

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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MONSON



Submitted photo
With the coordination of MHS staff and community members, students were out in the warm weather washing cars and having fun. Submitted photo.

Service day helps clean up community

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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MONSON - "I really try to promote our 9 through 12 students to get out and give back through our community service day." At Monson High School, students and staff went around the town to volunteer their time to various projects. From the senior center to town offices, cemeteries to

the library, a food drive at Adams Marketplace and a car wash at the high school, students were busy helping out the town on April 18.

Principal of Monson High School Chris Fontaine who's been at the school for almost a year, talked about his time at the high school, the success of the community service day, and what he hopes students take away

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PALMER

Budget committee reviews FY26 proposal

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Palmer Budget Subcommittee convened Wednesday night, April 16, for its first review of the town's proposed fiscal year 2026 (FY26) operating budget. While the meeting was meant to begin a preliminary analysis of the \$44.35 million spending plan, a proposed \$30,000 cut to the Council on Aging quickly took center stage, prompting a passionate response from local residents.

The cut, recommended by Town Manager Brad Brothers and included in the initial draft of the FY26 budget, would effectively close the Palmer Senior Center on Thursdays to save on staffing costs. According to Brothers, the decision to target Thursdays stemmed from data collected in collaboration with Senior Center Director Marlene Johnson. Their analysis showed that Thursdays had the lowest attendance, averaging just 26 visitors.

Despite assurances that the senior van service would continue even if Thursday operations were suspended, the

BUDGET | page 5

SCHOOLS



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Jannat Khan (left) and her friend Naariah Mbi (right) right before sorting all of the clothes donated at Palmer High.

Clothing drive to support children facing clothing insecurity

Palmer freshman leads community-wide call for help

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – A teenager is helping shine a light on an often-overlooked issue: clothing insecurity. With donation bins set up around Palmer and a growing number of community members getting involved, 15-year-old Jannat Khan is proving that leadership and compassion have no age requirement.

Khan, a freshman at Palmer High School, is a 2024 ambassador and current alumni of Project 351, a nonprofit that unites student leaders from every city and town in Massachusetts for a year of service. Each spring, Project 351 Ambassadors carry out a service initiative that reflects their shared values of kindness, courage, and social justice. This year, the statewide effort supports Cradles to Crayons, a national nonprofit focused on providing essentials for children living in homeless or low-income situations.

"Our Spring Service reflects these values in support of an American, nonprofit organization called Cradles to Crayons," Khan wrote in a message announcing the drive. "By engaging communities throughout the nation, Cradles to Crayons provides children and their families with the essentials they need to thrive because clothing insecurity is, 'more than a cause... it's a kid.'"

According to the Cradles to Crayons website, the organization provides clothing and hygiene products to children in need. The drive is a nationwide effort to help children and their families get the basics they need to thrive.

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PALMER

Town Council asked to address energy costs

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER—The Palmer Town Council gathered Monday evening, April 14, for a regular meeting at Town Hall that addressed a wide array of civic concerns ranging from utility costs and youth sports to long-term planning and historic preservation.

The public comment period was dominated by residents speaking out against sharply rising electricity bills. Ken Dolan Del Vecchio and Jennifer Hupp, representing the newly formed Citizens for Fair Energy Pricing, shared examples of recent invoices from National Grid that totaled as much as \$1,500. The bills, they said, were opaque and included inconsistent application of

solar credits and confusing delivery charges. The group, which collected over 95 signatures, presented a formal letter addressed to Governor Healey urging action at the state level. Their demands included new leadership at the Department of Public Utilities, enhanced transparency from utility providers, and a fundamental restructuring of how rates are set. They asked the Council

to support the letter formally. Councilors expressed appreciation for the group's initiative but explained that they could not vote on the matter without placing it on a future agenda. Town Manager Brad Brothers was appointed as the Council's liaison to the group.

Thorndike Resident Questions Follow-Through on Promised Improvements

Steve Kazmier of Thorndike raised concerns about what he described as a lack of follow-up on a list of neighborhood project proposals submitted last year. He cited ongoing neglect and questioned whether the proceeds from the sale of a former school building were benefiting the community equitably. Town officials responded that the revenue in question orig-

inated from the sale of tax title property and, under state law, must be allocated for future land acquisitions rather than general infrastructure or neighborhood improvements.

Converse School continues to burden town finances

The long-vacant Converse Middle School building

ENERGY | page 9

PLANNING BOARD

Home occupation bylaw amendment withdrawn

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON — In a packed and often contentious public hearing, the Monson Planning Board voted to withdraw a proposed amendment to the town's Home Occupation Bylaw, following strong pushback from residents concerned about overregulation and the potential erosion of the town's rural character.

The meeting, held to discuss revisions to Bylaw 6.26, focused on establishing a clearer framework for businesses operating out of homes in residential neighborhoods. The intent, according to board mem-

bers, was to strike a balance between supporting small or startup businesses and preserving the peaceful, residential nature of local neighborhoods.

"This proposed bylaw change is killing an ant with a sledgehammer," said Nick Beaudoin, a resident who both spoke at the hearing and submitted a letter opposing the changes. Beaudoin shared his personal experience of launching a home-based business and warned that the new rules could discourage entrepreneurship, reduce tax revenue, and create unfair financial burdens for small operations.

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SCHOOL



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Brody Beaulieu (left) is the Major's baseball catcher and helps clean up the batting cages with his caretaker (right).

Brimfield Community Rallies for Field Clean-Up

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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BRIMFIELD—On a bright Saturday morning, Brimfield Elementary School became a hub of community spirit and teamwork as dozens of volunteers gathered for the school's annual Field Clean-Up Day. The event, held at 10 a.m. on April 19, marked an important tradition for the town, a day when parents, students, coaches, and local sponsors roll up their sleeves to prepare the baseball and

BRIMFIELD | page 7

SCHOOL

Students contribute to library's 20th anniversary

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER—The Palmer School Committee gathered on the evening of April 16 to review a series of important issues affecting local education, including an update on the district's strategic planning process, recognition of outstanding community members, and revisions to the School Committee Policy Manual.

Public Comments, Letters, and Communications

Sandra Noonan announced that the Palmer Public Library would celebrate its 20th anniversary on Sunday, May 4, from 1 to 5 p.m. She also highlighted the hard work of Palmer High School juniors and seniors who volunteered for the library's various initiatives. Noonan further recognized student involvement in a bookmark contest, in collaboration with Old Mill Pond.

Erica Nadeau shared a communication update regarding the Program of Studies, stating that committee-recommended edits had been successfully incorporated into the final version of the document. She reminded the committee that motions should be amended

SCHOOL | page 14



Parking lot expansion heard by Monson Planning Board

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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MONSON—On Tuesday, April 15 the Monson Planning Board convened at the Select Board Meeting Room in Town Hall for its regularly scheduled meeting. Due to an unexpectedly large crowd, the Chair announced that the third item, the controversial cluster housing zoning proposal, would be addressed earlier to accommodate the public and avoid fire code violations. The room’s capacity is limited to 49 occupants.

Venue Capacity Sparks Legal Concerns

James Griffin, of 35 Country Cove Drive, was the first to voice concern over potential violations of Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, citing overcrowding and the inability of many residents to participate. He, along with other attendees, suggested the hearing be postponed or relocated to a

more suitable venue. Despite these concerns, the meeting continued with adjustments to the order of hearings.

Cluster Housing Proposal Formally Withdrawn

The third hearing, concerning a proposed zoning change for Residential Single-Family Cluster Housing, was formally opened at 7:10 p.m. Attorney Fitzgerald, representing the out-of-town developers, confirmed that a letter of withdrawal had been submitted. The developers, after consultation with town counsel, agreed to withdraw the plan without prejudice in order to revise it to better align with Monson’s zoning bylaws.

Board Accepts Withdrawal, Residents Demand Accountability

The Planning Board voted unanimously to accept the withdrawal without prejudice, allowing the developers to return with a future proposal. However, public comment reflected deep unease. Karen

King of 11 Longview Drive, a former Planning Board member, criticized the proposal’s origins and process. She noted that only residents, the Select Board, or the Planning Board are authorized to submit zoning amendments in Monson and warned against catering to outside developers.

King notably says, “Monson is more than a place to develop, it’s a place where we call home.”

Amy Johnson and Roy Fairfield echoed concerns about accessibility, transparency, and legal liabilities.

Public Hearings for Parking Expansion and HomeBusiness By-law Continued

The other two public hearings, concerning a proposed parking expansion at 31 State Street and amendments to the Home Occupation zoning by-law, were briefly opened and then continued until later in the evening due to crowding.

31 State Street Parking Lot Expansion Reviewed

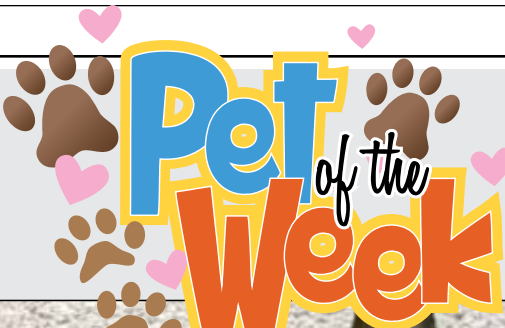
The Monson Housing Authority presented a plan to add 16 parking spaces to the existing 50 at its 78-unit residential site at 31 State Street. The new 6,800-square-foot area would replace a small grass and wooded section, requiring some tree removal. Ron Mendez of Graves Engineering outlined stormwater controls, including infiltration basins and maintenance plans. However, abutters raised concerns about proximity, lack of vegetative buffers, and lighting. The Planning Board flagged missing plan details such as fence-

ing and photometric studies. Board members questioned the absence of safety fencing around the stormwater basin and requested justification for design features that may not meet state requirements, including the less-than-4-foot separation between the basin and groundwater. Robert Mecham and others highlighted the potential hazard for children. Jonathan Leonard of the Housing Authority said a stockade fence would be added, though it was not shown in current plans.

Nicholas Bodwin of Two Country Club Heights asked about the proposal’s compliance with the Stretch Energy Code, especially the requirement for 20% of parking to support electric vehicle (EV) charging. Ryan, representing the design team, responded that conduit would be installed for future EV stations, with four spaces anticipated. He promised written documentation from state housing officials to verify this guidance.

Home Business By-law Changes Explained

A separate public hearing addressed revisions to Monson’s Home Occupation zoning by-law. Ken Comia, the acting town planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, explained that changes were spurred by enforcement issues. The revised by-law would require special permits for home-based businesses, limit non-resident employees, and restrict modifications that could impact the residential character of neighborhoods.



BENSON

This is Benson. He is a 6-year-old Boston Terrier helps his friend Susan get through the long, lonely days of living in a retirement home. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Monson annual plant sale May 10

MONSON—Monson Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10 at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo 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.

Monson Democrats to elect delegates May 6

MONSON—Tuesday, May 6 at 6 p.m., Democrats will convene in person at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss

Street, Monson to elect 4 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Monson at the 2025 State Democratic Convention.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Monson 16 years old by Saturday, March 29 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention.

The 2025 Convention will be in-person at the MassMutual Center in Springfield on September 13.

Those interested in getting involved with the Monson Democratic Town Committee should contact Karen Nothe-Valley at karen_monsondems@yahoo.com or (413) 846-3041.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

WHAT IS IT?

Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

• Creating a Community Survey

• How to Support Those With Substance Use

• Preventative Measures

• After Care

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

• People with lived experience

• Individuals in recovery

■ Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month

3:00pm-4:30pm

at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:

(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

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Palmer looks to complete central rail trail

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER—Planning Director Heidi Manarino and Conservation Agent Jessica Laden provided updates on a number of active projects. Manarino reported that her office is currently reviewing a proposed 24-lot subdivision and working on zoning revisions related to accessory dwelling units and battery energy storage systems. She also highlighted a \$118,000 Green Communities Grant that will fund HVAC upgrades and announced a pending \$56,000 MassTrails grant application for a feasibility study on connecting Palmer to the state's Rail Trail network.

“Palmer is one of the last missing links,” Manarino said, referring to the town's critical role in completing the Mass Central Rail Trail, a statewide initiative to link former rail beds across Massachusetts.

Laden shared developments in local conservation efforts, including a new trail at Barker Street Conservation Area, improvements to the Madura Conservation Land trail, and the installation of a pollinator garden at Town Hall. She also invited residents to participate in upcoming Earth Day events.

Community Development Secures Over \$2 Million in Aid and Investments

Community Development
Director John Latour outlined his department's recent accomplishments, which include securing more than \$2 million in grants for housing rehabilitation, fuel assistance, and public park improvements. The town's fuel assistance program has already supported 76 families this season and will remain available through June 1. Latour also reported ongoing work in blight removal and affordable

housing development as part of the department's revitalization strategy.

Preliminary Budget for FY2026 Highlights Savings and Modest Increases

Town officials presented the first draft of the fiscal year 2026 operating budget, which totals \$44.35 million, an increase of 5.1 percent over the previous year. The wastewater treatment budget also saw a 5.56 percent rise, reaching \$4.67 million. However, officials noted that further increases were avoided through proactive cost-cutting measures.

“Because the union stepped up, we're able to then reduce that health insurance line, which again became available to the overall budget,” said Town Manager Brad Brothers, referencing recent negotiations that adjusted health plan deductibles and saved the town approximately \$450,000.

High School Students Engage with Local Government

In a final moment of civic optimism, Council members received a letter from three local high school students requesting more information about the town's budget process. Councilors commended the students' initiative and extended an invitation for them to attend a future meeting to learn more about municipal finance and policy making.

Monson Memorial Day activities begin May 24

MONSON—The Monson Patriotic Celebration Committee is again this year organizing Memorial Day Activities. On Saturday morning May 24, American Flags will be placed on the graves of Monson Veterans who have gone to their Eternal Rest. Hillcrest Cemetery, Hillside Cemetery and Bethany Cemetery are the 3 major cemeteries included in this event.

The Committee is asking people who would like to volunteer their time to meet at any one of these locations by 9:00 am on Saturday morning. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

On Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m. a parade will begin at the Monson Animal Clinic, 2 Main Street and

march down Main Street to the front steps of Memorial Hall for a ceremony to behold honoring all Veterans who have served this country with honor and distinction. At 11 a.m. American Legion Post 241 will be performing a gun salute, with Taps being played, and the raising of the American Flag.

Monson clergy and other local and state dignitaries are scheduled to attend. The National Anthem will be sing by local Monson Singer, Jordyn Doyle.

Everyone, please join in this Patriotic Event, honoring all our Veterans.

For further information, contact Karen Davis, 413-544-1555 at your earliest convenience

Monson Garden Club scholarship due April 29

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 29, 2025.

Palmer tax payments due May 1

PALMER—The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers Fiscal Year 2025 4th quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by May 1.

The Tax Collector's office is accepting credit and debit card payments for

property taxes either on the town website at www.townofpalmer.com or at the tax office. There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer.

The fee structure can be viewed on the town website.

If you are making on-line payments through your bank (EFT's), please set it up to

have the check mailed directly to our office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Do not use the Woburn lockbox address for this type of payment as no bill is included for processing.

Please call the Collector's office a 413-283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments.

Office hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday – Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday the office is closed.

Sock Hop Dance April 25

THREE RIVERS—The Second Annual Sock Hop Dance featuring New England's Premier Oldies Band “Decades” will be on Friday, April 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Amvets, 2150 Main Street in Three Rivers.

Tickets are \$5 (12 and under are free). Tickets are available at Amvets or call 413-316-0597. There will be raffle prizes and a 50/50. Food and milkshakes available for purchase.

Money will benefit the local Veterans activity fund.

Heritage Museum trip April 30

PALMER—The Palmer Veterans Service Department is proud to announce a bus trip to the American Heritage Museum on April 30. Pick up will be at 8:30 a.m. and drop-off will be at 4:15 at the Amvets Post 74 at 2150 Main Street in Three Rivers.

Veterans are free with an ID, guests are \$20 each this includes bus, admission and lunch.Call 413-316-0597 to make reservations, seats are limited.

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PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
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OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Dine for a Cause May 7

LUDLOW—Dine for a cause on Wednesday, May 7 at Villa Rose Restaurant on 1428 Center St. in Ludlow. Dine all day and 20 percent of all food receipts will be donated to the Amvets Post 74 Scholarship Fund.

Corrections

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

Sons of AMVETS Squadron 74

2150 Main Street

Three Rivers, MA 01080

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 11th, 2025

Serving 8 a.m. to noon

Sponsored by the Sons of AMVETS Squadron 74

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Price: \$10

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USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE.....\$4.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS \$8.88 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$8.77 lb

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USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAK or ROAST\$4.99 lb

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70.

She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:

Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average about age 87 for a woman her current age, she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her Full Retirement Age, her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied).

The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefit are started). Also, the estimates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments, which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the past two

decades has been about 2.5%.

Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age" the age at which she will have collected the same amount of SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her Full Retirement Age, is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors – most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

If life circumstances change over the years, your wife can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667% more benefit for each month of delay about 8% more for each year of delay.

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



Deer demolishing your bulbs? Mine too. Read on.

I am so sad! One of my prime gardens, a very cool multi planting of spring bulbs is showing signs of munching!

I am pretty sure deer are the culprit. What should I do?

Wipe my tears and look back in the archives to refresh my memory and maybe enlighten my readers in the various ways to send the deer on to greener pastures.

Fencing

Experts agree that fencing is the best way of keeping deer out of the garden. Non-electric fencing options are many and include tall vertical fences, inward slanted fences, solid board fences and fences made of plastic netting.

A vertical fence made out of woven wire and wooden posts will work well to keep deer out if it is at least eight feet tall. Slanted fences can be shorter but should extend inward at a 45 degree angle to capitalize on the deer's need to negotiate both height and width when jumping.

Solid board fencing can be shorter as well; if the deer can't see through the fence a safe landing is questionable, and jumping is usually avoided. Fencing made from black plastic netting has risen in popularity of late. It blends into the scenery, is less expensive than other materials and at seven and a half feet tall is height restrictive.

No matter what type of fence you choose, it is best to fence first and plant later, since deer have been known to figure out all kinds of ob-

stacles in search of a good dinner.

Deterrents and repellents

These tactics work on the principle that if it's new, it spells trouble, and trouble spells predator. To be success-

a homemade version of these products blend an egg, a cup of water and a couple of garlic cloves in the blender.

After a week or more of fermenting the noxious liquid can be sprinkled over susceptible plants. Don't worry; within a short time the smell will be undetectable to you, but pungent as ever to our four legged browsers.

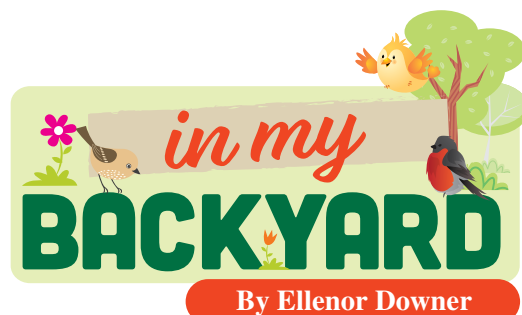
Scarecrows work only minimally well to scare off deer, and to be the most effective, they must take the animal off guard. Assemble your scarecrow with as many moving parts as possible and position it in a different spot of the yard every couple of nights.

Hinged appendages, clothing that flaps in the breeze, eyes that bobble may just send Bambi into flight. One year I filled my scarecrow's pockets with deodorant soap for a double whammy!

Deerscape your yard

Instead of planting your gardens full of tulips or muscari, like I did, choose daffodils, snowdrops, fritillaria and alliums instead. Good luck!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



The Purple Martin Conservation Association reported in a press release the sighting of the first purple martin in Massachusetts on April 4 in Rehoboth.

The sighting was by a purple martin enthusiast, one of many individuals, who track and report on the birds' annual migration.

"The first purple martin arrivals of the season are always an exciting event," said Joe Siegrist, President of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds."

The Purple Martin is North America's largest species of swallow. It winters in the rainforests of Brazil

before making up to a 7000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and

Canada.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association said, "The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords,' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds' survival. Once widespread in rural America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years."

"The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change," said Siegrist. "Over the majority of the purple martins' range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains."

The purple martin, the

Purple Martin

largest swallow in North America, is between 7.5 and 7.9 inches long. The adult males are iridescent, dark blue-purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Both the females and immatures are duller

with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest with a whitish lower belly.

These birds are colonial with dozens of martins nesting in the same spot in open areas especially near water. They return to the same nesting spot. In the east, they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and martin houses. In the west, they nest in natural cavities.

Martins fly rapidly and feed on large, aerial insects such as dragonflies. They often feed higher in the air than other swallows. The female lays three to six white eggs. She lays one to two broods per year.

Sandhill cranes

A neighbor, who lives about a mile as the crow flies from my hayfield, emailed he had a pair in the back of his cornfield on April 5. He said, "I only saw them cuz they were quite talkative. They just flew from my field again, both times in your direction. Now that I know what they sound

The Journal Register TEAM

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@ Journal Register



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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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Journal Register

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm 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.

BUDGET | from page 1

proposed closure sparked immediate concern among the town's elderly population.

About 16 senior citizens attended the April 16 Budget Subcommittee meeting to express their opposition. The subcommittee dedicated the first 20 minutes of the session to listening to residents' concerns, underscoring the deep emotional and social value the center holds for many.

One citizen remarked, "The people who go there usually have no one else, and all of their interaction comes from going to the senior center every day they can." Another noted, "There is a lot that goes on at the senior center that the town cannot understand," referencing the sense of community and belonging the center provides to those who might otherwise be

isolated.

Although the budget remains in its early stages, the Palmer Town Council received the proposed figures on Monday, April 14, residents are being encouraged to voice their opinions early and often. The subcommittee urged citizens to compile questions for the full council and to consider submitting written statements of support for the Senior Center.

The total proposed FY26 operating budget stands at \$44,351,980, a 5.1% increase over FY25. The funding sources include \$25 million in tax revenues, \$3.74 million from local receipts, \$15.39 million from state receipts, and \$160,000 in indirect revenues.

Among the other proposed reductions are a \$91,000 cut to Palmer Public Schools. However, the potential impact of scaling back

services at the Senior Center has sparked the most immediate public reaction.

Town Manager Brothers emphasized that nothing has been finalized and further revisions are expected. "We don't want to cut a day from the Senior Center," he said. "We're still exploring whether we can save more in other areas to reduce the impact here."

The town will continue to discuss the budget at upcoming Budget Subcommittee and Town Council meetings. Residents are encouraged to attend, submit feedback, and stay engaged as deliberations progress.

For questions or to express concerns, citizens are invited to contact Senior Center Director Marlene Johnson or Town Manager Brad Brothers.

Local schools and Wales Community
Pantry launch backpack program

WALES—The Wales Community Pantry has partnered with the Elementary schools in Wales, Holland and Brimfield to provide enough nutritious food for children living in food insecure households to get through the weekend. According to WCP Executive Director, Ann Davidson the impetus for the Backpack Program came when Wales School Nurse Patrick Lucas contacted her to inquire about the possibility of the Pantry supplying food for the Program, Davidson said that Lucas had initiated a similar program when he was the School Nurse for Southbridge Middle School, and he was eager to do the same for Wales Elementary students.

Lucas completed all the essential paperwork to launch the program, which began on the last week of February. Seventeen students participated in that first week. The number has now grown to regularly serving 25 children out of a total school population of 90. Buoyed by the success of the Wales Program, WCP contacted Brimfield Elementary's School Nurse, Jenna Richards, who with guidance from Lucas, has begun the program the first week in April with 12 students. Davidson said that she's heard from Kelly Beecher, the Holland Elementary nurse, that Holland will commence their program by the end of April.

Although it is called a Backpack Program, Davidson said that children do not get an actual backpack. Instead supplies are provided in a regular grocery bag, which then fits into a student's school bag. Davidson said the school nurses visit



Submitted photo
Wales Elementary school nurse Patrick Lucas and Brimfield Elementary school nurse Jenna Richards at the Wales Community Pantry.

the Pantry on Thursday afternoons and choose foods that will translate to nutritious weekend breakfasts and lunches. "Things like fresh bread, canned tuna, cheese, oatmeal, granola, canned fruit, juice boxes, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables and fresh fruit as it is available," are typical choices Davidson said. She acknowledged that some of the students served may come from families that already access the Wales Community Pantry. Davidson also said she hopes that the Backpack Program might serve to make families who aren't yet visiting the pantry comfortable enough to access their services.

While school is in session, students who live in food insecure households have access to free lunch

and breakfast if their school participates in the National School Lunch Program because Massachusetts implemented permanent free school meals programs for all students attending participating schools in 2023. Weekends for many of these students can be different. According to a U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey as of September 2024 among Massachusetts households with children 21.5%, or roughly one in five children live with food insecurity. The Wales Community Pantry/Backpack partnership attempts to address and alleviate this insecurity. For more information regarding this effort email walescommunitypantry@gmail.com or call 413.245.0055.

SERVICE | from page 1

from this event.

"We've done a lot of great things up here for the last couple of months so it's good to feel that we have a direction and we can really support our town community with our growth. For the last couple of weeks, 6 to 7 weeks or so, we reached out to various organizations in town, companies, departments in the town offices and talked to them about the community service we do the Friday before April break. To see if there are certain projects they're looking for. For example, at the senior center we cleaned out the shed and organized materials the seniors have access to, other groups did a food drive at our local supermarket, some did raking on local trails and upkeep of the public disc golf course."

Students had the full day of school on Friday, April 18 and with the help of the teachers at MHS, the different grades were able to go to different places to assist in volunteer efforts. The freshmen class went to the town offices and the cemeteries for upkeep and the seniors hosted a car wash where the police department, fire chief, and community were able to get their car washed.

When asked when the community service day started, Fontaine continued. "It's something that pre-pandemic, kids would go out and give back to the community and COVID shut everything down. They did it 2 or 3 years ago and given the turnover up here at the high school administration, it's something that kind of fell by the wayside. So when I came in over the summer, we talked with our stakeholders, parents, and community members and showed what our vision



Submitted photos
MHS students were washing the MPD cars last Friday, happy to be serving the community one wash at a time.

of our school should be and we really talked about giving back to our community. We are calling it 'engaging our kids in global citizenship'. They should be engaged in town activities and giving back to our town that does so much for us. We came up with bringing community service day back and making it more of a tradition, asking the question how we get our kids to give back to our town."

MHS also has a community service club that consists of about 20 to 25 students that meet on a regular basis, going out once a week and doing various projects in town. "This is our way of bringing our entire school together to give back to our town. Our kids are excited for this day

and we really want to drive it to their attention that as a resident, as a student in the MPS, they are giving you a lot. I don't think kids really understand how much our town gives us. They're behavior was excellent, the majority of our students walked to the various locations and I want to give credit to McCarthy Transportation for donating a bus to help us out today, Dean of Students Mrs. Barnes for her organizing, and Mr. Roebuck who runs our community service club."

Fontaine also made sure to thank the MHS students for making this day great



PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
WATER DEPARTMENT
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Palmer Fire & Water District #1
Notice of Special District Meeting
May 13, 2025 at 6 p.m.

A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING of the Palmer Fire & Water District No. 1 will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at Palmer Public Library.

Palmer Fire & Water District #1
Notice of Annual District Meeting
May 13, 2025 at 7 p.m.

The ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING of the Palmer Fire & Water District No. 1 will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at Palmer Public Library.



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Brimfield Farmers Market

kicks off new season



Sue Gustafson, co-owner of Rocky Ridge Beef Farm behind her stand.



John Thompson, owner of Thompson's Maple Farm, at his stand on opening day.



The grow-your-own salad bowls Flourish Farm was selling.



Susan Gregory (left) the retired director of Hitchcock Free Academy and Linda Fuchs (right) owner of Flourish Farms, the women who started the the Brimfield Farmers Market.



Lee Fernandez, owner of Turnabout Farms, at her stand in the market.



Vendors and customers who came to support the market



The pre-packaged micro-greens for sale.



The assorted maple coated nuts they have for sale.



Edward Fisher Jr. (left) and Ryan Laurie (right) of Bucha Bros handing out free samples of various flavours.



The variety of maple syrup and other maple goods at the Thompson Maple Farm table.



The various fresh-baked scones, with a choice between sweet or savory.



Local community member Susan who stopped by the Flourish Farm booth to grab plants for her herb garden.



The large table was filled with a variety of herbs and plants.



Flowers and plants.



The variety of low sugar jams presented by Turnabout Farms.

Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD—A fresh season of local flavor and small-town camaraderie began this weekend as the Brimfield Farmers Market opened its stalls for the first time this year. Held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot across from the Hitchcock Free Academy, the market is a vibrant showcase of homegrown produce, homemade goods, and the dedicated people behind them. Organized by Flourish Farms in partnership with the Hitchcock Free Academy, the market has become a cornerstone of the community for nearly two decades.

Visitors can expect a rotating lineup of vendors offering everything from seasonal plants and flowers to maple products, ice cream, meats, baked goods, and kombucha. The market runs rain or shine, with the exception of Brimfield's major flea market weekends: May 17, July 12, and September 6.

This year's market continues to honor its roots, planted 19 years ago by Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms and then-director of Hitchcock Free Academy, Susan Gregory. Their shared vision was to provide a space where small home-based businesses and lesser-known vendors could reach the community in an accessible, supportive environment.

"We try to keep the number of vendors small so each one has a better chance to thrive," said Fuchs. "With fewer booths to visit, customers are more likely to spend at each one. But we rotate vendors too, so there's always something new."

Fuchs is also proud that the market is accessible to all income levels. Her booth and many others accept SNAP benefits and EBT cards, along with HIP reimbursements and WIC coupons. "It's important that everyone, especially seniors and families on tight budgets, have access to good quality food," she added.

Fuchs' own booth overflows with lush herbs and vibrant plants, including lemon thyme, lavender, chives, parsley, catnip, and even "grow your own salad" bowls.

Among the longtime market favorites is Thompson's Maple Farm & Ice Cream, run by John Thompson of New Braintree. What began in 2014 at the market with batches of homemade ice cream due to there being another maple vendor has grown into a beloved booth featuring over 1,200 tapped trees' worth of maple syrup, maple candies, nuts, and a rainbow of ice cream flavors. Thompson's personal favorite is the Maple Walnut, flavored with his own syrup, while the best-seller is Syrup Brownie.

Turnabout Farm's Lee Fernandez, a vendor of eight years, brings homemade scones, yeast breads, cookies, pumpkin bites, and molten

lava brownies to the table. But it's her low-sugar jams and no-preserved baked goods that set her apart. "I'm really proud of my jams," Fernandez said, noting that even her apricot spread has no added sugar.

Also returning is Rocky Ridge Beef Farm, co-owner Sue Gustafson represented her own business at the market. Based in North Brookfield, the farm has been part of the Brimfield market for 15 years, offering an array of fresh beef cuts along with chicken and duck eggs.

One of the newest additions to the market is Bucha Bros, a kombucha company with a cheeky slogan: "In Gut We Trust." Co-founders Edward Fisher Jr. and Ryan Laurie launched their brand

in October 2024 and quickly learned that farmers market customers appreciate kombucha more than beer enthusiasts. "We made \$150 in our first hour here," Fisher noted. "That was more than half of what we made at a four-hour brewfest."

With deep roots and fresh ideas, the Brimfield Farmers Market continues to be more than just a place to shop. It's a weekly ritual, a community hub, and a reminder that good things grow best when neighbors support each other.

The Brimfield Farmers Market runs every Saturday (except flea market weekends) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2 Brookfield Road, across from the Hitchcock Free Academy.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation trails open

WALLES—The Norcross Wildlife Foundation is pleased to announce that beginning Friday, April 18, the public trail system, located at 30 Peck Road, Wales, Mass., will be open seven days a week, from dawn to dusk.

Offering 3 miles of public trails in the heart of Massachusetts, the property offers visitors the opportunity to experience thriving, ecologically significant habitats firsthand

including vernal pools, stream systems, and forest and wetland habitats.

This expanded access reflects The Foundation’s mission to preserve and manage biodiverse landscapes while fostering a deeper understanding and respect for the natural world through environmental education and community engagement.



Submitted photo

PHS Class of 1975 Reunion

PALMER—Hey 1975 PHS classmates! It’s time to reconnect reminisce and make new memories.

We are planning a fall reunion. The venue is yet to be determined according to response. Email Cindy at: CColburn172@comcast.net or visit our Facebook page at: Palmer High Class of 75 Reunion Page



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

One of the community volunteers uses a leaf blower to clean out the pine needles from around the field area.

BRIMFIELD | from page 1

softball fields for the upcoming season.

Led in part by Brimfield softball coach Justin Symczak, the event saw a flurry of activity both on and off the diamond. As Symczak held softball practice for his team, parents, including Jeremy and Janet Vine, pitched in to clean up the field. Their daughter, Madison, was among the players on the field while her parents contributed rakes and shovels to the effort.

“Field Clean-Up Day is about more than just getting the grounds ready... it’s a community tradition,” said Symczak, who has been instrumental in organizing the event over the years.

Volunteers brought an assortment of tools and supplies, including leaf blowers, paint, trash bags, and brushes. They tackled everything from clearing debris to prepping dugouts and painting fences. But not all the work can be completed in a single day.

Volunteers plan to return next week to finish painting and make repairs to the dugouts before the official season kick-off.

Another central figure in the field clean-up effort is Sarah Rogers, President of the Brimfield Baseball Soft-



Another community member using a leaf blower to remove the dirt and dust from the dugouts.

ball Association. Rogers, who has participated in the clean-up for the past decade, was once again on-site with her children helping alongside other families.

“This is something we look forward to every year. It’s our way of making sure the kids have a safe and welcoming space to play,” Rogers shared.

The clean-up would not be possible without the support of local businesses. Caron Family Farmlands and Nursery, located on Route 20, generously provided the infield mix for the baseball and softball diamonds. M.L. Wales Painting Co., another Brimfield-based business, donated paint and labor to help

refurbish the dugouts.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for Opening Day and Jamboree, scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day will kick off with a parade that loops around the school and ends on the field, followed by an opening ceremony to thank sponsors and introduce teams and coaches.

The all-day jamboree will include eight or nine games, depending on scheduling, and plenty of family-friendly fun, mascots, food trucks, raffles, and more. Organizers are hopeful to beat last year’s record turnout and are encouraging families across the area to come out and celebrate the start of a new season.

The first official game of the season is slated for May 1, but the spirit of teamwork and community is already in full swing.



A community member (left) picking up piles of leaves while Brody Beaulieu (middle) watches on and Nicole Baker (right) using vine cutters to cut up sticks and vines on the cage.



(From left to right) Sarah and Kim Higgins help redig and tamp down the area for the T-ball plate alongside Sarah Rogers.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

James W. Gustafson, Jr.
Died April 20, 2025
Services April 27, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Ronald “Ron” M. Lombardi, Sr.
Died April 14, 2025
Services April 23, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Fred V. Smith, Jr.
Died April 19, 2025
Services April 29, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Patricia Ann (Kozlik) Wozniakowski
Died April 15, 2025
Services April 24, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

James W. Gustafson, Jr.,

MONSON—James W. Gustafson, Jr., known to friends and family as Jim, passed away on April 20, 2025, at the age of 76. He was born on Sept. 28, 1948, in Stafford, Connecticut. Jim was graduate of Monson High School, setting the stage for a career that spanned over many years as a tool designer retiring from the engineering department at Smith & Wesson in 2016.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Emelda L. (Tassinari) Gustafson. Together, they raised a wonderful family that includes a son, Eric “Jamie” Gustafson and his partner, Andrezza Medeiros, of Frisco, Texas; daughter, Ginger Dahlquist, along with her husband, Eric, from Pennsylvania. Jim took great joy in being a grandfather to his grandchildren, who brought immense happiness to his life.

He also shared strong bonds with his siblings. He is remembered fondly by his brothers, Jack D. Gustafson and his wife, Sage, Jeff Gustafson, and Frank Gustafson and his wife, Pam. His sisters, Jeanne Pietraalo and husband Coop, Jerri Muller and husband Gus, Jane Shorette and husband John, and Lisa Sullivan and husband Alan were also an important part of his life.

Jim was predeceased by

his father, James W. Gustafson, and his mother, June (Chase) Gustafson Hermanson.

In addition to his work and family, Jim had a passion for the outdoors. For many years he coached Monson youth sports. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a member of the Swift River Sportsman Club. He treasured vacationing in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire at Lake Ossipee, where he created many memories over the years.

Jim’s legacy lives on in the hearts of his family and friends, who will remember him for his warmth, dedication, and love of nature and animals. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. Visitation will be held Sunday, April 27, 2025 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral Home service will be Monday April 28, 2025 at 10 a.m. in the Funeral Home. Burial and Committal Prayers will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

In lieu of flowers Memorial contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Rescue or the Monson Senior Center.

For online condolences please visit www.Lombardfuneralhome.com



Building Bridges
free Veterans lunch

THREE RIVERS—A free lunch for veterans and one guest will be available on Friday, May 9 and Friday, June 13 from noon to 1 p.m. The lunch will be served at

the Amvets Post 74 located at 2150 Main St. in Three Rivers. Reservations are needed, call 413-283-2610 and leave voicemail.

In Memoriam

Arabella M. Olander

August 18, 1946 - April 23, 2024



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Ronald “Ron” M. Lombardi, Sr.

Ronald “Ron” M. Lombardi, Sr., 83, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2025. Born on Feb. 9, 1942, in Brooklyn, New York, Ron was the beloved son of the late Harry and Anna (Szabla) Lombardi.

Ron spent more than 30 years working at Pierson Industries, where his hard work, reliability, and good humor earned him lasting friendships. He was known for his friendly, outgoing nature and his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone he met.

A true Boston sports fan, he loved cheering on the Celtics, Pats, Red Sox, and Bruins. He was also an avid reader who loved discussing the books he was into with family and friends. In his younger years, he found joy in woodworking projects.

His faith was deeply important to him, and he was a longtime supporter of the Maryknoll Missionaries in New York—a cause close to his heart.

Ron’s greatest joy in life, however, was his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grand-

father and friend whose presence brought laughter and love to those around him. Besides his parents, Ron is preceded in death by his brother, Harry Lombardi. He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon (Grady) Lombardi; son, Ron Lombardi, Jr. and wife Mia of CT; son, Eric Lombardi and wife Carol of FL; daughter, Anne Marie Lombardi of Palmer, MA; grandchildren, Eric J. Lombardi Jr. and wife Die-dre of FL, Jason Lombar-

di and wife Therese of CT, Alyssa Kradas and husband Jordan of CT, Megan Gomez and husband Colton of NC, and Wesley and Chloe Lombardi and their father Derek Belisle; great-grandchildren, Grace, Jaxon, Berkley and Hazel; sister, Theresa Snyder; Sharon’s siblings, Phillip Grady and Patricia Sawicki; as well as several nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Services were held Wednesday, April 23, 2025 with a period of visitation from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, and burial immediately followed in Oak Knoll Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ron’s memory can be made to the Maryknoll Missionaries by visiting maryknoll.org or to the Palmer Public Library by visiting palmerlibrary.org.



Fred V. Smith, Jr.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Fred V. Smith Jr, who departed this life on April 19, 2025, at the age of 82, at his home in Three Rivers with his family by his side. Born on August 19, 1942, in Randolph, VT, Fred was a cherished husband, devoted father, beloved grandfather and great grandfather. Fred was predeceased by his parents, Fred Sr. and Marjorie (Copeland) Smith, and his brother Wayne Smith. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Susan A. (Therrien) Smith and leaves behind a legacy through his children: Annette Coyner & Paul, Julie Sullivan & Mike, Fred III & Shelley, Michelle Biron & Joe, and Debra Wrobel & Mark. Additionally, he is survived by

his siblings: Sandra Rillings, James Smith, and Penny Griffin, along with grandchildren, Nicholas, Samantha, Fred IV, Jacob, Megan, Damien, and Susan and great-grandchildren, Leilani and Keoni who brought him endless joy. Fred’s career as a truck driver spanned over 50 years. Fred was a member of the Sons of Amvets. Beyond his professional life, Fred enjoyed farming, hunting, and fishing and his time at his camp in Vermont creating countless cherished memories for his family. Fred was also affectionately known as “Mr. Fix It,” always ready to lend a helping hand with his me-

chanical skills and handy-man abilities. Fred was an avid NASCAR and Football fan and loved his barn and animals as well as tinkering in his garage. His thousands of stories and limericks will forever be with his family.

In honor of Fred’s life and the love he shared, a visitation will be held on April 29, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by a service commencing at 12 p.m. Donations in his memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute.



Patricia Ann (Kozlik) Wozniakowski

BONDSVILLE—Patricia Ann (Kozlik) Wozniakowski, 82, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2025 after a three year battle with ALS. She was born on Dec.

24, 1942, in Palmer, to the late Lawrence and Stephanie (Stolarz) Kozlik of Bondsville. After graduating from Palmer High School, Patricia obtained her nursing diploma at the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing. Soon after, while Polka dancing at Forest Lake, she met the love of her life, Francis (Ozzie) Wozniakowski. They were blessed with 55 years of marriage, and two children. Patricia spent forty years in nursing, twenty at Baystate Wing in various roles and twenty more as an Occupational Health Nurse (COHN) for the USPS in Springfield. Patricia loved life. She loved her family, friends, church and community and had a

special love for veterans. Slow to anger and quick with a joke, she was a Babci, a Cioci and a friend to everyone she met. She rarely failed to make a stranger smile. She loved Polish music and Polka dancing, cooking and baking, decorating, tending her flowers, sending cards and making silly gifts. Although she never moved from Palmer, she and Francis enjoyed a second home in Vermont and were fortunate to have been able to travel quite extensively, particularly enjoying their yearly trips to Aruba where they found a second ‘family’.

Besides her parents, Patricia was preceded in death by her loving husband, Francis L. Wozniakowski; brother, Lawrence Kozlik and sister, Christine (Kozlik) Lajzer.

She will be dearly missed by her children,

Lynne (Wozniakowski) Rahim and husband Irfan, and Scott Wozniakowski and partner Mary Morin; her four grandchildren, Sophia Rahim, Isabela Rahim, Samuel Wozniakowski, and Anna Wozniakowski. She also leaves her brother, Mark Kozlik, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 4-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Family and friends are welcome to gather at the funeral home on April 25, 2025 at 9 a.m. for a funeral procession to Patricia’s Funeral Mass at Divine Mercy Parish at 10am. Burial will immediately follow in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that donations in Patricia’s memory be made to the ALS Association at www.als.org or via check made payable to The ALS Association, 1300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22209.



BACKYARD | from page 4

like, I have heard them quite a bit this spring. They seem to talk whenever they fly.” We both hope they will nest in the area. My daughter saw the pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield on April 10.

Worthington birds

A Worthington birder reported flocks of goldfinches and redwing blackbirds mixed with a few grackles.

He said in his email, “Fun seeing the golds golding up and hearing the blackbirds, cheerfully chattering in the trees is welcome as spring up here.”

Brimfield birds

In late March, a Brimfield resident sent an email. He said, “Chilly morning, it

was quite cool when I put out the feeders this morning. We have the wood stove going now. In the yard yesterday was a first of the year sighting, twp song sparrows.” Four female turkeys showed up late in the day.

He frequently visits local ponds in search of birds especially water fowl. He said, “In Warren there were nine ring-necked ducks on one of the ponds. I got some pictures last week of ring-necked ducks in excellent light and you could actually see the brown ring at the base of the neck on several birds, something I seldom see. A few great blue herons at the pond on South Street and saw a second osprey at the pond

for the first time this year.”

Bald eagle

On Tuesday, April 15 I saw a mature, bald eagle perched in a dead tree in the beaver pond at the edge of my hayfield. When I returned an hour later, it was still there. In the afternoon, when I went to pickup my granddaughter at the bus stop, it was still in the same tree.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Annual motorsports ‘Blessings’ for the safety and joy of all riders



PALMER—The open road calls, and for many riders, it’s more than just a journey—it’s a way of life. The rhythm of the engine, the wind against your face, the unbreakable bond between rider and machine. It’s a spiritual experience, a connection to something greater. And this bond is never stronger than on Blessing of the Bikes Day!

On Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m., motorcyclists from all walks of life—cruisers, sportbike riders, touring adventurers, and everything in between—will gather at St. Paul’s Church of Palmer to receive a special blessing for both their bikes and

their travels ahead. Rain date: Sunday, May 11 at 12 noon.

Each rider will receive an embroidered ‘Blessing of the Bikes’ jacket patch as a keepsake, along with a guardian ‘spirit bell’—a revered token among bikers, symbolizing protection, guidance, and blessings for a safe and fulfilling journey.

The event will feature The Spirit Riders CMA of Western Massachusetts, a unique motorcycle ministry dedicated to serving the riding community. Additionally, local non-profit cycle groups will be present, sharing their missions and the charitable causes they



champion.

“For many, riding isn’t just transportation—it’s freedom, adventure, and a deep connection to the road,” said Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul’s Church. “It’s an adrenaline-fueled journey that speaks to the soul. At our Blessing of the Bikes, we pray for safety, joy, and the companionship of the road. Whether you ride a Harley, a Honda, or a custom-built

chopper, you are welcome. Come as you are—leave blessed!”

About St. Paul’s Church of Palmer

Since 1937, St. Paul’s has been a cornerstone of faith, community, and outreach in Palmer. Rooted in a message of grace, acceptance, and love, the church serves as a welcoming space for all. For more information, visit www.StPaulsPalmer.org.

Quabbin photo group meets April 28

BELCHERTOWN—Join the Quabbin Photo Group on Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown

for a fun and informative evening of photography talk. This month’s meeting kicks off with a “Camera Bag Show & Tell”-bring your bag and share what’s

worked (or hasn’t!) in your quest for the perfect gear setup. The evening continues with Member’s Night, featuring a showcase of favorite photos by members.

Whether you’re a seasoned pro or just getting started, all are welcome to attend and learn more about the Quabbin Photo Group!

ENERGY | from page 1

was also a point of discussion. Although the building has been unused for nearly a decade and its boiler has failed, the town continues to incur costs to heat the structure minimally. McNutt noted that \$50,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds had been allocated for a site survey, but progress has stalled due to murky land ownership records dating back to the 1800s. A land attorney has been hired to resolve the deed history, which must

be clarified before the town can pursue sale or redevelopment. Officials emphasized the need to preserve public parking adjacent to the building during any transition.

Youth Sports Advocate Pushes for Indoor Facility Solutions

Steve Hen, representing the Palmer Youth Basketball Association, addressed the Council about the lack of indoor practice space for youth sports teams. With Converse gym unusable and limited options at Pathfinder

Regional, Hen said Palmer’s young athletes are at a disadvantage compared to those in neighboring towns. He requested \$50,000 to fund a master planning process for Burleigh Park, with the long-term goal of constructing a new athletic facility, possibly a prefabricated Butler-style building. Town leaders responded that gym access is currently controlled by the school department and encouraged Hen to explore partnerships and alternative venues while continuing to pursue a formal plan.

Master Plan Committee Details Progress and Encourages Creative Solutions

Amber Kompalani, chair of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, presented an update on the town’s long-term strategic goals, developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. She outlined how the committee uses a detailed matrix to track departmental progress across a wide range of priorities. Highlights included forward movement on rail station planning, recreational space improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and new educational initiatives.

“Sometimes creative solutions can fix a problem that’s been stuck for a while,” Kompalani said, emphasizing the importance of inter-departmental collaboration and flexible problem-solving to overcome bureaucratic and financial roadblocks.

MONSON | from page 1

Aims and Frustrations

The bylaw revision process requires a public hearing, a Planning Board recommendation, and a two-thirds majority vote at Town Meeting before changes can be adopted. However, much of the hearing was marked by resident frustration with the scope of the changes and concerns over transparency and enforcement.

The proposed changes would have required home-based businesses to obtain a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, with the board empowered to attach conditions or grant waivers. Board members said the changes aimed to set clearer standards, promote a transition to commercial zones for growing businesses, and prevent disturbances in residential areas such as large tractor-trailers, excessive noise, and factory-like operations.

“We’re trying not to be unfriendly to business, but again, there’s a point where you go from a startup to a bona fide business. At that point in time, there are zones that allow that,” said one Planning Board speaker.

Nick Bodwin, of 2 Country Club Heights, raised questions about the grandfathering of existing businesses. He cited an earlier meeting where a three-year grace period was discussed for businesses operating after 1972, and asked whether new screening and building restrictions would apply to them. Planning Board members clarified that grandfathering is governed by state law under Chapter 40A, and legally established businesses would generally be protected. The grace period, intended for illegally operating businesses, may be removed due to confusion.

Other residents echoed these concerns. John Bowden of 48 Wilbraham Road criticized the board for what he described as an anti-business stance. “The board needs to choose between supporting a bedroom community or promoting business growth,” he said. Roxanne, another resident, warned against turning Monson into “a city with cluster housing and high density,” adding, “Let us keep our hometown charm because that’s what we like.”

Legal Gray Areas and Procedural Confusion

Ken Comia, the acting Town Planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, explained that the current bylaw does not address whether multiple businesses can operate from a single residential address. One resident asked whether his mobile business and his girlfriend’s jewelry startup could legally share a home address. Ken advised consulting the zoning enforcement officer and town clerk, and noted that the current bylaw restricts business registration to property owners.

The Planning Board expressed frustration with the limitations of the public hearing

process. Since the proposal had already been published, substantial changes could only be made from the floor at Town Meeting. Several members voiced discomfort with amending complex zoning language during such a forum, calling it “sloppy” and unproductive.

“There are too many areas needing clarification,” said one board member. “It’s a serious bylaw...it’s going to be really hard, I’ll be honest with you, to draft a bylaw that’ll pass town meeting vote and keep residential zones primarily showing residential use yet allowing businesses or at least startup businesses, you know, to exist in town.”

Authorship and Enforcement

Tensions also flared over the origin of the bylaw draft. Craig, a board member, initially distanced himself from authorship, but later acknowledged contributing to the revisions. John pressed him on the inconsistency, which added to public skepticism.

Ray Bodwin, a longtime resident, voiced concern about enforcement. “What tools does the town actually have?” he asked, citing past issues with bylaw violations. The board said enforcement relies on the zoning enforcement officer and court processes, which are slow and reactive.

Letters submitted by David and Nick Beaudoin emphasized that current bylaws aren’t enforced effectively, and new restrictions could be punitive rather than preventive.

Language Concerns and Vehicle Restrictions

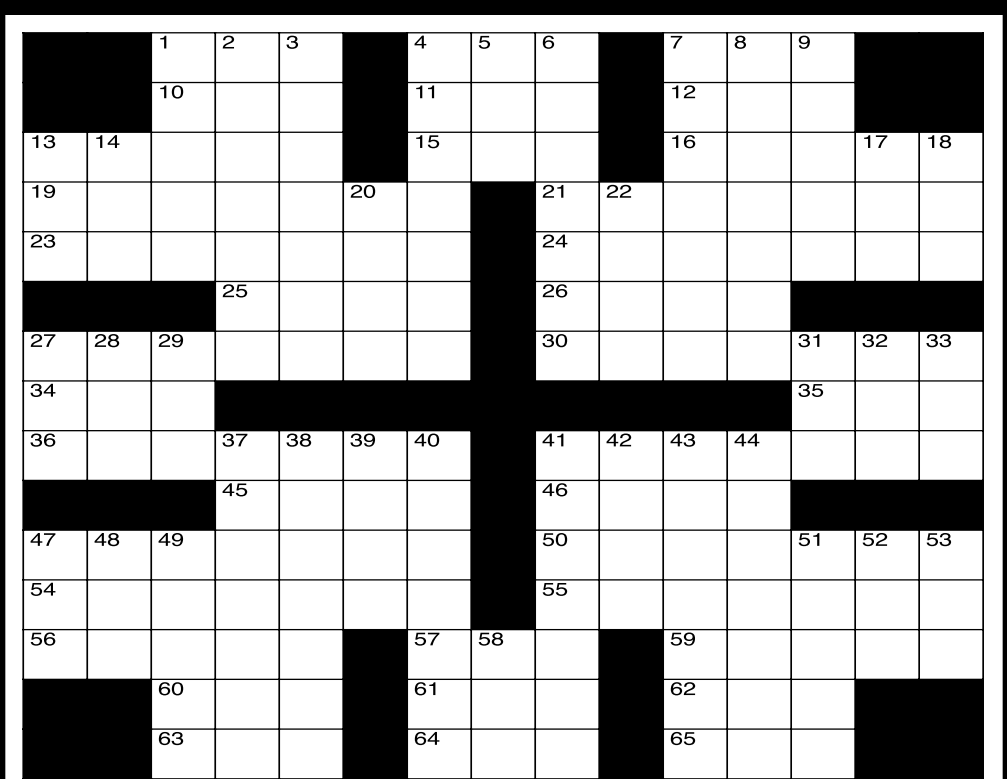
One board member criticized the bylaw’s vague language around sensory nuisances like noise and odor, arguing for clear, measurable standards. They also questioned the proposal to increase the allowed vehicle size from 12,000 to 33,000 pounds GVWR, a weight limit typical of medium-duty trucks. “This isn’t consistent with the spirit of a residential zone,” they said.

Outcome and Next Steps

After nearly two hours of discussion, the Planning Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing and withdraw the proposed changes. Board members agreed that more work was needed and thanked the community for its input.

The board also handled routine business during the meeting, including the nomination of Scott Watson to serve on the Community Preservation Committee and updates on zoning developments from surrounding towns. Amended meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next session, scheduled for May 20, which will also include a continued public hearing on housing authority matters.

As the debate around zoning continues, many residents and officials alike seem to agree on one thing: balancing business opportunity and community character is no easy task.



CLUES ACROSS

- English TV station
- It fuels cars
- Where ships dock (abbr.)
- Indigenous people of Thailand
- Midway between northeast and east
- Small Milky Way constellation
- Fritz __, Austrian chemist
- A Brit’s grandmother
- Colombian city
- Visualize
- Charged
- People’s assets
- Informative books
- Jeer
- You can do it with your horn
- Agents of your downfall
- Central Uganda city

- Supervises flying
- Type of tree
- Alfalfa
- Dishwasher soap brand
- Hall where military eats
- Ancient Greek City
- Speaks incessantly
- Discuss again
- Extreme greed
- Adopt or support
- Fantasy writer Russell
- Seize
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Noted pet detective Ventura
- Automobile
- Georgia rockers
- Color opposite green
- Amount of time
- Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- Sheep sound
- Some can be emotional
- Inflammation of colon lining
- Origins
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Perceived by the senses
- A place to play ball
- Occur before
- Animal body parts
- Thanksgiving dessert
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- 1960s teen idol Bobby
- Promotional materials
- One point east of northeast
- Piers Anthony protagonist
- Popular sports league
- Cologne

- Partner to cheese
- Constrictor snake
- Not good
- Supplement with difficulty
- Hug with fondness
- Enforced again
- Small amount of time (abbr.)
- Substance
- Anterior parts of the brain
- Brews
- Where ships load cargo
- Holiday season singer
- “__ humbug!”
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Popular children’s book elephant
- Glutinous
- Function
- Old world, new
- Swiss river

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF WARREN JOB OPPORTUNITY

Executive Assistant to the Selectmen and Town Administrator

The Town of Warren is seeking a well-qualified candidate to provide administrative and clerical support to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. This is a full-time, Town benefited position. Attendance at evening meetings is required. Must have excellent customer service skills and is proficient with Microsoft suite.

Current Salary Range: \$22.75 - \$30.58 per hour, based on qualifications and education.

To be considered for this position, please submit a cover letter and resume to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator, by no later than Thursday, May 8th, 2025. Resumes will be accepted via email to towndadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator P.O. Box 609 Warren, MA 01083.

For a complete job description please visit the Town’s website www.warren-ma.gov. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

CLOTHING | from page 1

dles to Crayons website, childhood poverty is a pressing issue across the country. The organization points out that “more than one in three Massachusetts children, 12 years old and younger, live in low-income or homeless situations.” In Philadelphia, “three in five Philadelphian children live in poverty,” and “one in two children in Chicago live in low income and homeless situations.” The organization emphasizes that clothing insecurity is a hidden but critical part of childhood poverty, a basic need often unsupported by government safety nets.

Cradles to Crayons’ website explains that children without proper clothing face real, daily obstacles. “The kids we help don’t have shoes that fit. Or a coat warm enough to fend off winter winds. Or a backpack to carry their school books and supplies. Without these basics, they suffer. They don’t want to go to school. They have a hard time learning in school. They don’t go out-

side to play. They don’t feel valued.”

This mission resonated deeply with Khan. As she explained, “My vision is to ensure that one day, not one child is left without the essentials they need to feel safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued!” While she acknowledges that change won’t come overnight, she believes it’s possible “when we all come together as a united community.”

Khan was selected as an ambassador for Project 351 after being nominated by her eighth-grade teacher, Mrs. Pouliot. “Ambassadors are nominated by teachers when the teacher feels the student accurately fits the character traits Project 351 emphasizes; the traits are kindness, humility, and compassion.” It was a proud moment for her and her school. “I’m really privileged and honored to be the first ambassador for Palmer,” Khan said.

When asked what Cradles to Crayons’ message “More than a cause... it’s a kid” meant to her, she replied, “It means

that the cause is really about donating to impact lives rather than donating just to donate, each donation will change a child’s life.” She also pointed to a core belief shared by the organization: “Part of Cradles to Crayons’ message includes the saying ‘Quality=Dignity,’ which means if a child has quality, fitting clothing then they have a sense of dignity.” She added, “No kids should be punished for just being born in a specific socioeconomic class, all kids no matter their families income deserve proper fitting clothes that they can use to express themselves.”

With donation bins set up at Palmer High School, St. Paul’s Church, and Palmer Town Hall, the town has already seen strong engagement. “A lot of community engagement has occurred and they have already had so many donations,” Khan said, crediting the people of Palmer for stepping up to support the cause.

She also emphasized how deeply clothing insecurity can affect a child’s life, especially in terms of confidence, learn-

ing, and peer relationships. “One in three kids in Massachusetts is at risk for clothing insecurity, and clothing insecurity can impact their self-esteem, schooling, or even put them at risk for bullying.” She added, “Kids are bullied for the smallest things, some kids only have a few outfits they can wear to school so they have to repeat them and they may not get washed between wears so the child might smell, or they do have enough outfits but they are all hand me downs from older relatives and the clothes don’t fit or are the complete opposite of the child’s personality.”

Khan explained how important clothing is to a child’s identity. “Fashion is a way of self-expression and there have been many studies throughout the years that wearing clothes that you actually like will greatly improve your mood and behavior.”

Beyond raising awareness, she hopes the drive has a direct and lasting impact. “All of the clothes will be distributed by Cradles to Crayons

regionally and locally through the schools and social programs.” She explained that the organization has a proven method of getting items directly to the children who need them most. “Project 351 has been supporting Cradles to Crayons since 2011 by helping spread the word through communities and making sure the commonwealth engagement is what drives the programs.”

In terms of how others can help, Khan urged people to get involved however they can. “By donating and spreading the word by sharing posts about it and bringing awareness to the issue by donating and volunteering where you can in your community.” She added, “It’s a vision that can be achieved if we all work together,” and shared a final reflection: “Even if it is one kid impacted or many, that one kid should still have access to everything they need.”

As the drive nears its end on April 20, Khan hopes people will be thoughtful about what they contribute. She emphasized the importance

of considering the child receiving the clothing. “Really take into account what you are donating; socks, underwear, and pajamas must be new and they are accepting gently used or new clothes from sizes newborn to an adult medium.” Monetary donations are also welcome and impactful. “Cash donations are also readily accepted.” Her advice to potential donors is simple but powerful: “Would I wear this as a kid or give this as a gift? If not, please rethink your donation, as these kids deserve to wear clothes they actually like and enjoy.”

This is Khan’s second year helping to organize a Cradles to Crayons drive in Palmer. Looking ahead, she hopes this becomes a lasting part of her time at Palmer High. “She hopes she can continue this annually for the rest of her high school career in Palmer.”

With leadership like hers, rooted in empathy, action, and belief in the power of community, that vision feels entirely within reach.

Have you experienced a housing need?

Share your story online or in person

We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling! If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.



Submit stories through an online form (scan QR code or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HQHousingStory>) or a recorded interview. You have the option of being anonymous for either format.



\$50 compensation for those who share online or \$100 for recorded interviews

For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com or (413) 207-7698



SPORTS

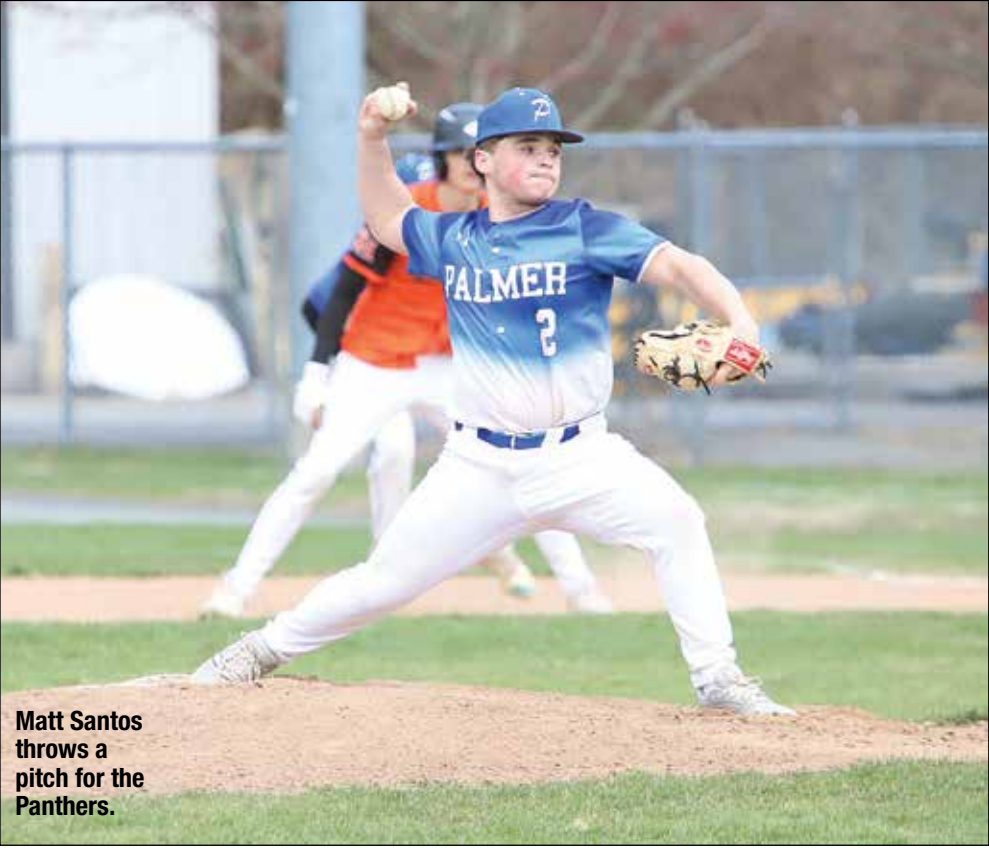
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BASEBALL

Palmer baseball falls at home



Matt Santos throws a pitch for the Panthers.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—There have been football games played at historic Legion Field in Palmer on warmer nights in the fall than it was for last Wednesday’s baseball game between Suburban Central rivals South Hadley and Palmer.

After being outscored 22-1 in three consecutive home losses, the South Hadley Tigers nearly scored that many runs in their 19-10 victory over the Palmer Panthers on a very cold and windy afternoon.

“This was also one of the most difficult baseball games that I’ve ever been involved in because of the wind. It’s very hard to pitch in this type of weather, but I thought both pitchers battled out there,” said longtime South Hadley head coach Matt Foley. “I wouldn’t have been very

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BASEBALL

Early runs lead to win for Mustangs baseball

Benjamin Pignone sends a throw back to the infield.



Max Kowal sends a throw to first.

MONSON – Last Wednesday on a cold, windy afternoon, Ludlow allowed a few first inning runs and could not come all the way back as they lost to Monson 8-5. The Lions start the season with a strong 2-1 start, but have since lost three straight, falling to Hopkins, Monson, and South Hadley. The Mustangs are now 4-4 this season and face Pioneer Valley Regional on Monday, April 28 at 4 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Monson softball leads early, but falls late to Chaug

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Sophomore Abigail Camire was the starting pitcher in the first two games won by the Minnechaug Regional junior varsity softball team this spring.

Camire was also the starting pitcher for the Lady Falcons j.v. squad as a freshman. She was called up to the varsity squad for the first time by head coach Molly Cole before last Friday’s home game against the Monson Lady Mustangs.

The righthander was the winning pitcher, as Minnechaug ended their four-game losing streak with a hard-fought 12-9 comeback victory on a very windy afternoon in Wilbraham.

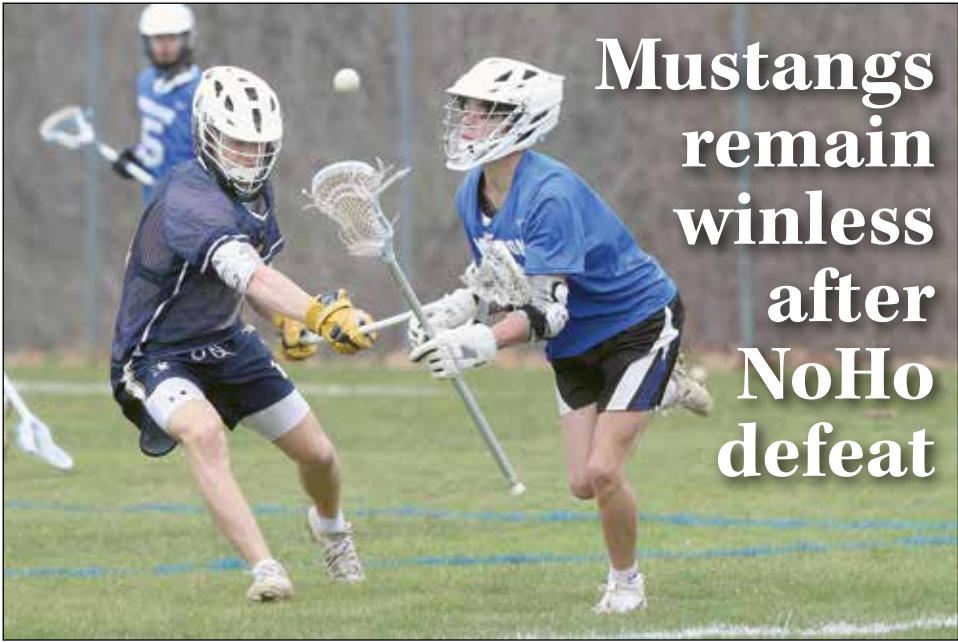
“I was called up to the varsity team for the first time, but I never expected to play in today’s game” said Camire, who started the non-league contest at first base. “It feels great to be the winning pitcher, but we worked very well as a team.”

Camire replaced senior righty Abby Peyman in the pitcher’s circle at the start of the third inning. She allowed just one run on seven hits with two strikeouts and no walks over the final five innings.

“Abigail did a great job pitching in her first varsity game,” Cole said. “She has been pitching very well for the j.v. team and she was ready to pitch for us in today’s game.”

The Lady Falcons (2-4), who posted a 10-4 win over the Lady Mustangs a year ago, hadn’t celebrated a victory this season since they defeated Ludlow, 12-6 at home in the season opener. They were shutout, 21-0, in a non-league road loss to Tantasqua Regional twenty four hours

MONSON | page 13



Brennan Peterson fights to keep the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Riley Hurst makes a save.



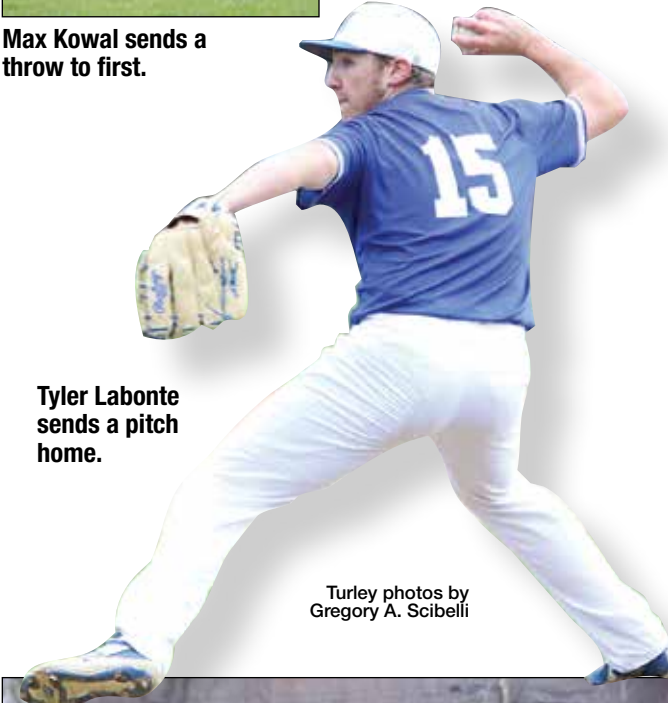
Brady Ronaldson picks up the low ball.



Brandyn Wilson heads up the field.

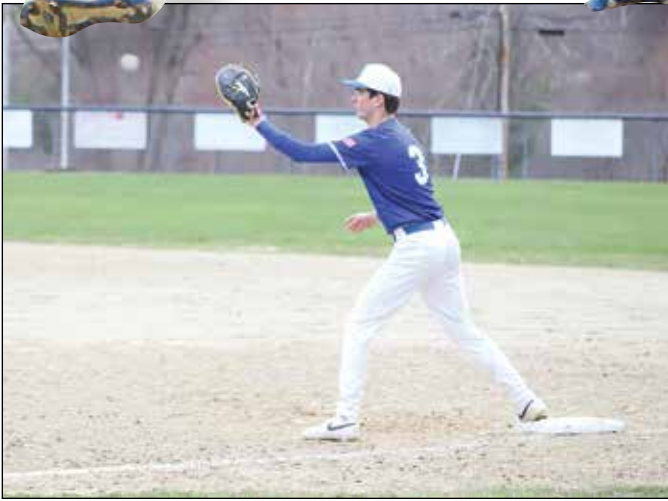


Tyler Rodriguez is closely defended as he looks to shoot.

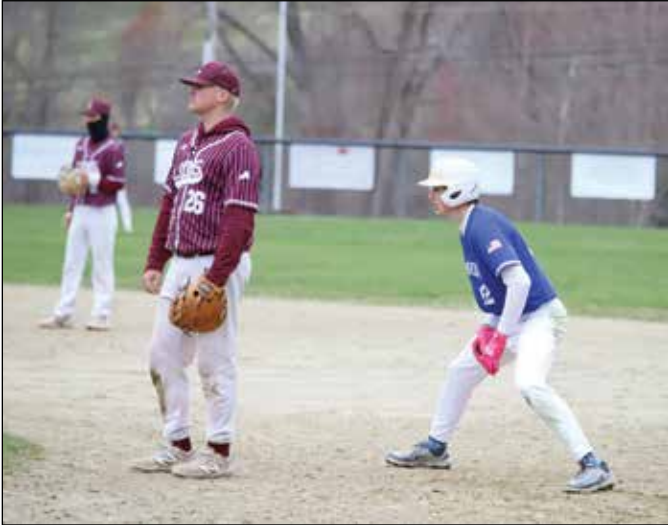


Tyler Labonte sends a pitch home.

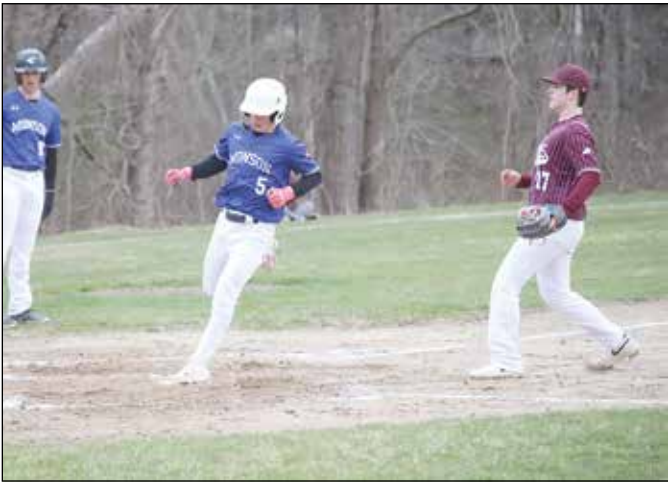
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Shane Szado catches the easy out at first.



Austin Meacham leads off first.

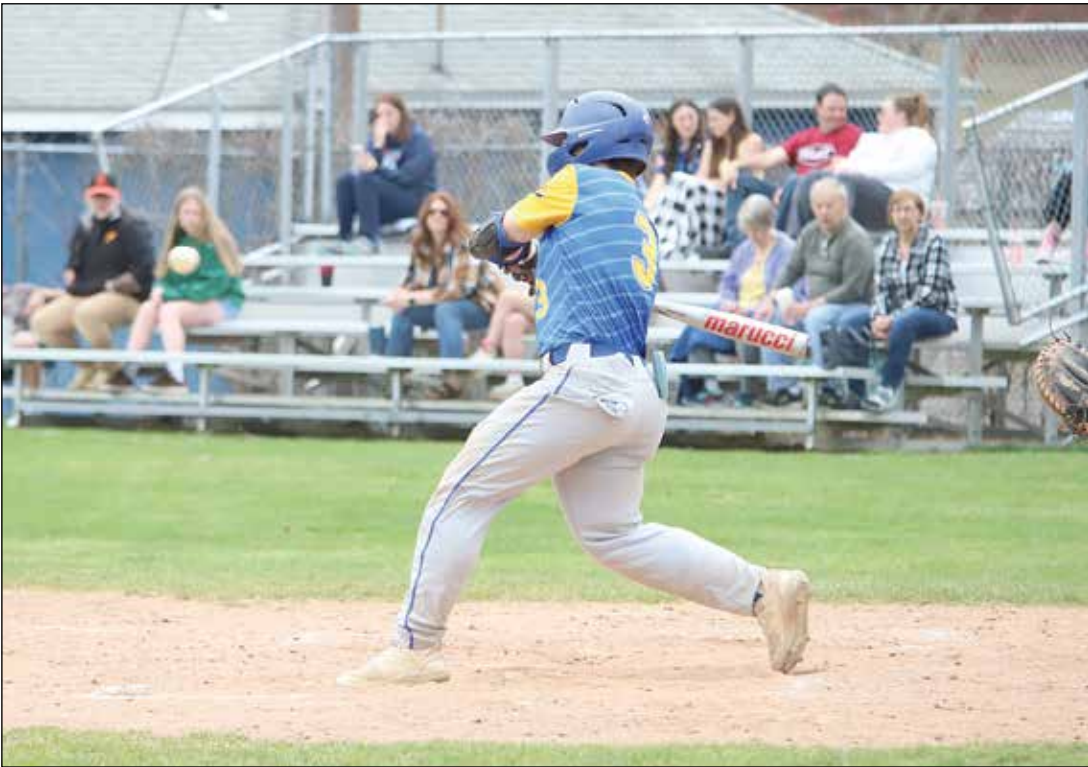


Jake Beaupre crosses home plate with a run for the Mustangs.

Pioneers walk off on Monson



Pitcher Brayden Mega fires to the plate.



Grayson Griswold gets a good swing on.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

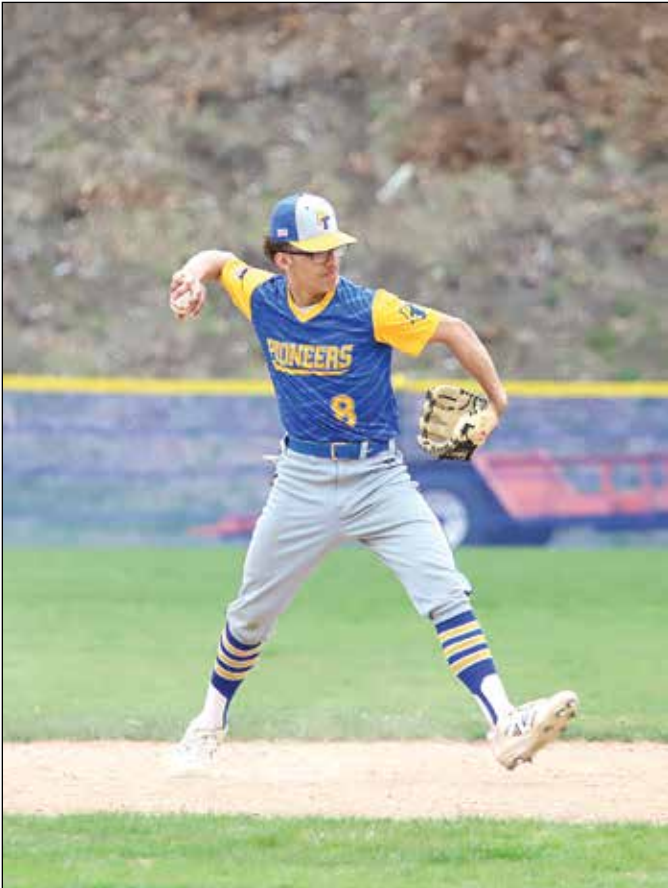
PALMER – Last Saturday morning, Pathfinder Tech walked off with a run in the bottom of the seventh to defeat Monson 2-1. The Pioneers got a complete game effort from Brayden Megan. He allowed a run on four hits and struck out 11. Pathfinder also had only four hits as Austin Meacham also gave the Mustangs an outstanding effort, going 6 2/3 innings before allowing the winning run. He struck out eight. Monson is now 4-3 on the season while Pathfinder is an impressive 4-1.



Jacob Kokoski makes a throw down to second.



Edward Szostek fields a base hit to center.



Dustyn Cook makes a throw to first.

MONSON | from page 11

earlier. The Lady Mustangs (5-4) have gone 1-4 since starting the regular season with four consecutive victories.

“I didn’t think we did anything well in today’s game,” said first-year Monson varsity coach Matt Hull. “We scored five runs in our first at bats, but we gave it up very quickly. It wasn’t our best effort of the season and I’m very disappointed.”

The Lady Mustangs scored five runs in the top of the first inning before the first out had been recorded.

Senior shortstop Natalie Hull led off with a single into left field. Her younger sister,

Chelsea, who’s a sophomore, then hit a two-run homer over the right field fence.

Chelsea Hull, who started the game at second base, had five of the Lady Mustangs 16 base hits.

Following back-to-back singles by senior starting pitcher Molly Szado and senior centerfielder Ella Corthell, freshman catcher Maya Summers delivered an RBI single into center field giving the visiting team a 3-0 lead. Corthell crossed the plate following a field error by the shortstop and a ground-ball out by freshman first baseman Madelynn Caron brought home the fifth run.

It didn’t take the Lady Falcons very long to tie the score.

After loading the bases, senior right fielder Ava Peabody drew a walk bringing home the first run. Two more runs crossed the plate when junior third baseman Alexa Sherman (3-for-4) singled to center. Peabody and Sherman both scored on wild pitches.

The Lady Mustangs, who took advantage of several errors by the Lady Falcons, scored three more times in the top of the second inning.

Chelsea Hull and freshman left fielder Cali Zielinski (3-for-4) contributed with RBI singles while Summers

drove home another run with a sacrifice fly.

While the Lady Mustangs scored eight runs on nine hits during the first two innings, their supporters didn’t have very much to cheer about once Camire took over in the pitcher’s circle.

The Lady Falcons, who banged out a total of 12 hits, closed the gap to 8-7 following a two-run single by freshman shortstop Mylie Mittler with two-outs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Minnechaug took the lead at 9-8 with one-out in

the fifth when a ground ball hit by freshman designated player Julianna Mooney was misplayed for an error by the second baseman allowing two runs to score.

Monson, who are the only Division 5 team in the Valley Wheel League, did get a little help from Minnechaug defense to tie the score in the top of the sixth inning.

The Lady Falcons loaded the bases in the bottom half of the frame before Peabody drove home the go-ahead run with an infield hit. Sherman also had a run scoring infield

hit. Sophomore center fielder Veronica Ouimet, who was intentionally walked, scored on a wild pitch giving the Lady Falcons a 12-9 advantage.

Chelsea Hull, who took over for Szado in the sixth inning, singled with two outs in the seventh inning before Camire retired the next batter on a pop-up to Mittler ending the ballgame.

Monson is scheduled to host Minnechaug at 1pm on May 3.

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T-BIRDS | from page 12

- Thunderbirds @ Bruins, Sunday, April 27, 3:05 p.m., Amica Mutual Pavilion

During the regular season, the T-Birds posted a 7-3-0-2 record against the Bruins,

including wins in four of the last five meetings:

The Thunderbirds were led by two of their top offensive weapons throughout the season series against Providence. Captain Matthew Peca tallied a point per game,

with 12 points (4g, 8a) in 12 meetings against the Bruins. Nikita Alexandrov torched Providence for 10 points (4g, 6a) in just eight head-to-head meetings, including two goals in the final 90 seconds to stun the Bruins, 3-2, in the last

matchup between the foes on March 30.

Providence has also received strong veteran leadership during the regular season meetings against Springfield, with captain Patrick Brown tallying seven points (3g, 4a) in nine games. Georgii Merkulov, one of the top distributors in the AHL this season, posted a team-high nine points (1g, 8a) in 11 head-to-head matchups.

In the offensive end of the

rink, the T-Birds have been one of the few AHL teams to experience success against AHL First All-Star netminder Michael DiPietro of the Bruins. Springfield handed DiPietro four defeats in his six games against the T-Birds and kept the Eastern Conference leader in save percentage to a .908 mark in that category in head-to-head meetings.

This series marks the first time the T-Birds and Bruins have met in the Calder Cup

Playoffs and the fifth time the cities have duked it out in the postseason. Springfield won each of the first three series against Providence, while the Bruins exacted payback with a five-game series win in the Division Semifinals in 2014.

If the Thunderbirds defeat the Bruins in the best-of-3 series, they would meet the two-time defending Calder Cup champion Hershey Bears in the Atlantic Division Semifinals.

SCHOOL | from page 1

during meetings when changes are made to ensure transparency.

Eagle Scout Recognized at Meeting

The committee honored Cole Chevalier, a local student and Eagle Scout, for his exceptional achievement of earning the Eagle Scout rank in December 2024. His Eagle project involved creating busy boards for preschool classrooms and a fidget board for the OMP sensory room, designed to aid in fine motor development and sensory regulation.

“That is quite the accomplishment. It’s not anything easy to do. It’s so long and constructive and everything,” said Committee Member Anthony Braden, praising Cole’s efforts.

Public Comment Period

The chair opened the floor to public comments but no one chose to speak. The chair then reminded attendees of the guidelines for public comment, emphasizing respectful discourse.

Madison Rathbone, the Palmer High School student representative, provided updates on spring sports, including track & field, softball, and baseball. She also reported on upcoming events, such as the Prom on May 2, the Mock Accident scheduled for April 29, and the Special Olympics in Monson on the same day. Additionally, she shared highlights of a school-sponsored trip to Italy and a March 20 event where EMT students assisted in evaluating elementary students’ stuffed animals.

Old Mill Pond – Mrs. Deaton

Mrs. Deaton updated the committee on events at Old Mill Pond School, including a successful “Geography Bee” with 40 participants and a grade 6 ecology trip. She also reported on student participation in Girls on the Run,

a program that encourages physical fitness and mentoring by PHS students.

Superintendent’s Report – APPS Strategy Presentation

Superintendent Francis delivered an update on the district’s strategic plan. The presentation outlined Year 1 progress and reviewed core values, mission revisions, and strategic objectives focused on equitable access, academic excellence, and improved communication.

“If you were to ask any of the faculty, staff, the students or the caregivers, could they recite this mission? Do they know this mission? If they don’t know this mission, it’s not a living mission,” emphasized Superintendent Francis, highlighting the importance of a mission statement that is not only meaningful but memorable.

Integrated Monitoring Review (IMR)

The committee also received an update on the district’s recent Integrated Monitoring Review (IMR). The review covered six universal standards, including civil rights criteria and special education. The district earned strong ratings, with 16 out of 17 civil rights criteria fully implemented.

One area noted for improvement was the district’s curriculum review process, particularly in addressing harmful generalizations and stereotypes. Superintendent Francis emphasized the ongoing nature of this work.

“This work, especially with CR 24, is always ongoing. You’re never going to be done with it, but to have the processes and the trainings in place so that it just becomes part of the fabric of who we are as an institution,” said Superintendent Francis.

Financial and Budget Updates

The financial overview highlighted balanced budgets for food services and the Kids

Corner program. The committee reviewed anticipated openings and discussed the need for continued monitoring of budget lines related to utilities and substitute teacher costs.

In athletics, revenues from gate fees exceeded expectations, and transportation costs were within budget, despite a relatively new spring season.

Revision of PHS Program of Studies

In another decision, the committee voted to approve the removal of the term “athlete” from the description of a new strength and conditioning course for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

Recognition of Achievements

Several students and staff were recognized for their achievements. Richie Less received the Joe Rodriguez Distinguished Service Award for his volunteer contributions to school sports, while Mr. Marciniak was honored with the Ted Damko Award for his athletic contributions. Jenna Greer was presented with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for her outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. In sports, Jillian Holbrook was named Athlete of the Week for her exceptional performance in softball.

Final Remarks

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn, and the next committee session is scheduled for the third Wednesday of May. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. with unanimous approval.

Special Acknowledgments

Superintendent Francis was commended for his organizational efforts and responses during the policy revisions, while committee members expressed appreciation for the ongoing work in refining school policies and procedures.



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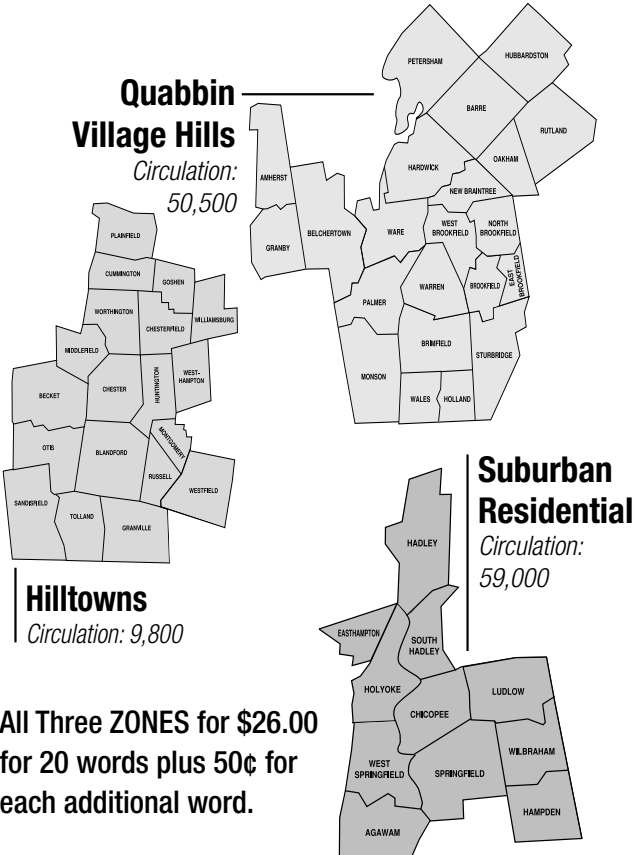
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Public notices

PALMER
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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 **6:45 PM, Tuesday, May 6, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed activities associated with replacing sump pump discharge pipes, within the 200-foot riverfront area. The project address is 92 Griffin St., Bondsville (Assessors Map 91, Lot 14). The applicant making the request is Thomas Ngan.

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
04/24/2025

Section 00 11 13
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General Bids will be received until **07 May 2025 at 1:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
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Instructions: None
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Docket No.
HD23P2016PM
In the matter of:
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of Monson, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
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CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**
To the named Respondent

and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Conservator's First** account(s) of Nancy Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **05/16/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 11, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

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 **6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 6, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed activities associated with installation of a new six-inch diameter natural gas main along the Park Street right-of-way. Portions of the work area will be located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Inland Bank, the locally regulated 50-foot No Disturb Zone, and the 25-foot Riverfront Area. The project area begins at the North Main St./Randall St. intersection, extends within North Main St., Church St., School St. and Park St., and terminates at the Park St./Stone St. intersection. The applicant making the request is SWCA Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Ever-source Energy. 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
04/24/2025

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

2025
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 6, 2025 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, 2025

Chairman Ex Officio

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

Article 2. To Submit reports of the treasure, 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, 2025 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, 2025 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, 2025 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, 2025 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 2025 tax levy, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8. To see whether the District will vote 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

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND
PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE
ANNUAL FIRE DISTRICT MEETING
WARRANT
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Hampden, ss. Town of Palmer
TO: William K. Cole, Clerk of Palmer Fire District Number One and
Palmer Water District Number One.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the qualified voters of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One to meet in the Palmer Public Library, N. Main Street, in Depot Village, of said Palmer, on **Tuesday, the 13th day of MAY, 2025 at seven o'clock in the evening**, to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To choose by ballot the following officers:
For a term of three (3) years:
One (1) Member of the Prudential Committee
One (1) Water Commissioner

ARTICLE 3. To hear and act on reports of district officers and committees.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to pay the salaries expenses and operating expenses for the Fire Department for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to pay the salaries expenses and operating expenses for the District Treasurer, District Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessors and Auditor for fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the District will vote to empower the Fire Department (AMBULANCE SERVICE) through the use of its receipts and revenues, to expend funds to defray the expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the District will vote to empower the Water Department, through the use of its receipts and revenues, to expend funds to defray the expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 9. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and acts in amendment thereof, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to a Reserve Fund-Fire Account for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 11. To see if the District will vote to establish a Reserve Fund-Water Account and to appropriate water receipts a sum of money to the Reserve Fund-Water Account in accordance with Section 5C of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to repay an obligation to Farmer's Home Administration for the remodeling of the Fire Station, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 14. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase new protective brush turnout consisting of helmets, shirts, pants, and boots, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 15. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase new lockers for turnout gear and locker room, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 16. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to repay Monson Saving for the new pumper fire truck, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 17. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or

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 raise and appropriate or Transfer from Free Cash the sum of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for the renovations of and addition to the Fire Station Bay.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) be raised and appropriated or transferred from free cash under this article.

Article 12. To see whether the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the Sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for upgrades to the Overhead bay doors or take any other actions relative thereto.

Article 13. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasure, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2025 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.

The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on this article

Article 14. 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.

The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on this article.

Article 15. 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 2025
True Copy Attest by:
/s/ Guy Bellefleur, Clerk
Date: April 24, 2025

Prudential Committee
/s/ Norman Czech, Chairman
/s/ Andera Sullivan, Vice Chairman
/s/ Mark Bogacz, Clerk

04/24/2025

otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase new furniture for the bunk rooms and break rooms, or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 18. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for improvements to 2012 Ford ¾ ton truck and installation of a brush skid pump unit or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase an access control system for the fire station or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the District will vote to authorize the fire department to expend from ambulance receipts a sum of money for a new 2025 Type 111 ambulance or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the District will vote to authorize the fire department to expend from ambulance receipts a sum of money for a new advanced support monitor/defibrillator or take any other action relative thereto

ARTICLE 22. To see if the District will vote to authorize the fire department to expend from ambulance receipts a sum of money for storage cabinets and safes for the storage of advanced life support medications and supplies or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to complete an Engineering Design for Clearwell repairs & Immediate Repairs or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to Replacement of Leak Detection Equipment & Laptop or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to Partial Replacement of CCC Sampling Pump System, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for the relocation of the office building phase 1, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to Repaving of Forrest Hill Drive, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to Replace New 1” Line Crossing near 1881 Park St. or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to refurbishing of Trucks and Equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for replacement of Water Heater at the GACTP, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31. To choose committees and give them instructions.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof and publishing an attested copy thereof in one issue of The Journal Register, a newspaper published in said Palmer, the publication to be not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting, said postings to be fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting, at the offices of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One, Walnut Street, and at the Palmer Town Administration Building, all in said Palmer.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant, with your doing treeron, before the holding of said meeting.

Given under our hands this18th day of April, 2025

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF PALMER
FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND
PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE
James L. St. Amand, Chairman
Daniel Belanger
Charles F. Abbate

A True Copy, ATTEST:
William K. Cole, Clerk
04/24/2025

Public notices

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. HD20P0578EA
Estate of:
Gale Alice Howard
Also known as:
Gale Brown, Gale Howard
Date of Death: 09/30/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by James B Howard, Jr. of Monson, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final accountand other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 05/20/2025.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 15, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
PUBLIC HEARING
The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Warren Road: #31103564
Reason: Warren Road – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Warren Road beginning at a point approximately 2168 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of North Main Street. At approximately 2168 feet North of the centerline of North Main Street, National Grid proposes to install pole# 24-84 and anchor, Brimfield, MA.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly
Select Board, Chairperson
Town of Brimfield
04/17, 04/24/2025

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. HD25P0815EA
Estate of:
Elsie M Moore
Date of Death: 03/19/2025
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 Lisa M Easton of Town Creek, AL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Lisa M Easton of Town Creek, AL 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 05/15/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 17, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P0328GD
In the matter of:
Liam Connor Shields
Of: Monson, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Ruth Eileen Shields of Monson, MA
John Kevin Shields of Monson, MA
in the above captioned matter alleging that Liam Connor Shields is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Ruth Eileen Shields of Monson, MA
John Kevin Shields of Monson, MA
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 05/06/2025.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named

person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 08, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2016PM
In the matter of:
Theodore Wachta of Monson, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary Conservator's Amended First and Final account(s) of Nancy Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/16/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING WARRANT
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TO: William K. Cole, Clerk of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One.
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the qualified voters of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One to meet in the Palmer Public Library, in the Depot Village of said Palmer, on Tuesday, the 13th day of MAY, 2025 at six thirty o'clock in the evening, to act on the following Articles:

- ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside at the meeting.
- ARTICLE 2. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department Surplus a sum of money to be used to pay the Water Dept. O & M (operating services account), or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 3: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Thorndike St./Shearer St./Forrest Hill Water Main Project Phase 2 & 3 engineering, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 4: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for a Master Plan (Phase1), or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for a Knee Wall Containment at the (GBRTP), or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Emerging Contaminants, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for a LT Grant, or take any other action relative thereto.

person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 11, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomoni
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Thomas K. Tighe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Lenders Network USA, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated September 23, 2005 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 15373, Page 409 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on July 20, 2017 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 21772, Page 247, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 17853, Page 178, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for RASC 2006-EMX4 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Lenders Network USA, Incorporated, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19116, Page 177, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-EMX4 by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 21074, Page 303 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on May 8, 2025 at 84 Bethany Road, Monson, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land on the westerly side of Bethany Road in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being shown and designated as Lot 2 on a plan by Sherman & Woods, dated May 2, 2000, entitled "Plan of land in Monson, MA Prepared for Brian F. O'Shea and Patricia M. Carr-O'Shea," recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 317, Page 38, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

NORTHERLY by Lot 3, as shown on said plan, 399.13 feet;
EASTERLY by Bethany Road, as shown on said plan, 200.50 feet;
WESTERLY by remaining

land of O'Shea, 200.15 feet;
and SOUTHERLY by Lot 1, as shown on said plan, 400.06 feet.

Containing 1.821 acres and being a portion of the premises conveyed by deed of Patricia M. Carr-O'Shea, dated December 13, 2001 and recorded at said Registry in Book 12135, Page 324. For further reference, see deed dated March 21, 1996 and recorded at said Registry in Book 9468, Page 597.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-EMX4 Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-007818
04/17, 04/24, 05/01/2025

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM
Notice of Permit Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91

ARTICLE 8: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Breckenridge St. Tank Grant Application, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for a Completion of combined Filter Turbidimeter at the (GBRTP), or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Forrest Hill Drive Water Main Break or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioner to expend from the Water Department receipts a sum of money for Replacement of Pressure Transducers & Equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof and publishing an attested copy thereof in one issue of The Journal Register, a newspaper published in said Palmer, the publication to be not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting, said postings to be fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting, at the offices of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One, Walnut Street, and at the Palmer Town Administration Building, all in said Palmer.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant, with your doing thereon, before the holding of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 18th day of April, 2025

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF PALMER
FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND
PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE
James L. St. Amand, Chairman
Charles F. Abbate
Daniel Belanger

A True Copy,
ATTEST
William K. Cole, District Clerk
04/24/2025

Chapter 91 Waterways Permit Application No: 25-WW01-0041-APP
Applicant: RJA Realty Holdings, Inc.
Project Location: 152 Bethany Road (Parcel ID 111-072), Waters of Chicopee Brook, Monson, Hampden County
Notification Date: April 24, 2025
Public Comments Deadline: May 9, 2025

Public Notice is hereby given of the Waterways Application by the RJA Realty Holdings, Inc. for authorization to perform improvement dredging, backfill with various size stone at or below the existing mudline, and to install temporary coffer dam(s) and temporary erosion control structures associated with the creation of a stone riffle feature in waters of Chicopee Brook at 152 Bethany Road (Parcel ID 111-072) in the Town of Monson, Hampden County. The proposed project has been determined to be a Water-Dependent Use. The work described in this public notice is associated with the planned removal of the Church Manufacturing Dam with an address of Bethany Road (Parcel ID 111-072A) located approximately 300 feet downstream, for which the proponent has sought administrative approval by the Department pursuant to 310 CMR 9.05(3)(m).

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways Application received by May 9, 2025 (Public Comments Deadline). Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten (10) citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five (5) citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. A public hearing may be held at the request of the Municipal Official.

Project plans and documents for the application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter 25-WW01-0041-APP in the Search Page in the "Record ID" field). If you need assistance, please contact susan.you@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a message at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with alternative options.

It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address above, when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program c/o Susan You, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.
04/24/2025

Opacum Land Trust challenges you to get outside

STURBRIDGE—Are you ready for the More Green, Less Screen Letterboxing Challenge? Leave your devices behind and get OUTSIDE this April vacation week! Explore the outdoors while hunting for hidden letterboxes on properties conserved by Opacum Land Trust from April 19 through April 27. It's fun, it's free, and you could win prizes!

What is letterboxing and how does it work? It's like a treasure hunt! Form a team with your family, your friends, your book club, or even your dog – EVERYONE is welcome to participate! There will be letterboxes for all abilities - clues will include an estimated distance and difficulty so you can choose challenges that are right for you.

You will receive a set of clues to 13 hidden letterboxes on conserved properties in Brimfield, Holland, Monson, Southbridge, and Sturbridge. Once you locate a letterbox, open it up to find a unique rubber stamp, ink pad, and a logbook. Finders bring their own logbook (any notebook will work) and add the Opacum stamp to it to prove you found the letterbox. Optionally, you can bring your own stamp and add it to our logbook along with a note to future finders.

Find at least 3 boxes between April 19 and April 27 to be entered in a drawing for prizes. Find more boxes? Get more entries! Find 5 or more boxes for 2 entries. Find 10 or more boxes for 5 entries. At the end of the week, submit a photo of all the stamps that you've collected to be entered into the drawing.

Grab your kids, your dog, or a hiking partner, bring your walking shoes, and discover the fun in your own backyard. Perfect for all ages and abilities. For more information and to register for this free event visit www.OpacumLT.org/events/ or call our office at 508-347-9144.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg portrayed at Keep Homestead

MONSON—The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road in Monson, is excited to welcome back talented actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays RUTH BADER GINSBURG on Sunday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m. during our open house.

This immersive multi-media one woman performance is the inspiring story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life as a lawyer, professor, judge, and Supreme Court justice. She was a leading voice for gender equality, women's interests, and civil rights.

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

This event is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council. There is no admission fee; donations are always welcome. The museum will be open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information about the museum visit www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org.



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