

The Journal Register

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PALMER

Asst. principals share journey

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – Assistant Principals Week was Apr. 6 to 10, and the high school celebrated by honoring its two Assistant Principals, Amy Herring and Enrique Sanchez.

The school celebrated by presenting gifts to the Assistant Principals throughout the week, including daily tokens from Principal Sue North, and notes that had been written by students. Herring said that the best gifts were the notes from students, thanking the Assistant Principals for being there for them during rough periods of their life, helping them sort things out in difficult classes, or just understanding them.

“It’s a small, close-knit community,” Herring said. “We get to know the kids, their siblings, their families, the good and bad and everything in between. It’s a really great environment to work in, because we have

that connection with all our students. Not only do we know students by name, but a little bit about them, which is unique, I think, to being in a small town.”

Herring has been an educator in town for 32 years, having grown up in Palmer and graduated from the high school in 1990. She graduated from Westfield State in 1994 and got her Master’s from Cambridge College in 2005, then got her administrator licensure through Performance Assessment for Leaders, followed by an apprenticeship under Principal Sue North prior to becoming Assistant Principal.

“I always planned on being a teacher,” Herring said. “I always took a lot of leadership roles within teaching, and Principal North said, ‘you really should look to be administrator, it would be really helpful to have a larger impact on the school and all of the students.’ An opportunity came about when the principal at OMP

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Submitted photo

Assistant Principals Amy Herring and Enrique Sanchez.

MONSON

Select Board notes

Nine-year-old recognized for bravery during fire

By Marcelo Gusmao
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MONSON – Last week’s Select Board meeting featured an appeal from the Parks and Recreation Director, upcoming road warnings from the Highway Department, and the recognition of a very brave resident.

The Tuesday, April 14 meeting began with Chair Peter Warren announcing that assisted listening devices were available for members of the public to request from the staff.

During the meeting, Fire Chief Brian Harris and the Select Board recognized Anna-leah Buffington for her bravery in alerting her family and evacuating her house during a fire. She was awarded a Fire Department Coin, which is given out when someone does something exceptional, and a gift bag from Better Bean.

Public Comments

Parks and Recreation Director Tim Pasco approached the board during Public Comments to address the vote on closing down the Parks and Recreation Department and Cemetery Department. Pasco mentioned that Parks and Rec was formed in 1976, and that his father had worked on it before he did.

“The thought of just eliminating the Parks and Rec Department and not maintaining to a certain standard our fields and having any programs for kids, not only breaks my heart for the kids

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PALMER



Community collaborates on mock accident

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – On Thursday, April 16, at 9 a.m., the high school held a Mock Accident demonstration to show its students the importance of practicing safe driving.

If you spotted a group of teenagers with blood and bruises on their faces, crawling out of a wrecked car on the high school campus, there’s no need for alarm; it was just a part of the school’s annual Mock Accident, which is held every year to raise awareness of the dangers of reckless driving.

“This event is so important to educate our students on the importance of driving safely, and to not be distracted by drunken driving, being impaired, or using cell phones,” said Principal Sue North. “It helps students realize the severe consequences of reckless driving behavior, and allows awareness for responsible decision making.”

The event is made possible through collaboration with the fire departments of Palmer, Three Rivers, and Bondsville, the police department, Beers Story Funeral Home, Gary Labonte Towing, Pathfinder Techni-



Submitted Photos

Top photo, Firefighters were on the scene to demonstrate how to safely remove victims from the wrecked car. Kodah, under heavy makeup, took the driver’s seat of the wrecked van for the mock accident.

cal Vocational School, and UMass LifeFlight.

“Unfortunately, due to weather, the helicopter couldn’t fly in,” North said.

Volunteers for the event included Abigail Labier, Kodah Laviolette, Avigail Lee, Chris Stapleton, and Wyatt Tindlund. The EMTs were Kelsey Coyle, Garrett Lafond, and Paige Venneri.

“I think it’s an incredible opportunity that our students get to take part in, as well as observe,” said Assistant Principal Amy Herring. “Some of our students are victims,

while some, the students that take EMT course, are actually first responders.”

Herring quoted Principal North saying, “if it impacts one life and one decision that a student makes, then it’s worth it.”

“We have kids that say that they’ve thought of that accident when they’ve made certain decisions,” Herring said. “You’re not always sure how seriously they take it in the moment, because it’s all dramatized.”

MOCK | page 14

THREE RIVERS

Goodspeed Entertainment returns for Pitch Please Karaoke Night

By Marcelo Gusmao
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THREE RIVERS – Last week, the St. Stanislaus Polish Club held a “Pitch Please” Karaoke Night in partnership with the Domestic Violence Task Force.

Kathy Goodspeed has recently returned to the area to re-open her entertainment business, Goodspeed Entertainment.

“I haven’t done it in a while, so I’m just starting to get back into it,” Goodspeed said. “I had moved to New York for about eight years, but before that I was booked steadily about six nights a week. Sometimes I had three or four shows a night, so I had people that worked for me



Photo by Marcelo Gusmao

Dominique performed several songs for the crowd, ranging from hits by Ariana Grande to the soundtrack from Disney’s Mulan.

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PALMER

Bid goes out for Converse Middle School

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – The Town Council met last Monday to address some old business, vote on previous discussions, and make an appointment to the Redevelopment Authority, as well as providing an update to the sale of Converse Middle School.

Old Business

The council voted on adopting the provisions from Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40u. Town Manager Brad Brothers provided a legal follow-up from a previous discussion.

“The key driver on this is that ‘they do not feel like a separate fee schedule’ means that we can avoid the ordinance review process,” Brothers said. “Their recommendation was to leave that

in there as is.”

As for concerns that the process might need to be started over with a Public Hearing Notice, Brothers said, “they did not feel like any changes that are put forth in this were substantive enough to start the process over again.”

The last change from the prior meeting was to remove a revolving fund. “After discussion with legal and the Department of Revenue, it’s recommended to increase our revenue projections and add a budget line into our expense lines to off-set that,” Brothers said.

“Rather than create a special revenue fund that has

CONVERSE | page 6



Oliveira secures targeted fair share investments

BOSTON – State Senator Jake Oliveira (Ludlow-D) announced today that he has secured targeted investments for local schools and infrastructure across the Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester District as part of the Massachusetts Senate’s \$1.57 billion Fair Share supplemental budget.

The legislation combines direct investments in education and transportation with policy changes to lower housing costs, strengthen the primary care workforce, and provide relief to cities and towns facing rising costs.

“Communities across our district and the Commonwealth are feeling the pressure every day - school districts trying to keep up with

rising special education costs, families navigating higher health care expenses, communities managing aging infrastructure,” said Senator Oliveira. “This funding is about responding to those realities in a targeted, practical way.”

As part of the broader statewide package, Senator Oliveira secured funding for projects identified through direct conversations with local officials, educators, and community leaders:

Education Investments

- \$125,000 for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School to purchase EKG machines and related equipment for Health Assisting and Medical Assisting programs
- \$120,000 for Hamp-

den-Wilbraham Regional School District for district-wide computer replacement and upgrades to computer graphics classrooms

- \$110,000 for Longmeadow Public Schools for access control system replacement, expanded surveillance, and instructional technology upgrades

- \$200,000 for Sgt. Robert R. Litwin School to replace the gymnasium floor
- \$40,000 for Henry J. Skala School for playground improvements
- \$15,000 for South Hadley High School to upgrade



Jake Oliveira

auditorium light board systems

- \$7,500 for Michael Smith Middle School for digital communication screens

- \$25,000 for Ludlow Public Schools to help offset rising special education costs

Local Infrastructure

- \$100,000 for road improvements in Belchertown, including design work on the Main Street and North Main Street project

“These are practical investments; equipment students will use, facilities that need repair, and infrastructure communities rely on,” Olivei-

ra added. “They’re targeted because that’s how you make real impact at the local level.”

The Senate’s supplemental budget also makes significant Fair Share investments across Massachusetts, including:

- \$618 million for education, including increased special education reimbursements and new investments in early education, literacy, and higher education research

- \$763 million for transportation, including funding for municipal road repairs, regional transit, and MBTA improvements

- \$100 million in municipal relief to help cities and towns respond to extraordinary winter costs from the 2026 blizzards

The legislation also includes policy initiatives that incentivize new housing construction by exempting certain building materials from the sales tax, and expand access to primary care through scholarships for UMass Chan Medical School students who commit to serving underserved communities.

These investments are funded through the voter-approved Fair Share surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million, which continues to generate revenue for education and transportation priorities across the Commonwealth.

The Senate passed the bill with a 35-4 roll call vote and sent it to the House of Representatives for further review.

Songs & tales of community coming to Senior Center

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

Entitled “Landscapes of Hope,” Van Egmond’s program will be a collection of traditional and contemporary songs as well as tales about what draws a community to-

gether. Themes will include a shared sense of belonging and inspiration drawn from the land around us, the fabric of family, friends and neighbors, and the hope everyone shares for peace and plenty. Van Egmond’s presentation will range from the rib-tickling to the spine-tingling to the heart-warming. He’ll accompany himself with guitar, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer

A resident of Montague, MA, Van Egmond has performed for over 40 years throughout the coun-

try, appearing at hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers, and on television and radio. He’s been chosen for the New England States Touring Program, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s STARS Residency Programs. His dynamic talent, warmth, and humor create a moving and enjoyable experience for all. Renowned author and storyteller Jane Yolen has said, “Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!”

Plant sale to be held on May 9

MONSON – Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 9 at a new location in front of Memorial Hall on Main St. in Monson starting at 9 a.m.

A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Prices range from \$3 and up. There

will also be an assortment of special gift planters for Mother’s Day gifts.

The plants come from members’ gardens, and members will be available to answer questions about the plants they enjoy.

Proceeds from the sale are used for local community projects such as the downtown plantings, holiday greens, and scholarships.



Scholarship deadline April 28

MONSON – The Monson Garden Club has announced that two \$500 scholarships are available to high school seniors who reside in Monson and plan to continue school at a 2- or 4-year college to study in any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences. Applications with instructions may be obtained through their school guidance office and are due by April 28, 2026.

Spring Fest on May 1

LUDLOW – The Patrons of the Ludlow Cultural Council are hosting “Spring Fest, A Silent Auction Fundraiser” on Friday, May 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen’s Club on East Street in Ludlow.

Auction items include tickets to Tanglewood for James Taylor, WooSox VIP ticket package and a \$100 gift card to McCarthy’s Pub in Belchertown.

In the classroom

COLLEGE NOTES

Demartino named to Montclair State University’s Dean’s List

MONTCLAIR, NJ – Sofia Demartino a student at Montclair State University was recently named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List.

Demartino is from Holland, Mass and is a Dance major. Demartino was among more than 7,000 students named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.



Palmer Senior Center

comes to embody a generation. Alongside his mamma, his best friend Bubba, and his favorite girl Jenny, Forrest has a ringside seat for the most memorable events of the second half of the 20th Century.

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

April 24: “Forrest Gump” – Tom Hanks gives an astonishing performance as Forrest, an everyman whose simple innocence

Monday Evening Programs
4:30 p.m.

Monday, April 27: “Construction of the Wind-sor Dam”

Activities

April 29 Fruit and Veg-gie Stand

Quabbin Series
April 27, May 11, and May 18

Rep. Puppolo pleased to announce passage of Monson Select Board Bill

MONSON – State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. and State Representative Brian M. Ashe are pleased to announce that the Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed H.4602 - An Act Relative to the Monson Select Board, a local bill that will enhance governance in the Town of Monson.

The legislation authorizes the expansion of Monson’s Select Board from three members to five members, allowing for broader representation and improved

decision-making for the community. The bill was filed following approval at the local level and reflects the will of Monson residents.

Representative Puppolo and Representative Ashe were approached to co-file this bill after receiving local approval to expand the number of members on the Monson select board from 3 to 5

“This is an important step forward for the Town of Monson,” said Representative Puppolo. “Expanding the Select Board will provide greater representation

and strengthen the town’s ability to effectively serve its residents.”

Both Representatives Puppolo and Ashe expressed their satisfaction with the bill’s progress in the House and emphasized the collaborative effort behind its advancement.

Having passed the House, H.4602 is now expected to head to the Governor’s desk to be signed.

For further information, please contact Representative Puppolo directly at 413-596-4333.

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Senator Oliveira applauds Senate Passage of FARM Bill

BOSTON – State Senator Jake Oliveira (Ludlow-D) is applauding the Massachusetts Senate’s unanimous passage of S.3029, An Act fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts, emphasizing its importance for Western Massachusetts and the region’s agricultural economy. The legislation, commonly referred to as the FARM Bill, passed during the Senate’s formal session on Wednesday and makes significant investments in local farms, strengthens food access programs, and supports long-term agricultural sustainability across the Commonwealth. “For Western Massachusetts, agriculture is not just an industry, it is a cornerstone of our regional economy and identity,” said Senator Oliveira.

“This bill recognizes that reality and makes meaningful investments to ensure our farms, families, and food systems can thrive for generations to come.” Western Massachusetts is home to a large share of the Commonwealth’s farmland, including family-owned farms, dairy operations, and specialty crop producers. Senator Oliveira highlighted that the FARM Bill delivers targeted support for these operations by:

- Expanding opportunities for agritourism, helping farms diversify revenue through activities like farm stands and pick-your-own operations
- Establishing a local option property tax exemption for new agricultural buildings, reducing costs for farm-

ers looking to grow

- Making permanent the Food Security Infrastructure Grant program, which supports critical investments in farm and food system infrastructure

“These provisions help level the playing field for farms in Western Massachusetts, where operating costs are high, and margins are often tight,” Oliveira said. “This is about keeping farms viable and ensuring our rural communities remain economically strong.” The bill also permanently codifies key food access programs, including the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) and Farm to School initiatives, which connect families and students with fresh, locally

BILL | page 6

Residents invited to visit new exhibit by local photographer

BOSTON – State Senator Jake Oliveira (Ludlow-D) is inviting residents to visit a new exhibit now on display in the Massachusetts State House Senate Gallery, titled “Quabbin – Yesterday and Today,” which highlights the history, legacy, and natural beauty of the Quabbin Reservoir region. “Whether you’re planning a trip to the State House during school vacation week or just looking for a reason to stop by Beacon Hill, this exhibit offers a terrific opportunity to connect with a defining piece of Western Massachusetts history,” said Senator Jake Oliveira.

The exhibit features contemporary photography from Belchertown-based nature photographer Ed Comeau, showcasing the landscapes and wildlife that make the Quabbin one of the most unique and protected natural resources in the Commonwealth. These images are paired with historical photographs from the Digital Commonwealth Massachusetts State Archives, as well as rare late-1800s images from the Friends of the Quabbin collection, offering a window into the communities that once thrived in the Swift River Valley before the reservoir was created. This exhibit was made possible through a grant from the Mass Cultural Council to the Friends of the Quabbin.

For many in the region, the story of the Quabbin is both deeply personal and

historically significant. The creation of the reservoir in the early 20th century displaced entire towns—Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott—and forever changed the landscape of Central and Western Massachusetts.

“The Quabbin is such a wonderful place to visit,” said Comeau. “Along with its beauty, it is an incredible engineering feat that brings millions of gallons of water from Western Massachusetts to the metro Boston area. I greatly appreciate that Senator Oliveira asked me to share my photographs in this exhibit to help tell the story of the Quabbin, yesterday and today.”

Today, the Quabbin provides clean drinking water to approximately 2.7 million people across the Commonwealth and remains one of the largest unfiltered public water supplies in the country, protected through the careful stewardship of the 12 towns in the Quabbin Region and the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Division of Water Supply Protection. That stewardship has

also preserved thousands of acres of open space that continue to support recreation, conservation, and a strong connection to the outdoors.

If you’re visiting the State House in the coming weeks, Senator Oliveira encourages you to take a few moments to stop by the Senate Gallery and experience this exhibit. “It’s a powerful reminder that Massachusetts’ story extends well beyond Boston, and that the history and contributions of Western Massachusetts communities continue to shape the Commonwealth today,” said Oliveira.

The photographs will be on exhibit until the end of May.

About the Artist: Ed Comeau is a nature photographer based in Belchertown, Massachusetts. He frequently photographs the landscapes and wildlife of the Quabbin Reservoir and serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Quabbin. His work can be viewed at www.ComeauPhotography.com and on Instagram @edcomeauphotography.

Plant, Bake Sale, Craft, Tag Sale set for May 16

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 20th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 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 several local vendors including Stillman’s Farm and Howe’s Farm and Garden of New Braintree, Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, and “home-grown lovelies” from private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads

will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine. All are welcome.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale. Please reserve your space on the Hardwick Common early. Spaces will be offered for \$35.00 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or 413-477-6942.

Tax bills due May 1

PALMER – The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:

Fiscal Year 2026 4th quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by May 1, 2026.

Please call the Collector’s office at (413) 283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday the Town Administration Building is closed.

Gardening workshop offered May 1

WARE – Ware Grange’s first gardening workshop of the year, “Hands on with Summer Annual Flowers,” will be held on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware.

Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly “In the Garden” column for Turley Publications. Participants will learn about easy to grow summer annuals and get to try their hand at

seed starting. Such favorites as Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos and Bachelor’s Buttons will be covered.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Bargain Clothing Sale April 25

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

Time to find some clothing for the entire family. Everyone is welcome. Clothing is \$1.00 per bag.

Plant sale May 16

MONSON – The Down of Earth Gardeners will hold their 28th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16th, 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, next to the United Methodist Church located at 162 Main Street, Monson across from Dunkin’ Donuts. Many plants for shade or sun plus a large selection of perennials, ground covers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and more. For more information call Debi at 267-5207.

Monson nomination papers available for town election

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

The following slate of offices are available:

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

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

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

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

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

Nomination papers available

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Must I set up a Social Security account to enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least three months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead:

You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online.

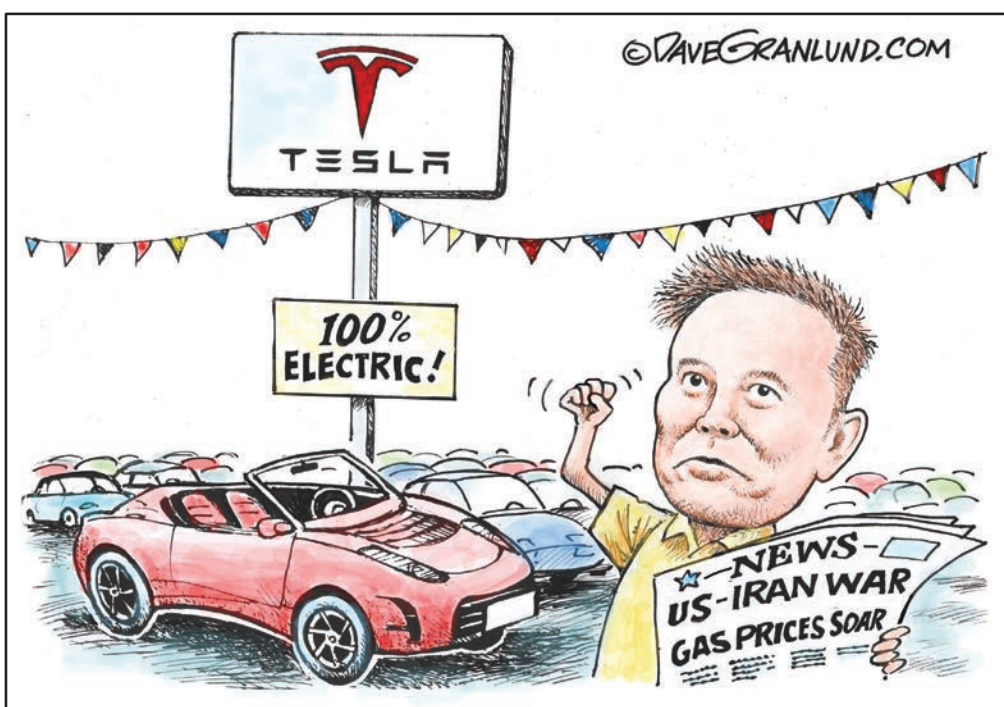
As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to three months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to three months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1-800-772-1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up.

However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



In honor of Mother Earth

This week, we celebrate Earth Day. Lots of towns host bulk waste days or a town-wide clean up as ways to note the day.

While most of us garden with great intentions such as beautifying our yards or producing home grown vegetables, it is important to note that the gardening/greenhouse industry hasn't always been what you'd call "earth-friendly." From mountains of plastic pots not rotting away in our landfills to story after story of chemical misuse, we inadvertently hurt the very source of our pleasure.

So, in honor of Earth Day, read from the archives eight easy things we can do as gardeners to tread a bit more lightly on 'ole Mother.

Feed the soil, not the plant. Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phosphate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient storehouses.

Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.

Start a compost pile. Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and give it a turn. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter.

No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of "black gold."

Make compost tea. Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with "blue water," perk them up with home-

brewed compost tea. Mix one part well-rotted compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants.

Shop Mom and Pop. Buying local, directly from the grower usually means a knowledgeable sales team! Form relationships and learn from their expertise.

Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options.

Reduce, reuse, recycle! I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I'd like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow next years crop.

If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some homegrown seedlings and recycle the rest. An even better solution for earth conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs. Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot – the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you must choose a chemical option follow the manu-

facturer's recommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking!

Conserve water. We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of moisture lost to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do?

For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest. Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year's time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty past the growing season.

This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic – all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the off-season.

Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ed cowbird in his yard. He said it was unusual as he usually sees the male before the female.

He said, "On Sunday I did a tour of local ponds. There was a pair of ring-necked ducks on Sherman Pond in Brimfield and several on a pond in Warren. Also in Warren I saw an osprey at the pond where they have nested for several years. I've been checking the pond since early March and this is the first sighting of an osprey this year. I hope its partner shows up soon."

He also said, in Warren, there was a bald eagle at a pond on New Reed Street. There has been one or two there frequently during March. A pair of eastern bluebirds was seen perched on two different trees with holes possibly suitable for a nest. I often see bluebirds using nesting boxes, but have never seen them using a natural cavity. I'll keep checking to see if they nest in either tree."

Non-bird sighting
The Brimfield resident

reported a non-bird sighting. He said "while driving out of the driveway yesterday I saw a small frog hopping off of the driveway. Probably a spring peeper. I'll have to check a nearby small pond in the woods nearby to see if there are peepers there. The frog could have been a pickerel frog, we see those every year in the yard. They come in three sizes; small, medium and large. I try to be careful when I mow or weed whack to avoid them."

Raven
My granddaughter while walking her dogs on Saturday, April 11 heard the croaking sound of a raven. It startled both the dogs and her.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.



By Ellenor Downer

Last Wednesday, April 8 while waiting at the bus stop for my grandson, I saw two red-breasted nuthatches in a small grove of pine trees near the road.

They were going up and down several pine trees most likely in search of insects. The red-breasted nuthatch is about 4.3 to 4.7 inches long and exhibits the typical head-down nuthatch behavior of its larger cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch. Male and females are similar with a black eye stripe, white eyebrow and buff orange underparts. It has a blue-gray back.

They inhabit conifer forests and in winter may be found in other trees. They nest mostly in conifers such as spruce, fir, hemlock.

Both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a rotten stub or snag, usually five to 40 feet about the ground. Sticky pitch is smeared around the



Red-breasted nuthatch

entrance of the nest hole possibly to prevent other creatures from entering. Adults avoid getting stuck in the pitch by flying straight into the hole. Sometimes they are seen with pitch on their feathers.

The female lays five to six white, spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs and the male brings food to her. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young nuthatches leave the nest about two to three weeks after hatching.

They have a soft, musical song used especially in

courtship by the male. These nuthatches eat insects, spiders and seeds in summer. In winter they eat many seeds especially those of conifers.

Nesting bluebirds
On Saturday, April 11 I received an email from a Hampden resident. She said, "Our bluebirds are back and have completed their nest. We are awaiting the first egg. I'm surprised they use mostly pine needles constructing the nest."

Brimfield birds
A Brimfield resident said he saw a female brown-head-

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Please send opinions to:
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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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

April Vendors

April 30 - Jewelry for Diane

May Vendors

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

May 9

Brimfield Farmers Market save these dates: May 9 is the annual Hitchcock Plant Sale, and this year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on May 30.

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor

Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nurse warns COVID isn't done with us yet



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
 Guest Column

Here we go again! A new, "highly mutated" COVID strain is quickly gaining ground around the country, according to new data. This time, unlike in 2020, it's barely causing a ripple in the headlines - and that's a good thing. Still, it pays to be aware of it if you're in one of the vulnerable populations - over 65,

immunocompromised, underlying health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease. If it's been six months or more since your last immunization, roll up your sleeve again for your 412th COVID shot. (An exaggeration, but isn't that what it feels like?) This variant, BA.3.2, is nicknamed "Cicada" because, like the rarely emerging in-

sect, it has largely remained undetected or "underground" since its discovery, Dr. Robert H. Hopkins Jr., medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, told USA Today.

It's considered highly mutated because its 70 or so mutations distinguish it from the JN.1 strain, which has predominated over the last two years.

Most people are either vaccinated or have had COVID, so there's a fair amount of immunity out there. Cicada may be able to evade current immunity; however, public health officials say that the vaccine in current use, which was based on JN.1, will very likely keep you out of the hospital with a serious illness even if you do get COVID.

Other people who should consider a vaccine, according to public health experts, are health-care workers, caregiv-

ers, those in high-contact environments (teachers, college students) and pregnant women. Of course, you should go with your doctor's recommendations.

The symptoms are what we've come to expect:

- Joint and muscle aches
- Fever
- Coughing
- Sore throat

COVID tests on the market are considered highly effective at detecting the virus, even Cicada, especially if you take it within 24 to 48 hours of noticing symptoms. If you do have COVID, you'll want to steer clear of those who are unvaccinated or who have underlying medical conditions.

While COVID is no longer as serious as it was during the pandemic's heyday, it nonetheless caused an estimated 390,000 to 550,000

HEALTH | page 8

POETRY CORNER

Concord: A Springtime Adress

*Concord River in the rising Spring, –
 Knee deep in the song of the flood;
 History has been carried through these fields;
 And the Mothers blood the drum beat moved*

*Onward, long ago under the bridge to the sea,
 When Patriot muskets supported freedoms cause:
 To keep the Earth was the destiny,
 In response to ancient laws.*

*Dear river, the past comes back again,
 Each year as it has before;
 Those that assemble upon the green banks,
 Come in remembrance of what others bore.*

*And here to speak the April hope –
 To live ever – and its life to bring:
 Harmony around the land for as long
 As Concord flows and rushing voices sing.*

– Charles Barnes

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BILL | from page 3

grown food. The legislation also enhances data tracking across food assistance programs, helping the state better understand and respond to food insecurity, particularly in light

of federal cuts to nutrition and local food purchasing programs.

Recognizing the long-term challenges facing agriculture, the FARM Bill includes forward-looking measures to protect farmland and improve planning, such as creating a statewide agri-

cultural land database and updating the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program.

Senator Oliveira emphasized that these provisions are critical for Western Massachusetts, where development pressures and land costs can threaten the future of farming.

“When we talk about regional equity, we are talking about making sure Western Massachusetts has the tools and resources to preserve its agricultural land and support the next generation of farmers,” Oliveira said. “This bill takes an important step in that direction.”

Senator Oliveira emphasized that the FARM Bill reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that state policy recognizes the unique needs of regions outside Greater Boston.

“Massachusetts goes past Worcester, and this legislation reflects that,” Oliveira said.

“By investing in agriculture, food access, and rural infrastructure, we are making sure Western Massachusetts receives its fair share and remains a vital part of the Commonwealth’s future.”

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

NOTES | from page 1

in town, but the kids at the high school,” Pasco said. “I feel bad for the kids in town, mostly, but I can’t help but make this personal.”

Pasco said that in addition to dedicating his whole life to the Parks and Recreation department, he was four years away from retirement.

“We’ve always made it work, we’ve been cut before, and we just try to get through,” Pasco said. “To hear that you were going to cut, completely, Parks and Rec and Cemetery, breaks my heart.”

Carolyn Whitmore read a letter from the Monson Democratic Town Committee, thanking Senator Ed Markey for his “instrumental” work in securing a \$1 million grant for the town for the repairs and expansion of the fire department.

“Your participation on March 6 confirms an ongoing commitment to supporting rural communities like ours, with a relatively small population, limited resources, and voice,” Whitmore read. “Grants such as these

are fundamental to maintaining the infrastructure necessary to sustain a community.

“What struck us the most about the visit was how comprehensively (Markey) addressed the broader issues affecting small towns beyond this transaction,” Whitmore continued, praising Markey’s articulation of the roles and responsibilities of the principles, as well as situational awareness of current policies and the need for forward-looking perspective.

“The non-partisan expression of appreciation for those directly involved in this collaborative effort encourages the cooperative spirit so necessary in coping with the financial issues faced by our rural communities,” Whitmore said. “The tenor and tone were particularly poignant, given that this is an election year.”

Bob Lamb then followed up by announcing that the Monson Republican Town Committee will host its Candidates’ Night on Saturday, May 9, at 5 p.m. at the Polish American Citizens Club at 7 Bliss St, and will host the M-Pact candi-

dates forum this year.

Road and Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy announced that the state will continue paving on Route 32, starting on April 20, from King Avenue to the bridge at Green Street.

“Expect delays from April 20,” Murphy warned. “It’s going to be a two-week period. The milling goes down first, and then it’s going to be the paving.”

Murphy also warned that during the milling and paving of the Wales Road intersection, traffic will have to be shut down.

“They cannot have traffic coming through it, it will probably be a two- to three-hour period,” Murphy said. “They’re going to be detoured from Munn Road and around East Hill.”

Murphy finished by announcing that the bridge on Old Wales Road that has been getting work done over the last two years, had been recently paved, and the rest of the road would be paved over the course of the week.

“Next week, if anyone’s ever been up there,” Murphy said, “check it out afterwards, it’s going to be pretty nice.”

JOURNEY | from page 1

left and our Assistant Principal moved over to that role, so I took her role as an interim basis and was eventually hired permanently in the role.”

Sanchez was born in Puerto Rico and moved to the United States when he was five years old. After attending Worcester Public Schools, he graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a Bachelor’s Degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies, and attained Master’s Degrees from Worcester State University and Merrimack College.

“I did not initially plan to become a teacher,” Sanchez said. “I began my career as a substitute in Webster Public Schools, where I accepted a long-term Spanish teaching position for grades 7-12. During my time there, I discovered my passion for education and for helping students develop a love of learning.”

Herring was a teacher for 28 years, and taught in all three school buildings in the district; Old Mill Pond, Converse Middle School until it closed, and then the high school, before becoming an

assistant principal. She credited Principal North as pushing her to take leadership roles, working as Department Head for Math, then as Team Leader, and President of the Parent/Teacher Alliance.

Herring said that a unique part of being in the district is watching whole generations of families grow up in the system. She and her husband live in town, and have two daughters of her own who teach in town; Beky O’Brien, who teaches fifth grade, and Samantha Herring, who is a preschool teacher, both at OMP.

Sanchez took on leadership roles as a lead mentor and lead teacher, before eventually becoming an assistant principal in the Worcester Public Schools. He then transitioned to Palmer Public Schools, where he has been for the past two years, saying he has “truly love(s) being part of this community.”

“My journey into education has been driven by two core motivations,” Sanchez said, “my love for working with young people, and my deep belief in the power of education.”

“My parents were unable to complete middle school due to economic hardships in

Puerto Rico, not by choice but by circumstance,” Sanchez said. “Their experiences have profoundly shaped my commitment to ensuring that all students have access to opportunities and support.”

Herring described her passion for education and finding new and innovative teaching strategies. “What I love about my job is working with our amazing kids every day,” Herring said. “I feel truly lucky and blessed to have worked with the incredible students and staff of Palmer over these years. I am dedicated to this community and am a resident as well.”

As an assistant principal, Sanchez said he values the opportunity to collaborate with students, families, educators, and the community. “I am passionate about helping create a school environment where students feel supported, inspired, and empowered to become future leaders.”

“Each day, I leave work knowing that I am contributing to something meaningful, not only within Palmer, but in shaping the future through our students,” Sanchez said. “That sense of purpose continues to drive my passion and commitment to this work.”

CONVERSE | from page 1

to then be re-appropriated by council, this would be approved during the budget process for a certain limit, and if we need more funds for whatever reason – let’s say the account ran short – we would go request a transfer from the council,” Brothers said.

The council voted unanimously in favor of adopting the provisions. Brothers then updated the town on the Request for Proposal regarding Converse Middle School.

“The RFP is available,” Brothers announced. “There’s a minimum bid price of \$1.5 million. It will have the 55-plus restriction the council voted on, and bids are due May 15 at noon, and I’ll be opening the bids right after, and the sole criteria on the bid proposal was the price point.”

New Business

The town appointed Paul Hennick to the Redevelopment Authority, to a term ending on June 30, of 2028.

“I moved here about a year ago with my fiancée, closer to a year-and-a-half now,” Hennick said. “I love this town, I think it’s beautiful.”

Hennick said that he grew up in a small town before moving to the city for much of his life, but that the town reminds him of where he grew up.

“My fiancée’s part of the PRA, and she’s had a great experience with it,” Hennick said. “I just think I’d really like to give back to the community and put my best foot forward and see how I can help everyone. I think I can bring a fresh set of eyes, and am very open to helping out

in the community.”

Public Comments

A member of the public approached the council to ask about \$5 million reported by the DOR as being “given to the town in the form of Available Funds, or Free Cash.”

“Through the budget process, we outline projected revenues and projected expenses,” Brothers explained. “When we close out the books for the fiscal year, usually – in Palmer’s case, I think, always – we’ve never had a shortage of revenues. There’s always a surplus.”

Brothers explained that if the town projected an amount of revenue and the town took in that amount with a surplus, that surplus would flow into the Free Cash fund. He said that just from turnbacks, the town made approximately \$2 million.

“One of the key ones was the police department,” Brothers said. “We had a turnback of, I think, about \$150,000 from that department solely, because we didn’t fill all of the vacant officers’ positions.”

Brothers cited vacancies in other departments as other sources of turnback fundage. “When you combined all of those, they were in the \$2 million range,” Brothers said, and explained that when combined with the school department, “when you look at those, that’s what gives you the \$5 million total.”

Brothers added that the town has a financial policy is to automatically roll over \$500,000 in Free Cash. “That way, it gives us a little bit of blanket if we have a down year,” Brothers said.

The resident asked if the

money would be used to fund any particular project, or if it would be held onto it in anticipation of upcoming costs.

“DLS recommends that the town maintain 5-7% over all of Free Cash in our reserves – basically, a rainy day fund,” said Council President Barbara Barry.

Barry explained that Free Cash would be used to fund the capital budget, and that the council served a similar role in the yearly budget process to Annual Town Meetings in many neighboring towns.

“To maintain 5-7%,” Barry explained, “you have to generate more than 5-7%, or you have nothing to spend. We have historically used Free Cash to fund our Capital Improvement Projects, our Capital Improvement Budget. We also use Free Cash to fund the Snow and Ice Deficit ev-

ery year.”

Barry said that over the course of the year, the council might vote to use the funds to purchase vehicles or cover shortfalls in operating budgets.

“We have been very aware, as a Town Council, that we have a lot of capital needs in this community, so we are being very conservative with what we spend,” Barry said. “We’re putting money aside, because we know that there are a lot of big-ticket items coming up, and we, including our Town Manager, would rather use those funds than to have to borrow and incur additional interest on loans, which then takes away from operations.”

The community member thanked the Town Manager and council for the explanation on behalf of the town.



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Obituaries

Paul E. Sullivan

1952-2026

MONSON – Paul E. Sullivan, 73, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 18, 2026, after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Paul was born in Palmer, Massachusetts, to the late Frederick and Marjorie (Dearden) Sullivan, and spent most of his life in Monson, a community he loved and remained deeply connected to throughout his life. A proud graduate of Monson High School, Class of 1970, Paul was among the last young men drafted during the Vietnam War era. He served honorably in the United States Army for two years.

After his service, Paul worked for several years at the Monson Developmental Center before continuing his education. Through determination and hard work, he graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1983 with a degree in Engineering.

Paul began his professional career at Sikorsky Aircraft in southern Connecticut before returning home to Massachusetts, where he joined Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in Springfield. Over a 24-year career, he rose through the ranks, working in both systems and management within Retirement Services. He retired in 2012, leaving behind many

valued friendships and professional accomplishments.

Paul had a lifelong passion for sports and the outdoors. Whether golfing, running, skiing, hiking, or cycling, he found joy in staying active. In his twenties, Paul earned a brown belt in karate. He was especially proud of his years coaching children's basketball and baseball in Monson, sharing not only skills but encouragement and enthusiasm. A devoted UMass basketball fan, Paul cherished his years as a season ticket holder, often sharing the experience with close friends—especially his longtime friend, Rich Defoe.

In later years, cycling became Paul's greatest passion. Inspired by personal loss—his brother's passing and his stepson's childhood cancer—he participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge for several years, raising money for the Jimmy Fund. This effort reflected Paul's quiet strength, compassion, and desire to give back.

Paul was also an active member of the Monson Rotary Club, where he served for many years, including four years as president. He especially loved the community events, with a particular fondness for the annual Lucky Duck Race. Many



will remember him proudly driving his truck-decorated with bright yellow ducks-in the Monson Fourth of July parade to promote the event.

Above all, Paul was a devoted family man and loyal friend.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 29 years, Dawn (Russell) Sullivan; his stepdaughter, Rebecca Fetty and her husband Matthew, and granddaughter Clara of Fort Worth, Texas; his stepdaughter, Katharine Blais, and granddaughter Abigail Churma of Ledyard, Connecticut; and his stepson, Stephen Blais and his wife Dyan, along with grandchildren Quinn and Bryson of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Paul also leaves his sister, Jane (Sullivan) Arthur and her husband Damien of Monson, whose unwavering care and support meant so much to him throughout his illness. He is fondly remembered by his niece and nephew, Johanna (Arthur) Alvarado and Jesse Arthur along with their families, who were very special to him. He also leaves his extended Colorado family, including his brother-in-law Mark Gallagher, nephew Nate Cowing, and niece Emily Roussel and their families.

Paul is survived as well by

his oldest and dearest friend of 69 years, Jack Talmadge and his wife Kim of Lehigh Acres, Florida, along with many cousins and close friends whose lives he touched.

He was predeceased by his brother, Frederick (Ricky) Sullivan in 1964, and his sister-in-law, Lissa (Russell) Gallagher earlier this year.

Visitation will be held on Monday, April 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home, located at 3 Bridge Street, Monson, MA 01057. The funeral service will take place at the funeral home on Tuesday, April 28 at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Bethany Cemetery in Monson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011; the Veterans Home in Holyoke, 110 Cherry Street, Holyoke, MA 01040; or the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Jimmy Fund, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the nurses and staff of 1 North and 2 North at the Veterans Home in Holyoke for the exceptional loving care, kindness, and compassion they provided to Paul.

For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

DEATH NOTICES

Paul E. Sullivan
Died April 18, 2026
Services April 28, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

Michael J. Wojnilowicz
Died April 18, 2026
Services April 27, 2026
Motyka Funeral Home

The Valley family would like to have you join us in **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF**

Tony Valley

September 3, 1970 - January 5, 2026

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Michael J. Wojnilowicz

1937-2026

Michael J. Wojnilowicz, 89, passed away April 18, 2026, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Three Rivers, MA February 4, 1937. He was the son of the late Michael H. and Mary (Cichon) Wojnilowicz. He was employed at Wm. E. Wright Co. in West Warren, MA, and retired after many years as a Distribution Manager. He was a communicant of Divine Mercy Parish in Three

Rivers, MA. Michael loved his Polka dancing for many years and enjoyed his Polka trips to the Catskills on weekends, and also to Ocean City, Maryland. He enjoyed many trips to the casino with his friends. Michael was predeceased by his 4 brothers, John, Stanley, Walter, and Chester Wojnilowicz; and his 4 sisters, Emily Palmero, Wanda Kwasnik, Veronica Wojnilowicz, and Mary Conant. He is survived by his sister Stephanie Jensen of North Carolina; his godchild, Deborah O'Connor of Belchertown,

MA, many nieces and nephews, and many loving friends. Services will be Monday, April 27, 2026, beginning from the Motyka Funeral Home, 2186 Main St., Three Rivers, MA at 9:15 a.m., followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial in Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA at 10 a.m. Calling hours will be Sunday, April 26, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!

Love, Mom & Dad



KARAOKE | from page 1

that were doing my shows as well."

The "long overdue night out," as the event was advertised, was made possible through collaboration with the Domestic Violence Task Force. After the Task Force's regular meeting, the members were encouraged to hang out and sing karaoke on Goodspeed's machines.

Crystal Rondeau works with the Task Force, and said the group is committed to helping survivors of domestic violence to relocate to the area, and to help raise awareness of the issues of domestic violence.

"I've known Kathy personally for many years," Rondeau said. "She previously let us know she was setting up her karaoke business, and the Task Force wanted to support by advertising. We have our quarterly meetings and one event at St. Stan's per month, so we invited the Task Force to stay."

Goodspeed said that collaborating with groups like the Polish Club and the Task Force is usually a matter of talking to organizers and seeing if they're interested in working together. People like to hear that she had a strong following previously, and are eager to help her build it back up again.

Rondeau said that Goodspeed is eager for her business to reach its previous numbers, and that she hopes to get a regular crowd coming in.

"Crystal (Rondeau) is great, she's very very nice," Goodspeed said. "Hopefully we can get the word out there a little bit more. We would love for people to spread the word and start building up the crowd again."

Goodspeed mentioned that between the machines



Kathy Goodspeed has returned to the area to re-open her business, Goodspeed Entertainment.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Watching Ember (not pictured) sing, (from left) Dominique Libera, Darlene Murphy, Nancy Mundigo, and Sharon Fry.



Chad Henry wowed the crowd with his rendition of "Radio Song" by HARDY.

she regularly uses, she has a collection of over 100,000 songs.

"I've always had a super large inventory of songs.

I have pretty much any song that's out there in karaoke," Goodspeed said. "I also have a really good sound system. I'm not using just any speakers, I bring professional equipment. People like to sound good when they're singing."

If you'd like to book Goodspeed Entertainment for use of their high-quality karaoke equipment, you can reach out to Kathy Goodspeed on Facebook, or call her cell phone at 413-364-0277.

To get in touch with the Domestic Violence Task Force, you can call their number at 413-324-8585, or send an email to PalmerDVTF@gmail.com.



Joe Kennedy enjoyed a sandwich (pictured) while listening to the performers with his wife, Kim.



Kathy got up in front of the crowd and performed from her collection of more than 100,000 songs.

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HEALTH | from page 5

hospitalizations and 45,000 to 64,000 deaths during the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So, it's nothing to be trifled with.

Cases are not overwhelming right now, but they are surging in parts of the country. How do officials know this?

Poop. The viruses that cause COVID and other infectious diseases are shed through a person's stool. Public wastewater treatment facilities actively monitor wastewater for signs of not just COVID but also RSV, flu and measles. The purpose is to keep health officials informed of disease trends; help determine testing and treatment plans; decide locations of vaccination clinics or testing locations; and help hospitals plan for possible surges in admissions.

CDC's wastewater monitoring program, also known as the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS), monitors infectious diseases through wastewater across the country at more than 1,200 sites. There's even an on-line dashboard, WasteWater-SCAN, which was started by Stanford University (waste-

waterscan.org). Through wastewater, CDC tracked the presence of Cicada in 25 states, including Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health collects COVID data from more than 20 wastewater treatment plants around the state.

These folks work hard to help improve the health of our communities and our fellow citizens. We can help their effort by getting a COVID vaccine if our doctor recommends it and staying alert to the symptoms to avoid spreading it.

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

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BASEBALL

Tough start for Pathfinder baseball

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder baseball fell to 0-5 on the season with a 15-1 loss against visiting St. Mary's. The Saints scored 10 times in the first inning to pace win. Pathfinder just managed two hits, including a Brody Wetnicka RBI hit. The Pioneers are now 0-6 on the season.



Zack Smith hits a grounder into play.



Jake Kokoski catches a strike.

Turley photos by Maddox Baer

Emerson Boronski catches a pop fly.



Brody Wetnicka winds back for a pitch.



Sebastian Mayberry delivers a pitch.

BASEBALL

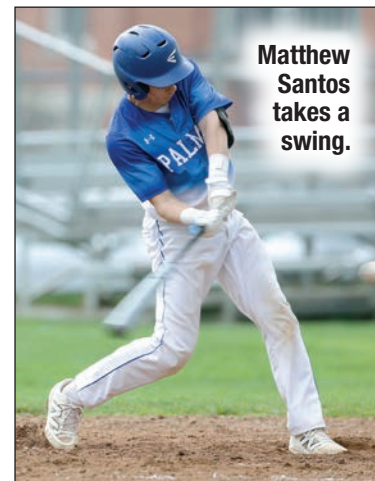
Panthers grab win over Saints

PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, Palmer High School baseball did not have a lot of offense, but defense and pitching led the Panthers to a

4-1 win over St. Mary's. Sebastian Mayberry went 6 2-3 innings, allowing a run and three hits while striking out seven and walking three. The Panthers are up to 5-2 on the regular season.



Josiel Ortiz slides safely into third base.



Matthew Santos takes a swing.



Theo Haley watches the ball into his glove.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brendan Hess slings a throw to first.



Josiel Ortiz takes a swing.

BASEBALL

MHS overcomes sluggish start to beat Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Making his first home start of the 2026 regular season, Ludlow sophomore lefthander Ryan Sargent was nearly unhittable during the first three innings against the Monson Mustangs.

Sargent struck out eight of the first 11 batters that he faced, but the momentum changed sides in the top of the fourth inning. The Mustangs erupted for seven runs during that frame, which led to a 12-3 victory at the Ludlow Sports Complex, last Tuesday afternoon.

"The Ludlow starting pitcher did a very good job of keeping us off-balance early in the game," said Monson head coach Curtis Orlik. "Our bats finally came alive in the fourth inning, and we didn't let up after that."

Sargent, who finished his outing with 10 strikeouts, made several relief appearances for the Lions varsity team a year ago. He hurled a one-hit shutout in his first start of this season which was an 11-0 win at Mahar Regional on April 1. He recorded nine strikeouts and issued four walks in the complete game performance.

"Ryan has the potential to be a very good pitcher," said Ludlow head coach Cam Rivest. "He just needs

to continue working on his craft. I'm looking forward to watching him develop over the next couple of years. He has a very high baseball IQ."

It was a homecoming game for Orlik, who spent a couple of summers playing baseball at Whitney Park, which used to be the home field of the Lions varsity baseball team. Two of Orlik's baseball coaches were Bob Bohl and Lou Casagrande, who attended the Bi-County North League match-up.

"Those were some of the best summers of my life," recalled Orlik, who graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in Fiskdale. "I still keep in touch with Bob, but I haven't seen Lou since we played here last year. He's one of my all-time favorite baseball coaches. I'm very glad that he was able to come to today's game."

A year ago, Orlik guided the Mustangs to an 11-1 victory over the Lions in the first ever varsity game played on the baseball field located behind Ludlow High School.

Monson (3-2) has now won the last six meetings against Ludlow (3-2).

Things didn't start out very well for the Mustangs in their first meeting with the Lions this spring.

Sargent struck out the first two batters that he faced before senior Austin Meacham, who was Monson's

"Our bats finally came alive in the fourth inning, and we didn't let up after that."

Curtis Orlik
Monson High School head coach

starting pitcher, hit a pop-up that landed in shallow left field for a single. Senior first baseman Shane Szado followed with a walk. Sargent quickly ended the threat with another strikeout. He then struck out six of the next seven batters.

The Lions took a 1-0 lead against Meacham in the bottom half of the opening frame.

Senior second baseman Mason Morace hit ground rule double to left field leading off the inning. Senior centerfielder Alex Spurlock (2-for-3) then smacked the first pitch that he saw to center field for a run scoring triple. After the next batter struck out, junior third baseman Christian Kochanek drew a walk putting runners at the corners. Meacham managed to get out of the jam by recording back-to-back strikeouts.

"I did get off to a rough start in today's game," said Meacham, who recorded eight strikeouts. "I threw two fastballs over the plate in the

first inning, and their first two hitters hit it hard. I pitched well after the second inning. This is a big comeback win for us and we're looking to keep it going now."

With two outs in the following inning, an infield hit by junior first baseman Nick Dion (2-for-3) scored junior right fielder Connor Castro (walk) which gave the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Meacham, who was also the winning pitcher in last year's game played at the Ludlow Sports Complex, settled down after that. The righthander, who gave up two runs on four hits in the first two innings, only allowed one run on just two base hits before trading places with sophomore third baseman Anthony Tulloch with two outs in the seventh inning.

The only reason why Orlik was forced to make a pitching change was because Meacham had reached the 115 pitch limit.

MHS | page 10

LACROSSE

Warriors get late surge to beat Orioles

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The non-league girl's lacrosse match-up between the Tantasqua Lady Warriors and the Belchertown Lady Orioles was a tightly contested affair until the middle of the third quarter.

With the score tied, 7-7, the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Orioles, 8-1, over the final 18 minutes of the contest leading to a 15-8 road victory last Friday afternoon.

"I thought my team played very well, especially during the second half," said Tantasqua head coach Heather Egan. "We lost a tough game yesterday and it feels very good to enter the vacation week with a victory."

Tantasqua (5-4), who aren't scheduled to play any games during the April vacation week, suffered an 8-3 road loss against Northbridge High School twenty four hours earlier.

The Lady Warriors have now won five of the last six meetings against Belchertown, which includes a 15-7 home win a year ago.

The only time that the Lady Orioles (5-3), celebrated a win in the series

was a 14-9 victory on their home grass field two years ago.

"We did win at Chicopee High School (19-9) yesterday," said Belchertown head coach Jarrod Lemke. "This has always been a tough match-up game. They're just a fundamentally sound team."

Belchertown, who never held the lead against Tantasqua, is scheduled to play two home games this week.

The Lady Warriors, who play their home matches on a turf field, played their second game on a grass field this spring. They posted a 21-9 win at Notre Dame of Worcester on April 14.

"We've practiced on grass to get ready for our two grass games," Egan said. "It's a lot slower game on grass."

The duo of senior Tess Alexander and sophomore Maeve O'Neil combined to score eight of the Lady Warriors 15 goals in the only meeting of the regular season against the Lady Orioles.

O'Neil scored five goals, which tied her career high. She was also credited with an assist.

WARRIORS | page 10

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Sebastian Mayberry
Palmer High School



Mayberry scored the win for Palmer baseball over St. Mary's. He went the first 6 2-3 innings for the win.

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

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Pioneers still searching for first win

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder fell to host Palmer 8-3 at Palmer High School.

For Pathfinder, Taylor Thorton and Addison Dok-

tor had two hits each. Doktor drove in two of Pathfinder's runs. Hannah Roy, Kylee Lukas and Amhia McElreavy had three hits each. Jaclyn Swiatowski had three RBI.

Jill Holbrook pitched a complete game, allowing three runs and eight hits, striking out five. The Pioneers are 0-7 while Palmer improved to 2-5 for the year.



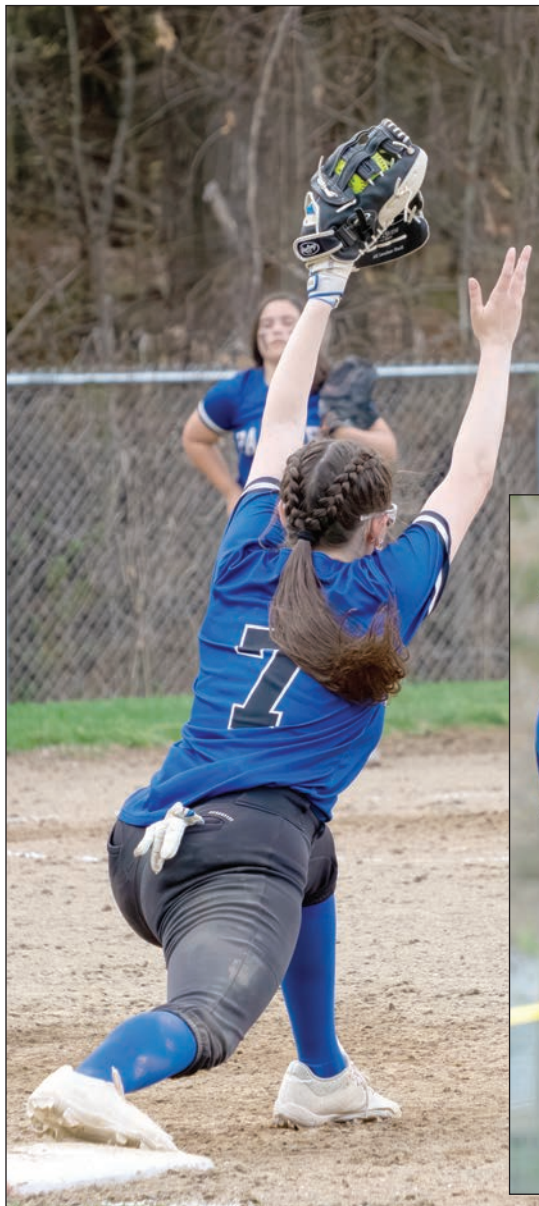
Elisyn Gelinás pressures the runner.



Turley photos by Maddox Baer
Elisyn Gelinás pulls back for the throw.



Addison Doktor winds back for a swing.



Amia McElreavy catches the out at first.



Hannah Roy ready to make contact.



Cici Reed secures the ball.



Taylor Thornton sets to swing.



Taylor Thornton throws a strike over home plate.



Harper Brouillette hits the ball into play.



Harper Brouillette throws the ball across the infield.

WARRIORS | from page 9

"I'm playing with a lot more confidence so far this season," said O'Neil, who's a second-year varsity player. "I'm also one of the leaders on the field."

O'Neil's older sister, Kaydie, is a first year member of the Wheaton College women's lacrosse team.

Alexander also recorded a hat-trick with three goals and three assists.

"Both of them have been our leaders offensively so far this season," Egan said. "They always make good decisions and are always in the right places on the field."

Alexander, who holds the school record for career assists, is one of the remaining Tantasqua players who lost to Belchertown in 2024.

"It definitely feels a lot better than the last time we

played a game on this field," said Alexander, who's planning to play both soccer and lacrosse at Framingham State University. "I really enjoy assisting a little more than I do scoring a goal."

Senior Fiona Knott, who's the Lady Warriors starting goalie, will be playing lacrosse at Bridgewater State University, which is Egan's alma mater.

"We'll have three players playing college lacrosse next year," Egan said. "It's always nice to see your players go on and play a sport at the next level."

Knott made several key saves, especially during the opening half, which helped the Lady Warriors keep the lead. She gave her thoughts on following in her coaches' footsteps.

"I decided to go to Bridgewater because it was a good fit for me," Knott said. "I think it's

cool that I'll be following in my coaches' footsteps. I'm excited to play college lacrosse. We were able to score a bunch of goals in today's game, which took a lot of the pressure off me."

Freshman Liza Alexander scored two goals and sophomore Liv Kearns added another goal during the final four minutes of the third period, which helped the Lady Warriors build an 11-7 lead entering the final twelve minutes of the match.

The trio of junior Bryn Carey, junior Liana McCarthy, and senior Abbie Wotten also chipped in with goals for the visiting team from Fiskdale.

The only other senior listed on the Tantasqua girl's lacrosse roster is Ella Kearns, who's a starting defender.

Belchertown senior goalie Emma Almeida, who

didn't play in the home game versus Tantasqua, is planning to play lacrosse at Elms College.

Freshman Vivienza Haggerty made her first career home start in goal for the Lady Orioles.

"Vivienza played well in her first home game," Lemke said. "Because Emma is a senior, I just want Vivienza to get some experience this year. They're probably going to split playing time."

Junior Lia Pikul posted a hat-trick for the Lady Orioles. Her third goal of the game tied the score for the final time at 7-7 with six minutes left in the third quarter.

Junior's Lily Tellier and Aubrey McCain both scored two goals for the Lady Orioles.

Junior Maddy Philpott added a goal and two assists for the home team.

MHS | from page 9

"I thought Austin pitched outstanding after the second inning," Orlik said. "I can't say enough good things about his performance."

The Mustangs took a 7-2 lead in the fourth inning when they sent 13 batters to the plate.

Meacham, Szado, and senior centerfielder Ben Pignone drew walks against Sargent, which loaded the bases with one out. The Mustangs got on the scoreboard when Tulloch hit a bloop single down the left field line. Junior second baseman Niko Matthieu followed by poking a two-run single into right field, which gave the visiting team the lead for the first time.

Senior shortstop Jake Beaupre (2-for-4) drove home another run with a line-drive single to right. The bases were loaded again when an infield hit by Meacham

(3-for-4) drove in another run making the score 5-2. Freshman catcher Mason Rollet, who was hit-by-a-pitch, also crossed the plate on the play following a throwing error. Szado contributed with an RBI single to left.

At that point, Sargent was relieved by senior righty Lucas Quiterio.

With two outs in the fifth, Beaupre (2-for-4) blasted a run scoring double to center field before Meacham knocked home two more runs with another double, as the Mustangs reached double digits (10-2).

Ludlow scored a run in the bottom of the fifth on an RBI single by senior catcher Ethan Steigmeyer.

The Mustangs put two more runs on the scoreboard in the sixth following a Matthieu sacrifice fly and an RBI double down the left field line by junior right fielder Ray Sheffer.

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WANTED!

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FRIDAY AT NOON

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For a full job description and job application please visit: ma-oakham.civicplus.com/216/Highway-Department or email admin@oakham-ma.gov

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FOR RENT



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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.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Public notices

2026

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts TOWN OF PALMER ANNUAL MEETING

THREE RIVERS FIRE DISTRICT

Submitted to the voters of the Three Rivers Fire District at the Meeting to be held in the Fire Station on May 5, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

To the voters of the Three Rivers Fire District of the Town of Palmer

Your Prudential Committee respectfully submits the following articles as recommended by the Finance Committee for your approval of the operations of the Fire District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026

Chairman Ex Officio

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

Article 2. To Submit reports of the Treasurer, Prudential Committee, Fire Chief Water Superintendent, and any Special Committee's and act on same.

Article 3. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of it's officers and members of the fire department for the physical year commencing on July 1, 2026 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of the District for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Fire Department and District for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2026 or take any action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Water Department to defray it's expenses, through the use of it's water receipts and revenues for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2026 or take any other action hereto.

Article 7. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2026 tax levy, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

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

The Finance Committee Recommends the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) be raised and appropriated under this article.

Article 11. To see whether the District will vote to Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seventeen Thousand One Hundred and Fourteen Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$17,114.14) to pay off the balance of the Station Lighting Upgrades or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Seventeen Thousand One Hundred and Fourteen Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$17,114.14) be transferred from free cash under this article.

Article 12. To see whether the District will vote to Transfer the sum of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$14,700.00) from the Water Meter Bank account to Account # 6370 Meter Replacement

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$14,700.00) be transferred from the Water Meter Bank Account to Account # 6370 Meter Replacement under this article.

Article 13. To see whether the District will vote to transfer from Water Surplus the Sum of Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars. (\$18,200.00) to perform a Hydraulic Study as required by the DEP or take any other actions relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$18,200.00) be transferred from Water Surplus under this article.

Article 14. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2026 in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than (1) one year, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

Article 16. To Choose committees and give them instructions. With no further business, do I hear a motion to dissolve this warrant?

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies in said District, Fourteen (14) days at least before the holding of said meeting, and publishing one not less than Seven (7) Days preceding the date of the meeting in a newspaper published in Palmer.

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

Given under this hand and seal April 2026

True Copy Attest by:

Guy Bellefleur, Clerk
Date: April 23, 2026

Prudential Committee

Andrea Sullivan, Chairman
Norman Czech, Vice Chairman
Mark Bogacz, Clerk

04/23/2026

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Section 15 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 6:45 PM** at the Police Department Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Fred Ferguson, is requesting an administrative appeal from a cease & desist made by the Building Inspector dated February 17th, 2026 to cease operations due to violation of the special permit SP16-07. The property is located at 58 West Ware Road. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 49, Lot 4; Map 44 Lots 33 & 35

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

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

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

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals
04/23, 04/30/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:40 PM, Tuesday, May 5, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** for proposed activities associated with demolition of an existing mobile home and construction of a new residence. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer of vegetated wetlands. The project address is 253 Ware Street in Palmer (Assessors Map 81, Lot 21). The applicant making the request is Nelmarie Core.

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair
Palmer Conservation
Commission

04/23/2026

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 6 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 6:30PM** at the Palmer Police Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant Max Bock is requesting a Finding under §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an addition in the front and side setback. The property is located at 4037 Hill Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 25, Lot 10-6.

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

Anyone interested in more in-

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

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

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals
04/23, 04/30/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **NANCY A. BOLDUC and PAUL R. BASTIEN to SOUTHBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK**, dated September 26, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 17493, Page 115 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgage the undersigned (the "Mortgagee") is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of the Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at the mortgaged premises located on or near 4112-4116 High Street, Palmer, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), all and singular the premises described in the Mortgage, to wit:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CORNERSTONE BANK,
successor by merger to SOUTH-
BRIDGE SAVINGS BANK
Present holder of said Mortgage

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

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

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

JOSHUA DELAND
Plaintiff

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

Defendants

ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Elizabeth M. Gelinas; the heirs or legal representatives of Philip R. Gelinas a/k/a Phillip R. Gelinas; and the heirs or legal representatives of Angelo Fratini who may claim an interest in the Premises at Lot 7R Reed Hill Road, a/k/a 4 Reed Hill Road, Wales, Hamp-

den County, Massachusetts (the "Premises") by purchase, descent or otherwise

JOSHUA DELAND

claiming to have an interest in the Premises by virtue of that certain Quitclaim Deed made by Guy C. Lucia, Jr., and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23456, page 255 has filed with this Court a First Amended Complaint to Quiet Title pursuant to M.G.L. c. 240, §§6 to 10 and for Adverse Possession.

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

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Emergency Ambulance Service Towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales

The Towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales, Massachusetts (the "Towns") request proposals from qualified ambulance service providers to provide emergency medical services ("EMS"), including ambulance transport services, to persons in need within the Towns' limits and within the regional mutual aid community. A contract award is contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. Qualified means providers licensed to provide ambulance services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111C and 150 CMR 170.00.

Proposal documents may be obtained beginning at 9AM on Monday, April 27, 2026 on the Towns' websites at www.brimfieldma.org, www.town.holland.ma.us or www.townofwales.net. The request for proposals is issued by the Ambulance Oversight Committee ("Committee") on behalf of the Brimfield and Holland Select Boards and the Wales Board of Selectmen. Questions can be sent to Ms. Pamela Leduc, Wales Executive Secretary at select@townofwales.net.

The contract will be awarded upon evaluation of the responses and the due diligence of the Towns. No provider may withdraw their proposal for a period of ninety (90) days after the submission deadline.

Proposals will be received by Ms. Pamela Leduc at the Office of the Wales Board of Selectmen located at 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA 01081 until **3PM on Monday, May 11, 2026**. Submissions must be sealed and clearly marked "**Proposal - Emergency Ambulance Service**" and must include the proposing firm's business name and address. All labels must be on the exterior of the packaging. Proposals will remain confidential until the evaluation process is complete and the contract award has been made, at which time submissions will become part of the public record.

All proposals shall be submitted as one (1) original, six (6) copies, and one (1) digital copy via USB storage device.

Contracts for ambulance service are expressly exempt from the public bidding requirements of the Uniform Procurement Act (M.G.L. c. 30B, § 1(b)(24)). Accordingly, the Towns shall not evaluate proposals nor award this contract pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30B of the Uniform Procurement Act. The Towns reserve the right to reject any and all proposals, or to accept proposals either in whole or in part, to award contracts by individual items or by lump sum total, or to waive any minor informalities or defects in any proposal should it be deemed in the best interest of the Towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales. The Towns reserve the right to negotiate any and all contract terms with the successful provider, including the price, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Towns to do so.

Towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales
Ambulance Oversight Committee
04/23/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES | page 13



Saturday, April 25th
7pm-11pm

Caboodle

EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

Upcoming Events
Saturday, May 2nd
7pm-11pm
Uncle Country

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Public notices

Legal Advertisement TOWN OF HOLLAND Guardrail Replacement Project

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

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

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

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

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

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. All bidders supplying services under this request for bids must be MassDOT Highway Division certified. MassDOT requalification of contractors with

the class of work as, Highway – Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$400,000 will be required.

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

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

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

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0436EA**

**Estate of:
Roslyn Edna Harrington
Also known as:
Roslyn E Harrington
Date of Death: 11/29/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rebecca Schofield of Monson, MA** and **James Reed Newland of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a

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

The Petitioner requests that **Rebecca Schofield of Monson, MA** and **James Reed Newland of Monson, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/13/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoumire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 15, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/23/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25C0346CA**
In the matter of:
Jayden Paige Jackson
**CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**
A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been filed by **Jayden Paige of Bondsville, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Marceline Paige Jackson
IMPORTANT NOTICE**
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/13/2026**.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoumire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 15, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/23/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0800EA**
Estate of:
Adam David Julian
Also known as:
Adam D Julian
Date of Death: 03/31/2026
**CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Raymond A Julian of Holland, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Raymond A Julian of Holland, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/13/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and

objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoumire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 14, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/23/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: **FORD VIN:1FAH-P37N57W127003** Luisa Bonilla Alvarado 203 Essex ST Apt 1 Marlborough, MA; **FORD VIN:3FA6P0H79FR301257** Carmen Pastranoso 147 Hampden ST Chicopee, MA; **SUBARU VIN:JF1GHA65AH809001** Megan Szwarcokop 13 Dale ST Apt. 2 Ware, MA; **TOYOTA VIN:JTDKB20U693514335** Mayco Silva 25 Ames ST Apt. 1 Worcester, MA; **CHEVY VIN:2GCEK13T251352438** Ryan Martinek 16 Elm ST Monson, MA; **FORD VIN:1FTPX-12V67FA51924** Dustin Veroneci 85 North View DR Rockport, TX. This auction is to take place on **May 1, 2026 10:00 A.M.** at **LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069**
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

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

**Docket No.
HD26P0818EA**
Estate of:
Gloria A LaFlamme
Also known as:
Gloria G LaFlamme
Date of Death: 10/23/2025
**CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Marie-Claire A Foley of Belchertown, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Marie-Claire A Foley of Belchertown, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/14/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoumire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 15, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/23/2026

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENINGS

- Part-Time Administrative Assistant**
Part-time Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to performing a variety of administrative and financial support functions for the Collector's Office, including processing payments, issuing receipts, preparing and reconciling daily deposits, and maintaining records. Provides customer service by responding to inquiries and resolving account issues. Part-time, non-benefited, non-union, \$22.80-\$23.49 per hour, 18 hours per week.
- Assistant Treasurer/Collector**
Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to a variety of accounting and administrative functions to assist the Treasurer/Collector in all financial operations of the office. The Assistant provides skilled accounting and computer banking support, including billing and collection activities, account reconciliation, cash management, reporting, and research, as well as other municipal procedures and functions as required. Full-time, benefited, union position, \$25.53-\$26.29 per hour, 35 hours per week
- Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**
Equipment Operator/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to Operating various types of motorized vehicles, trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, excavators, snow and ice removal equipment and other miscellaneous equipment, such as loaders, mowers, and chippers; Participating in emergency operations including but not limited to snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters; Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snow plows; Repairing roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and other surface areas and drainage structures, including excavating trenches, and chain saw operation. Full-time, 40 hours per week average, union position, \$23.32-\$25.26. Applicants are required to have a Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement endorsements.

For full job descriptions visit- <https://www.townofware.com/> Interested applicants please send resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or e-mail resumes@townofware.com. AA/EOE

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

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Turley Publications
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Jamie Joslyn
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

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MOCK | from page 1

The school utilizes partnerships throughout the community to offer this event to the students. Herring was grateful to the work done by the police and fire departments and Labonte's donation of the wrecked car, and praised the work of Pathfinder's cosmetology department.

"I saw one of the girls walk around the corner and was shocked at how realistic the make-up was," she said. "They all work together to help us, because they all have a stake in it as well, to show how important it is to take driving safety."

"Our kids this year did a really good job of acting as well, they were very believable in their roles," Herring said. "There's a victim that

'dies' in the accident and one that's very injured, and the screams very believable. A few of the kids were taken aback by it, and it made it seem more realistic."

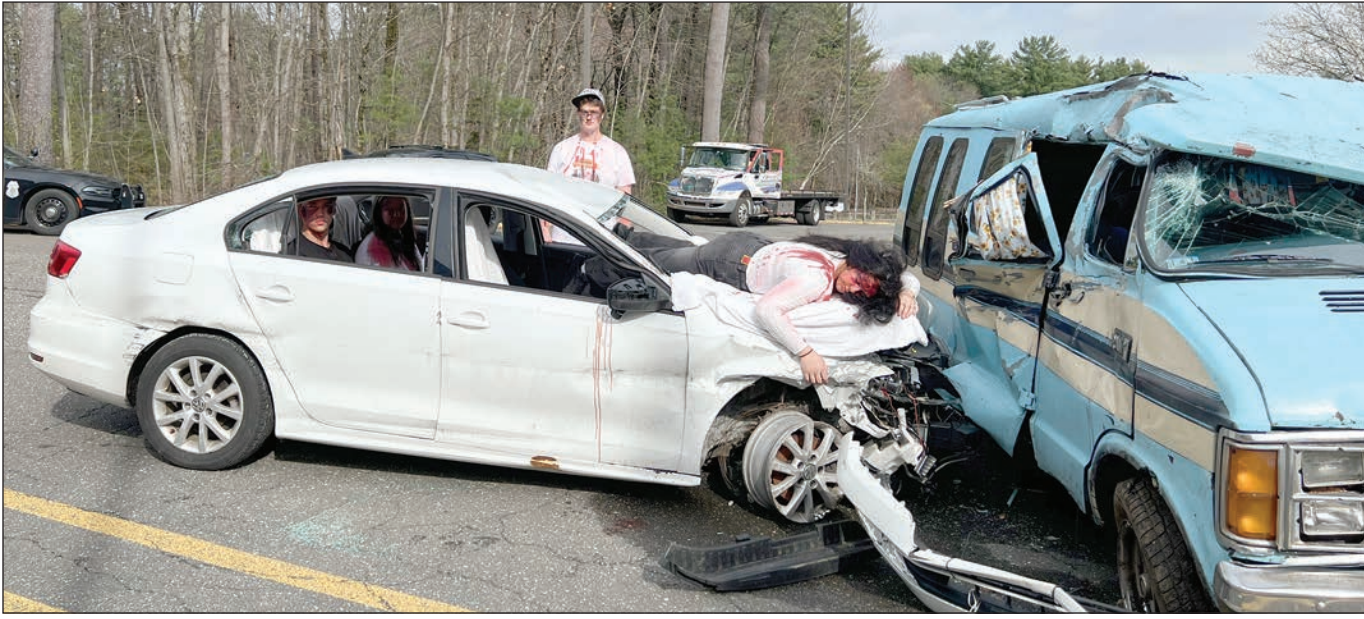
Herring said the event shows how the community can come together to support its youths, donating time and materials to educate them on the dangers of distracted driving.

"I find it very impactful," Herring said. "Looking at it as an adult, we take it even more seriously than the teenagers, but they usually come in and talk about how impactful it was, especially when it's really well done."

If you'd like to keep up with all the things going on at the high school, look them up on Facebook, or visit their website at PalmerSchools.org.



Students Kodah L., Chris S., Wyatt T., Avigail L., and Abigail L. played the victims in the mock accident.



Everyone is all right. Students in make-up pose on top of wrecked cars donated for the mock accident by Gary Labonte Towing.



The EMTs for last Thursday's mock accident were Paige V., Kelsey C., and Garrett L.



First responders brought a stretcher out for the victims of the mock accident.

Public safety

Monson Fire Logs

Fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of April 13 through April 19, 2026. The department responded to 26 EMS calls and 4 Fire calls.

On Monday, April 13 at 4:39 p.m., the department responded to 232 State Ave for the fire alarm. The department

returned to service at 4:51pm.

On Tuesday, April 14 at 6:04 p.m., the department responded to 196 Bumstead Road for the tree on powerlines. The department returned to service at 6:40 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 15 at 8:36 a.m., the department responded to the area of

110 Upper Palmer Road for the motor vehicle accident. The department returned to service at 9:36 a.m.

On Thursday, April 16 at 2:30 p.m., the department responded to 222 Hovey Road for the outside burn investigation. The department returned to service at 3:05 p.m.

Palmer Ballers win tournament



The Palmer Ballers take first place in the 7th/8th grade boys division of the 'Mack' Donnelly Basketball Tournament hosted by Ludlow Boys & Girls Club April 12.

GRAND RE-OPENING

KORAN'S FARM & Gift Shop

160 EAST HILL ROAD
MONSON, MA
413-267-4035

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We look forward to seeing you!

DEADLINE

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

CORRECTIONS The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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