

The Journal Register

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MONSON

Schools seek grants

School Committee hears Superintendent Report, votes on Yellowstone trip

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The School Committee met on April 8 to discuss a number of issues, including potential new grants, and a trip to Yellowstone National Park in 2027.

Superintendent Report
Superintendent Paul Foster opened the meeting by thanking the school's athletes and their families for its patience during the spring sports season, as the weather "has not been cooperative" as the school works to schedule its necessary games.

Foster announced that the school will apply for two new grants being offered by the state department, PRISM II, for Pre-K to third grade, and PRISM III, for grades four-12. "Those are grants that support literacy instruction, and we're going to apply for both," Foster said. "We've

MEETING | page 14

PALMER



The Palmer High School football program is coming off its first victory in more than a decade over Ware.

Palmer unable to field varsity football team

100th game with Ware now off

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer varsity football team, despite having only 15 players suited up, concluded a successful 2025 season with a 20-6 victory over the Ludlow Lions at historic Legion Field on Thanksgiving morning.

Due to anticipated low

player numbers, the Panthers will be competing solely at the junior varsity level during the 2026 fall season.

"We only had 16 players sign up for next year's football team. Twelve of those players are incoming freshmen, who have never played high school football" said Palmer High School Athletic Director Matt Marciniac. "After holding a couple of meetings, we've decided to move to J.V. only next year. We just want to keep the

players safe and rebuild our football program. Competing at the J.V. level for one year is probably the best option for us. Our boy's enrollment at the high school is a little bit lower than it has been in the past."

Marciniac, who graduated from Palmer High School in 2006, was the head coach of the Panthers varsity football team between 2019 and 2026. He stepped down from his coaching duties following the 78th meeting on the grid-

iron against the Lions.

Marciniac is hoping to hire a new football coach before the end of the school year.

"I think it's very important that our next football coach is someone who wants to build a program," Marciniac said. "If we can get our numbers back up to 25 or 30 players, I think we'll have a lot of success at the varsity level."

The seniors listed on the 2025 Palmer football ros-

ter and who'll be receiving their diplomas on May 31 are Hunter White, Kodah Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Landon Couture, Gavin Smola, Jared Perry, and Dylan Doherty, who recently committed to playing college football at Westfield State University.

"Without the seniors, we probably wouldn't have been able to finish last season," Marciniac said. "The seniors were the driving force and

FOOTBALL | page 6

MONSON

School Committee agrees to international travel for students

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At this week's School Committee meeting, the committee discussed several upcoming school trips, including a trip to Spain scheduled for this year, a trip to Mexico next year, and trips to Central America scheduled for 2028.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the 2026 trip to Spain, which was up for final approval. Scheduled for April 18, the trip will involve 12 students and seven chaperones, with stops in Barcelona, Madrid, Andalusia, and Morocco.

Paula Garces, a teacher at the high school for eight years, is the faculty member coordinating the trip. She has

been taking students on trips overseas since 2023, when she took a group to Costa Rica.

The trip is through EF Educational Tours, with all expenses included, and no charge to the district. The parents pay for the trip through EF, totalling \$4,289 per student and \$5,189 for the parents, with options for bi-weekly payment plans.

Garces described the joy of seeing how much students learn from visiting a different country, and said that she has observed students grow and mature from the experience.

"The six students I took, that was the first time for all of them travelling overseas, without their parents, and, for some of them, even their first time taking a plane," Garces said. It is very rewarding

to see how they make new friends and start valuing the culture."

One benefit for the students, beyond the experience of the trip itself, is that they can get college credit for the trip, if they register beforehand with a college.

"If they do work related to the trip, they can get up to three college credits," Garces said. "They have to take some

online classes and they do a project while they're traveling, so that when they come back and present it, they can get three credits for it."

Garces went into detail about the different trips that the school has planned, including this year's trip to Spain, a trip to Mexico for

STUDENTS | page 6

MONSON

Tri-Board Committee votes to approve level funding for the town

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week's Tri-Board Committee Meeting, a vote was held to maintain level funding throughout the town departments, and offer a 1.9% increase to the school budget.

The Tri-Board Committee met on Monday, April 6, made up of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee, as well as relevant town personnel including the Town Administrator.

The meeting involved discussion of various line items for the proposed budget, which seeks to offer level funding to the various departments in town.

The committees were presented with several documents that included potential budgets depicting level funding for departments, where all departments are able to offer the same services to the town as the previous year. These projected budgets left the town with a shortfall of close to \$20,000.

Some of these costs were described as largely "non-negotiable," as dictated by contracts. One example is Community

PALMER

Students clean up for Earth Day



By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, students from the high school sacrificed their Saturday morning to clean up the school's trail and grounds for the annual Trail and Campus Clean-Up Day.

David Triozzi, a biology and environmental science teacher, met the students at the front steps of the high school at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, for the annual trail and campus clean-up. He starts the day off with what he hesitates to describe as a "pep talk."

"I thank them for coming, and emphasize the importance of volunteer work, contributing to the community, and taking care of the environment," Triozzi said. "Especially as they're going to be adults entering the real world pretty soon."

The students are encour-

Submitted photo
Students spent their Saturday morning cleaning up the trail and campus at Palmer High School.

CLEAN UP | page 8



VOTES | page 14

Songs & tales of community concert coming to Brimfield Senior Center

BRIMFIELD – Folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will perform for a free public concert at the Brimfield Senior Center on Friday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. This program is supported by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Entitled “Landscapes of Hope,” Van Egmond’s program will be a collection of traditional and contemporary songs as well as tales about what draws a community together. Themes will include a shared sense of belonging and inspiration drawn from the land around us, the fabric of family, friends and neighbors, and the hope everyone shares for peace and plenty.

Van Egmond’s will accompany himself with guitar, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer.

A resident of Montague, Van Egmond has performed for over 40 years throughout the country, appearing at hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers, and on television and radio. He’s been chosen for the New England States Touring Pro-

gram, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s STARS Residency Programs. His dynamic talent, warmth, and humor create a moving and enjoyable experience for all. Renowned author and storyteller Jane Yolen has said, “Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!”

Knox Trail event set for April 18

PALMER – Knox Trail 250 Event will be held Saturday, April 18 at the Palmer Public Library.

1976 Quilt on Display - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Students from Palmer High School Class of 1978, as well as other Massachusetts towns along the Henry Knox Trail, submitted embroidered squares to become part of this commemorative quilt project. This venture was organized by Palmer’s Bicentennial Committee. The quilt will remain on display until library closing at 2 p.m.

Dennis Picard Knox Trail Presentation 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Local Historian, Dennis Picard will share details of the 1775/1776 Henry Knox

wintery expedition as it passed from the Massachusetts town of North Egremont through Springfield, Palmer, and on to Boston. Though a piece of our local lore, some parts of this saga are still debated and remain controversial. Dennis has a personal connection with this event in our history, as he participated in one portion of the recreation of this trek during the bicentennial of 1976. Please join us for this special presentation and learn more about this daring mission.

These programs are free to the public, but space is limited and registration is requested. Register by visiting: www.palmerlibrary.org/ events Drop-ins welcome if space allows.

Town of Holland notice of caucus

HOLLAND – Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Holland, Massachusetts, County of Hampden, that the Annual Citizen’s Caucus is to be held at the Holland Elementary School on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

Meeting is being called by the Selectmen and will be called to order by the Town Clerk.

The following positions are open for the length stated and nominations will be taken for them:

- Selectboard**
1 Three-year expired term
- Assessor**
1 Three-year expired term

- Board of Health**
1 Three-year expired term
- Cemetery Commission**
1 Three-year expired term
- Constable**
1 Three-year expired term
- Holland School Committee**
1 Three-year expired term
- Holland School Committee**
1 Three-year expired term
- Tantasqua School Committee**
1 Three-year expired term
- Library Trustee**
1 Three-year expired term
- Tree Warden**
1 Three-year expired term
- Planning Board**
1 Five-year expired term
- Water Commissioner**
1 Three-year expired term

Bargain Clothing Sale on April 25

MONSON – Bargain Clothing Sale on Saturday, April 25 at Monson-Glen-dale United Methodist Church, 162 Main Street, Monson from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We’re serving our community in many ways... our clothing is \$1.00 per bag. Time to find some clothing for the entire family. Bring your friends too. Everyone is welcome.

Alzheimer talk April 28

REGION – Join us for an inspiring talk at the Arbors of Chicopee on April 28 at 6 p.m. with Sean Terwilliger.

This event is free and open to the public. Sean Terwilliger, a former technology leader and teacher, will share his own inspiring story about how being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s led to writing, advocacy and a sense of purpose.

Learn about how his

experiences with clinical trials, newly approved medications and lifestyle change led to his belief that he could outpace the progression of the disease, and how he is now an advocate through foundations like the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited.

Please register by calling or texting 413-530-5916 to reserve your spot.

Annual Pioneer Valley wine festival June 6 and 7

BRIMFIELD – Brimfield Auction Acres, Birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows will host the 6th annual Pioneer Valley wine festival on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local

farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox’s Hell’s Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network’s Beat Bobby Flay.



Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee 12:30 p.m.
drinks and popcorn

April 17: “Killers of the Flower Moon” – Based on a true story, Mollie Burkhart, a member of the Osage Nation, fight to survive and save her community from a spree of greed-fueled murders committed against them in 1920’s Oklahoma after oil was discovered on their land.

April 24: “Forrest Gump” – Tom Hanks gives an astonishing performance as Forrest, an everyman whose simple innocence comes to embody a generation. Alongside his mamma, his best friend Bubba, and his favorite girl Jenny, Forrest has a ring-side seat for the most memorable events of the second half of the 20th Century.

Monday Evening Programs 4:30 p.m.

April 27: “Construction of the Windsor Dam”

Activities
April 16 at 9:30 a.m. - Kim with Power Back Rehab Informational

April 16 at 12:30 p.m. - Fairy Lantern w/ Kim Keaton

April 21 at 12:30 p.m., Let Us learn together - Watercolor painting.

April 22 and 29 Fruit and Veggie Stand

April 22 at 12 p.m. - Staying Connected to Nature

– In recognition of Earth Day, we will explore the many physical and emotional benefits of spending time in nature, along with simple ways to bring more of the outdoors into everyday life. Participants will plant herb seeds to take home with them.

April 23 at 1 p.m. - Sunshine Village Painting

Quabbin Series
Monday, April 27, May 11, and May 18

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 an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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DEADLINE

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

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.

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

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

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

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

St. Paul's to host 'Dance Night'

PALMER – St. Paul's Church will host "Dance Night! with DJ Seagull" for students in grades 6 through 9 on Friday, April 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event is designed to offer a safe, welcoming, and engaging space for middle school youth to gather, socialize, and enjoy an evening of music and fun.

The dance will feature music by DJ Seagull of Berkshire Hills Music Academy, along with refreshments and a relaxed, well-supervised environment. Organizers hope the evening will provide an opportunity for young people in the greater Palmer area to connect with friends, meet new peers, and simply enjoy being together in a positive setting.

The event is sponsored by All Young Voices: Circle of Friends, a new twice-monthly teen gathering being developed at St. Paul's. The initiative is focused on creating a safe and welcoming space for connection, belonging, and personal growth. Open to all youth, All Young Voices will include elements of mindful-

ness, creative expression—including music—and thoughtful exploration of life's deeper questions in an inclusive, interfaith spirit. The group especially hopes to support youth who may feel marginalized or lonely, while remaining open and engaging for all. As part of its growing outreach, All Young Voices plans to offer youth dance nights and similar events multiple times throughout the year.

"All young people need spaces where they can feel comfortable, included, and free to have fun," said organizers of All Young Voices.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For the safety of all participants, students must be signed in and signed out by a parent or guardian. Participants will remain on site for the duration of the event and will not be permitted to leave and re-enter.

The dance is open to all students in grades 6-9 from Palmer and surrounding communities.

For more information, visit www.StPaulsPalmer.org or call 413-283-8185.

Wales Public Library happenings

WALES – Celebrate National Library Week at the Wales Public Library during National Library Week, April 19-25, 2026.

Costume Making for the Brimfield Spirit of 250th Parade

Calling all Wales Public Library users to join the 250th Anniversary Parade on June 13. Creation Sessions at the Wales Library with Ms. Sue Gregory. Pick your favorite book to create for the parade. Together we can draw, paint and make it fit you.

During April vacation:

April 21, 22, 23 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Please preregister so we can prepare. 413-245-9072. If anyone wishes to dress as a favorite book character, decorate a stroller... you may do that on your own & join the Wales Library crew in the parade. The parade route will run from the Brimfield Safety Complex to the north side of the common and end at the Brimfield Winery. To register, call, stop by, email or message. NOW AVAILABLE: Online registration: [https://engagedpa-](https://engagedpa)

[trons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=2496&EventID=585989&PK=952765](https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=2496&EventID=585989&PK=952765), Sponsored by the Friends of the Wales Public Library

Wales Tales Story Time with Ms. Adrineh

Wednesday, April 22 at 12:15 p.m.

Rock Painting

Wednesday, April 22 at 1 p.m.

Patriots & Potters

New England's Pottery History: Delve into the captivating stories of brave potters who fought valiantly during the Revolutionary War as demonstrated by Master Potter Rick Hamelin. Funding generously provided by the Wales Cultural Council. All ages. Registration required. To register call, stop by, email or message. NOW AVAILABLE: Online registration: <http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=2496&EventID=585800>

Militia, Minutemen, and the Preparation for War Historical Presentation

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States, Colonial Reenactor Guy Morin will offer a presentation on Militia, Min-

utemen, and the Preparation for War. Guy will provide an engaging overview of the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, focusing on the crucial role played by local militia and minutemen. His talk will cover what these citizen-soldiers carried, the weapons and tactics they used, how they trained, and the contributions of Worcester County as tensions escalated toward open rebellion. Dressed as a typical militiaman, Guy will bring history to life with authentic gear and equipment. Attendees will have the opportunity to closely examine the materials, tools, and weapons used by colonial fighters. The presentation, including a Q&A session, typically runs about an hour-but Guy will remain on hand until every question is answered. All ages welcome. Registration required. Funding generously provided by the Wales Cultural Council. Call, stop by, email, or message to register. NOW AVAILABLE: Online registration: <http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=2496&EventID=585801>.



Monson nomination papers available for town election

MONSON – The Monson Town Clerk's Office announces that nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town Election to be held on June 9, 2026.

The following slate of offices are available:

Select Board, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
Town Clerk, 1 Seat,
term 3 years

Board of Assessors, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
School Committee, 2 Seats,
one term 2 years
one term 3 years
Water/Sewer Commission, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
Cemetery Commission, 1 Seat,
term 3 years

Parks and Recreation Commission, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
Housing Authority, 1 Seat,
term 5 years

The deadline to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, April 16.

For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or email: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

Nomination papers available

PALMER – The Town Clerk of Palmer will have nomination papers available the week of March 9.

The available seats on the June 9, 2026 town election are as follows:

Councilor at Large
1 seat
3-year term
Councilor at Large
1 seat
1-year term

District Councilor PCT#1
1 seat
3-year term
Planning Board
2 seats
3-year term
School Committee
2 seats
3-year term

Last day to obtain Nomination papers is April 16, 2026. Nomination papers must be filed with the Reg-

istrar, no later than April 21, 2026. Fifty valid signatures are required. The fifty signatures must be registered voters in the Town of Palmer; the District Councilor Precinct #1 seat requires fifty signatures of registered voters from Precinct #1.

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



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Viewpoints

What I did last weekend

I was so looking forward to last Saturday, a day in which I did not have to drive anywhere. I could simply stay put and work on getting the yard in shape.

Boy, was it a long winter, and there was proof of that no matter where I turned.

Read on to learn which outdoor and indoor gardening activities kept me busy.

First I decided to tackle the perennial and shrub borders that I walk by the most often. Half of the reason we garden is because we like to stand back in admiration, so I figured if I cleaned those up I'd have something to feel good about on my way to the car or the chicken coop.

I leave many perennials standing through the winter, especially those with seed heads the birds might like to dine on.

So, before I got out the rake, I went plant by plant with my hedge clippers, cutting the dead and brown stalks to about "fist" height from the ground. Hedge clippers make fast work of this task. After that came the rake, with which I carefully cleaned the bed of matted leaves and the plant parts I just cut back. As I was working, I weeded out clover, and some perennial grasses that appeared within the bed, and although I am nowhere near ready to apply bark mulch, I got out the spade and did my best to put a crisp edge on the border with the lawn. Looking good.

While I was putting tools away I found (gasp) some hyacinth and daffodil bulbs that never got planted in the fall. I

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



beds given a crisp edge, I felt good enough about leaving outlying gardens for another day. It was time to turn my attention to tomato seedlings that had long since outgrown the seed packs the seeds were sown in the third week of March.

Typically we transplant when the first true leaves form. I am maybe a week late.

Carefully I lifted out the clumps of seedlings and gently pried the roots apart. Tomato seedlings can be sunk deeply, almost up to their leaves; new roots will form on the stems.

After a gentle watering they will go back under the grow lights they until they are big enough to be moved from the six packs to a four inch pot. Probably by May 1.

What is next on the agenda? Next weekend I have to assess my potato patch. I'll probably pull up old red raspberry canes nearby to expand the bed.

Blueberry bushes need some fertilizer. Asparagus could use lime and compost, probably some weeding as well.

There is never a dull moment this time of year, and I am not sure I'd want it any other way.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.

cannot even believe that there were green tips on these bulbs that sat in an empty pot in my unheated subarctic garden shed over the winter months.

I figured that after that torture they deserved to be planted. I sunk them twice their height deep and watered them in. Say a prayer.

My "Redbud garden" shares a stone wall with some thornless blackberry bushes. It may not have been smart on my account to have an ornamental garden opposite plants that like to sucker like crazy but such is life when you want to squeeze in as many plants as you can into the space you've got... Anyway, ten foot long canes jumped the wall into the bed where I have a few bulbs and biennials at the base of the Redbud.

I was able to give the canes a strong yank and lo and behold I have three new blackberry bushes free for the taking. I separated them from the mother plant, potted them up and will delight a friend with them, just as my friend Kelly's husband had done for me some years back.

These berries are so wonderful. Even with a small patch I am always able to freeze a couple of quarts for use in the off-season. Yum!

With stems cut back, leaves raked, weeds and suckers removed and the

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



When a spouse dies will the other get a Social Security Survivor Benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong.

Signed: Curious Spouse

Dear Curious Spouse:

A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at the local SS field office to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either

the ex-spouse or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children. Read the article titled "Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits" at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1-888-750-2622 or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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

The Journal Register

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EDITOR

journalregister@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
journalregister.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
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Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.
Palmer MA 01069
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



Spring cleaning for your medicine cabinet

potentially dangerous to us and our environment. On April 25, National Drug Take-Back Day will give you the opportunity to get rid of those drugs in a free and safe way.

Here are some things to look for:

Expiration dates
Since 1979, drug manufacturers have been required to stamp an expiration date on their products, the date at which the manufacturer guarantees the full potency and safety of the medication. With the exception of nitroglycerin, insulin and liquid antibiotics, most drugs are OK to use well after their "expiration date"; they may just lose some potency.

So, you can save money by not automatically throwing out "expired" aspirin or acetaminophen. You can also make medications last longer by keeping them in a cool, dry place away from pets, kids and adolescents.

The bathroom medicine cabinet, despite its name, is about the worst place to keep them because of warmth, humidity and accessibility.

Opioids

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 105,000 people died from drug overdose in 2023, and more than three-quarters of the deaths involved opioids.

These powerful painkillers are potentially addictive and dangerous, even deadly. If your dentist gave you a few Oxycodone or Vicodin tablets to take after a procedure, and if you kept a few "just in case," get rid of them.

Antibiotics

Keeping antibiotics past their expiration date and disposing them willily-nilly is a recipe for disaster. Old antibiotics don't perform as well, which may cause a bacterial infection to last longer and become

more serious.

Flushing them or putting them down the drain puts them into the environment and can encourage antibiotic resistance or "superbugs," making infections harder to treat in the future.

Liquids

Liquid medications like cough syrups are especially prone to bacterial growth once they have been opened. The preservatives that keep ingredients sterile degrade over time.

When that happens, bacteria can multiply inside the bottle. Using these products can introduce bacteria into a person's eyes, ears or digestive system, progressing to an infection.

Old eye drops, for example, pose a major contamination risk. Bacteria can grow in an opened bottle of preservative-free eye drops. Putting them in your eyes, an organ that is con-



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Research has found that 80% of households have unused or expired medications on a shelf somewhere, probably in the medicine cabinet. Now that April is here, you can do your part to reduce that percentage.

There are several reasons for the build-up of unused and expired meds. A doctor may change a dose or switch a patient to a different drug before the first prescription is finished. We

often stop taking a medication once our symptoms go away, such as with antibiotics or painkillers.

Unpleasant side effects may cause us to stop taking something. And providers may prescribe more medication than we actually need for a recovery period.

The third Friday of April - April 17 this year - is National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day, a reminder that keeping old or unused medications is

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

April Vendors

- April 16 - Weleful Weavers
- April 21 - Wicked Good Treats
- April 23 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- April 30 - Jewelry for Diane

May Vendors

- May 5 - Crystal Clear Emotions
- May 6 - How Charming
- May 13 - Generations of Cookies
- May 19 - Wicked Good Treats
- May 27 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- April 30 - Jewelry for Diane

April 18

Brimfield Farmers Market opens on Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Save these dates: May 9 is the annual Hitchcock Plant Sale, and this year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on May 30.

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET - Located in

the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit [keep-](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org)

homesteadmuseum.org.

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

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at 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 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

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

HEALTH | from page 4

ected to the bloodstream, can cause all kinds of havoc from mild irritations to eye ulcers.

Keep on hand...

The most useful medications are those that help deal with common aches, allergies and illnesses. These include:

- Pain relievers/fever reducers: Acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol), ibuprofen (i.e. Motrin) or aspirin.
- Antihistamines: Medications such as Benadryl, Claritin, Zyrtec or their generic equivalents.
- Antacids: This can include tablets like Tums or liquids like milk of magnesia.
- Decongestants: Common ones include Sudafed and Neo-Synephrine. Be careful using nasal decon-

gestants, as they can cause rebound congestion.

• Antidiarrheals: Don't be caught without some Imodium, Pepto-Bismol or their generic cousins.

If you do end up with out-of-date or unneeded prescriptions (including prescriptions that a pet may have had), you have an opportunity to get rid of them during National Prescription Take-Back Day on April 25. Since 2010, more than 200 million pounds of drugs have been collected. For information and locations, visit dea.gov/take-backday, where you can search by city, county, state or zip code.



Unused medications thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused, or illegally sold.

If they are flushed, they can contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

POETRY CORNER

Roughspun And The Blue

Oaks take on a quiet gray,
Roughspun over limbs and waist;
The fairest blue the bluebird shows,
With inimitable taste.

The gray can last a thousand years,
Unseen on a deep forest's floor;
Or there to support a millenium,
And still have time for more.

The blue appears a bare hour
From a branch of melting spring;
With tender freshets from the sky ~
That a fragile voice can sing.

Beauty of strength – strength of beauty,
Could seem an unrelated thing;
But one endures for all – the silence,
Those times that die, and wait, for wing.

– Charles Barnes

Send Us Your Community Summer Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Summer Fest Supplement which will be published June 3, 2026.

Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is May 6.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PALMER PUBLIC AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 at 11:00 AM



THREE FAMILY HOME

4112 - 4116 HIGH STREET

This three family investment property sits on ±.11 acres in an established neighborhood. The dwelling has ± 2,868 sq. ft. of living area and features 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, vinyl siding, porch and replacement windows.

zekosgroup.com

VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

LIC #104



ZEKOS GROUP AUCTIONEERS
508-842-9000

Wilbraham Women's Club Fashion Show

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Women's Club is sponsoring a Fashion Show Luncheon on Thursday, April 23, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Clothing from Chico's in the Longmeadow Shops will be featured. The catered luncheon choices are Salmon with dill sauce or Chicken Francaise.

There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift certificates. Join us at 11:30 for a social time with hors d'oeuvres followed by lunch at Noon.

The donation is \$42 and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarships and charitable donations to needy organizations in the area.

For reservations, please make checks payable to Wilbraham Women's Club and mail to Sue Agnew, 7 Aspen Dr., Wilbraham 01095. For questions, call Sue at 596-9480.

Be sure to include meal choice in memo of check. Also, include with whom you wish to sit. Thank you for your support.

Victorian Tea Room to be hosted by First Church

LUDLOW – Returning this year, First Church in Ludlow 859 Center St. Ludlow is offering a day of elegance with our popular Victorian Tea Room. Join us on Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a relaxing time with friends and family.

Enjoy an elegantly served variety of teas, finger sandwiches, scones and dainty sweet treats. Prices range

from \$3 to \$7 per teapot or variety plate of treats. Cash only. No reservations. Dress casually or fancy with a whimsical hat or fascinator.

A photo memory space available to take pictures. Surprise Mom with a pre-Mother's Day treat. Try your luck with a special raffle. Call or text 413-237-4062 or message First Church in Ludlow at <https://www.facebook.com/first-churchludlow> for more information.



Public safety

Monson Fire Logs

Fire log for Monson Fire Department for the week of April 6 through April 12, 2026. The department responded to 21 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls.

On Monday, April 6 at 9:25 a.m. the department responded to 178 Hovey Road for the smoke investigation. The department returned to service at 9:55 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 7 at 3:36 p.m. the department responded to the area of 13 Old Stafford Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at

6:05 p.m. On Thursday, April 9 at 5:33 p.m. the department responded to 32 Hospital Road for the stove fire. The department returned to service at 6:25 p.m.

On Sunday, April 12 at 11:05 a.m. the department responded to Cote Road for the brush fire. The department returned to service at 11:49 a.m.

On Sunday, April 12 at 6:39 p.m. the department responded to Bogan Road for the brush fire. The department returned to service at 7:04 p.m.

FOOTBALL | from page 1

I'm going to remember those guys for a very long time."

Perry received the prestigious Leonard J. Bailey Award at halftime of the Ludlow game on Thanksgiving morning.

"As long as we have a football team here at Palmer High School, we'll continue to have the Bailey Award," Marciniec said. "It's a very important award for the members of the Bailey Award committee, our school, and community."

The Panthers, who finished with a 6-5 overall record last season, defeated Ludlow for the first time since they posted a 34-0 shutout win at

Legion Field in 2021.

On the first Saturday of November, the Panthers made the short trip to Veterans' Field in Ware and defeated the Indians, 21-6, for the first time in a decade. They also squeaked out a 7-6 win against cross-town Pathfinder Tech in the 2025 season opening game at Legion Field.

While Palmer High School has co-ops with several other high schools in the area, that route wasn't an option for the football team.

"The administration wants to keep the football program here at Palmer High School," Marciniec said. "If we did form a co-op, it would be almost impossible to restart our own program in a couple of years. The PVIAC wants

you to play a J.V. schedule for a season before moving back up to the varsity ranks. You must show them that you can sustain a program."

Most of the Panthers junior varsity games will be played on Monday's.

Marciniec is hoping to schedule at least one night game at Legion Field.

"I'm hoping to schedule eight or nine games for the J.V. team," Marciniec said. "We could play the same team twice. My goal is to schedule competitive games, which will help us improve as a team. The record doesn't matter very much to me."

The Palmer and Ware football teams were scheduled to meet on the gridiron for the 100th time at Legion Field

next fall. The rivalry series will be put on hold for a year.

"I've been involved in the Ware and Palmer football game as either a player or a coach for more than twenty years," Marciniec said. "Not playing that game this year is going to be bittersweet. I'm sure people in both communities are disappointed about it. I hope they understand our situation."

The Panthers were also scheduled to battle the Ludlow Lions for the 79th time at the Ludlow Sports Complex on Thanksgiving morning.

Marciniec and Ludlow Athletic Director Tim Brillo are trying to plan a fundraiser during Thanksgiving week, which will benefit both schools.

Hopefully, the Panthers football team will have a successful season competing at the J.V. level and will be returning as a varsity team in the fall of 2027.



File photo The 100th meeting between Palmer and Ware is now on hold with the news that Palmer will not have varsity football this fall.

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STUDENTS | from page 1

next year, and a trip to Costa Rica and Panama, which she described as "a perfect combination or integration of the tropical rainforest and the coastal part of the continent."

This trip will involve visits to the capital of Costa Rica, San José, as well as Guanacaste, Sarapiquí, and national parks. She also went into detail about what the students would see in Panama.

"We're going to go to Gatun Lake, which is an artificial lake that provides the water for the Panama Canal," Garces said, and added that the itinerary also includes visits to the canal, and to Panama City, "which is a beautiful city that combines the old city with the new one."

The 2028 trip is expected to take place between March 22 and March 30, so that it won't interfere with sports and to save money. Vice Chair Karen North-Valley asked how the travel company was responding to recent travel advisories relating to "anything happening in the world right now."

Garces assured the committee that the travel company is taking precautions in case of global unrest.

"Spain, right now, is Level Two," Garces said. "If you look at the map, most countries, in the basic scenario, are Level Two."

The committee voted unanimously to approve the trip to Spain. This led into a discussion about the 2027 trip to Mexico, which already had its initial vote, but will be up for another vote later in the process.

"There were some headlines, a month or so ago, about violence in Mexico," said Superintendent Paul Foster. "I just wanted to have an opportunity, if there were questions about what the process is when there are concerns about a particular country after we're in the middle of planning a trip."

Garces said that she met with the families of the students that are going, noting that half of them will be accompanied by a parent as chaperone. "They feel very comfortable," she said. "They have been checking, every day, how things are going with Mexico. (...) With the research that we have done, the parts where we're going to stay - which are Campeche and the Yucatan Peninsula - are the safest in Latin America."

"Mexico is like the United States; it's a huge country that's divided into states," Garces continued. "Mexico is a very rich country, there is too much to learn about the culture and about everything there, and the activities they'll be doing are wonderful. I think that it's going to

be a great experience."

Garces described how different the separate regions of Mexico are. She explained that the riskiest place the trip would pass through would be Mexico City, where they will arrive, which is at Level Two, comparable to Spain, France, or Portugal.

Garces said that the groups are very comfortable, but intend to keep the group small. She said that she is working on securing funding to cover part of the trip and lower the cost.

Garces emphasized that the trip is still a year out, and said that the travel company had offered a deal if the political situation changes in a way that might affect the trip.

"They have no problem just rescheduling, or giving us other choices," Garces said, mentioning that Peru, Belize, or the Dominican Republic were suggested as possible alternatives. However, when she brought this to the families, they still wanted to go to Mexico.

"If it's for the families, if it's for me, that's still my choice," Garces said.

After voting unanimously on final approval of the trip to Spain on April 18, and with no vote pending on the trip to Mexico, the committee voted unanimously to approve the trip to Costa Rica and Panama in 2028.

The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk

May 2, 2026 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham

A community event to raise funds for TJO Animals in need.
Fun family activities and goodies for the pups.
Their Second Chance Begins With You!

Register at TJOFoundation.org



To Benefit The Foundation for TJO Animals



Not all superheroes wear capes. Some wear sneakers. Some have paws.

In the classroom

Schools districts met with legislators about funding

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District hosted a “Conversation with our Legislators” this past Monday, with representation from across the district’s five towns, as well as from neighboring school districts and communities.

State Sen. Peter Durant, along with State Reps. Todd Smola, Donnie Berthiaume and John Marsi attended the meeting to hear concerns about Rural School Aid funding, Chapter 70 funding, declining enrollment and more.

Also attending were Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools President Paul Haughey, who is also the superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District; North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick; Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff; and Tantasqua Regional School District Superintendent Deborah Boyd.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha said this was an opportunity to speak directly to the area’s legislators, and share their concerns.

“The goal of today is we really wanted to have a united front,” she said. “We are trying to work together.”

Haughey spoke on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and said there are a “lot of common threads” between all of the schools districts, including the rising costs of being a people-driven field.

“We’re human resources heavy and as a result, there’s a lot of expense in that,” he said.

Haughey said the per pupil funding in Minimum Aid needs to be increased to at least \$150, but that a more accurate number would be much higher.

“It’s still not enough,” he said. “We need \$200-250 to make this run right.”

Haughey said the cost of transportation for both general education and special education is “quite concerning.” He said many school districts only receive one or two quotes for transportation to choose from when they go out to bid, which backs them in a corner financially.

Transportation costs



Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools President and Superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, Paul Haughey

should be fully reimbursed to regional school districts by the state, he said. As of right now, the reimbursement rate is projected to be between 80-90%.

He said a glitch in the Chapter 70 funding formula is hurting rural schools across the commonwealth.

“The rural factor is not built into 70 at this point and it’s a major concern,” he said.

Haughey said school administrators are all pushing to have Rural School Aid increased to \$60 million, and to create a “pothole” fund for school districts with declining enrollment, as well as an increase in charter school reimbursements and covering the expenses of new, state-mandated graduation requirements.

“We need to do better,” Haughey said. “If graduation requirements are to change... there needs to be funding to support that as well.”

Haughey said the work administrators and legislators have ahead of them is important and needs to be a priority.

“These are our children,” he said. “We need people working together to get this done.”

Efforts at efficiency

Mucha invited the superintendents and town officials to share efforts they have taken to gain efficiencies when faced with the uncertainty of state funding.

She said the Quabbin Regional School District used COVID funding to purchase vans, which are used for student and athletic transportation.

“That has saved us a tremendous amount of funding,”



Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

she said.

Boyd said the Tantasqua Regional School District purchased its own fleet of 45 vehicles to provide all transportation, include special education transportation, in house. While this has helped to regulate the increasing cost of transportation, the school district is still impacted by the labor force, and the cost of fuel.

Boyd said being designated “Hold Harmless” isn’t enough for rural school districts anymore.

“That fact that so many of us are in Hold Harmless... means something’s wrong with the formula,” she said.

Boyd added that, “something feels broken on the state level, not just Chapter 70, but local aid.”

“The pittance of money going to the towns is truly putting the burden on the towns,” she said.

West Brookfield Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said that health insurance is a major cost driver in the town’s budget, and that they are in the process of enacting an “opt out” program.

“It’s a process, but we’re hoping it will be helpful,” she said.

Mucha said the way that Rural School Aid is administered poses a challenge to school districts when they are trying to build and present their budgets to towns. She said it is awarded like a grant, and school districts don’t know when they’ll receive it, and that this year the aid was late.

“It’s really hard to plan on that aid,” she said.

Retired Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent and Barre Select Board Chair, Dr. Maureen Marshall,



North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick

said Rural School Aid should be awarded the same way that transportation reimbursements are – up front – so that school districts can plan more effectively.

“We’re really concerned about something that’s really a simple fix,” she said.

Boyd agreed and said that Rural School Aid has become a “financial cliff” for school districts.

McCormick said rural school districts “really need a consistent number to plan with every year.”

The uncertainty of Rural School Aid has had a negative impact on other services in towns, Marshall said, including police, fire and the maintenance of infrastructure.

“The impact on the local communities is significant,” she said.

Clare Hendra, an Oakham representative on the Quabbin Regional School Committee, said the school’s budget makes up about two-thirds of her town’s budget. She said this has put other departments in town at real risk.

“Some departments are barely functioning and near disaster,” she said. “If they [schools] are in trouble, it filters right down.”

Response from legislators

Berthiaume said the commonwealth’s budget will be released this week, and legislators will have a brief opportunity to file amendments. He said that unfortunately, the process can’t be completed any sooner than it is.

Smola said himself and the other legislators present at the meeting were all on board with the recommendations put forward by the various town officials and administrators.

Smola said he has been



State Rep. Todd Smola

pushing for the Chapter 70 formula to be fixed for some time.

“We should have been prepping for this two years ago,” he said. “We should already be here with a solution. We should already have a fix to the Chapter 70 formula.”

He said the formula needs to be wiped out and rebuilt, in order for it to be beneficial to the school districts and the towns.

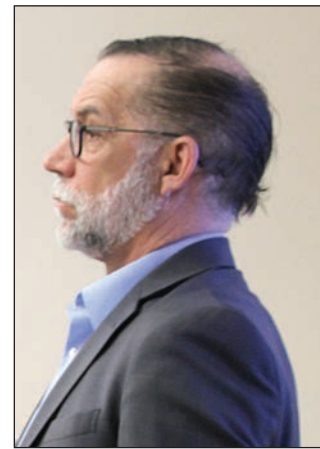
Smola also raised concerns about the financial cliff created by the Student Opportunity Act, which is set to run out in fiscal year 2027. He also talked about the “unprecedented” number of communities seeking overrides.

“Education is the big one,” he said in terms of costs in the budget. “It has the biggest impact on municipalities.”

Smola said school districts are facing declining enrollment across the commonwealth, and they are now fighting over the same people. He said many school districts are also holding on to brick and mortar infrastructure that should not be in service.

“That’s not pragmatic and it’s not practical,” he said. “We’ve got to look at this through a different set of eyes.”

Berthiaume said pressure from school administrators



State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume

and town officials on State House leadership would have more of an impact than just from him and the other legislators.

Smola said they should ask legislators to take roll call votes before an amendment, and “get them on the record.”

“If you want this short-term fix, that would be my recommendation,” Smola said. “Your voice is going to be important to this process.”

Marsi said it’s the words and actions of citizens that “turns the wheel” of change at the State House.

Durant said legislators face an uphill battle on Beacon Hill, and he also advocated for the need for roll call votes.

“Because that’s where people publicly announce their priorities,” he said.

A unified voice

Mucha passed around a letter for administrators and town officials to sign, showing their unified commitment to advocate for funding changes for rural schools.

Haughey said school districts cannot continue to meet state mandates without a change in funding.

“We can only work with what we’re given. We’re going backwards, nor forward, with resources...the Band-Aids are done,” he said.

Monson Garden Club scholarship deadline

MONSON – The Monson Garden Club has announced that two \$500 scholarships are available to high school seniors who reside in Monson and plan to continue school at a 2- or 4-year college to study in

any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences.

Applications with instructions may be obtained through their school guidance office and are due by April 28, 2026.

FOR RENT
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41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094
Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and “Barrier Free” accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.
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Swing on by The Roadhouse Cafe!
Specials Are Served All Week And Breakfast Is Served All Day!
OPEN MONDAY-SUNDAY 7 AM TO 2 PM
Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates

Glenda's
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CLEAN UP | from page 1

aged to bring their own rakes and equipment, but Triozzi provides a few extras for them as they go out to the cross-country and hiking trails that connect the high school to Old Mill Pond School to clear winter debris, like fallen branches and leaf litter that athletes could slip on.

“That doesn’t take too long,” Triozzi said. He and a faculty member – this year it was Erik Brennan – then meet the students in the parking lot to hand out contractor bags and split up to go to the various parts of the school where trash tends to gather.

“Usually around the ball fields, and the little creeks that meander through between OMP and the other side of PHS, those spots tend to get a lot of debris,” Triozzi said. He said that plastic bottles and foil chip bags are the big offenders.

“We go in there, and the kids collect as much as they can,” Triozzi said. “When it’s done, we bring it out to the dumpster, and that’s it.”

After the students finish, those with their own cars drive themselves, or they call home for a ride. Triozzi said that the clean-up usually finishes on-schedule, so the parents know when to pick up the students.

“It’s nothing spectacular,” Triozzi said, “just walking around the campus and cleaning up some of the stuff that should’ve been in a garbage can but isn’t.”

Triozzi started this program six years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking his Environmental Science students for field work in the woods.

“The big issue there was that there were so many used face masks that had blown all over the place, and they were painfully visible in the bushes and the creek and everywhere,” Triozzi remembered. “The nice thing is that for students that don’t have



Holding bags of trash they collected, (from left) Eldi A., Amhia M., Katie M., Madelyn R., Kelsey C., Erick R., Anthony E., Kylie W., Erik Brennan., Liam B., Isabella L., Alli L., Lorena D.L., and Jonas T.

Submitted photos

transportation options, it’s a familiar place, on campus, where they can give a little back to their school community.”

This event provides an opportunity for the school to instill responsible behaviors in the students, teaching them to take care of the environment and building them up to be good citizens, according to Triozzi.

“As they get to be adults, they’re learning there are bigger things out there, rather than just monetary awards,” Triozzi said.

Triozzi also takes the opportunity to encourage the students to pursue further environmental volunteering, and mentioned a few organizations he often points them to, including the Connecticut River Conservancy’s Source to Sea Clean-Up, and the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Trail Maintenance.

The high school requires students to do 10 hours of community service across four years. Triozzi said that the Campus Clean-Up counts toward that requirement, knocking off two hours for every year that the student participates.

The event is open to all the high school students, from freshmen to seniors. Triozzi said that the majority of students come back the



Students were able to fill seven trash bags with trash and debris that was collected from the school grounds.

following year. This year he had 12 volunteers, and he said that last year he saw 17.

“I just put a notice out telling students to pick up a permission slip, and to bring rakes and gloves,” Triozzi said.

Triozzi was very grateful to the school staff and the community for its support for this event. He thanked Erik Brennan, the advisor for Student Council who assisted him this year, as well as Principal Sue North for her support.

“I couldn’t do this without the support of the administration and the overall school community and student council,” Triozzi said. “I deeply appreciate that they help put out the mes-

sage and help get as many students involved as possible.”

Triozzi said that the school’s custodial department often provides tools and cleaning materials, and so he’s not looking for any donations, but appreciates the community’s continued support for his work.

“The hope is that they feel good about what they do, and as they grow up, they volunteer for other things that may contribute to helping out their community and taking care of the environment,” Triozzi said.

If you’d like to learn more about what’s going on at the high school, you can visit their website at PalmerSchools.org/PalmerHS.



Gloves and other equipment for the campus clean-up was provided by the school.



Students were instructed to bring their own rakes to clean up the trail during the annual Trail and Campus Clean-Up.



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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Julietta Tweedell hustles home on a hit.

Indians beat Palmer in marathon matchup



Turley photo by Maddox Bear

Amhia McElreavy catches an out at first.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The rivalry between Ware and Palmer High School's added another dramatic chapter last Thursday afternoon, as the two varsity softball teams faced off in a hard-fought battle that lasted four hours.

Undeterred by a 14-run deficit entering the fourth inning, Ware launched an impressive rally.

After the top of the seventh inning, the Lady Indians were holding a 19-18 lead.

Palmer responded with a run in the bottom half of the frame, which forced the Suburban East League match-up into extra innings.

PALMER | page 11

Pioneers fall to Comp



Addison Doktor swings and connects on a base hit.

PALMER – Pathfinder softball was able to push across a couple of runs early, but Chicopee Comprehensive came roaring back and ended up turning the game around, defeating Pathfinder 25-9 last Thursday at Pathfinder Tech. The Pioneers fell to 0-4 on the season while Chicopee Comprehensive rose above .500 to 3-2.



Emily Forcier squares up some contact.



Taylor Thornton sends a pitch to the plate.

Mustangs fall to Indians at Dunkin' Park

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HARTFORD, CT – Over the past couple of years, Shane Szado and Kyle Kaczuwka were teammates on the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team.

Last Saturday night, Szado and Kaczuwka, who are both seniors, opposed each other for the first time at the varsity level as starting pitchers.

The matchup between the Monson and Ware varsity baseball teams took place under the bright lights of Dunkin' Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

Just like during the past two seasons, Kyle Kaczuwka and his Indians teammates were able to celebrate a 19-5 victory over the Mustangs at the home field of the Yard Goats, who are the Double A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

The non-league contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

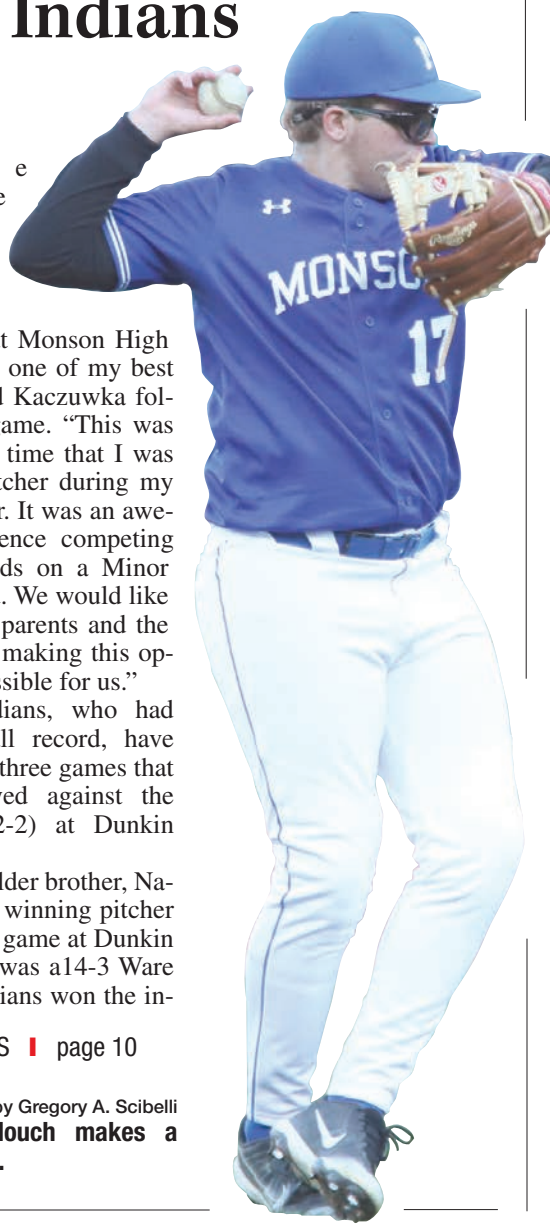
"I've known Shane since I attended his dad's (Craig) baseball camps at Monson High School. He's one of my best friends," said Kaczuwka following the game. "This was also the first time that I was a starting pitcher during my varsity career. It was an awesome experience competing against friends on a Minor League Field. We would like to thank the parents and the sponsors for making this opportunity possible for us."

The Indians, who had a 4-1 overall record, have now won all three games that they've played against the Mustangs (2-2) at Dunkin' Park.

Kyle's older brother, Nathan was the winning pitcher in last year's game at Dunkin' Park, which was a 14-3 Ware win. The Indians won the in-

MUSTANGS | page 10

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Anthony Tullouch makes a throw to first.



Carly Juda makes a throw across the diamond.



Ellisyn Gelinas sends an easy throw to first.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Owen Pear makes contact to send the ball over the net.

Panthers edge Pacers in tennis action

PALMER – In a three-match contest between Chicopee and Palmer boys tennis, Palmer scored a 2-1 win over the Pacers.

Owen Pear and the pair of Dexter Luce and Owen Kupiec-Fox scored wins for the Panthers.

Tyler Hoar won a three-set matchup for Chicopee High School.

The Panthers are 1-2 and Chicopee is 1-4.



Owen Kupiec-Fox gets a quick return hit.



Shane Normoyle makes a serve.



Dexter Luce serves in doubles action.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed at Bogey

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Thursday Night Mixed League at Bogey Lanes is nearing the end of the bowling season.

Holding onto first place is the four-person team (Team Four) of Kaelin Skye, Ryley Burdett, Nate Fontaine, and Aaron Fontaine with a record of 66-22. Team Four has six-point lead over the second-place team, Walking my Goldfish (60-28).

Team Four bowled against the Scorpion Bowlers during the first week in April. In game one, Team Four defeated Scorpion Bowlers by a score of 416-402. Ryley Burdett of Team Four bowled well with 119.

In game two, Team Four held onto the lead long enough to win 440-434. Aaron Fontaine of Team Four

bowled well with 154 to clinch the second win for his team.

In game three, Team Four clinched the sweep over Scorpion Bowlers by winning the last game 447-385. Nate Fontaine led the team with 141 to finish. His brother finished with 116 and a series of 380 while Burdett finished with 114 and a series of 327. The final score was 1303-1221 in favor of Team Four.

Spare Bears bowled against The B Team at Bogey Lanes. In game one, Spare Bears and the B Team tied 385-385. In game two, the B Team won by a score of 408-369. Joe Mullen of B Team was over his average by scoring 102.

In game three, B Team won by a score of 395-361. Mullen broke the century mark again with 100 in the final game. Final score was 1188-1115 in favor of B Team.

Walking my Goldfish bowled against Music Man. In game one, Walking my

Goldfish won by a score of 388-381. Game two was also won by Walking my Goldfish, 436-390. 124 was bowled by Aaron of Walking my Goldfish. The team also won the last game, 425-398. Steve Burritt of Music Man finished with 107.

Team Twelve bowled against the Bowling Hogs. In game one, Team Twelve won by a score of 410-383. John Miller of Team Twelve began the match with 111.

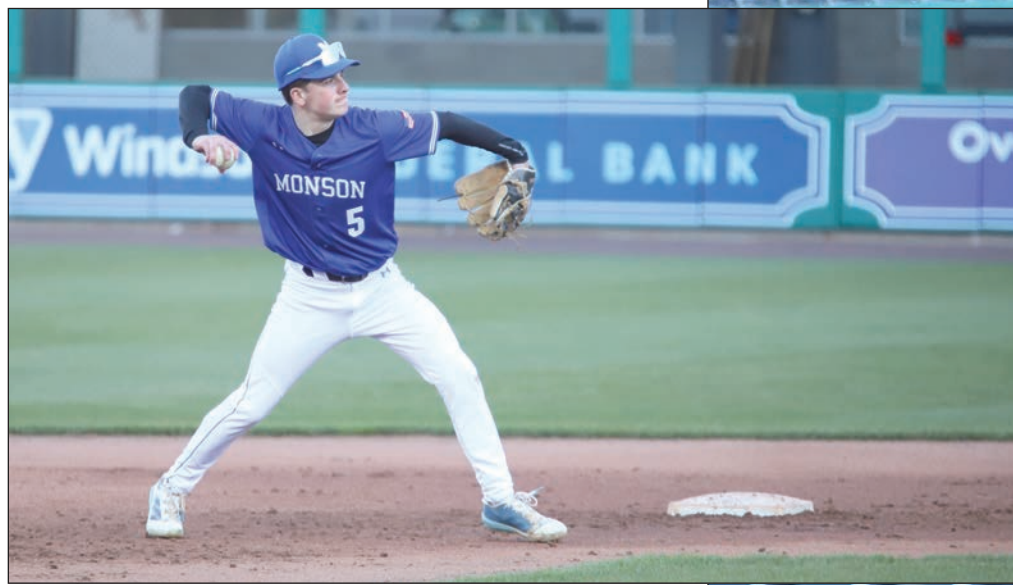
In game two, Bowling Hogs won by a score of 389-387. Game three was won by the Bowling Hogs, 409-405. The final score was 1202-1181 in favor of Team Twelve.

Slide or Die bowled against Glen Echo Rollers. In game one, Glen Echo Rollers defeated Slide or Die by a score of 407-377. In game two, Glen Echo Rollers won again by a score of 398-376.

In game three, Slide or Die won by a score of 407-392. The final score was 1197-1160 in favor of Glen Echo Rollers.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Shane Szado pitches for the Mustangs.



Shortstop Jake Beaupre makes a great play on a grounder.



Tommy Murphy sends a throw to second.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

augural game, 11-3, in 2024. Kaczuwka, who's normally the Indians starting catcher, wasn't informed that he would be the starting pitcher in last Saturday's game until prior to the start of the game.

"I wasn't really sure who would be our starting pitcher in tonight's game until we arrived here," said Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark. "We have three games this week and we wanted to save both Brady (Guimond) and Jack (Gaudreau). I talked with my assistant coaches about it. We decided to give the ball to Kyle. He was ready to go and pitched very well."

Kaczuwka, Guimond, and Gaudreau are three of the Ware seniors. The other four seniors listed on the Indians varsity roster are centerfielder Troy Dufresne, second baseman Brodie Koczur, first baseman Alex Orzulak and Marek Luongo, who's a reserve player.

Kaczuwka, who's a righthander, pitched the first four innings. He allowed one run on four hits with three strikeouts and just one walk.

Szado, who's also a catcher, has pitched a couple of innings at the varsity level in the past. He made his first start of the season on the

mound.

The other three Monson seniors are shortstop Jake Beaupre, centerfielder Ben Pignone, and right fielder Austin Meacham.

"Even though we lost the game, it's always very special getting the opportunity to play a game here, especially for our four seniors" said Monson head coach Curtis Orlik. "Those guys have put together a pretty good varsity baseball career."

Beaupre (2-for-3) tripled to rightfield leading off the top of the first inning.

"I played on the same travel baseball team with Jake in Worcester last summer,"

Kaczuwka said. "I threw him a high curve ball, and he hit it hard to rightfield. I kept throwing strikes after that and trusted my defense to make the plays."

With runners on first and second with no outs in the bottom of the first, Kaczuwka blasted a Szado pitch to deep centerfielder for a two-run double. It was also his 100th career base hit.

"It just felt awesome to get my 100th career base hit in tonight's game," said Kaczuwka, who went 3-for-4 at the plate with four RBIs. "I've worked so hard to achieve that milestone."

The last member of the Ware varsity baseball team to record 100 career hits was Dylan Sutkaitis, who graduated in 2024.

"Dylan was one of my role models when I was younger," Kaczuwka said. "He was an outstanding hitter and catcher."

The Indians wound up scoring eight runs in the first

inning.

Freshman Joe Cygan, who started the game at third baseman, knocked in two runs with a single to center. He also scored on a wild pitch. Orzulak also had an RBI single. The Indians other two runs came home on a bases loaded walk and a ground-ball out.

"It was very important to take an early lead," Clark

said. "It took a lot of pressure off Kyle."

Ware scored two runs in the second, four in the third, and five in the fourth.

Junior Niko Mathieu, who started the game at second base, pitched the final two innings for the Mustangs.

Monson eighth grade first baseman Tommy Murphy recorded his first career varsity base hit leading off the

third inning.

Szado also contributed with a pair of singles in his three trips to the plate.

The Mustangs' other hits came from Ben Pignone, sophomore third baseman Anthony Tulloch, and Mathieu.

Monson scored four runs in their final at-bats against Cygan, who's a hard throwing righty.

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Athlete of the Week

Owen Pear

Palmer High School

Pear scored a win in singles action last Thursday to help lead Palmer to a team win over Chicopee.

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

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Warriors softball grabs huge win over Hampshire

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE – Seven of the 15 players listed on the Tantasqua varsity softball roster are freshmen. Two of the Lady Warriors first-year varsity players are starting catcher Brynn Boucher and starting third baseman Natalie Carson.

The freshman duo, along with sophomore starting pitcher Keira McCord, played key roles in Tantasqua's first ever meeting on the softball diamond against Hampshire Regional.

The score was tied 1-1 with one-out in the bottom of the seventh inning when Carson blasted a laser shot over the centerfield fence giving her team an exciting 2-1 walk-off victory, last Friday afternoon.

"It was the first time that I hit a home run in a varsity game," Carson said. "I've been struggling at the plate during the past couple

of games, but to be able to support my teammates really means a lot to me. Hopefully, this victory will give us some momentum for the rest of the season."

The walk off homer by Carson improved Tantasqua's overall season record to a perfect 5-0. The Lady Warriors have also won 27 of their last 28 games since the beginning of last season. Their only setback during that span was a 3-0 home loss to Nipmuc Regional in last year's Division 3 state tournament.

The Raiders (3-1) made the trip to Fiskdale from Westhampton on their luxury bus having outscored their first three opponents, 50-13.

After beginning her high school athletic career by playing for the Lady Warriors junior varsity volleyball and basketball teams, Carson was hoping to make the varsity softball team.

"One of my goals was to make the varsity softball team," she said. "I worked

very hard and it was an amazing feeling when I found out that I had actually made team."

Boucher, who was a perfect 3-for-3 in last Friday's contest, also hit her first varsity home run over the right field fence leading off the fourth inning.

"It was very exciting hitting my first home run in today's game," said Boucher, who also contributed offensively with a single and a double. "It just gave us a lot of energy."

Boucher, who was a member of the Lady Warriors swim team this past winter, also performed very well behind the plate.

"Brynn is an amazing catcher," McCord said. "This is the first time we've been teammates and we work very well together."

McCord allowed one run on just three hits. She issued three walks and recorded 13 strikeouts.

Things didn't start out

very well, as McCord walked junior centerfielder Rachael Hickox leading off the first inning. After Hickox stole second base, eighth grade shortstop Lucy Trombley also drew a walk.

McCord got out of the jam by striking out the next three batters. She then retired 12 of the next 13 batters. The only blemish was a bunt hit by Hickox with one-out in the third.

"I became more focused after walking the first two batters of the game," McCord said. "This was one of my better pitching performances so far this season. I just love being a member of this team."

The Lady Warriors threatened to take the lead in the second inning against junior righty RYANNE DUBAY.

Boucher lined a single off the shortstop's glove leading off the frame. She was replaced at first base by freshman courtesy runner Kendall Boivin, who promptly stole second base. Then

sophomore DP Olivia Fiske walked. Dubay got out of the jam by striking out the next three batters.

With two outs in the following inning, Tantasqua senior second baseman JulieAnne Petersen smacked a ground rule double over the rightfield fence. The next batter flied out to right ending the threat.

The only other senior listed on Tantasqua's varsity softball roster is Kiara Gonzalez, who's the starting centerfielder.

The Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead following Boucher's leadoff home run in the fourth.

With one-out in the sixth inning, Trombley grounded a single into left field. After McCord struck out the next batter, Dubay hit a pop-up, which was dropped by the third baseman for an error.

Eighth grade third baseman Mariah Pacinella walked, which loaded the bases. The next batter hit a hard ground

ball back to McCord. She tossed the ball to Boucher who stepped on the plate to record the final out of the inning.

Hampshire eighth grade designated player Reygan Horstmann doubled to right field leading off the top of the seventh inning. Senior third baseman Chelsea Vanasse followed with a bunt hit just out of the reach of freshman first baseman Kaelyn Pelliscane, who made a diving attempt to catch the ball. Then a sacrifice bunt by sophomore second baseman Kalin Dubay moved both runners into scoring position. The game tying run crossed the plate when Hickox hit into a fielder's choice play hit. The Lady Warriors managed to keep the game tied with the help of an inning ending double play.

Carson then ended the fast paced game with one swing of the bat with one-out in the bottom half of the seventh inning.

PALMER | from page 9

Following a scoreless eighth inning, Ware scored seven more runs in the ninth and managed to secure a 26-24 victory at Albin Slesinski Field in Palmer.

The contest began in bright sunshine and finished under the lights.

During the four hours in between, the two neighboring rivals combined to score 50 runs on 33 base hits.

"We have a young squad, and we've trailed in every game so far this season," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "The girls finally realized they have the ability of making a comeback. Everyone contributed."

The Lady Indians (1-3), who had lost their first three regular season games by 12 runs, celebrated a win for the first time since defeating Pioneer Valley Regional High School, 13-5, in a non-playoff road game last May.

Leading the offensive attack for Ware was junior shortstop Aubrianna Gilmore, who had six of her team's 21 base hits and drove in three runs. She had two singles, three triples and hit a two run inside the park home run in the seventh inning. She only needed a double to hit for the cycle.

"Aubrianna played extremely well," Vallee said. "She's a first-year member of our softball team. She plays the game with a lot of energy, and it lit a fire for the rest of the players."

Ware freshman catcher Naomi Torres chipped in offensively with four singles and a walk. She also threw out a runner trying to steal second base.

The trio of freshman third baseman Gabby Kaczukwa, senior second baseman Maddy Slattery, and freshman starting pitcher Lucy Herbert finished the contest with two base hits apiece.

Herbert, who hurled all nine innings, won her first career varsity game.

"This is Lucy's first season as a starting pitcher for the varsity team," Vallee said. "I thought she grew a lot in today's game."

After scoring 16 runs in the first two innings, the Lady Panthers (1-3) only scored three runs on three hits between the third and eighth innings. It gave the Lady Indians an opportunity to make a comeback.

"We sometimes fall into complacency," said Palmer head coach Heather Korzec. "We also should've made a few more plays defensively. We're still a work in progress."

Senior centerfielder Hannah Roy and eighth grade leftfielder Harper Brouillette led the home team with three hits.

Senior first baseman Amha McElreavy and freshman Jill Holbrook, who was the



Jaclyn Swiatlowski sends a ground ball into play.



Rylee Ostiguy winds up for a throw.



Avigail Lee slides safely into home plate.



Eldi Arroyo tosses the ball to first.

Turley photos by Maddox Bear

starting pitcher, chipped in with two hits.

Holbrook allowed 21 runs on 21 hits during the eight innings that she was standing in the middle of the circle.

Eighth grader Emily Provost, who took over for Holbrook in the fifth inning, allowed five runs on just one base hit. Holbrook returned to the pitcher's circle at the start of the sixth inning.

"We have two very good pitcher's this year," Korzec

said. "Both of them need experience pitching at this level. Their pitching styles are also a little bit different."

Brouillette capped off the Lady Panthers seven run first inning with a two-run single into right field.

After Ware scored three runs in the top of the second, Roy had a three-run triple, as the Lady Panthers exploded for nine runs.

Roy added a two-run single in the third and it was beginning to look like Palmer wouldn't have very much

trouble defeating Ware for the first time since 2024.

Trailing, 18-4, the Lady Indians scored three runs in the fourth, five in the fifth, and added two more in the sixth.

With two outs in the seventh inning, Gilmore hit a two run inside the park homer slicing the Lady Indians deficit to 18-17. Ware tied the score when freshman Thanishka Cordero, who was a defensive replacement, smacked a run scoring double down the left field line. Torres drove

home the go-ahead run with a line-drive single to center.

Palmer scored the tying run when eighth grade shortstop Jaclyn Swiatlowski, who drew a leadoff walk in the bottom of the seventh, crossed the plate following a wild pitch.

Ware retook the lead two innings later by scoring seven more runs

Palmer rallied for five runs in the bottom half of the frame before Herbert ended the marathon with a strikeout.

The two softball teams

are scheduled to meet for the second time on May 11 at Ware High School.

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Obituaries

Janice G. Gouvin

1946-2026

Janice G. Gouvin, of Monson, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, after a brief illness. She was born Janice Talmadge on August 23, 1946, in Ware, Massachusetts.



Janice was a devoted and caring woman who spent many years working at the Monson Developmental Center as kitchen staff and a direct care attendant. Her dedication to her work reflected her deep kindness, compassion, and commitment to

helping others. Janice was an extremely sweet soul who touched the lives of many. Though she had no sisters by birth, she was blessed with several women who loved her as one. Janice was an avid reader, a lover of animals, and found great comfort and strength in her faith.

Janice is survived by her loving family, including her sons, Kyle J. Gouvin and his wife Julie, and Jody R. Gou-

vin; her brother, John "Jack" Talmadge, and his wife Kim; her grandson, Jared H. Gouvin; and her cherished great-granddaughter, Presley, whom she loved and adored. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Bernice I. (Graham) Talmadge.

A small gathering for local friends and family to celebrate Janice's life will be held on April 25 from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Community Room at Colonial Village in Monson.

Services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson.

Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley

1941 - 2026

PALMER - Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley, of Palmer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on April 3, 2026. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 20, 1941, and raised in Rhode Island, she was the only child of the late Horace and Mary Hunt.



Annabelle was the beloved wife of Patrick Turley for nearly 64 years. She was also the loving mother of Keith Turley (Holly), Doug Turley (Jeanne), and Beth Turley Ellis (Cory), and a proud grandmother to seven: Robert Turley (Bethany), David Turley, Andrew Turley, Gordon Turley, Connor Turley, Carter Ellis, and Althea Ellis.

A gifted artist, Annabelle expressed her creativity through watercolor painting and the pieces she created as a member of a national tole painting guild. She was also an avid gardener who filled her yard with vibrant, carefully tended flower and herb gardens, and she delighted in preparing delicious meals for family and friends. Her passion for history and lifelong learning shaped her work in museum education at Old Sturbridge Village, her famous "10-cent tours" of King Brook Farm, and the papers she presented as a member of Tuesday Club.

Annabelle was deeply committed to her community where she served on the Board of Directors of the Palmer Public Library and helped found the Library Loft, a used book-

store whose proceeds support library programs. She also touched the lives of many through her dedicated service at Trinity Episcopal Church. Her inclusive nature made her home a gathering place full of warmth, love, and laughter, and her generous spirit ensured that everyone felt welcomed and valued.

Whether playing tennis at the Farm, stepping in as goaltender during pond hockey games when her children were young, or searching the woods for the perfect Christmas tree, Annabelle was game for anything. A good sport in every setting, she valued the company of others over competition itself. She cherished time sailing in Maine and visiting Grand Cayman Island with friends and family, but her greatest joys were often the simplest moments: sharing good food, laughter, and the beauty of nature with loved ones.

Calling hours will be held on April 23, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Her funeral will follow on April 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 20 Park Street, Ware, Massachusetts, 01082.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Palmer Public Library or Trinity Episcopal Church in her memory.

Annabelle will be deeply missed and remembered for the love, warmth, and joy she brought into all of the lives she touched.

Teri M. Thomas

1959-2026

MONSON - Teri M. (Madison) Thomas, 66, passed away on April 8, 2026, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after a short period of declining health. Born on September 5, 1959, in Palmer, Massachusetts, to Charles W. and Constance M. (Dow) Madison. Teri was a lifelong resident of Monson. She was a proud graduate of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

She loved her family, friends, work family, and the Monson community beyond measure. Her warm personality and caring nature endeared her to many, and she leaves behind a legacy of love and dedication.



Throughout her life, Teri demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her work and community. She began her career at Galas Drug Store before moving on to positions at Rite Aid and Walgreens in Monson. At the time of her passing, she was employed by Adams Hometown Market in Monson, where she was known not only for her diligence but for the genuine kindness, she extended to all around her. Teri is remembered as a hard worker with a kind and genuine spirit.

Teri's devotion extended deeply into her personal life.

Teri is survived by her sisters: Martha-Jean Madison, Garrie Stoutimore, Robin Johnson and her husband Stewart, Melissa Rowell and her husband Gordon; her brothers: Scott Madison and his wife Laurie, Kevin Madison, Eric Madison and his wife Colleen; as well as her bonus siblings, Francis Lombard and Lisse Lombard. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews, as well as her favorite pup "Nellie", all of whom she adored and cherished. She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom Thomas; her partner, Richard Graveline; her parents,

Charles W. and Constance M. (Dow) Madison; and her brother-in-law Robert Madison.

Visitation for family and friends will be held Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lombard Funeral Home, located at 3 Bridge Street, Monson, MA 01057.

Teri will be remembered fondly as a devoted family member, a trusted friend, and a compassionate soul whose spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her. Her legacy of kindness and dedication remains an enduring gift to the community of Monson and beyond.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in loving memory of Teri M. Thomas to Baystate Hospice 280 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01199 or to a charity of your choice. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Randall L. Vaill

1956-2026

PALMER - Randall L. Vaill, Sr., 69, passed away suddenly on April 4, 2026, at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, MA. Born on July 22, 1956, in Springfield, MA, he was the son of the late Stanley H. and Barbara M. (Marcoullier) Brown Vaill.



Randy was the loving husband of Terry (Smith) Vaill for 50 years and father to Randall Vaill, Jr. and his wife Amber of Palmer, and Jennifer McNally and her husband Brian of Brimfield. He also leaves behind his four grandchildren: Julian Vaill, Lauren Vaill, Morgan McNally, and Mackenzie McNally. He is survived by his siblings, Russell Brown and his wife Ronda of Palmer, and Darlene Gregoire and her husband Richard of Brimfield.

Randy was a graduate of Tantasqua Regional

High School and earned a degree in Machine and Tool Design at Springfield Technical Community College. In his youth he worked alongside his father on the milk route for Vaill's Dairy. He retired from Savvage Arms in 2019, where he worked in quality control.

Randy was a 55-year member of the Grange, originally joining Palmer Grange and was a member of Ware Grange at the time of his passing. His involvement in the Grange played an important part in his life; he met his wife, Terry, when they were youth members of Palmer Grange. He was involved in his community in many ways over the years. In his youth he served as an altar boy at St. Christopher's Church in Brimfield

and was a Boy Scout. Later in life, he volunteered his time as a Cub Scout leader, served as an instructor with a blind skiing program, and was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer.

Randy loved nature and the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, going on beach vacations with his family, and collecting sand dollars and seashells at the beach. He regularly enjoyed spending time gardening and caring for his yard and houseplants.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Church. Burial followed at Brimfield Cemetery.

The family requests that those wishing to honor Randy's memory plant a tree or bush, reflecting his love for gardening and the beauty of nature.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

DEATH NOTICES

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Teri M. Thomas
Died April 8, 2026
Services April 16, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley
Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley
Died April 3, 2026
Service April 24, 2026
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Randall L. Vaill, Sr.
Died April 4, 2026
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VOTES | from page 1

Development and Planning, which is a contractual amount that cannot be reduced.

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz explained one such increase in the budget as being caused by the town no longer having a full-time Town Planner.

"Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has a Senior Planner that assists the Planning Board and the town with any work that they're doing," Wolowicz said. "This past year, when we finished the work, it was decided that they needed additional funds to assist them with what they were doing."

Wolowicz estimated that

the cost, compared to the full-time position of \$90,000 with benefits, was now closer to \$32,000.

After Select Board Member John Morrell praised the School Committee and Superintendent Paul Foster for a letter they drafted, Finance Committee Chair Peter Fimognari asked about the school's transportation budget.

"I know you needed more, and they have it down here as last year's level funding," Fimognari said. "My question is, can you do it with that?"

Foster said that the changes made to the school budget were made with the assumption of a funding increase to transportation, be-

cause the school can't level-fund transportation. Leah Zippin, the school's Director of Business and Operations added that the bus contract is ending in June, and the town has put the contract out to bid, though the vans are on a separate contract.

"Our current dollar amount that was in our original request, which was about, I think, a 10% increase in transportation," Foster said, "there are some assumptions in there based on having to get the bids back before we know what the actual dollar number is."

Fimognari brought attention to the budget for the Police Department, noting that there were contract negotiations underway when the

committee last met with the department, and expressing a concern with the pay raise to the Police Chief.

"When he presented his pay at \$149,000 for the year, and now it goes to \$168,000, that's a \$20,000 difference," Fimognari said. "Looking at the Police Chief from last year who was retiring, so he was here for 20 years, leaving at top pay, I just question how a new chief coming in is higher than that."

Wolowicz explained that the previous chief had compensation items that were not in his police salary line. "It was my decision, with the new chief, that we would change the budget so the compensation is reflective of what he's really receiving,"

Wolowicz said.

The change to the chief's salary reflects the education incentive and holiday pay that were already offered to the chief, but are now listed under the position's budgeted salary. "It's sitting in the line to be transparent to what the chief is making," Wolowicz said.

Because of the increase in insurance prices, Fimognari mentioned that the school will be more affected by cuts than the town will. It was argued that 73% of the town's health insurance participants are in the school, but it's all paid through the town.

In order to meet the requested increase to the school budget, the committee discussed cutting costs on the

town side and passing a Debt Exclusion, which would then be voted on at Town Meeting.

"It sounds like we're going to need a combination of the debt exclusion and a couple of cuts," Select Board Chair Peter Warren said. "I think that's the path to go down, at least as one of the options."

At the end of the meeting, a vote was held on a consensus to support level funding on the town side, with a 1.9% increase to the school budget, plus the estimated 10% increase for the school's transportation. The vote passed unanimously.

Wolowicz said that a draft of the warrant will be presented to the next Tri-Board Committee meeting.

MEETING | from page 1

talked about pursuing a new (English Language Arts) curriculum. This would help us defray some of the cost of the purchase but, more importantly, pay for more professional development coaching to help our teachers with the implementation of that curriculum."

Foster also praised the school's communication on social media, announcing that the school has made 240 posts over the school year, amassing 730 followers. "They're doing a really good job of getting the story out about our schools, and I want to shout that out," Foster said. "There was a post about Career Day at the high school that was viewed 7,000 times, so we're definitely getting some attention on the good things happening at Monson schools."

Yellowstone Trip

The committee discussed an upcoming trip to Yellowstone in 2027. The students will fly out of Bradley International Airport to fly to Bozeman, where the students will stay at the Overlook Campus. The trip is being offered to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

"Yesterday, I had 15 kids coming up to me asking 'is the rumor true?'" shared Science Teacher Michelle, who's arranging the trip. "I don't think I'm going to have any problems getting (the minimum of) 24 kids to go, and I'm not going to have any problems finding four chaperones, either."

Michelle explained that in her ninth-grade science class, there was a discussion about the "caring capacity" of Yellowstone, and how wolves in the area were hunted.

"Then in 1995, they

re-entered 14 wolves, and it changed the entire park," Michelle said. "The kids started talking about how it would be neat to see Yellowstone."

Vice Chair Karen Nothe-Valley described it as an "excellent idea," and the committee noted that the only domestic trip the district regularly offers to students is to Disney or Washington, D.C. Michelle suggested taking students to a different national park every year.

"The country is so gorgeous," Michelle said, "and these kids have never seen it."

There was some discussion as to the price of the tickets, which is still uncertain. The committee went back and forth on what would happen to any leftover funds if the trip came in under budget, and Michelle said that, depending on the amount, it would either be

reimbursed to the families, could be used as a slush fund for emergencies, or could go toward a trip next year.

"I feel like if parents are paying money, the money should go to the students who the parents are paying for," said Committee Chair Alison Morgan.

Nothe-Valley agreed with Morgan, but added that it's understandable to overestimate the price of the tickets, as this is the first trip of its kind that the district is making.

"This is next May, so your final vote is probably next March or April," said Foster. "That's actually why we do two votes, I think, is so that once things are actually booked, you can see what it looks like."

The committee voted unanimously to approve the trip to Yellowstone, pending a final vote before May of 2027.

Public notices

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PASSAGE

On April 13, 2026, the Palmer Town Council passed Ordinance 2026-03, adding Article IV, Chapter 40U – Adoption of Fines to the Code of Ordinances. This ordinance authorizes the noncriminal disposition of sanitary-code-related violations under M.G.L. c. 40U, §§ 1-18, establishes procedures for issuing violation notices, sets a first fine of \$300, and provides that unpaid fines may become an additional assessment on the

property tax bill and a lien on the real estate pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 42B. By accepting Chapter 40U of the General Laws, this chapter shall supersede any local ordinances or bylaws to the contrary including but not limited to §§ 90-1 to 90-7 and §§ 90-16 to 90-22 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Palmer.

A complete text of this Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Manager and Town Clerk, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Town Council of Palmer, MA 04/16/2026

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South Hadley Fire District No. 2 seeks a qualified professional to fill the part-time (19-24 hour) position of Clerk/Treasurer. The Clerk/Treasurer maintains oversight of the District's financial health, under the policy direction of the Prudential Committee. The Clerk/Treasurer is responsible for receipt and disbursement of district funds, payroll processes, employee benefits, debt management, cash flow, the annual district election, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations and reporting requirements.

Municipal financial experience with a working knowledge of municipal procedures and state and federal laws is highly advantageous. Minimum qualifications include: three years of progressive experience in financial management, administration of payroll, employee benefits and other human resource functions, and the demonstrated ability to utilize multiple financial software platforms. The successful candidate must be bondable, and must attain Certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer (CMMT) status within four years.

Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, accounting or public administration, previous municipal experience and SoftRight software experience. CMMT, MMAAA or MCPPO designation additionally advantageous. A combination of experience and education will be considered.

The successful candidate will work under a three-year, renewable memorandum of agreement. The hiring range is \$35.00 to \$39.00 hourly. The top step exceeds the hiring range. Visit the District website shdistrict2.org for the full job description. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Send cover letter and resume to: Barbara Miller, Clerk/Treasurer, South Hadley Fire District No. 2, 20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 Electronic submissions in PDF format BMiller@shdistrict2.org South Hadley Fire District No. 2 is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender

CLERK / TREASURER SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

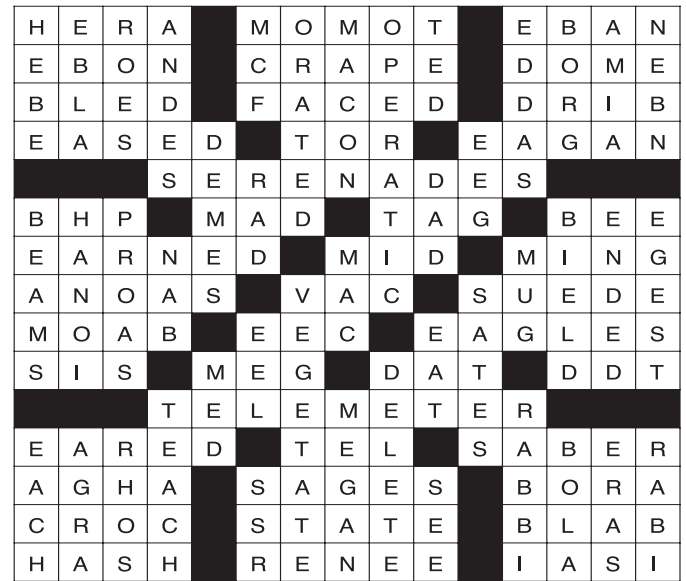
South Hadley Fire District No. 2 seeks a qualified professional to fill the fulltime (40 hour) position of Clerk/Treasurer. The Clerk/Treasurer serves as the District's Financial Manager. The Clerk/Treasurer is responsible for district funds, accounts payable, payroll, employee benefits, debt management, cash flow, the annual district election, annual district meeting, budget preparation, publishing the Annual Report of Officers and ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations and reporting requirements.

Municipal financial experience with a working knowledge of municipal procedures and state and federal laws is highly advantageous. Minimum qualifications include: three years of progressive accounting and financial management experience, experience managing a budget of 2.5 million; payroll processes, auditing and the demonstrated ability to utilize multiple financial software platforms. The successful candidate must be bondable, and must attain CMMT designation within four years.

Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, accounting or public administration, previous municipal experience and SoftRight software experience. CMMT, MMAAA or MCPPO designation additionally advantageous. A combination of experience and education will be considered.

This fully benefited position works under a three-year, renewable memorandum of agreement. Hiring salary range is \$75,000 to \$82,000. The top salary step exceeds the hiring range. Visit the District website shdistrict2.org for the full job description. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Send cover letter and resume to: Barbara Miller, Clerk/Treasurer, South Hadley Fire District No. 2, 20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 Electronic submissions in PDF format: BMiller@shdistrict2.org South Hadley Fire District No. 2 is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.



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- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

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Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com



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- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
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 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069
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Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Public notices

Notice of Public Bonded Warehouse Atlas Armament Mark J Caci 4 Springfield Street Bldg 3, Suite 210 Three Rivers, MA 01080 04/09, 04/16/2026

TOWN OF PALMER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Palmer is seeking respondents to an RFP for the sale of property at 24 Converse Street, Palmer, MA. The parcel is approx. 2.66 acres and includes a school building of approx. 84,749 sq ft. The Town Council has declared the building available through surplus with a deed restriction of 55+ housing. The RFP requires a minimum bid of \$1.5M and is now available by emailing: brothers@townofpalmer.com or for pickup in the Town Managers office. The Town Manager shall select the most advantageous Proposal from a responsive and responsible proposer, taking into consideration the price and all other evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. **Bids are due on May 15th, 2026 at 12:00PM and will be opened immediately after.**
04/09, 04/16/2026

INVITATION FOR BID FOR

**Food Service Line for Cafeteria
#2026-Cold Spring
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District
Kitchen Equipment for Cold Spring School
240 Sykes Street
Palmer, Massachusetts 01069**

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee will receive sealed BIDS for the purchase of a new **Kitchen Equipment for Cold Spring School**.

Bids will be due, publicly opened and read on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM** in the Business Office of Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical High School.

Bids must be addressed to Gregory Falcone, District Business Manager, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District, 240 Sykes Street, Palmer, MA 01069 securely sealed, showing the name and address of the bidder. Sealed bids should be marked on the outside lower, left-hand corner of the Bidder's envelope "**Kitchen Equipment for Cold Spring School**". Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted under any conditions.

The Project will include the equipment purchase, delivery, and set-up for the new **Kitchen Equipment for Cold Spring School**. The estimated total estimated cost of all equipment purchased, delivery and set-up is **\$310,000.00**

Bid Documents may be requested electronically at csbid@pathfindertech.org on **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM thru Monday, April 27, 2026 9:00 AM**. All electronic bid requests must include the company name, address, telephone number, main contact and main contact email. Bidders that request a physical hardcopy bid package by mail shall include a fifteen (\$15.00) dollar check (per each set requested) payable to the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District, to cover mailing costs. This cost is non-refundable.

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical High School District Committee reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, and to take whatever action it believes to be in the best interest of the School District.
04/16/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **NANCY A. BOLDUC and PAUL R. BASTIEN to SOUTHBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK**, dated September 26, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 17493, Page 115 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgagee is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of the Mortgage and for the purpose of

foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at the mortgaged premises located on or near 4112-4116 High Street, Palmer, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), all and singular the premises described in the Mortgage, to wit:

"Certain real estate situated in Thorndike (Palmer), Hampden County, Massachusetts on the northeasterly side of High Street, being known and designated as Parcel B on a plan entitled

"Plan of Land in Thorndike, Palmer, Mass Surveyed for Grayson G. McIntyre, March 4, 1993, Sherman and Woods, Surveyors" which plan is recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book of Plans 284, Page 50 more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the northeasterly side of said High Street, 1925 Layout, at the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Paul A. Regan et ux.; and running thence

N. 39° 40' W. twenty one and 05/100 (21.05) feet along said High Street to a highway stone bound; thence turning and running

N. 36° 28' W. forty one and 79/100 (41.79) feet along said High Street to an iron pin at land formerly of Minnie B. Marcinek, now or formerly of Grayson G. McIntyre; thence turning and running

N. 54° 11' E. seventy one and 71/100 (71.71) feet along said last named land to an iron pin at land formerly of the Estate of Peter Drogen, now or formerly of said McIntyre; thence turning and running

S. 31° 29' E. forty and 75/100 (40.75) feet along said last named land passing through a drill hole in a concrete step to a point; thence turning and running

N. 59° 42' E. eighteen and 83/100 (18.83) feet along last named land to a point; thence turning and running

S. 24° 01' E. twenty and 70/100 (20.70) feet along last named land to a point at land now or formerly of said Regan; thence turning and running

S. 54° 09' W. eighty one and 31/100 (81.31) feet along land of said Regan to the iron pin at the point of beginning, containing 4,690 square feet of land, all as shown on said plan.

Together with easement rights across Parcel A as shown on said plan.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of Nancy A. Bolduc dated September 26, 2008 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds herewith."

The description of the Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The Premises, together with all improvements encumbered by the Mortgage, are to be sold and conveyed subject to all leases, tenancies, occupancies, mortgages, restrictions, covenants, orders of conditions, easements, encroachments, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, federal and state tax liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances recorded prior to the Mortgage and/or otherwise having priority over the Mortgage, if there be any.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable deposit of TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS is to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, the balance to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check and deed to be taken by purchaser within thirty (30) days of the sale at the offices of Seder & Chandler, LLP, 339 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, attorneys for the Mortgagee.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the adjourned sale.

In the event of the failure or inability of the purchaser to perform and to purchase the Premises in accordance herewith, the Mortgagee reserves the right (but is not obligated) to accept, subject to the Memorandum of Sale, the second highest bid for the

Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Other terms to be announced at the time and place of sale.

CORNERSTONE BANK, successor by merger to **SOUTHBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK** Present holder of said Mortgage

Jennifer L. Conrad, Esq.
SEDER & CHANDLER, LLP
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 757-7721
Attorneys for the Mortgagee

THE ZEKOS GROUP
P.O. Box 549
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508)842-9000
Auctioneer, License No. 104
04/09, 04/16, 04/23/2026

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, ss.
SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT
OF THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.
2579CV00352**

**JOSHUA DELAND
Plaintiff
v.
LAURIE A. GELINAS,
MARY L. PETROLATI,
LOUISE R. MAUTER,
JOHN FRATINI, and the heirs
or legal representatives of
ELIZABETH M. GELINAS,
PHILIP R. GELINAS a/k/a
Phillip R. Gelinas and ANGELO FRATINI, who may claim
an interest in certain land
in Wales, Hampden County,
Massachusetts by purchase,
descent or otherwise
Defendants**

ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Elizabeth M. Gelinas; the heirs or legal representatives of Phillip R. Gelinas; and the heirs or legal representatives of Angelo Fratini who may claim an interest in the Premises at Lot 7R Reed Hill Road, a/k/a 4 Reed Hill Road, Wales, Hampden County, Massachusetts (the "Premises") by purchase, descent or otherwise

JOSHUA DELAND claiming to have an interest in the Premises by virtue of that certain Quitclaim Deed made by Guy C. Lucia, Jr., and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23456, page 255 has filed with this Court a First Amended Complaint to Quiet Title pursuant to M.G.L. c. 240, §86 to 10 and for Adverse Possession.

If you object to the Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with the **Hampden County Superior Court, 50 State St., P.O. Box 559, Springfield, MA** on or before **May 15, 2026** (the "Return Date"), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiff's claims.

Witness: Townsend, J.
Attest: **Laura S. Gentile**,
Clerk, Hampden County
Superior Court
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD03PI56948TPI
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S
ACCOUNT**

To all persons interested in the estate of Kevin Doyle of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the **Thirtieth** Account(s) inclusive of TD Bank and Thomas Doyle, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said Thomas Doyle have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney

must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the **21st day of May, 2026**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without a cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 9th day of April, 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/16/2026

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 000278
ORDER OF NOTICE**

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

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer (Bondsville), numbered 3126 Main Street, Unit No. 14 of the Riverbend at Bondsville, given by **Dawn F. Evans to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.**, a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for "Lender", **Academy Mortgage Corporation and its successors and assigns**, dated April 12, 2019, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22622, Page 450, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **5/11/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **Gordon H. Piper**, Chief Justice of this Court on 3/25/2026

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
04/16/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0752EA
Estate of:
Vincent E Gray, Jr.
Also known as:
Vincent Earle Gray, Jr.
Date of Death: 12/29/2025
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 **Kenneth N Gray of Brookfield, 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 **Kenneth N Gray of Brookfield, 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 writ-

ten appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/13/2026. 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 08, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/16/2026

**Legal Advertisement
TOWN OF HOLLAND
Guardrail Replacement
Project**

The Town of Holland invites sealed Bids for the Guardrail Replacement Project. The project includes the removal and replacement of existing guardrails and posts on portions of the 5 major town roads. **Sturbridge Road**, approximately 2,690 linear feet. **Mashapaug Road**, approximately 3,530 linear feet. **Stafford Road**, approximately 1,850 linear feet. **Brimfield Road**, approximately 80 linear feet and **East Brimfield Road**, approximately 3,820 linear feet. The total distance needed is approximately 11,970 linear feet. The work shall consist of furnishing and installation of Highway Guard Steel Beam Type SS single faced as well as removal and disposal of current guardrails and posts. The project includes furnishing all labor, equipment and materials required to perform the Guardrail Replacement Project. All work shall conform to: MassDOT Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges (latest edition) Section M8.07.0; Sections 601.60-601.82.

This project is being administered by the Town of Holland and is funded through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) One Stop Program, Rural Development Fund.

Bids will be received at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA until 2:00pm Thursday, May 7, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened.

Contract Documents, including plans and specifications will be available electronically beginning April 15, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104, phone: 413-781-6045. Electronic copies may be obtained by contacting Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount, considering all alternates, and made payable to the Town of Holland.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §826 to 27H, inclusive. All bidders supplying services under this request for bids must be MassDOT. Highway Division certified. MassDOT requalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway - Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$400,000 will be required.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Holland Guardrail Replacement Project.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the Rural Development Fund Program. The Town of Holland the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

Questions regarding the bid specifications or procedures should be directed to Sarah Maroney, smaroney@pvpc.org no later than May 1, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Bids must be received at the office of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission no later than 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Bids will be opened and read at that time.
04/16, 04/23/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: FORD VIN:1FAH-P37N57W127003 Luisa Bonilla Alvarado 203 Essex ST Apt 1 Marlborough, MA; FORD VIN:3FA6P0H79FR301257 Carmen Pastranasolo 147 Hampden ST Chicopee, MA; SUBARU VIN:JF1GHA65AH809001 Megan Szwarcokop 13 Dale ST Apt. 2 Ware, MA; TOYOTA VIN:JTDKKB20U693514335 Mayco Silva 25 Ames ST Apt. 1 Worcester, MA; CHEVY VIN:2GCEK13T251352438 Ryan Martinek 16 Elm ST Monson, MA; FORD VIN:1FTPX-12V67FA51924 Dustin Veroneci 85 North View DR Rockport, TX. This auction is to take place on May 1, 2026 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 001129
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
Jaime M Miner and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 *et seq.*:

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered **1 Meadowbrook Lane**, given by Jaime M. Miner to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for PHH Home Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated June 30, 2017, and recorded or filed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21748, Page 140, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **5/18/2026** 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 4/6/2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
04/16/2026





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LIQUOR TOWN BEER WINE & SPIRITS

BEERS

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- Heineken 24 pk \$28.99
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- Miller & Miller Light 30 pk \$25.99
- Busch & Busch Light 30 pk \$19.99
- Natural Ice & Lite 30 pk \$19.99

VODKA

1.75 ltr

- Grey Goose \$44.99
- V-One \$39.99
- Absolut \$29.99
- Tito's \$28.99
- Smirnoff \$19.99
- Skyy \$19.99
- New Amsterdam \$19.99
- Pinnacle \$14.99
- Platinum \$11.99
- Taaka \$7.99

CREAM LIQUOR

1.75 ltr

- Baileys \$44.99
- Kahlua \$39.99
- Malibu Rum \$29.99

GIN

1.75 ltr

- Bombay Sapphire \$36.99
- Tanqueray \$34.99
- Gordon's Gin \$22.99
- Fleischmann's Gin \$12.99

TEQUILA

1.75 ltr

- Patron Silver \$79.99
- Espolon Blanco \$49.99

RUM

1.75 ltr

- Hennessy \$79.99
- Captain Morgan \$26.99
- Bacardi \$19.99

WHISKEY

1.75 ltr

- Knob Creek \$54.99
- Elijah Craig \$54.99
- J.W. Blacklable \$54.99
- Basil Hayden \$49.99
- Makers Mark \$44.99
- Bulleit \$44.99
- Crown Royal \$44.99
- Larceny \$44.99
- Jack Daniels \$39.99
- Dewars \$29.99
- Jim Beam \$27.99
- Evan Williams \$27.99
- Canadian Club \$19.99

BOX WINE

- Franzia \$18.99
- Bota \$18.99
- Black \$18.99

READY-TO-DRINK (RTD) ALCOHOL

- Sun Cruzzers 18 pk \$29.99
- Surfside 18 pk \$29.99
- White Claw 24 pk \$29.99
- Cutwater All Flavors 4 pk \$12.99



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LIQUOR TOWN

BEER, WINE & SPIRITS

1010 Park Street, Palmer

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 9:30 P.M.
SUNDAY 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.



ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

