springfield and Charlotte, so they are the team that sits in third position heading into the season's final week.

The T-Birds' regular season ends with one final 3-game weekend beginning on Friday, April 14 on home ice against the Providence Bruins. All six playoff teams for the Atlantic Division are set, but nobody has locked themselves into a seeding with precious days remaining before the Calder Cup Playoffs.

PANTHERS | from page 7

well in today's game," Foley said. "We do have some talented freshmen players on this year's varsity team. They really enjoy playing the game of baseball.

The Tigers finished the first week of the regular season with a 2-1 record.

Palmer and South Hadley, who split a pair of games a year ago, met in the 2010 Western Mass. Division 2 championship game, which was held at Szot Park in Chicopee. In that contest, Horstman outdueled Jake Graveline, who's the Panthers first year varsity coach, 4-2.

"We battled them in the Western Mass. finals, but they had a very good pitcher, and they got the better of us," Graveline said. "We did beat the same pitcher during the regular season."

Horstman, who helped the Tigers win the Western Mass. title for the first time, was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the fourth round of the 2013 MLB draft.

The Tigers also won the Western Mass. Division 2 title in 2012 with a below .500 record.

They shut out Plymouth North, 5-0, in the Division 2 state finals.

Under the new statewide tournament format, Palmer is a Division 5 team while South Hadley competes in Division 4.

The Panthers (0-3), who don't have a junior varsity team this year, only have two seniors and one sophomore listed on their roster. The rest of their players are either seventh, eighth, or ninth graders.

"We're a very young baseball team," Graveline said. "Going from playing for the j.v. team to the varsity team is a very big step. I just want my guys to keep getting better every day."

After Moskal retired the side in order in the top of the first inning, his teammates gave him a 7-0 lead to protect in the bottom half of the inning.

Senior centerfielder Ben Foley drew a leadoff walk against Palmer freshman righty Sebastian Mayberry, who worked the first two innings. The Panthers other two pitchers were righties (eighth grader) Brody Wetnika and (seventh grader) Grayson Griswold.

After stealing second base, Foley scored the game's first run following a single into right field

by senior shortstop Nate Carillon, who had three base hits and two RBIs.

Foley and Carillon, who are the Tigers co-captains, were also members of the Tigers boys' soccer team, which captured the Division 4 state title last November.

The duo of junior left fielder Burke Belsky and sophomore right fielder Jackson Keller contributed with two-run singles in the Tigers first inning rally. Belsky also had another RBI in the second inning.

Freshman DH Logan Carpenter added a run scoring single in the first and the Tigers other two runs scored on a fielding error.

The home team, who banged out ten base hits, scored two runs in the second and third innings, as they built a commanding 11-0 lead.

South Hadley junior third baseman John Viola helped out offensively with an RBI single in the third. He also scored two runs.

Palmer's first base hit was a single to center by freshman left fielder Brendan Hess with two outs in the second. Senior catcher Dom Allen hit a flair single down

the rightfield line with two outs in the fourth inning.

Palmer's other senior is third baseman Ty Miller.

Hess, who singled leading off the fifth inning, scored the Panthers first run on a wild pitch. Eighth grader Dylan Holbrook, who started in right field, also walked and crossed the plate following another wild pitch, which forced the Tigers to bat in the home half of the inning.

"I'm very proud of my guys for not giving up," Graveline said. "We had a couple of good at-bats in the last inning, and we were able to score two runs."

Palmer's only other base hit was a one-out single in the fifth by centerfielder Taydem Haley, who's in the eighth grade.

It didn't take the Tigers very long to end the ballgame.

Ben Foley led off the bottom of the fifth with a flyball double to left field. He moved to third on a wild pitch before scoring on a balk.

The second meeting of the season between the two rivals is scheduled to take place under the lights at Legion Field in Palmer on May 3.

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Nevaeh Chiacchia
Monson High School

Athlete of the Week

The Monson girls lacrosse player had four goals for Monson in their first win of the season over Hampshire last week.

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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MONSON | from page 7

and it makes you work a little bit harder."

Granby assistant coach Tess Spear took over the coaching duties for the rest of the match.

Monson did have a two-player advantage following the ejection, but they could only score two goals.

While the Granby girls' lacrosse team have never lost to Monson since Laliberte has been a member of the team, it's been a different story on the soccer pitch.

"We've always been able to beat Monson in lacrosse," Laliberte said. "However, we've never beaten them in soccer. This is a very big rivalry game for us."

Unlike Sarnacki, Laliberte isn't planning on playing either lacrosse or soccer at the collegiate level. She might join a club team.

Monson, who beat Hampshire, 10-9, for the first time in their season opener, took a 1-0 lead in the first meeting against Granby following a goal by sophomore Nevaeh Chiacchia, who finished the match with a team-leading four goals.

Laliberte quickly responded by scoring her team's first two goals.

Monson senior Samantha Shrewsbury scored the tying goal before the Lady Mustangs pulled away with a 5-0 spurt.

Laliberte scored three of those goals. Eighth grader Kalli White and Kennedy (4 goals) netted the other two goals.

The Lady Rams (2-0) held an 11-4 halftime lead.

Monson closed the gap to 11-6 six minutes into the second half following goals by Chiacchia and eighth grader Lyla Strycharz.

Granby didn't allow Monson to get closer than five points the rest of the way.

"Granby is probably the best team that we're going to play this season," said Monson head coach Mickey Novak. "They do have a couple of outstanding players. Ella Laliberte is a very special lacrosse player. It's hard for our defense to stop her. This is probably the most goals that we've ever scored against Granby."

Despite losing back-to-back games against Granby, Monson entered this week's action with a 2-2 record.

The Lady Mustangs defeated the Chicopee Lady Pacers, 9-5, last Friday afternoon. Chiacchia recorded a hat-trick in that contest.



Nevaeh Chiacchia tries to get around a Granby defender.



Madeline Sweeney sends the ball away.



Sedona Arbour holds the ball away from an opponent.



Samantha Shrewsbury makes her way up the field.

Country Bank announces appointments

WARE — Country Bank President and CEO Paul F. Scully recently announced the appointment of Steven P. Musso to the Board of Trustees at the bank's annual meeting.

The Ware-based bank has 14 branches in the region, including Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. Musso joins the Board with over 30 years of experience in the banking industry, a press release states. He previously served as the COO for FinPro Inc., leading consulting engagements, running the consulting operation and building the technology division. He has extensive experience working with banks on strategic planning, interest rate risk analysis and other consulting and advisory services.

In addition, Musso has worked with various bank boards, and management teams in financial institutions across the country. Steve holds series 63 and 79 financial securities licenses.

"I was attracted to Country Bank by its talented Board, Management Team, and the opportunity to work with a strong and well-performing community bank," Musso said.

"I am excited to be on the other side of the fence. Joining the Board at Country Bank allows me to bring all of my past experiences to bear in helping the Bank continue to serve its local communities and grow by delivering quality banking services in a rapidly changing industry." According to Board Chair



Steven P. Musso

James Phaneuf, "We are delighted to have Steve join the other talented strategic business professionals on Country Bank's Board as the institution continues to gain prominence and market diversification in Central and Western Massachusetts. Having been the Bank's strategic partner at FinPro for the past twelve years, Steve understands firsthand Country Bank's depth and financial strength."

The Bank also appointed new corporators from Country Bank: Mary C. McGovern, executive vice president, chief financial and operating officer; G. Thomas Wolcott, first senior vice president, Commercial Banking; Dawn M. Fleury, first senior vice president, chief risk officer; and Miriam J. Siegel, first senior vice president, chief culture and development officer.

Baystate Health offers free virtual events about strokes

SPRINGFIELD — Baystate Health is offering three free informative virtual events during May's Stroke Awareness Month.

"Stress, Lifestyle and Silent Stroke," presented by Dr. Rajiv Padmanabhan, stroke director in the Department of Neurology at Baystate Health, will be held on May 4 from 6-7 p.m.

Padmanabhan will discuss how many people feel stress at some level in their lives and answer the question, "Can stress and unhealthy lifestyle choices cause stroke or even a silent stroke?"

"Signs of a Mini-Stroke in Women," presented by Dr. Heydi Flores Podadera of the Department of Neurology at Baystate Health, will be held on May 9 from 6-7 p.m. Women have a higher lifetime risk for stroke.

Podadera will discuss mini-stroke symptoms that could be missed, causes, diagnosis and treatment.

"Stroke Rehab at Home: Hand Therapy Exercises," presented by Michelle Lantaigne, OT of Baystate Rehabilitation Care will be held on May 22 from 6-7 p.m.

Motor impairment of the hand is common after a stroke. Stroke rehabilitation and exercises to regain or build strength is part of the recovery process.

Lantaigne will discuss the role of occupational therapy in stroke recovery and provide helpful hand exercises to do at home.

To register for the free stroke events, visit baystatehealth.org/strokeseries.

On average, someone in the United States has a stroke every 40 seconds. There are about 795,000 new or recurrent strokes each year.

On average, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes. It is also the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the U.S. Stroke risk increases with age, but strokes can, and do, occur at any age.

For more information on the comprehensive stroke treatment available at Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org/stroke.

DEATH NOTICES

Langlois, Molly Brown Died March 15, 2023 Services April 19, 2023

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

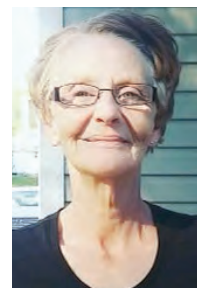
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

OBITUARIES

Molly Brown Langlois

Longtime Three Rivers resident Molly Brown Langlois passed away March 15 at Albany Medical Center surrounded by her loving daughters Megan Clark and Shellie Langlois and her grandchildren Gianna, Lucas, Ryan and Justin.



A graveside service will be held on April 19 at Four Corners Cemetery in Three Rivers Ma at 11:30 am. All are welcome. A remembrance luncheon will be held at Amvets Hall on Main St Three Rivers immediately following the service.

Molly was a bright light who will be missed by all who knew and loved her, especially family and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in Molly's name to the American Cancer Society.

Minnechaug Class of 2003 reunion to be held May 20

WILBRAHAM — The 20-year class reunion for the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2003 is being held at the Wilbraham County Club on May 20 at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online before May 6th at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/20-year-class-reunion-for-minnechaug-class-of-2003-tickets-505021983347> Any questions can be directed to me, Ryan Hanofee at 413-262-2597 or ryan.hanofee@morganlewis.com

'It's a Spring Art Thing'

HAMPDEN — The Scantic River Artisans invite you to experience, explore and purchase the diverse hanging art and the unique artisan creations at their upcoming Art Show. It will be held in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street, in Hampden, Ma. The two-day show will be on May 6 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and May 7 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). There will be a reception on May 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

THIS WEEK

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

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS AND MORE: First Congregational Church of Brimfield at 20 Main Street is hosting an electronics recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday April 15. Residents from all towns are welcome to recycle electronics, appliances, items with a plug and/or batteries, as well as bicycles in any condition will be accepted and recycled for a small cost. For more information, email GreenDayRecyclingMA@gmail.com.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING: Learn about sustainable farming practices at a presentation by the owner of Chestnut Farm in Hardwick at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 17, at Ware Grange, 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. There is no cost to attend and all are welcome. The Grange will be collecting donations for a local food pantry from anyone who wishes to donate.

NEXT WEEK

FABRIC DRIVE: First Church of Monson partners with Savers of West Springfield to sponsor a soft goods FUNDrive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, in the parking lot of the church, located at 5 High Street. Clean used clothing, bedding (sheets, blankets, mattress covers), curtains, towels, or any other woven goods will be accepted. Household goods and books cannot be included. Donors are asked to bag clean

items in large plastic bags averaging about 20 pounds each. For more information, call the church office at 413-267-3312, email office@firstchurchmonson.org or go to First ChurchMonson.org.

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

Anyone who wants to find out more about Norcross or if just want to get outside and have some fun with friends and family in nature, is encouraged to head over to the Norcross Administration Building at 30 Peck Road for programs, activities, tours, representatives from other naturalist organizations, a food truck and giveaways. Guided tours of our public trails will be led by Norcross staff. They will kick off the day with an early-riser birdwatching walk with Bill Cormier of Wild Bird Crossing.

UPCOMING

FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD: The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road in Monson, presents actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays Eleanor Roosevelt in a program, "First Lady Of The World" at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, during an open house event. Using costumes, audio, slides and attention to detail, Faye tells Roosevelt's story as a child, wife, mother, first lady and widow. Free, but donations appreciated.

INTERESTS

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

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

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

ONGOING

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.

BINGO: 6:25 p.m., Mondays. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. At Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers.

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,

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.

In Loving Memory of

FRANCES HORTON

Nov. 4, 1934 - April 13, 2010

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and each day before that too. Your memory is a keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Forever in our hearts.
We love you and miss you,
Roland, Pam, Matt, Brenda,
Joseph and Susan

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In Loving Memory of
Michael J. Swistak
13TH ANNIVERSARY
November 19, 1961 - April 17, 2010

Theresa S. Zaganiacz
5TH ANNIVERSARY
July 1, 1930 - April 29, 2018

Remembrance is a golden chain.
Death tries to break but all in vain.
To have, to love and then to part,
is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.
The years may wipe out many things
but this they wipe out never:
The meaning of those happy days
when we were all together.

We love and miss you both,
Mary Ann & Mark
Blair & Andy
Morgan, Beckett & Delaney

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Monson

Police Dept.

The Monson Police Department made two arrests and issued several summonses for the period April 4-8, including:

April 2

Beth Ann Langworthy, 54 of 78 Wellington Ave. in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and exceeding the posted speed limit following a traffic stop.

Also that day, officers responded to a call about a suicide attempt in progress.

April 3

Police responded to a complaint of an assault in progress. No other details were provided.

Also that day, Vitor Joao Alves, 32, of 72 Pleasant Street in North Andover, received a summons for driving a vehicle without a license, an unspecified equipment violation and not being in possession of the vehicle's registration.

April 8

Katie Barbara Olbrych, 40, of 130 Stafford Hollow Rd. in Monson was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, second offense, OUI drugs, second offense and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Spring nature programs offered

AMHERST — Jones Library invites everyone to join in from anywhere for two spring nature programs by Mass Audubon that will be held via Zoom.

The Nature of Spring with the Mass Audubon is 2-3 p.m. on Thursday, April 20. Springtime in Massachusetts is filled with unique seasonal wonders and mysteries. What animals are making noises in the evenings and why? Who is migrating back or waking from their winter slumbers? What kind of wildflowers are popping up near the sidewalks and woodland trails?

This online program will introduce the seasonal dynamics of nature in spring and provide ideas and resources for observing, appreciating, and supporting wildlife near home during this season. This program will be presented by Tia Pinney, a biologist, lead naturalist and educator at Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln. Singing Frogs with the Mass Audubon

will be held 2-3 p.m. on Thursday, May 18. One sure sign of spring is the sound of singing frogs. Why do frogs sing, and how can we identify their calls? Frogs can be very sensitive to pollution and climate change and can be a strong indicator of how healthy an environment is.

Learn the different frogs found in Massachusetts, as well as how to identify them by their calls. This program will be led by Alex Dohan, Statewide Education Department Coordinator at Mass Audubon.

Register for these Zoom events separately at joneslibrary.org. Registrants will receive links to the recordings within 48 hours of the presentation.

The Jones Library is collaborating with other public libraries in Massachusetts to offer these programs. Participation is made possible by the Friends of the Jones Libraries. For more information, call Janet Ryan at 413-259-3223.

Family bird walk at Forest Park

SPRINGFIELD — The Allen Bird Club of Springfield invites families and beginning birders to participate in a free, introductory bird walk to be held Saturday, April 22, from 9 - 11 a.m. in Springfield's Forest Park.

Geared toward youngsters and those curious about birding, this walk will focus on common local birds, identification tips, and appreciating the joy of birding. The walk will encompass 1.5 - 2 miles with even footing and some hills. Participants should bring water, snacks, bug repellent, comfortable footwear, and binoculars if available. The walk will begin at the Picknelly Field parking lot at Forest Park's Route 5/ Longmeadow entrance. For more information or to learn about the Allen Bird Club, please visit AllenBirdClub.org.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Journal Register

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Turley Publications, an independent, family-owned newspaper company, is searching for an experienced leader to serve as its Executive Editor and put their mark on its newsroom. The ideal person will evolve community journalism coverage in the company's 12 weekly papers and prepare its talented young journalists for the future.

He or she will work alongside the owners to develop the department's overarching strategy and determine the direction the newsroom is headed both on a day-to-day basis as well as its long-term goals. While the editor works with the owners, the Executive Editor has a great deal of autonomy built into the position.

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

The company is looking for a leader who will work in a collaborative manner while setting expectations and holding staff accountable.

It is imperative that the editor have creative problem-solving skills, a flair for innovation and a bent for adapting current practices when possible.

The right candidate would:

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

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

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

Turley Publications, Inc.
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413.283.8393
www.turley.com

Classifieds

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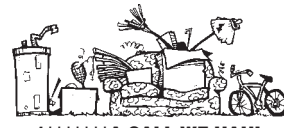
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HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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MSB recognizes employees for years of service

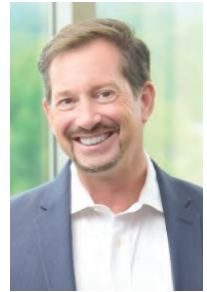
MONSON — Monson Savings Bank is recognizing its employees who have achieved years of service milestones.

According to a press release, the employees receiving recognition during 2022 range from five to 35 years of service at the bank. Together, they share an impressive 175 years of loyal employment at Monson Savings Bank:

35 Years of Service
Michael Rouette

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

He has been with Monson Savings Bank for 35 years, holding various roles with increasing responsibilities throughout his tenure. Rouette began his career with Monson Savings in 1987 as a teller and became a Loan Officer in 1989. He then earned the title of Assistant Vice President, Loan Officer in 1992 and went on to be Vice President, Loan Officer in 1996. In 2011 he earned the title Senior Vice President, Loan Officer and in 2016 Rouette had held the title of Senior Vice President and Chief Loan Officer, prior to becoming Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.



Rouette has a long history with the local community and with Monson Savings Bank, which has been filled with several major successes. He truly understands every single aspect of community banking. His innovative thinking, commitment to his customers, and his leadership skills have been and will continue to be instrumental to the success of the Bank.

25 Years of Service
Nancy Dahlen

Senior Vice President, Residential & Consumer Lending

She is an esteemed leader at Monson Savings Bank and in her community. Dahlen is a seasoned banker with 40 years of experience in the local banking industry. She is well versed in regulatory compliance, strategic planning, vendor and project management, residential loans, construction loans, and home equity loans.



Throughout her tenure as a banker, she has received several educational accreditations from the following: New England School of Financial Studies, Center for Financial Training, American Institute of Banking, and Holyoke Community College. Furthermore, like Monson Savings, Dahlen is invested in the local communities. As a longtime resident of Monson, she cares deeply for the town as well as the surrounding community.

20 Years of Service
Jamie Blaxland

Account Manager

She is primarily responsible for managing the Accounting Department which oversees the Bank's accounts payable. Automated Clearing House, investment bookkeeping, wires, general ledger reconciliations, and more. Like Monson Savings, Blaxland values the local



community. As a longtime Monson resident and a former employee of the Monson Public Schools, she feels a deep connection to the town where the Bank was incorporated more than 150 years ago. Additionally, Blaxland gives back to the community by being an active member in her church.

She is a dedicated member of the Monson Savings Bank team. During her time with the Bank, Pirog has assisted numerous customers and non-customers with their banking needs. She has been known to provide exceptional customer service. Pirog is a leader to the Hampden team and a vital part of the of the entire Monson Savings team. Furthermore, Pirog is invested in the local community she serves. One of the ways she gives back is by volunteering to read to elementary school children.

Janice Pirog
Hampden Assistant Branch Manager

She is a dedicated member of the Monson Savings Bank team. During her time with the Bank, Pirog has assisted numerous customers and non-customers with their banking needs. She has been known to provide exceptional customer service. Pirog is a leader to the Hampden team and a vital part of the of the entire Monson Savings team. Furthermore, Pirog is invested in the local community she serves. One of the ways she gives back is by volunteering to read to elementary school children.



15 Years of Service
Heather Arbour

Assistant Vice President, BSA/ Fraud Officer & Compliance Manager

She has continually proven herself to be a hard-working member of the Monson Savings team. In her role as AVP BSA/ Fraud Officer and Compliance Manager she is responsible for overseeing



the Bank's Bank Secrecy Act, anti-money laundering programs, and ensuring compliance with banking regulations. Additionally, she manages the Retail Operations Department. Arbour has demonstrated her skills as a professional and as a leader during her time with Monson Savings. Outside of her role at Monson Savings, one of her most recent accomplishments is graduating from the American Woman's College with her bachelor's degree.

10 Years of Service
Dina Merwin

Senior Vice President, Chief Risk & Senior Compliance Officer

She is a respected leader, colleague, and local community member. With 30 years of experience in community banking, Merwin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Monson Savings. In her current role, Merwin is responsible for coordinating all regulatory changes throughout the Bank, improving processes that enhance efficiency and compliance, as well as ensuring adherence to all rules and regulations. She is a valuable asset to the Bank, as well as a resource to her colleagues.



Rob Chateaufeuf

Senior Vice President, Senior Commercial Loan Officer

He has over 20 years of banking experience, which has included working in commercial lending, residential lend-



ing, and retail branch management. Chateaufeuf's extensive banking experience means he possesses a unique and comprehensive understanding of the needs and challenges of commercial businesses. He has a reputation for going the extra mile for the business customers he works with to help them succeed.

Virginia Viens

Human Resources Generalist

She is responsible for assisting with recruiting, interviewing, and hiring new staff. Additionally, she is responsible for administering payroll, insurance benefits, and other human resources services for Monson Savings Bank employees. Everyone at the Bank is extremely grateful for Viens' kindness and guidance.



Five Years of Service
Adriano Dos Santos

Hampden Branch Manager

He is a dedicated and valuable member of the Monson Savings Bank team. Dos Santos delivers excellent, personalized service to the Bank's customers, helping them with their everyday banking needs. Moreover, he simultaneously manages the daily operations of Hampden Branch and the branch's staff. Outside of his career, Dos Santos is very passionate about being involved in the local communities and spending time with his children.



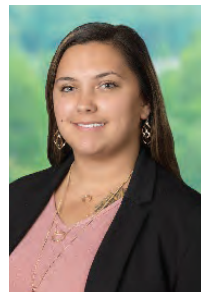
Amber Messer
Ware Assistant Branch Manager

She plays an integral role in the operation of the Bank's Ware location. She supports her team, while providing exceptional service to customers. Messer is also dedicated to serving the Ware community, volunteering her time in the local area whenever she is available.



Ashley Dones-Schipper
East Longmeadow Assistant Branch Manager

She provides her co-workers and customers with superior service and support every day. She has proven herself to be a helpful resource for her teammates and customers by being a diligent listener and providing helpful solutions.



Denise Motyka
Customer Service Associate at the Ware Branch

She is a committed member of Monson Savings Bank. During her time with the Bank, Motyka has helped countless people with their banking needs. She



MSB | page 12

Public Notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P0560EA Estate of: Dennis Charles Biron Date of Death: 8/15/22 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Autumn L. Fugere** of Palmer, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Autumn L. Fugere** of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Invent-

ories and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/13/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NUMBER 23 SM 001396 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: KRISTINE A. O'CONNOR

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

FARM CREDIT EAST, ACA

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Brimfield, 121 Haynes Hill Road, given by Krystine A. O'Connor to Farm Credit East, ACA dated March 29, 2013 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19750, Page 325, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's 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 **5/22/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 4/5/2023
Attest: **Deborah J. Patterson**
Recorder
04/13/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P0167EA Estate of: Cynthia L Parker Also known as: Cynthia Parker Date of Death: 10/04/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Christine Sgueglia of East Longmeadow, 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: **Christine Sgueglia of East Longmeadow, 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 05/01/2023**.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may

petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 05, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/13/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 23 SM 001437 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Jean R. Rodich; William A. Flowers, Ronald Flowers, Trudy A. Flowers; The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Daniel Flowers, Toni J. Flowers, Jamie A. Flowers, Chrissy M. Flowers

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

Mortgage Assets Management, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered **37 Bridge Street**, given by **Jean R. Rodich to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**, dated **December 6, 2006**, and recorded in **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16382, Page 545**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **5/22/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 4/5/2023.
Attest: **Deborah J. Patterson**,
Recorder

04/13/2023 Recorder

2023 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF PALMER ANNUAL MEETING THREE RIVERS FIRE DISTRICT

Submitted to the voters of the **Three Rivers Fire District at the Meeting to be held in the Fire Station on May 2, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

To the voters of **Three Rivers Fire District of the Town of Palmer:** **Your Prudential Committee respectfully submits the following articles as recommended by the Finance Committee for your approval of the operations of the Fire District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023**

Chairman Ex Officio

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To submit reports of the Treasurer, Prudential Committee, Fire Chief, Water Superintendent, and Special Committees and act on the same.

Article 3. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of its officers and members of the Fire Department for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2023 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of the District for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2023 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Fire Department and District for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Water Department to defray its expenses, through the use of its water receipts and revenues, for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative hereto.

Article 7. To see whether

the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2023 tax levy, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the Reserve Fund, or transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to the Reserve Fund, or take other any action relative thereto.

Article 9. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to purchase new Fire Department equipment, repair and or replace any parts of the present equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 10. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money to be added to the Stabilization Account for Capital Expenditures in the Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 11. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from the Water Surplus Account to the Stabilization Account for Capital Improvements in the Water Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 12. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from the Fire Department Stabilization Account for the purchase of a used rescue/ambulance truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from Water Surplus to purchase meter reading equipment and a new truck.

Article 14. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2022 in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than (1) one year, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money as permitted by law, to meet any appropriations or expenses incurred under any articles of this Warrant or take any actions relative

thereto.

Article 16. To choose committees and give them instructions.

With no further business, do I hear a motion to dissolve this warrant?

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies in said District, fourteen (14) days at least before the holding of said meeting, and publishing one not less than seven days preceding the date of the meeting in a newspaper published in Palmer.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Prudential Committee of the District at or before the holding of said meeting.

Given under this hand and seal April 2023

True Copy Attest by: **Guy Bellefleur, Clerk**
Date: April 4, 2023

Prudential Committee: **Norman Czech, Chairman**
Richard M. Pobjieglo, Vice Chair
Andrea Sullivan, Clerk
04/13/2023

Town of Wales RFQ - DESIGN SERVICES FOR OLD TOWN HALL

The Town of Wales (the "Town"), acting by its Historical Commission, seeks proposals from qualified and duly registered architectural and engineering persons or firms for existing conditions and feasibility and future full service design, bidding, and construction administration services for the **OLD TOWN HALL PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES**. Fees will be negotiated and not to exceed \$98,000, the amount funded by the Massachusetts One-Stop Rural and Small Town Development Grant.

Request for Qualifications and Proposal Forms may be obtained online on the Town of Wales website, <https://www.townofwales.net/historical-commission/pages/request-qualifications-design-services-old-town-hall>. Sealed proposals, clearly marked "OLD TOWN HALL PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES" must be received at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Wales Town Hall, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA 01081 by **May 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.** Questions can be directed to historicalclerk@townofwales.net.

net.

The Town's Historical Commission, acting as the Evaluation Committee for the project, will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for award of the contract. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, wholly or in part, and make such award as it determines to be in the best interest of the Town. This RFQ is issued in accordance with, and subject to, M.G.L. c. 7C, §§44-58, inclusive (the Massachusetts Designer Selection Law), and otherwise in accordance with the Town of Wales Designer Selection Procedures.x
04/13, 4/20/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P0578EA Estate of: Judith Ann Tracy Date of Death: January 11, 2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael K. Tenney of Thorndike, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Michael K. Tenney of Thorndike, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/13/2023

CREDIT FOR LIFE

Financial literacy fair helps students \$tay on budget

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE — Last week, high school seniors were given the chance to fast-forward to the future and experience what life could be like when they finished college and started their careers.

On April 5, about 400 students from Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Pathfinder high schools took part in Country Bank's Credit for Life fair held in the gymnasium of Ware High School.

This is the 10th year Country Bank has held Credit for Life, which serves 1,500 students in 11 schools. Each year there are four fairs, which are run by Country Bank staff and community volunteers.

"Today is about budgeting," said Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of Community Relations. "It's really about learning to live within your means."

Each student was given the chance to choose a career path, then given a credit score at random.

Handing out credit scores were Mark Zawistowski of Belchertown and Russ Fontaine, senior vice president of Customer Experience and Retail Banking.

"Having this type of event is important," Fontaine said, which can help high school seniors understand the cost of college and loans and managing that debt.

Once they have their career and credit score selected, students get to work on their budgets, starting with deducting their student loan payment.

From there, they visited booths to determine their housing, transportation, insurance, furniture, utilities, savings and retirement, food and nutrition, clothing, employment



Country Bank employee Kaylee showed a student how to deduct furniture expenses from their budget.



Volunteers Matthew Jackson, Bonny Rathbone and Kristen Doucas helped students learn about budgeting at Credit for Life.



Country Bank intern Travis Pacheco, left, joins students Chris Vadnais, Riley Dulak, Josh Musnicki and Country Bank's Vice President of Community Relations Jodie Gerulaitis.



Heather Gaudreau, left, and Kaity Faucher helped students with transportation.

information, "fun fun fun" and "reality check."

Members of Ware High School's junior class handed out clipboards equipped with calcula-

tors to help the seniors accurately budget all of their expenses.

Using their monthly income, students had to determine which items at the booths they could af-

ford.

Students looked at public transportation versus owning a new car, living at home with their parents or sharing an apartment with a roommate instead of buying a house, or buying used furniture instead of new.

Transportation volunteer Heather Gaudreau said many students with low credit purchased bus passes instead of cars.

"A lot of the kids are really trying to budget," she said.

They also returned to the trans-

portation booth to lease or buy cars when they were successful in doing so.

Many also tried to find part-time jobs to help supplement their income.

Students who had low credit scores could raise them by visiting a booth where they answered questions to test their financial literacy, as well as receive snacks.

Running this booth were Country Bank employees Laura Dennis and Jennifer Bujnevici.

Belchertown High School students AJ Terry, Brianna Gladu and Eliza Rothstein took jobs they'd consider having in the future, noting the range in salaries.

Terry took a job as a social worker, earning just over \$30,000 a year, compared to Gladu who

worked as a sociologist earning over \$100,000. Rothstein entered the field of human services and earned a similar salary to the social worker.

Terry said she wasn't too surprised by the salary of a social worker, but said it was still a job she would consider.

Kainoa David and Shea Lydon, also of Belchertown, found jobs as a chef and auto mechanic, respectively.

Pathfinder students Melissa Pereira and Ciarra Lopez both took careers they wanted to pursue after school with Lopez as a registered nurse and Pereira as a mechanical engineer.

Hallie Floyd and Grace Filippelli of Belchertown took careers they were looking into as well, as a dental hygienist and physicians assistant. Madeline Jaszek, Hannah Quesenve and Steven Kite also took jobs in the health care field.

Ware High School students Abby Gaudreau and Brogan O'Keefe decided to be roommates in order to save money, while Riley Dulak opted to live at home with her parents.

Some students took this as an opportunity to see if they could support themselves in the world of rock and roll.

Josh Musnicki and Chris Vadnais of Ware took jobs as a music producer and a musician, both paying less than \$30,000 a year. The two decided to be roommates and Musnicki was able to secure a part-time job.

Vadnais said he is "a little down on luck," and wasn't able to get a part-time job.

Palmer High School Special Education teacher Paul Holloway teaches life skills to his students and said Credit for Life is "amazing" for them.

"It's a reality check," he said. "It's a good learning experience for them."

Volunteer Bonny Rathbone, a retired Palmer educator who started as a teacher in Old Mill Pond Elementary School and retired as high school principal, said she loves volunteering at Credit for Life.

"These are real life skills you need to know," she said.

By the end of Credit for Life, students learned "the real cost of life," Gerulaitis said.

"When they're essentially on their own, it's eye-opening...it's not only for the students, it's a great experience for volunteers," she said.

Anyone that would like to volunteer for a future Credit for Life fair can contact Gerulaitis at jgerulaitis@countrybank.com.

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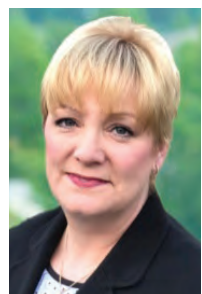
MSB | from page 11

provides the highest quality service and support to the Bank's customers. She is known for going above and beyond to ensure all customers' experiences are positive.

Kammy Niccum

Customer Service Associate at the Hampden Branch

She helps customers explore convenient banking services. She also helps them by performing banking transactions and answering any questions they may have. She is very much appreciated by both her customers and her colleagues.



"All Monson Savings Bank employees are valued members of our exceptional team," said Dan Moriarty, president and CEO of Monson Savings Bank.

"We are particularly grateful for our team members who have shown their dedication and loyalty to the Bank with their continued service. I congratulate the employees celebrating a milestone this year. We are thankful to them for their commitment, not only to the Bank, but also to the communities, businesses, and customers that we serve."

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.

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes early June.

Deadline for submissions is April 28.

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