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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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MONSON

ZBA approves apartment variance

By Harrison Giza
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MONSON – The Zoning Board of Appeals approved the creation of an in-law apartment at their March 28 meeting.

Resident Antonio Diaz asked the board to grant a variance allowing him to construct an accessory apartment in the garage of his property.

ZBA member Teresa Sobanska-Hynkiw presented the application to the board.

“The applicant seeks a special permit to construct an accessory apartment in the existing garage located at 127 Stafford Rd map 101 and parcel 006 A,” Sobanska-Hynkiw said. “There are no proposed changes to the exterior or the footprint of the existing structure. The property is zoned rural residential.”

Diaz was then invited to speak in front of the board regarding his pending case.

“I am just looking for an accessory apartment for my father in-law,” Diaz said. “He has Alzheimer’s and dementia, so all the bedrooms in the main part of the house are on the top floor, so it is a fall hazard for him for the stairs and he is having a difficult getting into the shower. So we are going to put in a rolling shower for him long term. Pretty much that is it.”

The board did not ask any questions of Diaz.

“So this is basically what we usually call an in-law apartment,” ZBA member Ron Fussell said.

David Sanborn advocated for Diaz’s request.

“I am glad to hear that it is a relative,” Sanborn said. “Because the bylaw assumes that it really is going to be a relative and if it were n’o a relative, it would be a multi-family situation. Like if you were trying to rent it to a third party unrelated. It would be a multi-family and then you would have to have 10 acres, so, it is really nice that you are taking care of your father in-law.”

Diaz said the apartment was necessary to assist with his father-in-law’s care.

“Somebody got to do it, right?”

ZBA | page 3

EDUCATION

School Committee sets goals for District Improvement Plan

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – The School Committee met on Wednesday, April 10, to receive student reports and updates to the Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Matthew Francis made a presentation on entry findings to outline a path for the Strategic Plan.

“Over the summer we’re going to start working on our district core values,” Francis said. “The plan is to come up with a list of roughly 10 that then we would send out to key stakeholders – teachers, paraprofessionals, all the faculty and staff,



Turley photo Harrison Giza

school committee, and then the community as a whole – our goal in the fall is to identify five that we can call out District Core Values.”

Francis said that once the District Core Values have been identified, the district would come up with a vision and a District Mission, which would lead into creating an instructional strategy. This would all lead to creating a comprehensive district strategic plan to be approved by the School Committee in, at Francis’s estimation, three to four years.

“I think it’s important that we pause, before we even start to work on the instructional strategy,” Francis said. “I think it’s crucial for us

as a district to define our core values – and we’re looking at five to six core values – create the District Mission and Vision, and that will then drive our instructional strategy.”

The committee members were supportive of this outline. Committee member Erica Nadeau agreed with the instructional strategy as an opportunity to take stock, asking about how the strategy might change with updates to the District Improvement Plan.

“I think this is excellent because as a first-year School Committee member, I didn’t know what

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Solar eclipse of the Heart



Submitted photo

Old Mill Pond students came together to form a giant heart for their Total Eclipse of the Heart.

Old Mill Pond Students Commemorate Solar Eclipse By Making One Giant Heart

By Harrison Giza
 Staff Writer
 hgiza@turley.com

PALMER - Old Mill Pond School is a place for students to learn, grow and make memories with classmates. It should be no

surprise to anyone that the school put their entire heart and soul into their Solar Eclipse event.

Old Mill Pond Principal Holly-Beth Riopel was ecstatic to share the news.

“We had an amazing activity in which we lined all our stu-

dents and staff up in the shape of a heart,” Riopel said. “This was our Total Eclipse of the Heart for the Solar Eclipse day.”

There are four types of solar eclipses: Total, partial, hybrid, and annular. The type of eclipse

OMP ECLIPSE | page 4

MONSON

Board rescinds vote to fund basketball trip

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At the April 9 Select Board meeting, the Board rescinded its vote to pay transportation fees for an imminent basketball trip.

Erin Grasseti appeared before the Select Board to talk about Jeffrey Lord’s request for \$1400 at a previous Select Board meeting, for a bus ride for between five and seven students.

“I just want to go back to June 13, 2023 when, under community business, Ed Myers stood in for Lord, and it was 10 students at that time for \$1500,” Grasseti said. “One parent paid the bill, and Mr. Lord would like to have been reimbursed.”

Grasseti quoted Select Board members John Morrell and Pat Oney as saying that this could not be funded all the time, and to make sure that this did not happen again in the future.

“Once again, it happened,” Grasseti said. “As a parent of four children and a stay-at-home mom, summer comes, vacations come; I set aside money for my kids to participate in any kind of camp or any extracurricular activity that they would like to be involved in, because I feel that’s my responsibility. I don’t feel it’s the taxpayers’ responsibility.”

Jeffrey Lord approached the Board to say there was some misinformation relating to the trip.

“As a correction, a parent is paying for the entire cost of the session at a place called the court in Enfield and it’s \$200 per student,” Lord said, and later clarified that he was the parent in question, adding, “I don’t have enough money to also pay for the bus.”

“What we’ve asked for the town to help us with is for transportation of seven families that otherwise would have to all take off from work because parents don’t get off when school has a break,” Lord said.

Lord noted that the town had agreed to pay for the bus transportation, but not the camp. He noted that to do so would have set the precedent, and that the Select Board had made it clear it did not intend for this precedent to be ongoing.

“I heard very clearly that the Board did not want to set another precedent for the future,” Lord said. “But based on the vote, which was done in good faith that no inaccu-

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MONSON

Town Council addresses ARPA funds

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – At last week’s Town Council meeting, the council discussed the allocation of ARPA funds and how the money might be distributed towards town departments.

Palmer Street Sinkhole

The council acknowledged the work done to fix the sinkhole on Palmer Street. Town Manager Brad Brothers said that 600 feet of road was paved over and is now usable.

“I just want to thank everyone who was involved in that project,” Brothers said. “To turn that project around as fast as they did is really unbelievable. I know a lot of favors

were called in from our contractors, and there were a lot of 24-hour shifts, I think for three days in a row and then we got to Easter.

“Everyone stepped up, and it just shows community values and what Palmer’s all about,” Brothers said.

The sinkhole originally happened on March 28, caused by a collapsed 15-inch stormwater drain about 40 feet uphill from the sinkhole’s location.

“Everything has been cleaned up,” Brothers said. “The trains were actually rolling on April 2, so within five days we had trains rolling through there again.”

The downside, Brothers said, would be that there will probably be some big bills associated with the repairs. He advised that the town hold off on appropriating any ARPA funds until the bills have come in.

“I met with Representative Todd Smola on Friday, he did not

feel like we were going to have any state funding available to us,” Brothers warned.

Brothers was hesitant to speculate about a dollar amount, but said that ARPA might be the best place to allocate funds to pay for these repairs.

Comments on ARPA funds

During Public Comments, resident Steven Kosmider approached the council to ask about the plans for the ARPA funds. Kosmider advocated that portions of the funds be allocated to the villages.

“Spread it around, is what I’m saying,” Kosmider said. “The villages are not getting their share of the tax dollar, not even close.”

Kosmider asked about the plans for a pickleball court, which the council said was part of an ongoing discussion. However, Councilor Karl Williams explained why space for recreational activities is a

COUNCIL | page 6

COMMUNITY

Purple Heart program gets ready to celebrate decorated veterans

By Harrison Giza
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PALMER - The Palmer Business Partnership, Light Up Palmer, is getting ready to roll out their Purple Heart Program.

Director of Veterans Services Tina Brohman loves being able to help Palmer’s veterans community as well as aid The Palmer Business Partnership any way she can.

“I just started the job in January of 2023,” Brohman said. “It is important for Palmer and its residence. So many of them have said to me that ‘it is important to remember’ and that ‘so many people forget’ and that can break your heart.”

Brohman cares deeply about Palmer’s cause for boosting veteran morale.

“The sacrifice to even go,” Brohman said. “And then there is the sacrifice where you’ve given your body and even pieces of your body to, you know, the service and for your country. But also of course the ultimate sacrifice is giving your life. These groups of individuals who earn the Purple Heart have made a huge sacrifice for their country. Being injured in the line of duty and, you know, sometimes you just hear some crazy stories about how things happen. It could be saving others or it could be while doing something completely different.”

LIGHT UP | page 6





SADIE MAE & FUZZY

Sadie Mae says, "Nothing can stop me from moving on!" And this is her brother, Fuzzy, feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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Drum circle in April at First Church

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

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

Refreshments will be served after the Drum Circle.

Monson Democrats to award scholarship

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

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

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

Town wide clean up in Monson April 27

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

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

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

Members of the Monson Board of Health are coordinating this event. Please register at the following link <https://forms.gle/Wy5KwbUc83KhZfAC9>, or on the Monson Board of Health website www.monson-ma.gov/312/Board-of-Health. Questions can be directed to Joan Simmons at jsimmons@springfieldcollege.edu or (413) 366-1147.

For anyone needing community service hours, this is a great way to fulfill that requirement. A letter showing proof of participation will be provided. This event is also a wonderful activity for teams and clubs to do together. The organizers will be sure to assign the clubs/teams with young children to low traffic areas, such as schools and parks.

\$500 scholarships available

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

Fashion show held on April 25

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

Town of Monson Elections on June 11

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

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

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

Palmer Town election on June 11

PALMER—Palmer Annual Town Election Tuesday, June 11. Term to start on July 1. Nomination papers available at the Clerk's office for the available seats:

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

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

Celebrate Earth Day in April

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

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

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

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

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

Family & Beginner Bird Walk

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

Geared toward those curious about birding, this introductory walk will focus on common local birds, identification tips, and appreciating the joy of birding. Participants must be able to walk 1.5 - 2 miles on even footing with one, moderately steep hill. Please bring water, bug repellent, and comfortable footwear. Spare binoculars will be available for those who need them.

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

Annual Plant sale in May

HARDWICK— The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 18th annual plant and bake sale, on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and June 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishoven Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick, and private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or 413-477-6942.

Brimfield Photographer featured at show



Submitted Photo

Brimfield photographer, Bill Platenik, will have a selection of his works displayed at the the US Fish and Wildlife Service art gallery.

HADLEY— Brimfield photographer, Bill Platenik, will have a selection of his works displayed at them the US Fish and Wildlife Service art gallery, 300 Westgate Center Drive, from Monday, May 6 through Friday, June 28. His images will be part of an exhibit titled, "Big Shots," a visual display which invites the public to view big moments from nature captured on camera.

Platenik takes many of his photos while quietly observing nature in local woodlands, ponds, and even his own backyard. He is a photographer and naturalist who likes to spend time out and about in the natural world. There, he says, he can slow down, be curious and open minded, and be ready to observe and photograph all that unfolds before him. Platenik photography focuses on birds, animals, insects, flowers, and landscapes, and his goal is to use pho-

tography to show nature in interesting and dynamic ways.

Big Shots additionally features the works of Western MA photographers Tim Souza of Granby and James Wang of Southwick. Souza is an avid birder and wildlife photographer who dedicates time monitoring Peregrine Falcon nesting sites for MA Fish & Wildlife. Wang is a practicing physician whose love of nature and photography challenges him to capture images of birds and animals as a blend of scientific documentation and artistic style.

The Big Shots photo display will be open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please be prepared to show photo ID upon entry. The US Fish and Wildlife Service building is closed on all federal holidays.

Wilb. Friends of the Library to hold Spring Plant Sale

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a plant sale featuring two varieties of annuals. The sale will be pre-order only through May 15 with plant pick up on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham.

We had so much fun at the plant sale last fall we are doing it again this spring!

We are offering annuals - Begonias (pink or white) and Petunias (blue). These are large plants in five-inch pots that are ready to plant and show off. Plants are \$5 each and available by pre-order only. Deadline for orders is May 15 and orders will be available for

pick up Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the library.

Pick up an order form at the library or download from online. You can also request an order form by emailing friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org. Return your order with payment to the library during regular business hours.

The sale is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings and other library equipment.

For more information, contact the WFOL at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.



Submitted photo

Dr. Fred and Mary Kay Kadushin, Monson residents who founded Feed the Kids.

Monson residents honored for work to end childhood hunger

Dr. Fred and Mary Kay Kadushin founded the nonprofit Feed the Kids in 2018, raising more than \$350,000

SPRINGFIELD — Husband-and-wife duo Dr. Fred and Mary Kay Kadushin were honored for their community work to help end childhood hunger in the region. The co-founders of Feed the Kids were recognized as part of the Difference Makers Class of 2024, a program of BusinessWest, on Wednesday, April 10, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Mary Kay Kadushin was also a finalist in the 22 News WWLP Remarkable Women of Western Massachusetts on April 2.

After hearing alarming statistics about the number of children in the U.S. who go to bed hungry every night, Dr. Kadushin, a neuropsychologist, and Mary Kay, a retired creative director/graphic artist, knew they wanted to do something tangible to help. They founded Feed the Kids in 2018, with a golf tournament as its primary fundraising vehicle. Since then, they have added an online auction in the weeks leading up to the tournament and have raised more than \$350,000 to fight childhood food insecurity in western Massachusetts.

"Creating this non-profit together has had an incredible impact on our lives," said Dr. Kadushin. "Mary Kay and I have met so many people who have eagerly volunteered to lend their support, as well as business leaders who provide

the much-needed financial backing we need to make a difference. It's a labor of love that changed our world view and strengthened our relationship with each other and our community."

Proceeds from the events benefit local organizations that work to ensure children do not go hungry, including Square One, the Holyoke School Backpack Program and Pioneer Valley Powerpacks.

Square One in Springfield provides breakfast, lunch and snacks to more than 500 preschoolers a day. The Holyoke School Backpack Program in Holyoke and Pioneer Valley Powerpacks in Easthampton and Northampton distribute backpacks of nutritious and easy-to-prepare meals to children at the end of each week to enjoy over the weekend.

The 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15 at the Springfield Country Club, 1375 Elm Street, West Springfield. To learn more about Feed the Kids, donate or become a sponsor, visit feedthekidsgolf.com.

About Feed the Kids

Feed the Kids is a local nonprofit group consisting of volunteers throughout the Pioneer Valley who are committed to ensuring that children in the region don't go hungry. Through its annual charity golf tournament and online auction, the group raises funds to support the local efforts of other organizations, such as Square One, Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Power Packs and No Kid Hungry. Learn more at feedthekidsgolf.com.

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.



ZBA | from page 1

Diaz said. "He has been living there for about 5 years. He wasn't a public housing but they said he couldn't live anymore by himself so, we took him in and he is with us until the end."

The board closed the hearing on Diaz's proposal and approved the request later in the meeting.



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I claim Social Security and still work?

Dear Rusty

I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work?

Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30% or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too.

Signed: Wanting Work at Home

Dear Wanting

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your Full Retirement Age of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe.

If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year.

They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld.

If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away at your FRA.

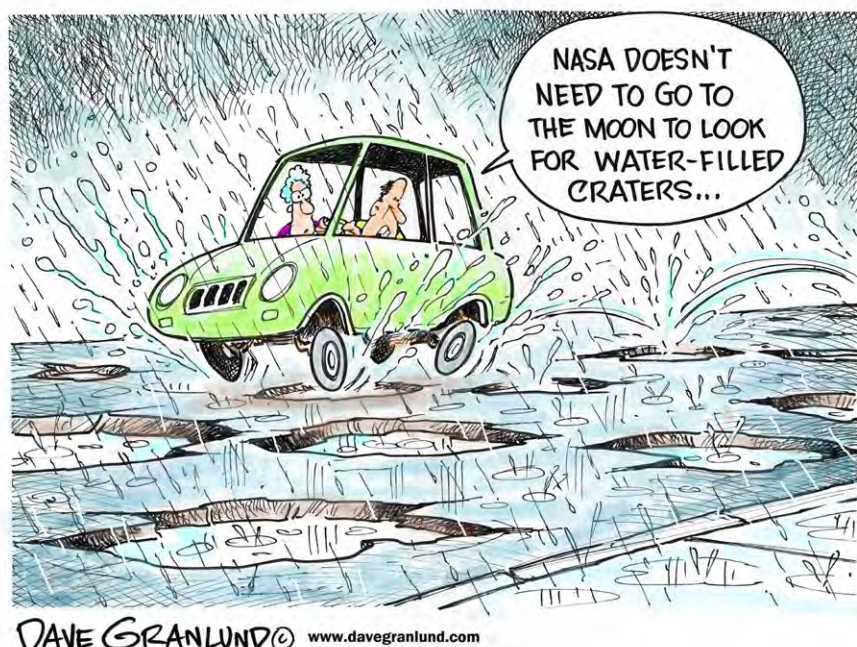
So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

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.

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Journal Register



Blueberry propagation experiment

A reader from Hardwick wrote in asking how to propagate blueberry bushes.

I've never tried to propagate blueberry bushes myself, but have always thought that it would make good sense, especially if you have a limited pocketbook and a few productive plants on hand already, or at least you know someone that does.

Obviously, you would not want to replicate a plant that doesn't produce well or one that turns out berries that aren't to your liking.

In researching this skill, I found there to be two schools of thought on the matter: propagation by either softwood cuttings or hardwood cuttings.

Softwood cuttings are taken when the bush is in active growth, usually late June through early July, roughly about two months after spring growth began. The growth is new, not woody, but should not be super pliable or light green in appearance either, nor should it contain any flowers or immature fruit.

A stem should be cut about 5-8 inches long and the leaves should be pinched off of the last couple of inches. Fill a 4 inch or slightly bigger pot with a material that will drain freely but not be too fertile.

You are mainly looking for anchoring material; good options being equal parts sand and peat moss or sand and perlite. I've even heard of people using bark mulch.

Some experts employ a rooting hormone; others say the cutting will root regardless. I will use it because I have some on hand.

You will notice that there are different types of rooting hormone. Usually, it will say whether it is the type for softwood or hardwood cutting right on the container.

I'll dip the bottom of the stem into the hormone. Using a pencil, I'll make a hole in the material I've chosen to root the cuttings in and insert the cutting into the hole so at least those two or three nodes from where the leaves were, are covered.

I set the pots in the shade, and I mist them a few times daily so that they will not wilt and die before they form roots. Experts say that this method will yield

roots in 2-7 weeks.

Some challenges include keeping the media wet enough to prevent wilting, but not so wet that you end up with fungal problems.

Hardwood cuttings, in contrast, are taken during the dormant season, usually around the time that you are pruning. One expert actually recommended using stems from branches that are pruned away.

The stems should be green or red in color and diameter-wise just smaller than that of a pencil. Much narrower stems seem to produce good results as well. It's important to cut off the tips of branches

that contain any buds that look like flower buds - they are a little rounder in appearance.

The same pot size and anchoring material is recommended but you would use a rooting hormone geared towards hardwood cuttings; it is a bit stronger. Hardwood cuttings are handled the same way - placed in the shade and misted, but because they have to "wake up" then callus and root, they take a few weeks longer to show results in at least two months, maybe 3-4.

No matter which way you take your cuttings, it's important not to tug on them or disturb them in any way in their pot, even though you may be anxious to see how successful you've been. You will know they are rooted by the quality of new growth you'd see; maybe even a new branch coming from the base.

Once sufficiently rooted the cuttings can be transplanted into a more fertile media and a larger pot or into a nursery area in your garden. I'm excited to try taking cuttings of my blueberry bushes. I may even take some from my mom's plants.

What a nice memory it would be to have the descendants of my childhood blueberry bushes growing on my own property.

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

OMP ECLIPSE | from page 1

that people get to see depends on how the Moon aligns with Earth and the Sun, and how far away the Moon is from Earth.

Solar eclipses occur due to the sun, moon and Earth aligning together. The moon passes between Earth and the sun, which temporarily starts blocking the sun's light and casting a shadow on Earth. However, a total solar eclipse is when the moon fully obscures the sun, whereas a partial solar eclipse means it blocks just a portion of the sun's face.

Riopel was thrilled to see so many of her students coming together to enjoy the Total Eclipse of the Heart event. The Kindness Week celebrations students adore to the recent thrill of making a giant hand-holding heart with your classmates.

"We are very proud," Riopel said. "We were talking about the eclipse coming and it being a really big thing. Our Assistant Principal, Penny Manteria, had said 'what are we doing? We need to do something big for this. We have so many learning opportunities.' Just joking around we started to sing the song Total Eclipse of the Heart... and the next thing you know we ordered 700 pairs of sunglasses so the kids could go home with eclipse glasses. Our other Assistant Principal, Kerry Lynch, and myself went up to the track and drew the heart outline together. Then the day of, we had every

single person in the school go up to the track and form the heart that you see in our picture."

"So we went up to the field around 1:30 p.m.," Riopel said. "The eclipse had not even started yet at that point so we were safe to go up. Then Beky Herring, who is one of our 2nd grade teachers, took her drone and flew it over all off us so that could get a picture to show to the Palmer community.

Riopel, who took time out of her vacation to speak about this event, already feels great about the way her Total Eclipse of the Heart brought students together.

"It was a great event," Riopel said. "You know it was funny at first - not seeming to be so crazy - but then you have everybody come up and hit the track and, you know, I chuckled because I thought wow this is really crazy. This is a lot of kids and a lot of people. It was such highlight and an excellent way to teach kids about the eclipse. It was fabulous, really."

Old Mill Pond School is a Pre K-5 school with a population of approximately 700 students. Located in southwestern Massachusetts, the school was opened in 1991 and serves the villages of Bondsville, Thomdike, Three Rivers, as well as the Town of Palmer.



Photo by Chelsea Rivera

The moon is at the exact perfect distance from the Earth to blot out the much larger sun entirely from view.

Seeing a Total Eclipse beats any partial viewing

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

REGION – Last weekend, I had the opportunity to travel to Canada to see the total solar eclipse, and to meet friends from all over the continent.

In the region we live in, only a partial eclipse was visible. I had previously seen a partial eclipse in 2017, when the Hubbard Memorial Library where I worked handed out specialized eclipse glasses, as they did this year, but I was told – and would soon discover for myself – that the experience of standing beneath a total eclipse is vastly different.

On Sunday, April 7, I set out for Sherbrooke, Quebec with my friends Sam Hoffman and Paul Schmelz, her husband. Schmelz, who is used to long drives thanks to tours with his band, Cheap City, drove the whole five hours on Route 91 through Vermont.

I've previously visited Canada several times, usually going to Toronto in Ontario, but unlike Ontario, I found that Quebec is a heavily French-speaking region. Despite having studied French as a child and practicing it daily as an adult – thanks, Duolingo – I am always surprised at how far from conversational my French is; fortunately, many Canadians also speak English.

Though the stated purpose of the trip was to see this once in a lifetime celestial event, the real draw was the opportunity to meet friends that I've known over the Internet for close to four years. Even when I could not socialize in-person during the COVID-19 lockdowns, I was able to regularly play games online with friends from as far as New Jersey, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and, of course, Western Massachusetts.

Whereas we were able to drive from Massachusetts, Corey Donaldson from New Jersey and Morgan Moats and their partner Marc from Regina, Saskatchewan flew to Toronto, where they met with Alana Watson and her husband Kyle to drive to Montreal.

On the afternoon of April 8, hours before the eclipse would happen, the two groups convened at a park in Magog, Quebec. We had just enough time to catch up with each other before the moon began to block out the sun.

This is the part when it's essential to wear your eclipse glasses. An article by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency explained how looking at the sun during an eclipse damages a person's eyes.

"Exposing your eyes to the sun without proper eye protection during a solar eclipse can cause retinal burns, or solar retinopathy," said the report. "The retina has no sensitivity to pain, and since the effects of retinal damage may not appear for hours, there is no warning that an injury to your eye has occurred. The damage can be temporary or permanent and can cause symptoms such as loss of vision, distorted vision or altered colour vision. The amount of time looking at the sun that will cause eye damage varies between individuals, but in all cases is only a matter of seconds."

The mid-afternoon light began to dim around us as more of the sun became covered. Watson, who did much of the arrangement of the trip, regaled the group with science facts about the eclipse as we counted down to the moon covering the sun.

"At this point, we might see unusual animal activity," Watson announced.

Our group looked around, but the park was empty of animals aside from a couple of dogs and, of course, the humans who were gathered there. Hoffman did point out a turkey vulture that took off while we were looking, but its behavior seemed relatively normal.

We did, however, note that it got several degrees chillier as the eclipse happened. With much of the sun's warmth blotted out, what would have been described as T-shirt weather suddenly got cold enough to need jackets and sweaters.

The thing about eclipse totality is that we live under very specific conditions to make it possible. The sun is approximately 40 times the size of the moon, but it is also 40 times further from our planet than the moon is; this means that if the moon were in a different position, it would not be able to block out the sun perfectly the way it does during an eclipse.

As the moon's orbit of the Earth continues to expand and the moon gets further from our planet, there will likely be a time in the future when the moon will no longer be able to fully eclipse the sun.

"When the eclipse reaches totality, because of the

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

ECLIPSE | from page 4

way the light is refracted, you'll be able to see a 360-degree sunset," Watson said.

I did not know what a 360-degree sunset would look like. Watson could not describe it to me, either, but in a matter of minutes, I would be able to see it for myself.

A hush fell over the crowd when the moon slid into position in front of the sun. All of a sudden, it was as though we were standing in twilight.

"There's a hole in the middle of the sun," Moats sang to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"; this ditty would be stuck in my head for the rest of the week.

At this point, it was safe to take off our eclipse glasses and look directly at the light above us.

The 360-degree sunset — or sunrise — was a band of orange light that wrapped around the horizon as though the sun had just set. It hadn't set, of course, it was right above us.

The total eclipse lasted for only a handful of minutes, but it was an experience that I can only describe as primal.

Humans have been looking up at eclipses since time immemorial, even before we knew to wear protective lenses. A story dating back to the 6th Century, B.C.E. describes a six-year war in Anatolia, now present-day Turkey, which came to an abrupt halt because an eclipse passed over the Battle of Halys.

Standing in the middle of the totality, I can understand why people in ancient times would see this



As the moon blocked out the sun, its light was refracted across the sky, with light still visible on the horizon.

as some kind of omen; for a few minutes in a day, at a time when our knowledge of the patterns of celestial bodies was rudimentary at best, it felt like the sun just blinked out for a while.

In all too short a time, the moon moved out of the sun's way and it became light again.

Immediately, we began to warm up, and the glasses came back on so we could watch the moon move out of the sun's way. With the main event over, my friends and I went to a nearby Italian restaurant to have a meal and say our farewells.

The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the biggest cost to me and my friends was a very long drive home. We fought

through traffic for over an hour to get over the Canadian border on Tuesday, August 9, and the restaurant we stopped at along the way assured us that their business had been through the roof as people flocked to Vermont for the event.

The next time an eclipse passes over North America won't be until 2044. In August of 2026, though, a total eclipse will pass over Iceland, Portugal, and northern Spain.

If you can afford to travel, I highly recommend you make plans to visit the Iberian peninsula in two years to see an eclipse in its totality. Even if you've seen a partial eclipse before, there is nothing that quite compares to seeing the sun blink out of sight for a few minutes.

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

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

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

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

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

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

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

out the region and Massachusetts."

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

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

Northeast Train show April 27 & 28

WEST SPRINGFIELD— On Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, children 15 and under will have an opportunity to be part of two make-and-take model railroad programs.

The first is Build a Flatcar Load. Which gives kids an opportunity to take a G-scale flatcar and build a load for the car using a variety of materials provided by the Amherst Railway Society. The program runs for about an hour, after which all the flat cars are run together as a train on one of the G-Scale railroads at the show. The flatcars and the loads the children build are theirs to keep.

The second program is Decorate a Building. Which gives kids an opportunity to decorate a G-scale building using paints and other materials provided by the Amherst Railway Society. The program runs for about an hour and a half, and the buildings the children decorate are theirs to keep.

There are four programs scheduled:

- Saturday, April 27:** 11 a.m. to noon — Build a Flatcar Load
- Saturday, April 27:** 1 to 2:30 p.m. — Decorate a Building
- Sunday, April 28:** 11 a.m. to noon — Build a Flatcar Load

Sunday, April 28: 1 to 2:30 p.m. — Decorate a Building

There is no charge for the programs, but each session is limited to (15) children. Children must be registered to participate. A parent or guardian must be present with their child for the entire program.

To register for a Kids ON TRACK program at the Large Scale Train Show, <https://amherst-railway-society-store.myshopify.com/>.

The Northeast Large Scale Train Show takes place at: Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave.

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to do," said Committee Member Matthew Lovell.

Lovell mentioned that the policy recommends the committee set a goal, which the committee had not done yet. Francis told the committee not to feel too bad about this, as the schools have been going through a transitional period.

"I liked how you added that you want to keep the talent and resources that we have here," said Committee Member Anthony Braden. "We've lost personnel in the past, but I think with the new changes that have happened here in our school system, that really strikes home."

Francis said that the current plan outlines ideas for professional development and other ways to retain and promote staff.

"Our strategic plan should have those pieces in it," Francis said. "It should have a Professional Development Plan as a part of it, but also about acquiring the talent and the retention of talent as well. Professional development is a piece of that

retention, but just a piece of it."

During Public Comments, Nadeau read a letter from a former staff member praising Francis's professionalism and performance. Nadeau mentioned that there is a stretch of High Street on the way to the school that has no sidewalk, and expressed concern for kids who use that route to walk home.

"During wintertime I do see kids walking along the side, and I just think it's really dangerous," Nadeau said.

Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone said that she remembers a discussion about that area years ago, and mentioned that this could be brought up to the Town Council.

"I know I think about that when I go up High Street," Rathbone said. "At one point in time, there was some discussion, but it obviously didn't go any farther than discussion."

Rathbone then passed along a question to Francis that she had received, asking why students are charged \$75 to park at the High School.

"I didn't even know we still did that," Rathbone said. "Back in

the day we did it, but that's when there were so many kids who drove to school and their classes were so much bigger that we had to do that, but I didn't realize we still did that."

Rathbone posed the question to the room, and Francis responded.

"It's one of those practices that has always carried on," Francis said. "To your point, we do have open spaces, but I do not know offhand whether or not that \$75 parking fee is policy versus just a practice or a procedure."

Francis said that if this were a policy, he didn't remember it from his perusal of the school policies.

"That's something we can look at, and whether or not it's necessary," Francis said. "There are probably less than two dozen that drive themselves."

Sara Menard added some context as to where the money from this charge goes.

"The funds are kept in a separate revolving account," Menard said. "The parking passes that are issued are paid for from that account, so that account is not being used for other purposes."

\$375 million for transportation infrastructure in Mass.

BOSTON —The Massachusetts Senate unanimously approved \$375 million in bond authorizations for statewide transportation projects, including the state's Chapter 90 program, which would create a reliable funding source for local infrastructure investments like roads, bridges, regional transit equipment and infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, and electric vehicle infrastructure, among other things.

Projects funded by the annual legislation often improve quality of life for residents in every region of the state, and many play a role in environmental mitigation. Every city and town in the state would receive a share of \$200 million in funding to be used on

maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. \$150 million would be allocated equally to six programs targeting specific transportation infrastructure, and \$25 million would be allocated to cities and towns through the rural roads program. "Getting around our communities is a fundamental part of everyone's day," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Whether the commute takes you on the sidewalk, through a bike lane, across a small bridge, onto your Regional Transit Authority, or to the T, your journey should be quick and safe. By passing today's legislation, we are empowering our cities and towns with the funding to make improvements to the infrastructure our residents

travel on, regardless of where they go and how." "I am proud to join my colleagues in the legislature to secure this investment for the sustainability of roads, bridges, and regional transit infrastructure for the Hampden district and communities across the Commonwealth", said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "Delegating the implementation of infrastructure funding to municipalities will ensure that improvements at a local level will be addressed appropriately."

A previous version having been passed by the House of Representatives, the legislation now awaits final enactment in each branch, before being sent to the Governor's desk for her signature.

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Earth Day Festival with the Boy Scouts



Steve Scannell helping youth build birdhouse.



Steve helping an adult.

Western Massachusetts Council, BSA participated again this year in the Springfield Museums Earth Day Festival held Sunday April 14th. Our tables sponsored by the councils Conservation Committee had recruitment information available as well as pre-cut and drilled bird house parts. Conservation Committee Chair Steve Scannell and committee members Bob Kidd and Peter Izyk along with Council Commissioner Dave O'leary and Council Board member Cheryl Izyk with the help from two Scouts from Troop 49 helped youth and adults assemble bird houses which were taken home at no cost to them. This year 59 bird houses were built.



Peter Izyk holds the bird house as a youth nails it together.

MONSON | from page 1

rate information was presented by me, I notified those seven parents that the town had graciously agreed to do that."

"If the Board should rescind a vote that I acted on in good faith, it's going to cause pretty severe harm," Lord said, "because I know my son has his other father that will be able to drive him, but I don't know about the other six."

Grassetti said that she did not agree with her tax money being spent this way, and felt she spoke for the rest of the town residents as well.

"These are difficult times for our town, and I'm sure that the money can be put to good use on something that would benefit a broad base of real estate tax-paying citizens who fund this tax," Grassetti said.

Lord was informed by the board the issue had been removed from the agenda and would be talked about at the next meeting, but told the board that this was a moot point as the trip would be between this meeting and the next.

"I think, because of the position (Lord) is in, that we should vote on this," said Board Member Peter Warren. "Part of that is that I received a couple of phone calls re-

cently and they expressed the same position that Ms. Grassetti talked about."

"When I voted yes for this, I was all for it because when I was (Lord's son) age, I did that. I went to a basketball camp, and it was great," Warren said. "I don't want to set a precedent with this kind of funding, and I worried about that on the ride home from here when I did vote that way. So, because of the uproar of several people – and that's just the people that I spoke with – I think maybe this may not be the right thing to do."

The board rescinded the vote, and then voted not to approve the request.

Hampden Public Library hosting Earth Day Eco-Expo April 20

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Public Library will be hosting their annual Earth Day Eco-Expo beginning at Noon on April 20.

The event features useful recycling and gardening tips, educational games and activities and lots of eco-friendly giveaways to help the whole family live more sustainably! This is your opportunity to "talk trash" with industry professionals and local eco-enthusiasts. We'll cover all things sustainability, including swapping single-use for zero-waste, recycling food scraps, propagating plants and more—you won't want to miss it!

Town departments include the Hampden Public Library, Friends of the Hampden Public Library, the Hampden Garden Club, Park & Rec, the Hampden Conservation Commission, the Hampden Senior Center, Hampden Board of Health and the Hampden Fire Department.

The activities include solar oven and solar generator demonstrations, a BagShare sewing workshop and vendors such as Ferrindino Maple, Commonwealth Sustainability, Honey Bear Tea, Lee's Bees, Richard Muse doing wood crafting, Mark Gurney with clay creations, local author Sandra Howell, Mindy Meeker with massage, ArborTech Tree, D & R Farm with baked goods and produce and Forastiere with green burials.

Also, an opportunity to meet the Mass Audubon Society mascot, Peta the turtle!

Free refillable water bottles from Hampden Public Library, sprout seed pencils from the Hampden Garden Club and saplings from ArborTech Tree Services are available while supplies last.

To learn more, visit www.hampden-library.org/events/earth-day-eco-expo/.

LIGHT UP | from page 1

Brohman is a team player, intent on boosting the deserved notoriety of Palmer's veterans as well as groups in the area that share support for servicemen and women.

"Light Up Palmer is group of residents who just love their town and love their Veterans," Brohman said. "I went out there last year when it was below seven degrees in the morning and it was really cold out. Everybody was still out there at the poles, making sure that the brackets are good because they have been there for so long or that the weather makes them unstable and break down."

With the interest of getting more youth involved, Brohman wants to let the public know how they can get involved.

"I think when there are different kinds of events that really helps," Brohman said. "They had the Tailgate Tavern Soup Off and they raised a lot of money because this is all nonprofit. They have to raise all of their money, so if there are any events going on that Light Up Palmer is putting on, it would be really nice to see a lot of people get involved... I mean there was a record number of people at the Soup Off so they made a lot of money for the event. I actually happened to win first prize for my Cheeseburg Chowder and even just getting to be involved was great."

She recognized Chris Smith for the efforts of Light Up Palmer.

"Chris Smith runs Light Up Palmer with her community," Brohman said. "She does an absolutely phenomenal job with them and with a lack of resources I should say. It is so hard to do stuff like that without just being able to have funds available, you know? I just do the small part of supporting them and making sure that out veterans are Purple Heart recipients. That is my role."

Smith and her committed group of volunteers have come together for years, under the Palmer Business Partnership Inc. The group is completely non-profit making them able to have the ability to accept charitable donations. Their now infamous campaign goes by the name, Light Up Palmer, and is set with the intention of beautifying Main Street as we'll as Depot Village in general.

"The Purple Heart program has been sponsored by Light Up Palmer for the past 4 years. We started this initiative in August of 2021. We honor 5 Palmer residents who are Purple Heart recipients and our organization is nonprofit so our funding comes through the graciousness of our sponsors."

Smith outlined the process for receiving a banner up on Main St.

"They have to go through Tina Brohman to be sure that they can confirm for us that they are a Purple Heart recipient," Smith said. "Then we will add their name to our banners that go up on Main St."

In addition to the holiday décor, Smith is also brewing up something fun for Halloween this year.

"We have potential if our board votes it in tonight," Smith said. "In addition to our holiday decorating contest... we may have a Halloween decorating contest for the town. We also hope to be back at Trunk or Treat if the school has the event and we would love to sponsor a Halloween decoration contest for the town and once again bring forward the community through holiday celebration decorating contest."

If you or someone you know is a Town of Palmer resident awarded with a Purple Heart, but don't currently have any banner recognition, contact Tina Brohman (TBrohman@townofpalmer.com) to have a name added to the banner display. Names received by April 30, will be included in this year's display.

COUNCIL | from page 1

priority for the council.

"We've got to come up with amenities," Williams said. "40 years ago there was so much to do around here, now there's hardly anything."

Williams also spoke on the pickleball trend specifically, citing other locations in the area that have seen success by catering to the sport.

"You know the way from Three Rivers to Ludlow, the tennis courts back there near Oscar's Pizza, around that area?" Williams asked. "They play pickleball there. See how many people show up; lots of them."

Williams then invited Kosmider to join him for a game.

Kosmider expressed concerns over comments by David LaVallie, Chair of the Bondsville Water Commission alleging that the town is responsible for potential leakage from a dump in Bondsville. Brothers said that he was made aware of this issue as early as his second day in the position.

"One of the landfills is not capped, that is correct," Brothers said. "That requires testing every six months to be done. There has not been a test since we started that has yielded an issue that would require us to flag it; nothing tested high for contaminants that was an area of concern."

Brothers said that in 2015, the town was given the option to provide bottled water to a household while a new filtration system was being installed, but said that this solution has since mitigated the issue, and that the town is not presently under a bottled water obligation in the areas of State and Emery Street.

"To my knowledge, this was the first time PFAS was tested two weeks ago," Brothers said. "The lab results are sent from our third party consultant to the Department of Environmental Protection to review, so I don't have the official DEP approval, but the Project Manager for the lab testing said that there were no levels that were cause for concern."

Brothers said that PFAS may be an issue going forward, but from the preliminary test that was done, which will be recurring on a six-month basis, there was no cause for concern found.

"I think there needs to be a joint meeting between the Bondsville Commission and the Council just so we all are on the same page of what's going on here," Brothers said.

Brothers offered to put together a packet for the next board meeting outlining the ARPA funds, including what's been spent and what's still available.

"That way it gets out to the public and everyone's on the same page," Brothers said.

Town Manager change
The council took a moment to recognize Robert Reed for his time as Interim Town Manager, and to welcome Brad Brothers to the position.

"I want to publicly, though he's not here to hear it, thank Bob Reed for his work as the Interim Town Manager while we were in transition," Council Chair Barbara Barry said. "I think he did a very good job for the town. He kept things moving and he brought forth several issues that the council needs to continue to work on."

Councilor Matthew Lemieux agreed, saying that Reed went "above and beyond."

"He got paid to be here three days a week, and he definitely worked well over three days a week," Barry said.

The council then provided a formal introduction to Brothers, who is now serving in the position as Town Manager.

"Brad has been on board since April 1. He has a lot of things to hit the ground running on and I know he's already started to do that. We'll be starting on the budget on April 17, so if you as a council have any issues please bring those forward."

Brothers thanked the council for the opportunity.

"Palmer has always been special to me," Brothers said. "I graduated in 2008, and have been here since I was three years old and moved here with my mom. I'm excited, there's a lot to do in the community, a lot going on."

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50s Sock Hop

kicks off Wreaths Across America fundraising



Covers of classic songs from the '50s and '60s were played live by Decades.



Event attendees danced together to live music by Decades.



THREE RIVERS – This weekend, the Recreation Department and Veterans Services Department put together a '50s Sock Hop to raise money for Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America is a national event where, on a date set by the organization, which this year will be Dec. 14, a service is held to donate wreaths to cemeteries across its 3,400 locations in the country. These wreaths are donated via sponsorship, with members of the community paying \$15 per wreath.

Veterans Agent Tina Brohman is a long-time member of AmVets Post 74, and arranged the event in coordination with Recreational Director Andrew St. George to help bring WAA into the town, something that both organizers said has had a lot of interest.

In addition to food and dancing, the Sock Hop brought Decades to Palmer, a live cover band that played hits from the '50s and '60s, including The Beatles, Elvis Presley, The Monkees, Chuck Berry, Roy Orbison, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and many others.

At the event, Brohman said she was very excited by the turnout, this being the first event she had put on since becoming the town's Veterans Services Agent. She was heartened to see the town's residents support this event and the Wreaths Across America organization.

To keep up with other events being put on by the town, you can contact St. George by sending an email to astgeorge@townofpalmer.com.

To contact Brohman with questions or ideas about how to help local veterans, call 413-283-2610 or email her at tbrohman@townofpalmer.com.

The Three Rivers AmVets Post was packed full of event-goers who came to dance, eat, and party.



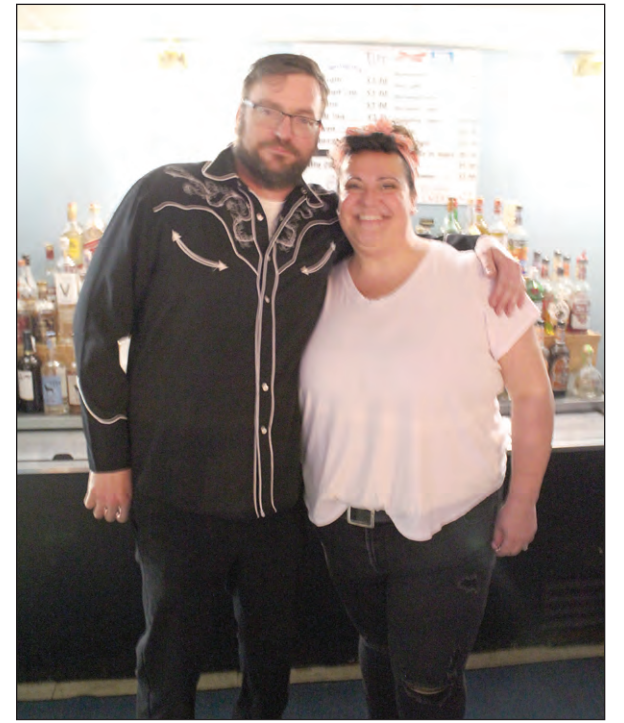
The organizers of the 50s Sock Hop, Recreational Director Andrew St. George (left), Veterans Services Agent Tina Brohman (right), and St. George's wife, Gloria (center).



Rudy Wilk collected money from people ordering food such as burgers and hot dogs.



Tina Brohman (right) described Betty Jo O'Brien and Dan Boynan as "her best friends."



While working the bar at the AmVets Center, (from left) Wayne Schofield and Jacqui Wahlers were dressed in '50s-era clothing.

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Tuesday, April 30
6-7 p.m.

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For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW
Middle School building

UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW
Mattern Science Center

RSVP: wma.us/preview

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

UPCOMING

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

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

PALMER HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CENTER APRIL EVENTS. For more information or questions please email Palmerhcc@gmail.com.

Family Travel Vision Boarding will be held on April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Songs of Ireland by the Healys will be on Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m.

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

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

ARTISAN EMPORIUM presented by the Lamothe Block. At Olmsted Park, Steaming Tender Restaurant at 28 Depot Road, Palmer. Sunday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore one of a kind finds from local independent creators with live music and food. All vendor fees go to the preservation of the Historic Olmstead Park. Interested vendors can email scarletlamother@gmail.com.

ONGOING

THE SWIFT RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB, 350 Cold Spring Road, is announcing their Friday fish fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5. Prices range from \$14 for fish and

chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam Chowder will also be available. Come out and enjoy one of the best fish dinners in the area with generous portions. For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

INTERESTS

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

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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For more information please contact Caitlin at cgeaghan@townofware.com.

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SOFTBALL

Mustangs can't solve South Hadley ace

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Whenever Ella Schaeffer is standing in the middle of the pitcher's circle, the South Hadley varsity softball team has a very good chance of winning a game.

The hard throwing junior righthander came very close to hurling a perfect game, as the Lady Tigers defeated Valley Wheel League rival Monson, 9-0, in the home opener, last Monday afternoon (April 8).



Emma Bannon fields a grounder to second.

"I've coached a lot of very good pitchers during my coaching career, but Ella is probably the best. She's always in control out there," said South Hadley varsity softball coach Junior Perez, who was previously the junior varsity softball coach at Chicopee High School for 15 years.

"If we're able to score a couple of early runs, it's like having a seven or eight run lead."

In the Lady Tigers first meeting of the regular season against the Lady Mustangs, Schaeffer allowed two infield hits and didn't issue any walks.

"The South Hadley pitcher throws the ball very hard. She'll probably be the best pitcher we're going to face this season," said Monson head coach Jill Carneglia. "We just couldn't get our bats on the ball against her in today's game."

Schaeffer also had 18 strikeouts in the Lady Tigers home opener, which raised her career total to 496.

"I can't wait until I reach 500 career strikeouts," Schaeffer said. "My next goal is to break the school strikeout record." That record is currently held by Courtney Kapinos, who finished her varsity softball career with 531 K's.

The state strikeout record is 1,002, which is held by Emma Mendoker, who played softball at Amherst Regional.

Schaeffer opposed Monson junior righthander Molly Szado for the fifth time in a varsity softball game.

Szado and her teammates swept the season series two years ago.

Szado struck out 19 batters in the first meeting of the 2022 regular season, which was a 7-2 victory.

The Lady Mustangs posted a 1-0 shutout win in the second meeting.

Schaeffer and her teammates swept the season series a year ago. The final score of both games was 3-0. Schaeffer also had 19 strikeouts in the two games.



Molly Szado sends a pitch away.

"Molly and I have played basketball together for the South Hadley DARE Organization," Schaeffer said. "She's a very good pitcher and it has been a lot of fun facing her."

Both teams had a 1-0 record entering their first meeting of the

2024 regular season.

The Lady Tigers put a lot of pressure on Szado during the first two innings, but they failed to score.

Senior shortstop Jenna Bo-

MONSON | page 10

BASEBALL



Sebastian Mayberry sends a pitch to the plate.

Young Panthers fall to Ware



Brendan Hess watches the bouncing grounder into his glove.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

LACROSSE

Rams double up on Mustangs



Brody St. Martin observes the offensive area looking to make a pass.



Samuel Lauzier looks to make a pass on the run.



Osvaldo Nieves sends a pass up the field.



Landon Couture sprints for the opposing goal.

SOUTH HADLEY – Using neighbor South Hadley High School's turf field, Granby boys lacrosse hosted Monson last Monday night. The Mustangs, which

co-op with Pathfinder, fell on the road 12-6 to the Rams. The Rams were led by Riley Goodhind with four goals and three assists. Kamydyn Lopez and Connor McDonnell

had three goals and two assists each. Monson is 1-1 this season while the Rams are out to a 2-1 mark.

BASEBALL

Monson baseball starts 0-2

MONSON – Last week, Monson finally got its regular season underway following a few rainouts. The Mustangs suffered a 16-5 loss against Pioneer Valley Regional followed by a 1-0 loss against South Hadley. The Mustangs hope to rebound against Granby on April 18 at 4 p.m. That will be followed by a big matchup with Ware at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

Warriors suffer overtime loss at Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM—The Agawam boys' varsity lacrosse team hasn't had very much success against Tantasqua Regional during the past decade. That all changed in the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

After battling back from a three-goal deficit to tie the score late in the fourth period, Agawam junior Riley Jorgensen netted the game-winning goal with 1:54 remaining in overtime. It gave his team a thrilling 8-7 victory over the Warriors at Harmon A Smith Field,

TANTASQUA | page 10



Matt Santos fires a pitch away.

PALMER – Last Wednesday night, the Palmer High School baseball team, which nearly did not have enough players to start the season, suffered a 13-2 loss against rival Ware. The Indians scored six runs in the third inning to take a lead and Palmer came back with a pair. But the Indians were able to run away with the game from there. Palmer is out to an 0-3 start while Ware is 2-1 to start the year.



Grayson Griswold makes a throw to first.

Win keeps playoff hopes alive for T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-35-3-2) snapped their six-game slide with a 4-2 comeback win over the Providence Bruins (40-20-6-3) on Sunday afternoon inside a sold-out MassMutual Center, the 19th such crowd this season.

The afternoon started rocky, as Patrick Brown connected on a forehand from the slot area on the day's first shot to give Providence a 1-0 lead 46 seconds into the contest.

T-Birds starting goaltender Colten Ellis put himself into a pickle at 9:24 of the first when he mishandled a puck to the side of his net. After a pair of Bruins dislodged it, the third man on the attack, rookie Jaxon Nelson, deked to the backhand to beat Ellis and give Providence a 2-0 advantage. It was Nelson's first professional goal.

Brandon Bussi drew the net for the Bruins, and after shutting out the T-Birds on March 10, he had his sights on duplicating the feat on Sunday, holding the T-Birds off the board past the midpoint of regulation.

With their backs against the wall, the T-Birds leaned on their Man of the Year to jumpstart the squad. Off a draw at 13:08 of the middle stanza, Drew Callin pushed past his opponent to hack a shot toward Bussi's crease. The normally stout netminder sprung a leak this time as the puck sneaked

under his legs to get Springfield on the board, cutting the lead to 2-1.

Following matching minors and another penalty to the Bruins, Springfield's man advantage earned a 4-on-3 opportunity, and the AHL's leading goal scorer made his presence known as Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time snapper over Bussi's glove at 14:40, tying the score off a perfect cross-ice setup by Jakub Vrana.

Special teams proved paramount for Springfield, as the penalty kill went a perfect 5-for-5, including two clutch successes in the final period. Gaudette provided more heroics at 10:32 of the third when he skated in on the right wing on a 2-on-1 and blistered a wrist shot over Bussi's blocker to give the T-Birds a 3-2 lead on his 44th goal of the season. The two-goal day for Gaudette was his 12th such game this season.

With Providence clamoring for an equalizer in the final minute, Callin, rookie Dylan Peterson, and Kean Washkurak gutted out a defensive zone sequence to clear their end. Washkurak capped things off with an empty-netter from the red line to give the T-Birds the victory.

The T-Birds look to earn a second straight win over the Bruins when they travel to Providence for a rematch on Friday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion at 7:05 p.m.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

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

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

page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.


Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and North Star Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

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

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



NAME: Sebastian Mayberry
 SCHOOL: Palmer
 Mayberry drew a tough matchup with Ware last week, but pitched well in the first two innings to open the contest.

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

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Robert Cleary looks to pass.



Aiden Way heads for the goal.



Braeden Rich looks to make a play on defense.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pat Dunn receives a pass.

TANTASQUA | from page 9

last Tuesday afternoon.

"We lost to Tantasqua twice last year and we held a 5-0 lead in one of those games," said Jorgensen, who joined the varsity lacrosse team as a freshman. "It feels amazing to finally beat them in overtime."

The last time that Agawam defeated Tantasqua in a boys' lacrosse match was during the 2014 regular season when they celebrated a 10-6 win.

"Today's game was very exciting," said Agawam head coach Joe Heney. "It was nice to see the kids battle back in the fourth period. No matter what the score is we're always going to play as hard as we can. That's something that we take tremendous pride in."

Jorgensen, who netted a game-high five goals in the non-league match, scored a game-winning goal for the first time in a varsity game. The five goals was also a career high for him. He scored five goals in a pair of victories against Chicopee Comp and Northampton a year ago. The Brownies (2-1) won the face-off at the start of the four-minute sudden-victory overtime period, and they were able to keep pos-

session of the ball.

About 30 seconds before Jorgensen ended the match, Agawam had a very good scoring opportunity. Senior captain Nicholas Ugolini fired a shot at Tantasqua senior goalie Sam Panek (13 saves), who was able to deflect it away. The Brownies quickly regained possession of the ball and that's when Jorgensen scored the game-winning goal.

"We were able to recover the ball first before it got to the end line," said Jorgensen, who was also a member of the Brownies boys' varsity basketball team this past winter. "Then I received a pass from one of my teammates before firing a shot into the net. It just felt great because my whole team was counting on me to score a goal."

The Warriors, who made the trip to Western Mass. with a 2-0 record, suffered their first loss of the regular season.

"Agawam played a little bit better than we did today," said Tantasqua head coach James Putney. "We like to play fast and score a lot of goals, but they slowed the game down and controlled possession more. We do have a lot of potential and we're still trying to put the pieces together."

The visitors from Fiskdale

took a 1-0

lead 22 seconds into the opening period following a goal by senior Aiden Way. Sophomore Michalak Fenton was credited with the assist.

Then back-to-back goals by sophomore Brayden Federico and Jorgensen gave the home team the lead for the first time.

Way scored another goal with 3:05 remaining in the first period tying the score at 2-2.

Less than two minutes into the second period, Jorgensen scored his second goal which gave the lead back to the Brownies.

Following an unassisted goal by sophomore Zach Godek, the Warriors retook lead when senior Trevor Harris fired a shot into the net past Agawam sophomore goalie Jordin Agosto (12 saves) with 6:40 left in the second period.

Neither team scored during the final six minutes of the first half and the Warriors held a slim 4-3 halftime advantage.

With 7:53 left in the third period, Godek scored his second

goal, which was unassisted.

A little more than a minute later, the Brownies cut their deficit to 5-4 following a Jorgenson goal. That goal was assisted by Federico, who entered the match with a team leading with five goals and four assists.

Two more goals by seniors Pat Dunn and Landon Rice helped the Warriors build a 7-4 lead during the first six minutes of the final period.

The Brownies battled back with goals from sophomore Casey Thomas, sophomore Jaden Holloway, and Jorgensen, which sent the contest into overtime.

Jorgensen, who had scored a total of four goals in the Brownies first two games of the regular season, became the hero a little more than two minutes later.

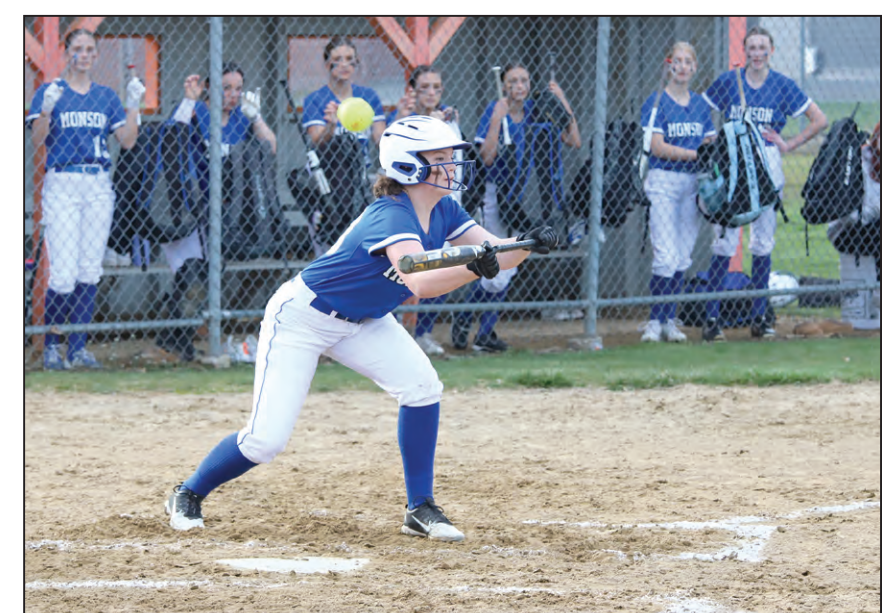
"Riley is a great kid," Heney said. "I'm very happy that he scored the game-winning goal in overtime."



Carlee Meacham looks around for a play after fielding a slow grounder.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mia Matthieu swings at a pitch.



Maya Summers fouls off a bunt attempt.

MONSON | from page 9

browski drew a leadoff walk in the bottom of the first inning before stealing second base. Following a strikeout, a groundball out by senior catcher Ara Powers moved Bobrowski over to third base. Szado ended that threat with another strikeout.

South Hadley junior first baseman Sophia Butler began the second inning with a walk. Then back-to-back bunt hits by junior centerfielder Karli Carmody and freshman third baseman Ryley McMahon loaded the bases with no outs.

Once again, Szado escaped the jam with a force out at the plate and two more K's.

The Lady Tigers loaded the bases again in their next at-bats and they wound up scoring three runs.

Powers, who grounded a single up the middle into centerfield, scored the game's first run on a fielder's choice play by Carmody. Freshman left fielder Grace Matyszewski drove home another run with a bases loaded walk. Then Carmody crossed the plate on a wild pitch.

With one-out in the top of the fourth inning, Monson junior shortstop Natalie Hull ended Schaeffer's perfect game bid with a bunt hit. She then stole second base, but Schaeffer retired the

next two batters.

Schaeffer drove home one of her team's three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning with a flyball double to left field. The Lady Tigers other two runs crossed the plate on a Butler groundout and a wild pitch.

"We did all of the little things offensively. We put down bunts and ran the bases," Perez said. "We played very well today."

Szado changed places with freshman first baseman Chelsea Hull at the start of the fifth inning.

"We do have two very good pitchers this year," Carneglia said. "We were expecting another pitching duel. We're hoping to play a little bit better when we face South Hadley again."

Szado allowed six runs on five base hits with five walks and eight strikeouts.

The Lady Tigers plated three more runs on two base hits against Hull, who's a lefty.

After Schaeffer retired ten consecutive batters, junior centerfielder Ella Corthell beat out an infield hit to the shortstop with two outs in the top of the seventh inning.

Schaeffer then ended the ballgame with her 18th strikeout.

Monson is scheduled to host South Hadley in the second meeting of the regular season on May 11 at 2 p.m.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League are only a couple weeks away from their season finale.

As of April 2, there is a close battle for first place between Acres (22-6) and The Champs R Here (21-7). Team BK is in third place at 16-12 and is hoping to win out the remainder of round three.

In fourth place, The Blue B's (16-12) are aiming to win out as well. Last in Line is in fifth place at 11-13. Life is Good and Compression are in sixth and seventh place and are awaiting their opponents for the playoffs.

In one match, the #1 seed Acres bowled against Team BK. This match would give Acres the opportunity to distance themselves from Champs R Here. Team BK is looking to win all three games and total pinfall in an effort to receive a playoff berth.

In game one, Team BK won the first game 395-391. Acres bowlers Paul Tereso and Bryan Surprise started off strong bowling 103 and 110. Mark Fitzpatrick held onto a slim lead to win game one by four pins and started with a 100.

In game two, Three of the four bowlers on Team BK broke the century mark to win 428-397. Dave Colbleigh of Acres bowled a 121 and Tom Bedard of BK was high man on his team with a 107.

In game three, Team BK won 398-384 for a three-game sweep over Acres. Carrying the team was Mark Fitzpatrick finishing strong with a 119 and a series of 321.

Team BK won total pinfall by a final score of 1221-1172.

Life is Good bowled against the Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs started off with a win 388-339.

In game two, Life is Good bounced back and won 388-355. In game three, The Champs R Here won the last game 388-371. John Colkos of Champs R Here led the team with a 112 in the last game.

Champs R Here won total pinfall 1131-1098 and received three points. With Acres losing all four points to Team BK, Champs R Here move ahead and are the #1 seed.

Monday Night Men's League Prepares for Playoffs

The top four teams of the Monday Night Men's League will be participating in the season finale playoffs.

Over the next couple weeks, the playoffs for the 2023-2024 Monday Night League crown will be determined. Week one will feature the top four teams competing in semi-final matches. The two winning teams in the semi-final will bowl each other for the championship the following week.

The top four teams are Tag Team, who finished in first place at 65-51. Second place finisher at 65-51 is Pinheads. Four Stooges are in third place and finished with a regular season record of 64.5-51.5.

Fourth place team is Pin Pigs who finished with a regular season record of 63.5-52.5. Four points shy of Pin Pigs was Yahtzee at 59.5-56.5.

Monday night bowling continues as Palmer's longest running candlepin league starts off the first round of playoffs on April 15. The finals will be on Monday, April 22.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The alleys can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

HoopHall announces unique new exhibit for this summer

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced another brand new exhibit coming to the museum this summer titled The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked. This innovative and immersive experience will be unlike anything the Basketball Hall of Fame has previously produced. The Hall of Fame has collaborated with the NBA's most storied franchise to present this inaugural installation of The Vault.

"We are excited to launch another state-of-the-art space in the world's finest sports museum," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked is a limited engagement that will feature a finely crafted experience that will capture the imagination of sports fans and speak to the heart of what makes basketball the world's most popular game."

Matt Zeysing, Vice President of Curatorial for the museum, began working on The Vault concept more than a year ago. "We knew we wanted to create something spectacular, something that basketball fans had never seen before. The Boston Celtics represent a winning tradition that is second to none and that tradition still continues today. To that end, our team has carefully curated and brought together the most sought-after Celtic memorabilia in the world."

Set in an immersive bank vault, Celtics legends from the past and present will take visitors on an epic journey to discover the true meaning of Celtic Pride. The Vault will feature authentic game-worn jerseys, championship rings, the original '81 NBA championship trophy, long-lost footage, and much more.

"The Boston Celtics are honored to bring their history and tradition to life with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked," said Boston Celtics Team President Rich Gotham. "We hope fans enjoy this immersive experience, which will showcase unique memorabilia and celebrate the Celtics' storied legacy."

Visitors will enjoy an exclusive display of Celtics memorabilia for a limited period. Tickets for the museum can be purchased online at etix.com or at the door.

Some roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

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

New Master in Adventure

SPRINGFIELD— Springfield College is proud to unveil its online Master of Education in Adventure Education program.

The Adventure Education program appeals to a variety of career goals, including advancing one's career or enhancing a related undergraduate degree. The program is also ideal for providing advanced academic training for individuals employed or planning to seek employment as physical educators, recreation leaders, and/or youth development professionals in academic, community, and youth-serving agencies.

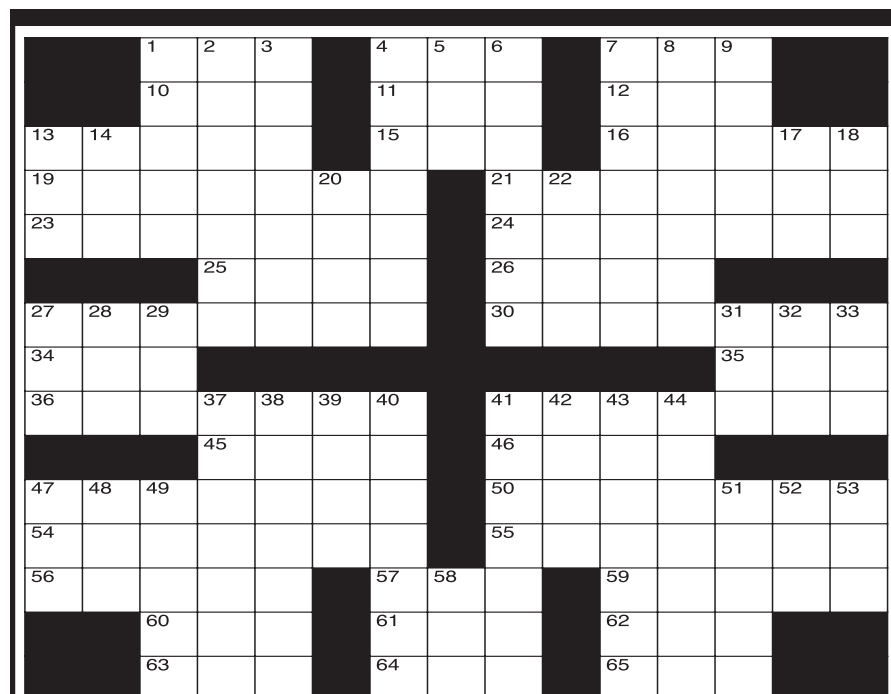
"If you are a physical education teacher or outdoor adventure professional, this online Adventure Education degree was designed for you. This unique program intentionally blends professional development workshops provided by high-quality outdoor adventure agencies and meaningful online courses that culminate with an applied project focused on your professional work," said Ted France III, Springfield College professor of Physical Education. "If you are looking to gain more experience while you pursue a graduate degree or professional licensure then this program has been de-

signed to help you reach your goals."

The core of the adventure education graduate degree centers around critical components within the field: theory, risk assessment, programmatic design, and implementation of experiential education programs. The 33-credit program begins in September 2024. The degree can be earned within two to three years, or at one's own pace.

Students have the option of earning up to 9 credits by attending professional development workshops at High 5 Adventure Learning Center, a nonprofit educational organization that promotes leadership skills, personal growth, and team development through adventure-based programs in Brattleboro, Vt.

"We are excited to offer our services to support students in attaining a master's degree in this field," said Jennifer Ottinger, executive director of High 5. "Our programs align perfectly with Springfield College's curriculum and goals for this program, and it's a part of our mission to help individuals build their careers in this impactful field of work. We look forward to greeting Springfield College students at our Vermont campus this fall."



CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- For each
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Photographs
- They ___
- It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Cool!
- A son of Jacob
- Cut off
- Devour
- Agent of one's downfall
- Best
- Network of nerves
- Partner to "oohs"
- Origins
- Sewing utensil
- Alias
- Swiss river
- Greek mythological figure
- Type of whiskey

CLUES DOWN

- An involuntary muscular contraction
- Earnest
- Cuts out surgically
- Can't move
- Baseball stat
- British soldier
- Traditional medicine plants
- Political party controlled by managers
- Hebrew prophet
- Supporter
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Liberty Mutual mascot
- Georgia rockers
- A place where building is done
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Clothing retailer
- Supplement with difficulty
- Annoy constantly
- Founder of Babism
- Indigenous person

- in parts of Asia
- Sea eagle
- Leave behind
- Time of day
- Colorless crystalline compound
- They lay out course requirements
- A diamond has three
- Algerian coastal city
- Remove cover
- Rechristened
- Distinctive practice
- Defunct phone company
- Turkish officer of high rank
- Eliminate from the body
- Witness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Founding Father Franklin

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

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DEATH NOTICES

Judith C. Chlebus
Died April 7, 2024
Services
April 19, 2024
Lombard Funeral
Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Judith C. Chlebus, 1940-2024

MONSON—Judith C. (King) Chlebus 83, passed away April 7, 2024. Judith was born on May 3, 1940 to the late Burton and Selma (Dehulla) King in Palmer, Massachusetts. She was a graduate of Monson High School and for many years worked at Thermotec. She attended the First Church of Monson and enjoyed vacationing with her family, especially camping and cruising. She also loved spending time with friends and working on puzzles.

Judith leaves her Daughters Cheryl A. Staples of Monson, and Sheila J. Chlebus of Dorchester; sister, Nancy Bolling and her husband, Jesse of New London; grandchildren Josh, Corrina, and Jennifer as well as great grandchildren; Juliannah, Thomas J, Daniel, Jessenia, Jesse Jr. and Janelle. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Harold King.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St in Monson. Visiting

hours will be held at the funeral home, Friday April 19, 2024 from 6-8pm. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, April 20 at 10am in Lombard Funeral Home with burial to follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 403 incidents on its logs for April 2 – April 8.

April 3

At 8:31 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of Depot Street and S. Main Street.

At 2:28 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Sykes Street.

At 2:46 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Sykes Street.

At 3:01 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on River Street.

At 6:54 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on West bound Mass Turnpike.

At 7:27 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the Mass Turnpike.

April 4

At 6:18 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Flynt Street.

At 7:13 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Wilbraham Street.

At 7:39 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 8:27 a.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury at mile marker 65 on Mass Turnpike.

April 5

At 2:45 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the Mass Turnpike.

April 6

At 2:01 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Samuel E. Bruttaniti Jr., 38, of 3129 High St., Bondsville, for uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and

speed exceeding posted limit.

At 6:59 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Mass Turnpike West bound.

At 11:08 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Riton Pereira Seibert Jr., 40, of 281 East St., Ludlow, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and unsafe operation of a motor vehicle.

April 7

At 1:37 a.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Gary Michael Caron, 57, of 100 Heritage Green, Fiskdale, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

At 9:46 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Paulo Mateus Viera Morais, 25, of 62 Hubbard St., Ludlow, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Fire Logs

BONDSVILLE

For the period April 2 through April 8, Bondsville Fire responded to 3 calls.

On Wednesday, April 3, at 3:04

a.m., the department responded to Third Street for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 7:30 a.m.

On Friday, April 5, at 9:39 a.m., the department responded to Pine Street for medical assistance. The department returned to service

at 10:10 a.m.

On Sunday, April 7, at 3:33 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 3:53 p.m.

Mary Lane Hospital property discussed at joint meeting in Ware

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Hospital Review Committee held a joint meeting with the Historical Commission to share updates about the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 11 meeting, Building Commissioner Anna Marques provided information she gathered during an unscheduled walkthrough of the hospital on March 15 and another more recent walkthrough.

Marques said the second walkthrough was in response to a call the Fire Department received for a pulled alarm. She said there have been a lot of false alarms calls to the property.

"I got to see the room that was abated," Marques said. "A week and a half prior it was closed off."

This room "shows potential" Marques said.

The abatement contractor, American Environmental, is about halfway done with the Wetherby building. Marques said chandeliers and other features have been removed from the building due to concerns about what would happen to them.

Marques said someone from the Department of Environmental Protection, the agency overseeing the asbestos abatement, also toured the building and conducted that inspection. Marques said she couldn't go in some of the areas that the DEP inspector could.

Marques said the DEP did issue a notice of noncompliance with conditions of what needs to be fixed. It was not enough to shut-down the abatement process.

The notice of noncompliance, "did not warrant stopping the project," Marques said.

Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch asked if the removal of the asbestos would make the site more appealing to potential developers.

Marques said in her opinion, it would.

Committee member Terry Smith said the DEP's report identified 1,825 "hot" asbestos samples taken from the buildings. He said six underground storage tanks were also located using ground penetrating radar.

Smith said his opinions about saving any or all of the buildings has changed.

"I think the Wetherby building could be saved," he said. Smith added that he thought

the town could even take ownership of that building and some of the land, depending on the proximity of the underground tanks.

Members of the Historical Commission have been reaching out to medical companies since enacting a nine-month demolition delay on the property at the beginning of the year.

Commission member Claudia Kadra said they have reached out to 33 potential companies, starting with sending letters, then follow-up phone calls when they didn't get a response.

"This is the most important thing for the town to focus on."

– Terry Smith,
Hospital Review Committee

Kadra said the commission "didn't get any hits."

Kadra said the commission is seeking a legal opinion as to whether or not the site can be used for nonmedical purposes, such as senior housing. Trietsch agreed that a legal opinion would be good to have, as the Lewis Gilbert Trust has language pertaining to medical use.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said they have sought counsel from a trust attorney to research the will and the trust.

Ware resident Cindy Bourcier has submitted a packet of information to the attorney, and she has also filed a petition with the Hampshire County Court to halt distributions from the trust.

Bourcier said in her research, she has found more trusts that have been moved to the Baystate Health Foundation, the fundraising entity for Baystate Health, which owns the Mary Lane Hospital site.

"It's not just the Lewis Gilbert Trust, it's a whole bunch of them," she said.

Bourcier said very little money from the trust has come back to benefit the residents of Ware and Gilbertville as was intended. She said of \$4.8 million, only \$80,000 came back to Mary Lane Hospital.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said he and Bourcier have been working together to research.

"Very little, sometimes nothing" came back to benefit the townspeople, Granlund said. He said most of the money went back to the foundation.

Granlund said there is a "lack of trust" between many residents and Baystate Health.

Trietsch said he has sent an email to Baystate Health representatives, but has not received a response. He said he believes Baystate Health is looking to "run out the clock" on the demolition delay.

Bourcier said it will be easier for Baystate Health to dissolve the nonprofit without assets; which is likely why they are seeking demolition of the buildings.

"It's the big picture that needs to get resolved," she said.

Smith said there is a lot at stake regarding the property, including money and the site itself.

"This is the most important thing for the town to focus on," he said.

The commission is meeting with Wayfinders to discuss the site and its potential for housing. Wayfinders also developed the former Church Street School into senior housing.

The commission will also reach out to urgent care providers, if legal counsel believes it will fit with the language in the trust.

Committee member Denis Ouimette talked about the importance of having a neutral developer work with the town to find a use for the property, so it does not sit vacant for years. He said Westmass Area Development Corporation has a great reputation in the region, and the town's zoning bylaws will help maintain local control.

"To say we lose control of the property is incorrect," Ouimette said, in regard to working with Westmass. "We don't want it sitting there empty for the next 10 years."

"We don't own the site, so we have limited control, but we still have some control," he said.

A complete report of the walkthrough and other reports can be found on the Hospital Review Committee's page on the town website at www.townofware.com.

The Historical Commission will continue to discuss the Mary Lane Hospital property at its Monday, April 22 meeting in the Selectboard's meeting room in the Town Hall.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exploring Quabbin Park

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

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

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMjMkDSjjMFz8>)

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

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

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

ca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c,

Quabbin's Hidden History

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

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/4RiEq17PC-NEf6s9E7>)

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

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

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

Memorial Day at Quabbin Park Cemetery

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

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

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

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

The public is welcome but please, no dogs. (<https://goo.gl/maps/tDuKU2VL-jxnHvBdc8>)

Quabbin Park Cemetery tour

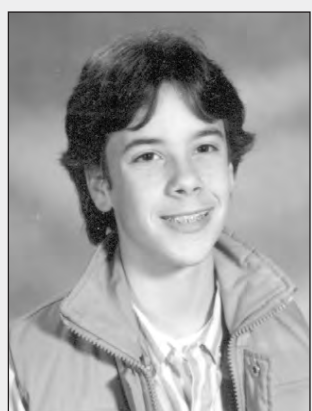
Following Memorial Day events on Sunday, May 26 from 2-3 p.m. take an easy walking tour of Quabbin Park Cemetery. The walk is on uneven ground

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rv4tzdE-Prroba1jV9>)

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

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

In Memory of
Jeffrey P. Leadbeater



April 3rd, 1975 -
April 18, 1989

Sadly Missed By
Mom, Dad, Jillian,
& Jarrett

He Loved All & Loved Life & Gave Us All He Had To Give

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Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Society for American Baseball Research meeting April 27

SPRINGFIELD— Pete Rose & 2004 Red Sox Authors at SABR meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, at the Dodge Room A+B, Campus Union Building, Springfield College, 263 Alden St.

Baseball historian and NY Times best-selling author Keith O'Brien will talk about his new book, Charlie Hustle: the Rise and Fall of Pete Rose, and the Last Glory Days of Baseball.

Bill Nowlin, founder of Rounder Records, writer and editor of many baseball books, will talk about the new SABR book on the 2004 Red Sox, Sox Bid Curse Farewell.

The Society for American Baseball Research was established in Cooperstown, New York in 1971 to foster the study of baseball past and present, and to provide an outlet for educational, historical and research information about the game. Visit www.sabr.org

The public is welcome and a donation of \$5 is requested. Refreshments will be served and there will be a selection of baseball books, hats and other related items for sale.

Contact: Jim Winston, james@jameswinstonlaw.com, 413-584-1110; Steve Manioudakis, stavkim@charter.net, 413-537-8819; or Karl Ciccitto, kcicitto@cox.net, 860 558 3837

Big Y looks for local products for stores

SPRINGFIELD— Big Y's Local Vendor Discovery Tour is underway. As a proud supporter of local, Big Y is looking for vendors in the areas of their newest stores, including Brookfield, Middletown and Westport, Connecticut.

Big Y carries local products from the communities and regions where their stores are located. They partner with over 500 local businesses with over 4,000 individual local products. These items can be found across every department in their stores. They include products such as soda, artisan bread, chocolate, soap, coffee, honey, meat, fruits and vegetables, baked goods, maple syrup, kielbasa and more. In addition to assisting with distribution and delivery of products.

Big Y also works with vendors to get the things they need and point them in the right direction to be successful. "We're committed to providing our shoppers with the finest, freshest and most flavorful foods that we can, and in the spirit of community togetherness, we're proud to partner with others who feel the same way," said Mike Cormier, senior vice president of Sales and Marketing. "It not only helps keep these small businesses healthy, but it helps us bring the best, highest-quality merchandise to our customers."

Buying from local growers, businesses and manufacturers means that the profits stay local. This partnership helps keep these small producers in business and is good for the local economy. Buying locally is also better for the environment. Less travel to markets means less fossil fuel is used, resulting in fewer carbon emissions. Smaller local farms are also far more likely to produce food using sustainable growing methods. While they are looking for new products in the area of their newest stores right now, Big Y is always interested in adding new vendors from all of its store regions. Anyone who is interested in becoming a local vendor can fill out the form at www.bigy.com/LocalPartners

Clare Ladue named assistant VP of Customer Care Center

WARE – Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the appointment of Clare Ladue as the Assistant Vice President of the Customer Care Center.

With an impressive 30 of financial service expertise, Ladue brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to her new role.

She graduated from Massachusetts Bankers Association – New England School of Financial Studies. She has a Commercial Lending Certificate from Massachusetts Bankers and numerous professional leadership certifications.

Throughout her career, Ladue has gained extensive experience in banking, including retail banking, deposit operations, commercial lending, and regional management. This diverse background makes her the ideal candidate to lead Country Bank's Customer Care Team.

Her connection to the local community is evident through her previous involvement as an executive committee member of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Ladue's commitment to community service is commendable. She has actively participated in numerous charitable initiatives, including the Walk of Champions, Junior Achievement, Rays of Hope, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and Link to Libraries. Her dedication to making a positive impact aligns perfectly with Country Bank's core values.

"I am thrilled to join Country Bank and utilize my leadership skills and experience to support our valued customers," said Ladue in a press release. "I will focus on their financial wellness, ensuring a superior customer experience from our exceptional Customer Care Team and I am eager to make a difference and contribute to the continued success of Country Bank."

"We are thrilled to welcome Clare to the Customer Care Center team; her experience in retail and commercial banking, combined with her leadership roles make



Submitted Photo
Clare Ladue was appointed as the Assistant Vice President of the Customer Care Center at Country Bank.

her a perfect fit for Country Bank. We look forward to Clare's enthusiasm and dedication representing Country Bank, and supporting our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence and Prosperity, and we are pleased that she has chosen Country Bank to be her Employer of Choice."

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services.

Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Supporting artists and organizations across local communities

EASTHAMPTON— CitySpace is thrilled to announce the launch of its 2024 Pay It Forward program, aimed at supporting artists and organizations across Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. This initiative provides free access to CitySpace's Blue Room, a dynamic performance and incubator space situated in the historic Old Town Hall of Easthampton.

Interested applicants can submit their proposals via cityspaceeasthampton.org/pif until May 6, at 11:59 p.m.

Pay It Forward offers artists short-term residencies and access to the venue for public performances and rehearsals between July and December 2024. Selected artists will receive a stipend of up to \$1,000, along with proceeds from ticket sales generated by their public performances. Moreover, recipients will benefit from workshops, peer-learning cohorts, and personalized coaching sessions aimed at enhancing their artistic practice, fostering new skills, connections, and innovative ideas.

Open to performers of all disciplines, Pay It Forward seeks to empower the vibrant artistic community within Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. While open to all artists and creative organizations in the three counties, Pay It Forward focuses on supporting under-resourced artists and encourages BIPOC artists, LGBTQ+ artists, artists living with disabilities, and organizations that serve such artists, to apply.

Having piloted the Pay It Forward program alongside the unveiling of the Blue Room, CitySpace has witnessed the impact of the program firsthand. Kim Chin-Gibbons, a 2022 pilot program recipient with her progressive rock band Sunset Mission, and recently appointed CitySpace Artist Advisory committee member said, "This program allowed us the time to really develop everything, not just to our liking but the necessary whole of what we are trying to do. We got to have rehearsals all day long, run tech, and shoot a music video. It was wonderful."

Officially launching the program in 2023, Pay It Forward offered over 1250 complementary hours last year to artists for theater performances, concerts, rehearsals and more. Queer Community Theatre founders and 2023 Pay It Forward recipients, Emily Fuller and Erin F., attest to its significance to their sold out production of Bar Dykes, stating, "Without the Pay It Forward program, we absolutely would not have been able to make this production the success that it was."

Pay It Forward 2024 is made possible by the generous funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts' Valley Creates, Greenfield Saving Bank, Peak Performance Roofing, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Delap Real Estate, Finck and Perras, and Tandem Bagel.



Submitted Photos
Grupo Mambique, 2023 Pay It Forward Recipient.



Alex Paquin, Falling in Love During a Pandemic and Waking Up to Reality, 2023 Pay It Forward Recipient.

2024 Seasonal Employment

Warren Parks & Rec. Dept. is accepting applications for Seasonal Positions including:
Lifeguard, Recreation Supervisor, and Counselors.

Job description and applications available online at www.warren-ma.gov or at Town Clerk's Office.

Mail applications to:
Warren Parks & Rec. Dept.
P.O. Box 609
Warren, MA 01083
Deadline: May 15, 2024.

The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Christina's House 2024 Soar for 4 Fundraising Campaign!

SPRINGFIELD - Join us as we soar to new heights in support of Christina's House and the families we serve! This year, we're embarking on a journey of growth, transformation, and security, propelling both moms and families at Christina's House and our organization as a whole into exponential growth.

Every three months this year, we'll set ambitious fundraising goals, each quarter dedicated to a different growth initiative. Our first quarter, "New Beginnings," focuses on supporting all the new families who have recently come to Christina's House.

We would love if you would join with us and be a part of each way every few months that you can make a difference at Christina's House...

Just a few ideas on how you can get involved!
- Like, comment on, and share our social media posts on your wall.

- Make a personal donation of \$10 or more.
- Make a donation through the business or organization you own or work for.

- Challenge your friends and family to match your donations.

- Take a collection at your next church, business, community, friends or family event.

- Keep Christina's House in your Prayers
Every dollar counts! Help us Educate, Encourage, and Embrace the women with children we serve by providing a Home, Hope, and Healing preparing them for "New Beginnings" and generational changes.

Want more information or to get involved in other ways? Contact Carolyn Martinez at carolyn@christinashouse.org

Thank you for your support!
Donate online at <https://www.christinashouse.org/donate>.

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Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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The Warren Board of Assessors is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Assessor. The successful candidate will perform administrative work, provide customer service, maintain detailed records of property assessments, maps, new growth, and determine the annual tax rate under the general direction of the Board of Assessors. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Must be able to work with figures, possess strong computer skills and excellent customer service skills. Assessing and municipal experience preferred. Submit your resume along with a cover letter to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator at townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Open until position filled.

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TAG SALE

RUTLAND, MASS. - 28th annual town-wide yard sale. Sat., April 27 - 200+ participants. Maps at town lines and on common (Route 122A and 56) starting at 7:15 a.m. Rain or shine. Join the fun!



Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call 1-413-283-8393

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OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken (413)433-2195.

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ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

SEEKING: ANTIQUES & OLD COLLECTIBLES.

We are looking to buy antiques: tobacco tins, cigar boxes, advertising tins, old coffee cans, brass figures, beer trays, beer taps, toy collections. These are just some of the examples we are looking for. Please reach out via email or text: teestresures413@gmail.com. 413-374-7388.

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2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
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Applications will be accepted until positions have been filled.

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

PART-TIME. 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be dependable and have flexible schedule. Podiatry office. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful. If interested send CV to podbill@aol.com or pickup application at 77 Winsor St., Ludlow, MA; 413-589-7287.

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

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



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Present to open the office, (from left) Andrea DesJardins, Gail Domeracki, Lisa McGaffigan, and Jaritza Molina. Not pictured: Flor Diaz.



Andrea DesJardins donned a "peas in a pod" costume to stand by the snack table.

Families invited to new WIC office for healthy eating

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last week, the Women, Infants, and Children Office reopened at its address at 14 Chestnut Place.

WIC is a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food and other services free of charge to families who qualify throughout the commonwealth. In order to achieve its goal of promoting healthy families in our community, it provides personalized nutrition consultations, tips for eating well, referrals for medical and dental care, health insurance, and other services to benefit families and free, healthy food.

The WIC office has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic, but was able to hold a grand opening on April 10 with snacks, activities, and a raffle. The grand opening was hosted by the Valley Opportunity Council.

"VOC encourages those who live and work in Ludlow and surrounding areas to drop in and learn about the WIC program and resources that may be available to them," a VOC representative said in a press release.

The Valley Opportunity Council is a Community Action Agency in the region with an annual budget of \$45 million, which the council uses to establish a network of support and collaborative services for the community.

All families are eligible for WIC, whether they are married or single, working or unemployed, as well as men and fathers and any parent or legal guardian of a child under five years old. The qualifications for the program are that you are a resident of Massachusetts, have a nutritional need as determined by WIC staff, are pregnant or have a child under five, and have a family income less than WIC guidelines.

A variety of foods are available with WIC, including baby food, brown rice, canned fish, cereal, cheese, dried or canned beans and peas, eggs, fruit juice, fruits and vegetables, infant formula, milk, peanut butter, tortillas, whole-grain bread and pasta, tofu, and yogurt.

This year's income eligibility guidelines for WIC are based on the number of family members in the household, and broken up by yearly, monthly, bi-weekly, and weekly rates. This was outlined on fliers handed out at the opening.

Fliers were also provided with instructions to simplify WIC shopping by installing a "WIC Shopper" app.

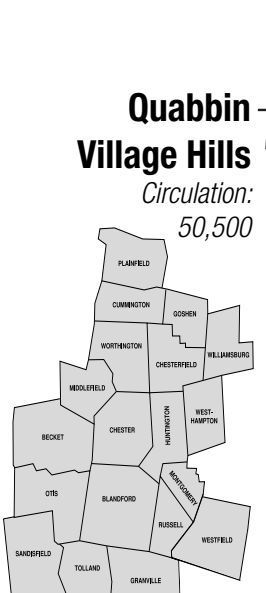
To start an application for WIC, you can visit their Facebook page, their website at mass.gov/wic, or call the Chestnut Place office by dialing 413-589-1551.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

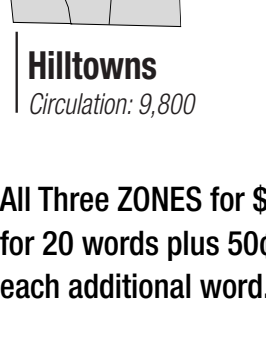
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

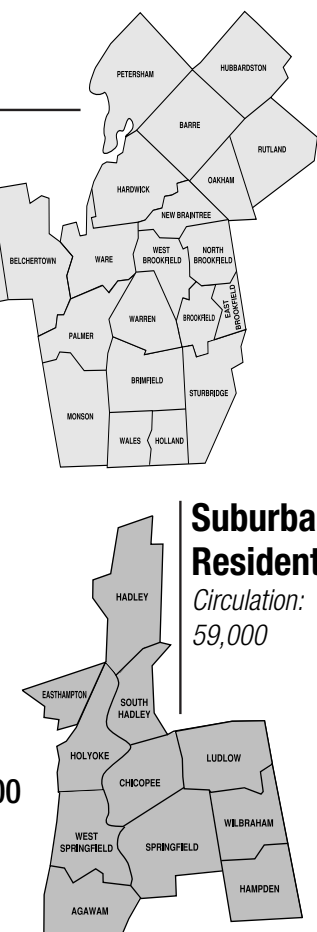
Quabbin
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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800



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Circulation: 59,000



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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

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Public Notices

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE

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

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

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

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

Colonial Village (667-2)
31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057

290 Main Street (705-1)
290 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

Colonial Village (667-1)
31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057

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

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

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Insulation and air sealing of Colonial Village 667-1 & 2, 290 Main St 705-1, & 70 Main St 705-2.

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

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

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §826 to 27H inclusive.

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

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

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

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

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and down-

loaded electronically at no cost).

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

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

Address: 31 State Street, Monson, MA 01057

Instructions: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street

Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167

04/11, 04/18/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Yvette M. Rioux a/k/a Yvette Rioux to Long Beach Mortgage Company dated August 8, 2006, recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16112, Page 540;** said mortgage was then assigned to **Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-8** by virtue of an assignment dated **March 4, 2014, and recorded in Book 20213, Page 393,** of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on May 16, 2024,** on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of **57 Stafford Road o/k/a Stafford Springs Road o/k/a Route 32, Monson, MA 01057.** The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

Two certain parcels of land, one on the westerly side of Stafford Road in Monson, Hampden County and located in the rear of the first described parcel, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE:

The land with building thereon, on the west side of said Stafford Road, o/k/a Stafford Springs Road, o/k/a Route 32 in said Monson, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound in the west side of Stafford Spring Road, said stone bound being at the northeast corner of land of one Rufus Blodgett and also at the southeast corner of the tract herein described; thence

S. 60° 18' 45" W. along land of said Rufus Blodgett, two hundred forty-seven and 45/100 (247.45) feet to an iron pin in a rock; thence

N. 51° 22' 45" W. along said last mentioned land, sixty-three and 89/100 (63.89) feet to an iron pin at Parcel Two herein; thence

N. 20° 22' 41" E. along said Parcel two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin; thence

S. 86° 11' 24" E. along said Parcel Two hundred fifty

and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin in the west side of said Stafford Spring Road; thence

SOUTHWESTERLY along the curved line of Stafford Spring Road, having a radius of fourteen hundred ten (1410) feet, to an arc distance of forty-nine and 23/100 (49.23) feet to the point of tangent; thence

S. 28° 42' 02" W. along said Stafford Springs Road, one hundred and 77/100 (100.77) feet to the stone bound at the point of beginning.

PARCEL TWO:

The land shown and designated as Parcel C on a plan by Sherman & Woods dated May 20, 1999 entitled "Plan of land in Monson, MA. Prepared for William Lemon Sr." recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 313, Page 26, being further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the westerly line of Stafford Road as shown on said plan at the northeast corner of Parcel One described above; thence

N. 86° 11' 24" W. Two hundred fifty and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin being the northwesterly corner of Parcel One described above; thence

S. 20° 22' 41" W. along the westerly line of said Parcel One described above two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin located at the southwesterly corner of Parcel One described above, at land now or formerly of Ronald L. Brodeur et ux; thence

N. 55° 44' 41" W. along said Brodeur land one hundred twenty-three and 11/100 (123.11) feet to an iron pin;

thence N. 55° 29' 49" W. along land now or formerly of Shirley E. Blodgett Michaud as shown on said plan eight-seven and 93/100 (87.93) feet to an iron pin; thence

N. 51° 31' 57" W. again along said land of Michaud two hundred thirty-four and 09/100 (234.09) feet to an iron pin in the southerly line of Parcel B as shown on said plan; thence

N. 79° 33' 13" E. two hundred seventy-four and 65/100 (274.85) feet long the southerly line of said Parcel B to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** in cashier's or certified check

will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: March 13, 2024
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-8

By its Attorney
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC,
100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C,
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
www.dgandl.com 56271
(RIOUX A/K/A YVETTE RIOUX)
04/18, 04/25, 05/02/2024

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

JUNE 2024

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QHSUA members look at survey results

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance's epidemiologist Maegan Boutot shared feedback gathered from a recent survey sent to alliance members.

The alliance serves the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. Some of the towns, particularly Brimfield, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, Oakham and others, lack representation.

"We have a lot of folks who work in the region attend our meetings, but not as many who live in those towns," Boutot said at the April 8 meeting.

She said the survey was distributed to those who attend the alliance's meetings and are on the email list.

Boutot said the survey showed that members preferred monthly meetings being held on Monday mornings, or even in the afternoon. An afternoon session would potentially open up the meetings for more youth and community members.

Hybrid meetings were the

primary choice as well as virtual. Having in person meetings posed a challenge for working people.

Boutot said those taking the survey also asked for more research updates.

"Research is a broad subject," she said. It can cover prevention, treatment, recovery or events with speakers.

Survey takers said it would be great to have more speakers at meetings.

Boutot said the survey also showed that alliance members wanted to receive more information about kratom and hemp-based cannabis, as well as neurodivergence, mental health and substance use.

Boutot said there was less interest in policy making.

"People seem to be more interested in the science than the rules and regulations," she said.

The alliance will still continue to be involved in policy making, Boutot said.

"We're still involved in them and still working on them," she said.

The alliance is now forming working groups with community members to focus on different areas of substance use prevention, including vaping prevention and education, school substance prevention and more.

"We are here to listen," Boutot

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

Prevention. Treatment. Recovery.

said. "We are learning and growing...the team is growing."

Safe Storage update
Drug Free Communities Program Director Rebecca Edwards said Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is running a Safe Storage campaign, to encourage people to safely store their medications and substances in their homes.

Proper storage includes keeping medications out of sight and reach of children; in a locking medicine box; or in a locking, scent-free pouch (for cannabis). It also means disposing of unused or expired medication at the police station or CVS in Ware.

QHSUA member Mark Klee is also working with pharmacy partners to find ways to distribute lock boxes from those locations in the future.

Edwards said people can also

ask for Dispose RX, a tablet that makes the medication unusable and safe to throw away. These are available at Walgreens or your local health department.

For more information, visit www.qhsua.org/safe-storage.

Grant updates

Community Engagement Coordinator for QHSUA Abigail Duda said the alliance is applying for the next cycle of the STOP Act Grant in May. The grant would target underage drinking in 12-20 year olds.

This is a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"We did have a STOP Act Grant that was extended through December 2023," Duda said. "This round will build on what was already established. We are really excited to apply for this."

Duda said the alliance was able

to accomplish a lot with the first grant round, and the second one, if received, will focus on the towns of Palmer and Ware.

Events and updates

QHSUA member Sue Lewandowski said John Morello will visit North Brookfield Public Schools on May 8 and meet with students before welcoming community members from across the region to his "Dirt" presentation that evening.

The evening presentation will be held from 5-7 p.m. in the elementary school. A meet and greet will be held afterward.

"We really want a huge group," she said. "It isn't just for North Brookfield."

Lewandowski said Morello will be in the school all day speaking with students prior to the performance that will be held in the Elementary School.

Various organizations and service providers will have tables set up in the building, including QHSUA. The school band will also perform, and food will be available.

Duda said Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be held on April 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. via Zoom.

"It is our goal to get as many people trained in this as possible," she said. "So you can recognize

signs of distress, whether substance use or mental health."

Those that participate in the Youth Mental Health First Aid training can also choose to take part in a separate "train the trainer" session that will be held over three days.

Nisha Humayun, the Project Coordinator for Community Health with Healthy Quaboag, talked about the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council and how its members are being trained on how to interview community members to complete the food assessment.

Dave Burns of the Palmer Police Department said the collaborative Community Strong Wellness events being held at the Palmer Public Library will continue on select Thursday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

The next Community Strong Wellness event will be held on April 25. People are encouraged to stop in and meet the staff, or share any questions or concerns they may have.

This regular monthly event will assist people looking for help with problematic substance use, mental health concerns, housing stability, financial assistance, health insurance questions and more.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists First Thursday hikes

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, is hosting First Thursday Habitat Hikes each month.

All ages are welcome at these programs; however, dogs are not

allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir.

Quabbin is an area of immense diversity of habitat, from shady vernal pools to sunny mountaintops. Staff will be hosting hikes one Thursday each month (weather permitting) to spotlight some of these

beautiful landscapes.

Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir or email Quabbin.Visitor.Center@mass.gov

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