



PETS OF THE WEEK
Meet Jasper & Shadow
 Page 2



SCHOOLS
Spring Fling in Palmer
 Page 8



SPORTS
Monson competes at Dunkin' Park
 Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 25, 2024 | Vol. CLXXIII, No. 13 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

COMMUNITY

Town-wide clean-up held on Earth Day

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – This past weekend, the Conservation Commission held its annual town-wide clean-up to celebrate Earth Day.

Though turn-out was low due to the weather, Conservation Commission Chair Donald Blais said that the event went well, and there were about 20 participants.

“We had about 20 people come by,” Blais said. “They went to different parts of the town and brought back quite a number of bags of trash – I don’t have an exact number.”

Volunteers deployed to parts of Three Rivers, to Burleigh Park, First Street Trail, Old Warren Road, along with various other parts of the town. Among the volunteers were an on-duty firefighter and five of the seven members of the Conservation Commission.

“One of our other members wasn’t able to be there, so we had five out of seven,” Blais said. “It shows that we have a dedicated group of commissioners.”

Blais also made sure to shout out a group of volunteers from Big Y.

“We appreciate that they were able to take a couple hours to come down and be a part of it,” Blais said.

Earth Day has been an ongoing national celebration since it was proposed at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1969 by peace activist John McConnell. Today, over 141 nations have used the holiday to appreciate the planet we live on.

“It’s always a good day to remind people of the fact that this is our planet and it’s important that we

EARTH DAY | page 5



Submitted photos

Drug Free Communities-Project Coordinator, Rachel McRobbie, Boomer the Thunderbird, and Drug Free Communities-Program Director, Malinda Manley.

Boomer gives the assist to help promote poster contest

By Harrison Giza
 Staff Writer
 hgiza@turley.com

Monson High School let a bird in the school, but it was not the flying kind.

Boomer, the mascot for the AHL’s Springfield Thunderbirds, paid a visit to the school to promote the Alcohol-Free Prom Poster Contest.

Students were thrilled to see

their favorite bluebird and even more excited for the opportunity to win a Family 4-pack of Springfield Thunderbirds tickets to next season. Along with the bundle of tickets, a bag of much-anticipated “mystery merch” was given to the decided winner.

With the amount of poster art submitted, there was quite a lot of competition.

“Our winner was Brady Peristere,” said Drug Free Communi-

ties-Project Coordinator Rachel McRobbie. “They are a 7th grader who took the time during April vacation to complete the poster.”

To celebrate drug awareness during springtime, the T-Birds mascot dropped by lunches at Monson High School on Thursday, April 11. The deadline to submit a poster was April 22.

McRobbie was over the moon after seeing the impact Boomer had on Monson students that

morning and throughout the afternoon.

“Boomer was a big hit with our seventh and eighth grade lunches,” said McRobbie. “We definitely got a much bigger reaction than what I was expecting.”

An advertisement for the Drug-Free Communities Poster Contest displayed this message to encourage students:

POSTER | page 6

COMMUNITY

‘Pasta for a Purpose’ event to benefit heroic officer

By Harrison Giza
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THREE RIVERS - The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and the AmVets 74 are set to hold their Pasta for a Purpose event on Saturday, May 4.

The #CAMSTRONG benefit will take place at 2150 Main St in Three Rivers, MA, starting at 3 p.m. with dinner starting at 4:30 p.m. that afternoon. \$15 donations are encouraged. Children under the age of 12 will be provided with a free meal.

“The environment for the event will be welcoming,” said Event Coordinator, Carol Seaver. “It is not just us it is also the Amvets 74 (American Veterans) that are helping to sponsor the event. The environment is just a great family friendly one.”

OFFICER | page 5

COMMUNITY

Board approves special permits for storage facility

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Planning Board met last week to look over requests for special permits and a question about a survey.

The meeting started with the board voting to continue discussions of a request for a common driveway on Bradway Road. The board had received an email stating that they were working with the Conservation Commission and requested to continue the hearing until the next meeting in May.

Bliss Street

In accordance with town by-laws, the board held a public meeting to discuss multiple Special Permit requests for the property at 10 Bliss Street. The permits were for site plan approval, stormwater management, and work within a water supply protection overlay district.

Don Frydryk of Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying Engineering appeared before the board to explain the plans for the storage facility property.

“We’re proposing to do four buildings on the site,” Frydryk said. “We do have pavement up in the front, there are filtration areas here to handle the roof drainage so that

we filtrate enough water to meet the requirements of the bylaw for the water site protection district.”

Frydryk pointed to a filtration basin in the front of the property that would take the rest of the water from the pavement area. Frydryk pointed to an area of earth removal that was the subject of one of the special requests.

“There are wetlands to the north of the project, however we are outside jurisdictional boundaries,” Frydryk said.

The board voted to approve the request, under the condition that recommendations by Tie & Bond are met.

Margaret Street

Some residents approached the board with a question about changing a property on Margaret Street. Board Member Craig Sweitzer described the plans as “creating three lots out of one,” and indicated that it had previously been denied because of the side-lot line.

“Our definition of side lot line,” Sweitzer described, was “the line or lines bounding a lot which extend from the street toward the rear in a direction approximately perpendicular to the street.”

Sweitzer said that the bylaw was so written and approved by Town Meeting specifically to avoid lots being “gerrymandered” the way the property owners had described.

PLANNING | page 5

EDUCATION

EARTH DAY celebrated at Monson Schools

By Ryan Drago
 Staff Writer
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MONSON – To many, every day is Earth Day, but April 22 was the Earth Day celebration for Monson Public Schools.

All students in Pre-K and kindergarten at the Early Childhood Center at Quarry Hill and all students in grades one-six at Granite Valley read and received a copy of the book *The Energy Detectives* by Paul Meisel and Madelyn Rosenberg.

“The Energy Detectives” is an innovative picture book free to elementary teachers and all their students to take home. An entertaining and engaging new book that not only educates students in a playful way, it also comes with a standards aligned curriculum for teachers, as well as resources for families that will help them save energy and money.

The books were provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. “The Energy Detectives” was a part of a One Book, One School event plan.

The teachers who volunteered to plan the event for Monson Public Schools were Alyssa Darling, Ryan deVarennes, Julia Gieburtowski, Jennifer Prentiss and Kristen Rodrigues.

A total of 518 copies of “The Energy Detectives” were distrib-



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Pictures from “The Energy Detectives”. Roberts & Ludlow Printing created the Story Walk signs for each school.

uted throughout the entire school community. The book was a part of a series of events taking place for all grades.

Throughout the schools, including Granite Valley School posters featuring pages from “The Energy Detectives” were a part of

a story walk for the students to review.

Roberts & Ludlow Printing created the posters for the Story Walk signs for each school and students got to review as a group and share what they learned.

Teachers would then come up with ideas to expand the learning

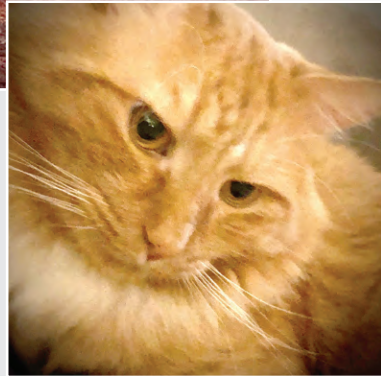
students would experience when it comes to Earth Day and why it is celebrated annually.

From activities, songs, pledges and crafts kids got creative with the earth day event. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

MONSON | page 7



Pet of the Week



JASPER & SHADOW

The Olson family adopted these two boys less than a year ago from Monson Animal Clinic. They were bonded pair that lived in a kennel for four years. Very sweet and funny guys. Jasper is 11 years old, and Shadow is eight. 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 Garden Club Plant Sale

MONSON—Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 11, 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.

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HUGE SALE to include Beautiful Antique Buggy, Antique Sleighs, Lawn and Garden Decor Items, Lawn Furnishings, Lawn and Garden Tools, etc.

Part 2 - ANTIQUE SALE
Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Submitted photo

A few of the Old Mill Pond fifth grade students who traveled to Maine, Zofie Nicoson, Isabella Laviolette, Jase Daley, Amelia Wentworth, Haleigh Cartier, Dominick Venneri, Gunnar Paradiso, and Kaiden Wray.

Inspired learning in the outdoors of Saco, Maine for OMP students

PALMER—If a starfish loses one of its arms, can the arm grow back? This may have been a question asked by one of the fifth graders from Old Mill Pond during their recent three day field trip to the Ecology School in Saco, ME.

The students and five staff chaperones spent April 2-5 at the Ecology School which provides a unique, fully immersive experience for entire grade levels. According to the schools pamphlet, "programs are hands-on science education, designed to fully integrate Next Generation Science Standards through outdoor learning in Maine's natural ecosystems." The fifth graders learned about nature, ecology, aquatic life, food science and other habitats through daily tangible hands-on lessons. They also explored ways to protect and conserve our natural resources while also learning how to cut back on food waste.

This field trip was partially

funded through a 2024 Palmer Cultural Council grant of \$5,436. The Palmer Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Fifth grade teacher, Lauren Parzivand, was one of 13 grant applicants to be awarded full or partial grants. Families also held various fundraisers to help with the cost of the trip. The fundraisers brought the families and students closer as they worked together in a common goal.

Parents were excited and grateful for the grant which made this trip more affordable. They viewed this experience as a new adventure and a step toward independence. Students were also not allowed to bring any electronics including cell phones. Although some parents expressed concern about not being able to be in direct communication with their child, others were curious to learn if their child missed their phone. Parents did receive daily communication including pictures

from OMP staff which eased much of the concern.

Prior to boarding the bus, students said they were anxious to go down to the beach and look at sea creatures and rocks, be outside, hike, try out their bed, and eat good food. Missing their families and/or siblings were overshadowed by hoping to see a big rainbow display upon their return as last year's fifth graders received.

Students who opted not to make this trip remained in school and enjoyed STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) projects such as constructing roller coasters and using virtual goggles which were also purchased by teacher Rebekah Herring through another Palmer Cultural Grant.

In case you are curious about the starfish question, the answer is yes! The ability of starfish to regenerate lost arms provides them with significant survival advantages in the harsh marine environment.

Monson water & sewer consumer confidence report available

The Monson Water & Sewer Department enclosed the 2023 consumer confidence report in the mailing of the April 22, 2024 bills.

Anyone who did not receive a copy can access it on the town's website at www.monson-ma.gov, or pick one up at the Water & Sewer

Department 198 Main Street, the Town Office Building, 110 Main Street or the Monson Free Library, 2 High Street.

Palmer tax bills are due May 1

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

- Fiscal Year 2024 4th quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable May 1, 2024.

- 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 lockbox address for this type of payment.

Please call the Collector's office at (413) 283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Tuesday - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

Palmer Town election on June 11

PALMER—Palmer Annual Town Election Tuesday, June 11. Term to start on July 1.

Nomination papers available at the Clerk's office for the available seats:

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

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

Monson Town Elections on June 11

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

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

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

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.

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\$35 per year pre-paid (\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

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Event to Benfit

#CAMSTRONG (Cameron Prosperi)

May 4, 2024

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Palmer Conservation Commission addresses ongoing wetland violations

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Conservation Commission met last week to address various matters, including an extension for an ongoing case on Springfield Street, and a cease-and-desist order issued to a property on Breckenridge Street.

The first matter concerned the property on 352 Springfield St., which abuts the Chicopee River. Conservation Agent Justin Enright said he had been in contact with the property owners, who were not able to attend the meeting. “Since receiving the complaint of potential disturbance, I had consulted with the (Department of Environmental Protection) post-site visit, and compared the photos with Mark Stinson to figure out the best course of action with how to deal with the situation,” Enright said.

After consulting with DEP, Enright elected to submit an enforcement order with the commission’s approval. The

enforcement order asked the owners to have a restoration plan to fix the damage, and a notice of intent for the construction of a structure in close proximity to the disturbed area.

Enright received a response from the owners last Wednesday, in which they informed him they would not be available for the meeting, but sought to make arrangements in order to keep in compliance with the commission’s recommendations.

“Unfortunately, they were not going to be here with the documents that would be requested,” Enright said. “They did say that they would like to be in compliance, and that if given an extension for another two weeks, they would be back and ready to begin implementing erosion controls and work with our department and commission in instituting the necessary remedies that we requested.”

Enright said that the property owners would be in touch with him about implementing a silt fence around the property, and that they would work with the

commission about plants to add to the area where the soil was disturbed.

Commission Chair Don Blais supported Enright’s decision, but was concerned over “11th hour surprises.” Enright assured him that if the party did not show some degree of compliance, the department would move forward with an administrative hearing to determine consequences.

“I would go even further than what you said, Justin, and say not just some degree of compliance by the end of two weeks, but complete compliance by the end of the two-week extension,” said Commission Member Elizabeth O’Connor. “There has already been, by that point, ten weeks of available time to be within compliance.”

The commission also discussed two cease-and-desist orders issued to 66 Breckenridge St. Blais mentioned that this issue had previously come up in August 2021.

“Part of the property was converted for tree service work,” Enright said.

“This was for a complaint by neighboring parties that the potential violating party was doing unauthorized tree work within the buffer zone of a wetland that is in the middle of the wood lot that is shared between all parties.”

Enright said that two drive-by observations were done with Town Zoning Enforcement officers, due to concerns over other town codes they were believed to be in violation.

“From the pictures that I’ve received from both the complaining parties and the pictures that we took during our visit, it would seem that the scope of how much alteration has occurred within the tree line and the overall area has expanded a lot over the years.”

Enright said that he was contacted by one of the violating parties the day of the meeting, and was able to schedule a site visit to get an estimation on the issue.

DEADLINE

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

MAC Spring Art exhibition

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council 30th Annual Juried Spring Art Exhibition and sale will open at the House of Art, 200 Main St., and in Monson’s Memorial Hall at 198 Main St., on three weekends from April 20 through May 5, from Noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition will be open to the public at no charge. A sales shop featuring work by the artists will be open in House of Art at all times during the show.

Awards will be announced on April 20, at 2 p.m. The Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold a reception on Thursday, April 25, at 5 p.m.

The Monson Arts Council will award \$4500 in Prizes in 4 Categories including a \$1000 Best of Show plus a \$500 1st Prize & \$100 2nd Prize in each category of art submitted: paintings in all media, sculpture, photography, and the graphic arts. Three jurors selected the 139

pieces by 77 area artists from more than 270 works of art submitted. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in both buildings. Prizes will be announced at 2 p.m.

Prize money for the exhibition is supported by donations from a broad selection of business sponsors in the region, including: Monson Savings Bank, Turley Publications, WARE Radio, Steer Rite Tire & Alignment, Dazed Cannabis, Squier Lumber & Hardware, Re/Max, Richard R. Green Insurance Agency, Inc., Monson Family Dental, Architectural Insights and more.

Jurors for the show are Kara Bigda, a freelance painter working in watercolor.

Cathy Liontas of Milford, CT, who has an SCSU, Masters Degree in Art Education. For more information, check the MAC website: www.monsonartscouncil.org.

Monson Town wide clean up

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

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

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

can be provided.

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

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

Plant sale in May on Hardwick Common

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

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman’s Farm of New Braintree, Howe’s Farm

of New Braintree, Tracie’s Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick, and private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcreev11@gmail.com or 413-477-6942.

Amvets honors Memorial Day with field of flags

The field of Flags is a magnificent way to honor and remember those that loved our country.

Veterans, Non-Veterans, resident of Palmer and non-resident of Palmer.

Flags are 12 inches by 18 inches in size on a pole. The cost of one flag is \$5. Flags purchased in memory of a Veteran will be adorned with a satin black ribbon with the word “Veteran”. Flags will be displayed on the front lawn of the Amvets Post 74 Main St., Three Rivers, Mass. from May 25-31.

The list of those who are remembered and honored in this field of flags will be read by Amvets members on Sunday, May 26, 2024 starting at 12 p.m.

The flags will be available for pick up from May 31 - June 2, 2024 at the Amvets Post 74.

If the flag is not picked up prior to June 2, then it will be reused for the following year.

Always remember, never forget. For more information reach out to Amvets at 413-283-4518.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Older husband and working wife seek guidance

Dear Rusty:

I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security.

My wife will be 65 in January of 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is \$37,500 a year and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt. We have \$27,000 in credit card debt and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension.

Signed: Seeking Suggestions

Dear Seeking:

Your wife's Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025, when she is 65, if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test.

The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries, who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on changes to the national wage index), but will be a bit higher likely about \$23,500.

Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that \$7,000.

They "take back" by withholding future benefits or you can repay them in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife's SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit.

The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife's monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife's age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife's benefit for four months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining eight months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year after you file your income taxes. But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test for working before reaching her Full Retirement Age.

The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year or simply repay Social Security in a lump sum in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted.

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit. But to get 100% of the benefit she's earned from a lifetime of working and be exempt from Social Security's earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

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



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Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor

My name is Karen O'Toole and I'm running for School Committee in Monson. I'm retired and raising a grandchild. The majority of my work history was in the banking/finance sector which included customer service as well as operations and management.

My grandchild has been enrolled in our district since beginning preschool in 2014 and I've been a resident of Monson since 2001. I grew up in Springfield and attended school in a large district and I understand what that feels like. I lived in Salt Lake City and raised my kids in another large district there. I don't want that for our kids in Monson and will continue to advocate for our small and flexible, local district at a time when many services seem to be regionalizing. I believe in equity for all, acceptance, inclusion, fairness and respect for others, in short, The Golden Rule.

I further believe that public schools have the most important role in education and because of the laws that guarantee all children the right to a free appropriate public education regardless of economic or any other kind of challenge, the school committee has to be proactive. The school committee is responsible for oversight and it falls to them to take precautions to ensure no student is over-

looked. Like others I have spoken with, I have concerns about the future of our district, specifically related to funding and what appears to me to be reduced opportunities for a well rounded education. I have always believed that "perception is reality", and we have work to do here.

I feel that I can be an effective influence as a member of the School Committee by pushing for positive change, supporting and advocating for additional resources for our students, increasing transparency between the schools and home, and helping others to understand the importance and the roles of educators. We owe it to our kids to create and foster an environment of collaboration and cohesiveness between home, family, school and the community at large. I believe that change is important and necessary for growth and that our students are deserving of a well rounded education that isn't just about textbooks, but is also about making connections and having great memories of our youth. Because of my life experience, I feel I would bring a new perspective to the school committee that could have a meaningful impact on our schools. Please vote for me on June 11. Thank you for your consideration.

Karen O'Toole
Monson Resident

Do it now, while the forsythia is blooming

It's funny how nature is sometimes used as a cue to do this or that.

The term is phenology. When I was first learning about perennials all those years ago at UMAss, I remember my instructor saying it was safe to remove winter protection "when the forsythia is blooming."

It is also safe to prune roses and butterfly bush "when the forsythia is blooming." And it's time to sow your peas and plant grass seed, too.

Kinda cool, isn't it, that nature can dictate when it is safe or indeed the best time to accomplish things in the garden?

The forsythia is blooming nicely in my front yard, and I did head out over the weekend to tackle some of the above. My pink "Fairy" rose bush was in dire need of clean up.

There was a wee bit of winter kill that I trimmed back to the next nice node. Shockingly there were still some spent flower clusters left from last year; those were removed as well.

Long arching branches were reigned in - it's not good for roses to be all over the ground where they are more susceptible to fungal issues. Likewise, canes that were crossing each other or branching out at weird angles were remedied too.

I applied a sprinkling of granular organic fertilizer at the base of the plant to support all of the beautiful blooms I'm expecting to have.

My 2-year-old Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) barely suffered any winter kill at all in contrast to last year when it died back all the way to the ground! I'm excited because that means it has a couple of feet head start and earlier blooms to boot!

I had to remove only a couple of inches of dead tips. I applied a balanced fertilizer here too in hopes of many beautiful purple flowers.

Other sections of my perennial beds met with different jobs to be done. Gay-feather (Liatris spicata) always looks unkept until new growth ensues.

I try to cut the old stems down a bit further and rake my hands through the dead, grass-like foliage, clipping away what doesn't come free easily. If you look within the plant you'll notice whitish tips

of new growth. It won't be long!

I find a lot of satisfaction from cultivating the perennial garden, but it's almost too early to do that. Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is still weeks away from popping up.

If I haphazardly scratch around in the garden it could be at the plant's expense or at the expense of any self-sown seedlings that germinated. Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) is always a good self-sower, but it's up to you to decide if these tiny plants are worthy of keeping or weeding out.

Same goes for Ballon Flower (Platycodon). Lavender (Lavandula) is sometimes slow to wake up too, but this year the plants already look "alive." Many times, you have to search within the plant for signs of fresh silver-green growth, then cut back to that point.

This year, like we saw with the Butterfly Bush, there seems to be very little winter kill. I'm going to leave be for now and not prune anything yet.

I planted Hollyhocks (Alcea rosea) near my lamp post last spring and they grew great all summer. I thought it would be neat to have 6-7-foot spires of papery pastel blooms reaching for the sky, reminiscent of the Polish hollyhocks my mom had by the porch when I was a teenager.

Admittedly they don't look all that fabulous right at the moment. Hollyhocks like it rich, so I fertilized and will also provide some compost to further enhance their growth, and maybe just maybe I will re-live the Hollyhocks of my youth come July.

All in all, I feel pretty good at how the perennial gardens fared through the winter. Next week I have to get those peas in - at least before the forsythia stops blooming!

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

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Great blue heron on nest

The great blue heron returned to its nest last week. Last week, I finally saw a great blue heron on a nest located in a dead tree on the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. It built the nest two years ago and this year will be its third season on the well built stick nest. At first, I saw it perched on a branch near the nest. For the last few days, it has been in the nest.

The great blue heron is 50 inches tall and is the largest and most widespread heron. The body is grayish-blue, has a white head and a black stripe over the eye. The immature heron is similar the adult except its head has a solid black cap, which turns to white after two years. There is also a rare white morph of this heron, but it is limited to Southern Florida. Its legs and bill are orange yellow rather than dark like the more common dark morph.

Fortunately, I can see the bird in the nest from the road so I do not disturb it when I watch it. I hope it is successful in rearing its young. It takes 28 days to incubate the eggs and 55 days for them to fledge. The female lays three to seven eggs in a large, platform nest of sticks lined with finer twigs and vegetation. The nest is placed in a tree 30 to 70 feet above ground. Herons raise their young in either small colonies in isolated areas or singly like this pair.

Great blue herons feed in shallow water by standing or walking slowly, then grabbing mall fish, frogs, birds and aquatic insect with its bill. They can feed in deeper water by plunging or swimming. They also hunt on land for small animals.

They inhabit marshes, swamps, river and lake edges, tidal flats, mangroves and other water areas. They make a guttural "frank" or short "rok, rok" given during aggression. Both sexes do bill clacking.

Mass. Audubon sightings

Berkshire County sightings included a sandhill crane in New Marlborough, nine long-tailed ducks at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and 11 at Stockbridge Bowl in Stockbridge, a northern goshawk at Bridges Pond in Williamstown and 20 American pipits at Ashley Falls.

Franklin County hosted small flocks of red crossbills including 24 at the Montague Sandplains Wildlife Management Area in Montague, nine at gate 29 at Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem and eight at Satan's Kingdom WMA in Northfield.

Hampshire County had a Say's phoebe at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor's Center in Belchertown, four common goldeneyes at the Windsor Dam in Belchertown, 22 glossy ibises on Old Ferry Road in Northampton, an American bittern on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley, 21 red crossbills at the Podick and Cole Conservation Area in Amherst, a Lapland longspur in the Northampton East Meadows and an American coot at Great Pond in Hatfield.

Hampden County spotting were five upland sandpipers at Westover Air Base in Ludlow, nine red-necked Grebes at the Congamond Lakes in Southwick, 15 chimney swifts at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow and a green heron in Holyoke.

Worcester County included a black-headed gull, two glossy ibises, a solitary sandpiper and 20 red crossbills at the Bolton Flats WMA in Bolton, two sandhill cranes at the Winimuset Meadows WMA in New Braintree, two black vultures at Adams Farm in Athol and an orchard oriole at Crane Swamp Conservation Area in Northboro.

The most unusual sighting on Friday, April 19 was a black-capped petrel in Cape Cod Bay spotted from a whale research vessel. This species is everywhere quite rare and in relatively inshore waters it is even more unusual.

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.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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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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CAMPUS NOTES

Alexis Barnes inducted into Tri-Alpha National Honor Society

Alexis Barnes of Palmer, MA was recently inducted into the Elmira College Iota Pi Chapter of the Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha) National Honor Society. This was the inaugural induction ceremony for the chapter established on April 7, 2024.

Barnes Named to Elmira College Dean's List for Winter 2024 Term

Alexis Barnes of Palmer, MA was named to the Elmira College Dean's List for the Winter 2024 Term. Full-time undergraduate students registered for at least 12 computable credit hours and earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher at the end of Term I or Term II are placed on the Dean's List at the College.

Monson Resident Named to Simmons University Dean's List

Cassie Dagenais, Monson resident, was named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

OFFICER | from page 1

Seaver is a welcome voice in the Three Rivers community, intent on doing her best to help benefit #CAMSTRONG anyway she can.

"We are having some delicious pasta and meatballs with salad," Seaver said. "Also, we are proud to share that we will be serving some gluten free pasta because we know that some people are gluten free. We will be serving some great gluten free desserts along with regular desserts."

While the food is certainly a highlight for the evening, the fun does not stop there for AmVets 74 and the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce.

"We are going to have raffles and a demonstration by different departments and different police dogs as well," Seaver said. "We have several coming and I think people around the area will have fun meeting them."

Seaver said the event will honor a police officer injured while on duty.

"We are doing this in honor of Cameron Prosperi," Seaver said. "He was the police officer that was wounded over in Wilbraham and injured in the line of duty on Jan. 20. We are hoping to offset some of his costs basically, so the Chamber and AmVets are putting this on and all proceeds go to Cameron himself, along with the raffle proceeds... all of it."

Seaver is incredibly thankful that so many local businesses have come out in support of Prosperi.

"We have been very lucky that lots of businesses have been very generous for our raffle," Seaver said. "Then a little later in the afternoon we are going to have a band play for everyone."

The band mentioned is The Geezer Band, whose name stands out the "Pasta for a Purpose" #CAMSTRONG event. However, their music isn't the only reason to listen in and eat a meal on May 4. "They are actually a local group," Seaver said. "One of the members is actually Cameron's father. We have hired them for several events in the past and they are just a lot of fun and play a great variety of songs and different types of music. I think their slogan, from what I can remember, is 'they might be old but they're still rocking.' They bring more than just music when they play."

As for future events, the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce has a few things on the horizon. Hopefully, the general public will attend in droves.

"We are putting on our Food Truck Farmer's Markets on July 12 and Aug. 9," Seaver said. "We will be back at Gazebo Park in Three Rivers for that and it is a really fun event for the community to check out."

The Three Rivers Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce is a community and business group working to improve both business and community. They are located at 65 Springfield St, Three Rivers, MA 01080 and can be reached by phone at (413) 283-6425.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Call for walkers: 36th Annual Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2024 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai.

Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Due to ongoing construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Boston Common for 2024.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

- 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus)
- 10K Walk (from Newton)
- Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley)
- Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton)

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to refueling stations with refreshments

throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients – Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes – are displayed along the course as inspiration.

Walkers can participate virtually, as well.

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. The finish line will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Public transportation is encouraged.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of your family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line.

The Jimmy Fund can help you start a team, grow your fundraising, and defy cancer, together.

Volunteers are needed to cheer on participants, serve snacks, distribute T-shirts, and more, at the four start locations, along the course, and at the 2024 Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric, located in the Boston Common. The Jimmy Fund Walk would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy.

Register to volunteer today. To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.

All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

EARTH DAY | from page 1

take care of it," Blais said, "not just on Earth Day but, every day of the year."

"This is our home and it's our duty to take care of it and leave it for the next generation. I have a 10-month-old niece, she's growing and trying to talk; I want to leave a clean, safe planet to her and generations after," Blais said. "It's our duty, and I take that seriously."

Though Conservation declared the clean-up day a success, Blais said that the commission is looking into other ways to commemorate Earth Day. This would allow the commission to schedule the town-wide clean-up for longer, possibly on a Sunday, and make adjustments around the weather.

"The weather's unpredictable in April, as we've seen in recent years," Blais said. "We're always looking for opportunities to be out volunteering in the community, and this is a good way to do that."

Blais added that these are still early conversations, and that the commission will be discussing this at future meetings, and hopes to hear input from the public as well.

"We want to hear from everyone on the commission, if they have thoughts and ideas on how to improve it," Blais said. "We're planning more events later in the year, and they're always looking for more opportunities that we can provide them with."

To contact the Conservation Commission, you can call 413-283-2600 at extension 2611, or send an email to jenright@townofpalmer.com.



Volunteers deployed to Burleigh Park on Earth Day to collect trash and make the park clean.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao "Can't forget Old Warren Road," Blais said, when listing off locations that were cleaned up during this year's town clean-up.

Teaming up for Holland/Wales Baseball Softball League

Bertera Chevrolet to provide Holland/Wales Baseball Softball League with new equipment, monetary contribution. In Holland, April 27, 2024 – Bertera Chevrolet is partnering with Holland/Wales Baseball Softball League. Bertera Chevrolet has joined forces with the Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball program to provide new equipment, and a monetary donation.

"Playing baseball and softball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation, and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support. Bertera Chevrolet and Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Holland/Wales," said Dean Brust, Service Manager for Bertera Chevrolet.

"Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players." 2024 marks the nineteenth year of Chevrolet's Youth Baseball & Softball program and has benefited over 10 million players since it launched in 2006.

Last year, more than 1,300 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country. Bertera Chevrolet will present Holland/Wales Baseball Softball League an equipment kit that includes useful items such as equipment bags, first aid kits, scorebooks, and ball buckets. In addition, Bertera Chevrolet will present a check representing a one-time donation to Holland/Wales Baseball Softball League.

"Chevrolet designs and builds its vehicles with busy families in mind, featuring a comprehensive suite of available safety features; technologies that make the journey more comfortable and engaging for the entire family; and the space and flexibility needed to haul people and cargo. We encourage everyone to take a look at what Chevrolet has to offer," said Dean Brust. For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball, please visit www.chevrolet.com/youthsports.com.

PLANNING | from page 1

"It's admirable that you want to have family members be able to live on the same lot," Sweitzer said, "but it's a real stretch of our bylaws to allow it."

The property owner said that the plans would have to go through a few more boards who may be able to clarify, but Board Member Paul Hatch said that he didn't want to pass the responsibility onto other departments.

"I for one don't believe it meets the criteria," Hatch said, to agreement from the rest of the board.

Julia Pearson, another owner of the property, asked if the problem was because of the houses' positions behind one another.

"It's impossible to have a straight line to the road, because his house is right behind a house that's already existing," Pearson said.

The owners indicated that they would seek an appeal of the board's decision, if not from the town's Board of Appeals, then by taking the matter to court.

"We'd love to see your family all on a lot," Sweitzer said. "The problem is, a lot of times when you create these stressed lots, there's problems down the road."



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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Glenda's

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Applications open for financial education funding for veterans

BOSTON – In collaboration with the Division of Banks and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, the State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment announced a new round of funding for Operation Money Wise.

This grant program offers funding to veteran-serving non-profit organizations, public agencies, and higher education institutions to host financial programming that serves the Military, Veteran, Family, and Survivor Community.

Veteran-serving organizations can apply for up to \$5,000 in funding, which must be used before March 31, 2025. Applications close on May 31 at 5 p.m.

For more information about how to apply, visit www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-operation-money-wise.

To date, Operation Money

Wise has served over 6,648 members of the military community. A total of \$262,977 has been awarded to 55 grantees in six grant rounds. The funding allows organizations to use their knowledge and expertise to design or enhance a program that would best serve their community.

Many of these workshops will include strategy sessions on basic budgeting, managing debt, preparing for retirement, and making decisions with money.

"We are proud to help those who serve our country achieve financial stability for themselves and their families," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg in a press release. "Operation Money Wise will continue to support organizations that uplift and financially empower our veteran community across Massachusetts."

"Operation Money Wise helps address the daily financial

challenges that veterans and their families continually face," said Undersecretary of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation Layla R. D'Emilia. "By empowering the organizations that best serve our military, this program is an example of a results-driven, community-focused collaboration in which we are proud to take part."

Previous programs include one-day seminars or multiple sessions hosted by local colleges and financial institutions. Topics featured in past programs include career-training, information tailored to Gold Star Families, the National Guard Reintegration Yellow Ribbon Program, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Funding is possible through a Division of Banks settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices.



Submitted photos

Springfield Thunderbirds, Boomer, getting ready to pick names of raffle winners in the Monson High School cafeteria.



This bundle of mystery merch was presented to the winner, with a limited edition Simpsons style goaltender's stick, winter scarf, swag bag backpack and various stickers.

\$375 million for transportation infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

McRobbie is adamant parents start conversations with their children about straying away from drug use. Though it may be difficult at first to start a substance abuse discussion, the effects and benefits of having that conversation outweigh chances of persistent future abuse.

POSTER | from page 1

What are some consequences of drinking before, during and after a dance? What are some alternatives to drinking during Prom season? Posters must be original artwork of the student. Any mixed media is allowed. Posters may be displayed to encourage alcohol-free choices.

The prominent rise of fentanyl, marijuana, alcohol, and high standing opioid use has become a giant concern for many families in Western Massachusetts. McRobbie hopes to educate kids through detailed fundamentals of substance abuse, the risks of doing drugs long-term, as well as showcase early ways to resist getting high for the Monson youth.

"One of our main focuses right now is changing the perception of harm," McRobbie said. "A lot of kids do not believe that smoking and drinking is harmful, and even fewer believe that vaping is harmful. It is important to have open conversations with the youth in our community about smoking and drinking."

McRobbie hopes to see the entire Monson community come together to combat the challenges of overwhelming substance use, as well as a reduction in the stigma that comes with addiction.

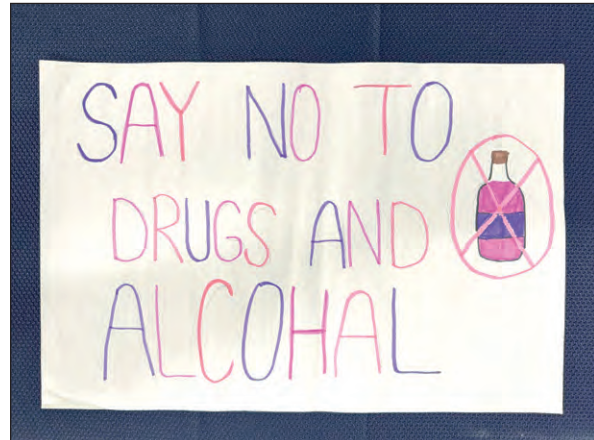
"I would like for the people in this community that are struggling to know that we care and are working very hard to provide resources to help them locally," McRobbie said.

"As parents, it is important to set clear expectations when it comes to substance use."

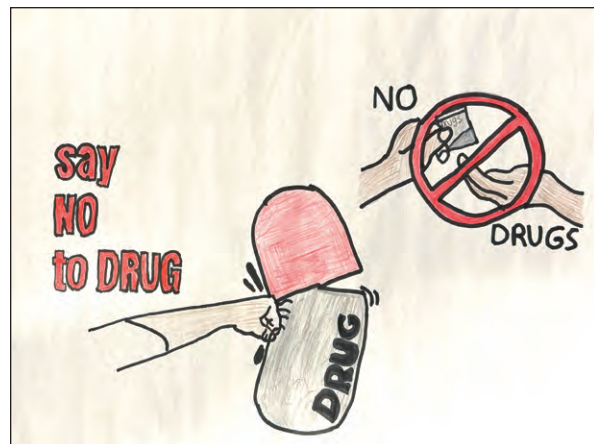
"Talk to your children about the consequences of drinking and driving, substance use, and vaping," McRobbie said. "These are the conversations that drive our 'Talk. They Hear You' campaign."

McRobbie, alongside Drug Free Communities-Program Director, Malinda Manley, encourage these heart-to-hearts through their campaign.

"The 'Talk. They Hear You' campaign aims to reduce underage drinking and other substance use among youths under the age of 21," McRobbie said. "We do



Through spelling errors, the message of saying no to drugs persisted that day. Students were encouraged to get creative with their posters.



Taking a page from Mike Tyson, this poster shows a student punching a pill so hard, it broke in half completely.

this by providing parents and caregivers with information and resources they need to address these issues with their children early and often."

Drug-Free Communities on Monson aims to provide a coordinated community approach to educate, advocate, reduce and prevent substance use for all ages, including Monson's youth by raising awareness, providing resources and reducing any stigma associated with substance use disorder.

For more information or to get in contact with D.F.C., reach out to Malinda Manley at 1-413-267-4129 manleym@monsonschoools.com or Rachel McRobbie 1-413-267-6005 mcrobber@monsonschoools.com.



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Train ride from Springfield to Hartford

PALMER— On Sunday, April 28, the Amherst Railway Society, CTrail, and Springfield Union Station are jointly sponsoring a train ride from Springfield to Hartford and return. The train leaves Springfield at 9:55 a.m. and arrives in Hartford at 10:32 a.m. After a 15 minute wait, the return train arrives and passengers are back in Springfield at 11:33 a.m.

The train ride is open to everyone. The cost for the train ride is \$5 per person, although children 2 and under ride free. For additional information and online ticketing, visit: <https://amherstrail.org/news/>. The train ride is being run as part of the Northeast Large Scale Train Show which is being held at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28.

If participants are riding this train, they must be in the main concourse of Springfield Union Station no later than 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning for check-in. The line that will be used is a regularly scheduled CTrail train, and it is important that they run on time.

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Students at Monson Public Schools had an Earth Day celebration on April 22. Here is a third grade class discussing the new book "The Energy Detectives" as a class outside where the story walk is.

EARTH DAY

celebrated at Monson Schools

MONSON | from page 1

Katherine Watts witnessed a lot of classrooms review the book and learn about supporting the earth through fun activities.

"Extend the learning from this book," Watts said. Teachers got to choose what to do with their students throughout the day and offered common experiences related to the earth day curriculum.

"Making sure the kids know they are a part of this," Watts said.

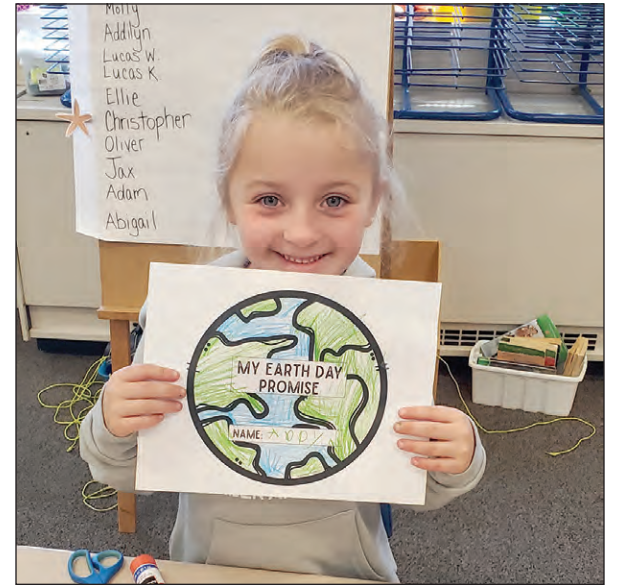
Experiences such as an Earth Day promise craft, handprint, and the Earth Day Pledge. The pledge was a way to get students of all grade levels interested in supporting planet and know they are a part of making a difference.

The pledge reads: "I promise to protect the Earth and all of Mother Nature's varied creatures by doing my part to reduce climate change and protect the natural resources by making small changes that make a big difference."

After the pledge, students made blue handprints to symbolize their pledge to make a difference and help the Earth out.

Fifth grade teacher at Granite Valley School Mrs. Darling shared with her class an interesting historical fact of the Earth she learned while visiting the Grand Canyon. At one point, the location of the Grand Canyon used to be a tropical forest.

The posters from the story walk will soon make their way into the main lobby for students to check out. The students now have their own copy of "The Energy Detectives" to enjoy and remind them of the fun Earth Day celebration they had at school.



Submitted photo

Students were crafting Earth Day promises and posters to hang up across the halls of all the Monson public schools.



Mrs. Casimiro's fourth grade class reviewing "The Energy Detectives". The book was part of the One Book, One School event plan.



Mrs. Darling's fifth grade class review and read the Earth Day Pledge.



Pictures from the story were placed outside for a story walk and kids got to work in groups and discuss what the posters say.



Mr. Cust's third grade class reading "The Energy Detectives" during their Earth Day celebration.



The video shared historical facts regarding the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act talking about climate change and how pollution deeply impacts the earth.



"The Energy Detectives" was written by Paul Meisel and Madelyn Rosenberg and students received a copy to take home.



The circle in front of Granite Valley School was part of the story walk where students discuss as a class about what they observed.



Submitted photo
This visual artwork can be seen at the entrance of Granite Valley School and was created by art teacher Kathy Novak.

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Palmer Students Celebrate Spring Fling In Style



Most of the girls kept it traditional with bright colored dresses to match their smiling faces. Everyone stood out with individuality and many danced the night away. This group was all smiles for the camera.



The Boys wore everything from professional style business to comfy laid-back clothes... with some even posing for the camera.



This group of students kept it original in their Spring Fling wear, bringing alternative cool to their middle school party.



Jimmy Sem and Jillian Holbrook, rocking the same vibe at PHS Spring Fling.



All dressed up in bright colors for the Spring Fling .



Submitted photos by Jennifer Sandoval
Smiles were on many faces at the Spring Fling event.



Three friends happy to have fun together in style at the Spring Fling.

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

PALMER - The Middle School Spring Fling Dance took place at Palmer High School this past month on April 5th. Students were fashionably-dressed and in high spirits to have time with their friends outside of school while still being in an educational setting.

Decorations were everywhere, with multi-colored balloons, flower arrangements, and streamers hanging from above for all attendees and chaperones to see.

One of the faculty members in attendance that night was Jennifer Sandoval, who was glad to be a part of Palmer's Spring Fling.

"The event went well," Sandoval said. "It was run by the Middle School Student Council Members and I am a part of the Middle School Student Council."

Sandoval coaches Track and Field at Palmer High School and

knows the importance of treating students as equals.

Though the event only lasted a few hours, it seems all of the kids that night had a fun time posing, dancing and celebrating each other at the high school as they grew one step closer to attending as freshmen.

While there were a few students nervous to get their pictures taken, the night was a success for Palmer Middle School students as well as Palmer Schools. Some students, like Jimmy Sem and Jillian Holbrook, coordinated like small town celebrities.

Spirit Week starts this Monday for Palmer students and lasts from April 29th until May 3rd, culminating with a Pep Rally at 1:00pm. During Spirit Week, the kids compete against each other on themed days.

Palmer High School serves grades 6 through 12 with an enrollment of approximately 600 students. For anymore information regarding the Palmer School District, call 413) 283-6511.

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BASEBALL



Lucas Pignone goes to his side to field the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mustangs compete at Dunkin' Park

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HARTFORD, CT — Several high school baseball teams from Western Massachusetts have played a game at Dunkin Park in Hartford during the past several years.

Monson and Ware made the trek south to the home of the Hartford Yard Goats, who are the Double-A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, for the first time last Friday night.

While it was a very memorable experience for both teams, the bus ride back to Massachusetts was a little more enjoyable for the Ware players.

The Indians broke open a close game with a six-run fifth inning en route to an 11-3 victory over the Mustangs in a Suburban Central Division contest on a chilly night.

"It was a lot of fun playing a game in a minor league stadium," said Ware head coach Scott Slattery. "I would like to give a shoutout to the parents who helped fundraise

MUSTANGS | page 10

SOFTBALL



Madelyn Caron makes a throw in from right field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson softball erased a deficit with a three-run sixth inning to defeat host Chicopee Comprehensive 7-5. The Mustangs got three hits each from Carlee Meacham and Molly Szado. Szado also drove in three runs. Mia Matthieu also had three RBI. Szado pitched a complete game

allowing five runs on eight hits. She walked five and struck out nine. Comp got two hits from Arianna Chagnon and three hits from Arianna Bird. Kayla Williams went seven innings allowing seven runs on 14 hits. She walked five and struck out an impressive 13 hitters.

SOFTBALL

Palmer wins wild marathon with Holyoke



Amhia McElreavy sends a throw back to the infield.

PALMER – The Palmer High School softball played an unusually wild offensive game with Holyoke last Tuesday afternoon. The only inning where runs were not scored was the top of the fifth as Palmer eventually won by the 12-run mercy rule 38-26 after six innings. Palmer scored 18 runs in just the first two innings, but Holyoke kept it close with 14 runs in the first two frames. After limiting Holyoke to just two runs in the fourth and fifth innings, the Panthers were finally able to put the game out of reach. The Panthers took 27 walks and had 20 hits. Hannah Roy went 5-for-7 with six RBI. Holyoke's Janiya Lagoy went 5-for-6 with two RBI. Holyoke had 28 hits and five walks in the game. Jayda Pardo did go the distance for Palmer, striking out four in six innings.



Lily White tags out a runner at home.



Brooklyn Peloquin fields a grounder to short.

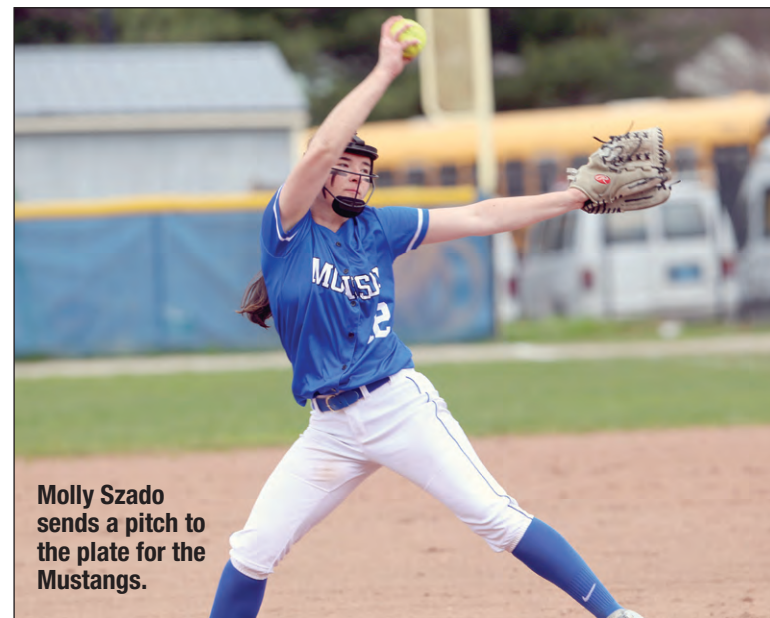
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Avigail Lee gets ready to make a throw to second.



Ava Swist sends a throw to first.



Molly Szado sends a pitch to the plate for the Mustangs.



Emma Bannon fires a throw back to the infield.



Chelsea Hull makes the catch at first base.



SOFTBALL

Rain hampers Pioneers early games

PALMER – Through three weeks of the spring season, Pathfinder softball has managed to fit just two games in their schedule thanks to a lot of rain-outs combined with poor field conditions.

PATHFINDER | page 10

Pitcher Kendra Burke extends and send an offering to the plate.

LACROSSE

Boys lacrosse splits pair of games

MONSON – Last week, Monson High School boys lacrosse defeated Pittsfield but fell to Northampton to reach 2-2 for the season. The Mustangs, which co-op with Pathfinder Tech, got four goals each from Seth Mitchell and Brodie St. Martin in a 12-2 win over Pittsfield last Monday afternoon at home.

But the offense struggled a couple of days later when Monson fell to Northampton 13-3. The Mustangs got two goals in the game from Kyle Beaudry.

Monson looks for a win on April 25 at Smith Vocational at 4 p.m.



Catcher Mia Matthieu catches the swing and miss.

USA Basketball holding 3v3 competitions

SPRINGFIELD – USA Basketball announced today that it will host two FIBA 3x3 pro circuit competitions in Springfield, beginning with a Quest (April 22-23), which is a FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Qualifier, and followed by the FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series (April 23-24). Both events will be held at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and admission is free with the purchase of a Hall of Fame museum ticket.

The Quest will feature up to 12 teams with, at minimum,

one team bid on the line into the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Edmonton Masters (July 6-7). The event will be the first FIBA 3x3 competition hosted by USA Basketball since the 2023 FIBA 3x3 Colorado Challenger.

The Springfield Women's Series, the opening event on the 2024 FIBA 3x3 Women's Series, will include eight teams in the field with the top finishers improving their allocation opportunities for future stops along the way to the Women's Series Final. The Springfield Women's Series

marks the first FIBA 3x3 Women's Series event hosted in the United States since the Series' inception in 2019.

The Springfield Women's Series will be streamed live at YouTube.com/FIBA3x3.

Participating teams had several pathways into the FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Quest and FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series, including automatic allocation, wildcard berth from the host or qualification from a previous FIBA 3x3 event. The field for both competitions will include

professional 3x3 teams from the United States and around the world.

Different than 5-on-5, 3x3 is played on a half-court with a 10-minute game clock and 12-second shot clock. Play is continuous, as teams "clear" the ball behind the 2-point line following a made basket, defensive rebound or steal. The first team to score 21 points via 1-point field goals or 2-pointers behind the arc is victorious; or if time expires then the team leading wins.



Catcher Shane Szado fires a throw to second.



Jake Beaupre sends a throw to first.



Colin Beaupre pitches for the Mustangs.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

for this game. The kids really enjoyed it a lot."

While it was the first time that Monson had played a game at a minor league ballpark, the Indians lost to Norton, 7-4, in the 2010 Division 3 state finals at LeLacheur Park in Lowell, which used to be the home of the Lowell Spinners, the single A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

The winning pitcher in last Friday's contest was sophomore Brady Guimond. The righthander replaced his classmate Jack Gaudreau on the mound at the start of the fourth inning. Guimond retired all nine batters that he faced. "This was a very special moment for us and it's an experience that I'll always remember for the rest of my life," said Guimond, who started the game at third base. "Playing a game on this field makes you feel like you're a big leaguer. It was also my first win of the season."

The victory improved the Indians overall record to 4-1. They also had a perfect 4-0 league mark. Their only setback was an 8-5 non-league home loss to Monument Mountain on April 15.

On May 6, the Indians are scheduled to face rival Quaboag at Polar Park in Worcester.

The Cougars are coached by Brian Guimond, who is Brady's father.

"I'm hoping to be the starting pitcher against my father's team at Polar Park," the younger Guimond said. "We beat them last year and we're hoping to do it again this year."

One of the four seniors listed on the Indians varsity baseball roster is John Mumper, who started at shortstop against Monson. He replaced Guimond on the mound in the seventh.

"I was very excited when I found out that we were going to be playing a game here this year," Mumper said. "It's something that I'm going to remember about my senior year."

The Indians other seniors are second baseman Jack McKeever, catcher Dylan Sut-

kaitis, and designated hitter Octavio Cotaj.

Monson, who has now lost their last six games against Ware, headed home with a 1-3 overall record. They defeated Ludlow, 9-5, three days earlier.

Despite the outcome, it was also a fun experience for the Mustangs players.

"This was a great opportunity for my players, and it was a lot of fun. We got to hit in the cages underneath the stadium before the game," said Monson head coach Curtis Orlik. "The Boosters Clubs from both schools did an outstanding job of putting this game together for us. I'm hoping that we have another chance to play here again next year."

The three seniors listed on the Monson baseball roster are leftfielder Sebastian Nava, right fielder Alex Young, and Colin Beaupre, who was the starting pitcher against Ware.

The Mustangs, who were the visiting team, didn't waste very much time scoring the first run of the ballgame.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, sophomore shortstop Jake Beaupre drew a walk. He advanced to third when sophomore first baseman Austin Meacham hit a hard groundball past the first baseman for a single. Meacham was tagged out trying to stretch it into a double. Beaupre crossed the plate when sophomore Shane Szado, who had two of the Mustangs five base hits, beat out a groundball to the shortstop.

"Shane has made a big leap this year," Orlik said. "He has been hitting the ball hard all season long."

The Indians tied the score in the bottom half of the frame when Sutkaitis hit a sacrifice fly to right field. It scored John Mumper, who drew a leadoff walk before stealing two bases.

After Ware loaded the bases in the following inning, Gaudreau (2-for-3) helped himself by knocking home two runs with a single to center.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Austin Meacham's photo appears on the video board at Dunkin' Park.

Another RBI single by Szado with two outs in the top of the third cut the Mustangs deficit to 3-2.

Ware sophomore first baseman Kyle Kaczuka (2-for-2) delivered a two-out RBI single to left in the bottom of the third.

Holding a 4-2 lead, the Indians plated six runs in the fifth with the help of four walks. The biggest hit of the frame was a three run triple to right by junior leftfielder Nate Kaczuka.

"We took advantage of the walks in that inning," Slattery said. "The bases loaded triple by Nate put the nail in the coffin."

Ware scored their final run of the game in the sixth on an RBI single to right by junior Trevor Millet, who was a defensive replacement.

Monson designated hitter Max Kowal, who's only a seventh grader, capped off the scoring with an RBI single to right with two outs in the seventh.

The two teams, who took a photo together following the game, are scheduled to meet again on May 13 at the Ronald Constantino Baseball Field in Monson.

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Athlete of the Week

Mia Matthieu
Monson

The Monson catcher had a hit and three RBI in Monson's win over Chicopee Comprehensive last Wednesday afternoon.

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

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Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

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

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

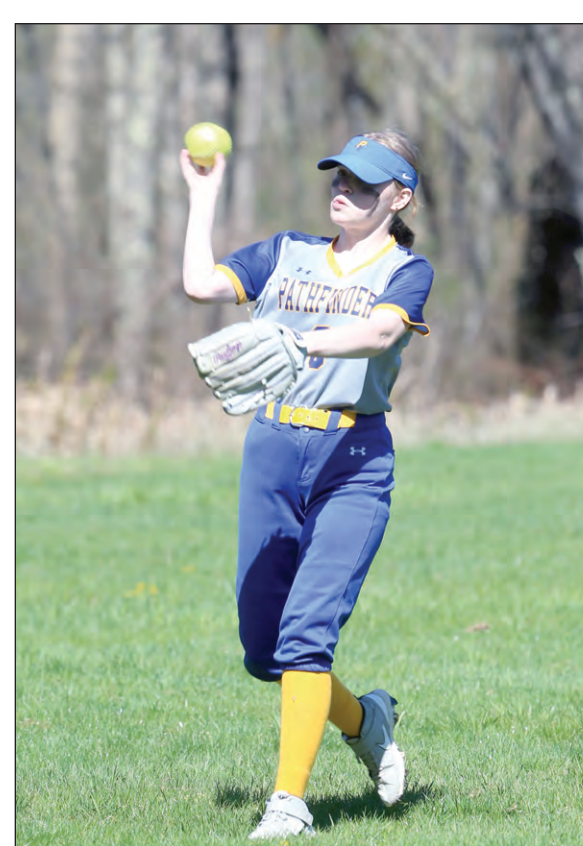
The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions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

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

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



Shortstop Emma Chevalier sends a throw to first.



Sam Prouty sends a throw back to the infield.



Brianna Beynor underhands a throw to first.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Lianna Carrasquillo fields a ground ball to third.

PATHFINDER | from page 9

tions.

Pathfinder's only games so far were on April 9 and 11. The Pio-

neers would defeat Belchertown 13-5 while losing to Pope Francis 7-3.

Finally, earlier this week, the Pioneers were back in action, as they handily defeated Putnam 14-2

in six innings. Greenly Lagimoniere had three hits and three RBI. Lianna Carrasquillo had two hits and two

RBI, and Kendra Burke allowed two runs on eight hits, walked one, and struck out 14 for the win.

The Pioneers next face Belchertown for the second time this season on Monday, April 29.

HoopHall announces unique new exhibit for this summer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gaudette wins Willie Marshall Award

SPRINGFIELD – The American Hockey League announced today that Springfield Thunderbirds forward Adam Gaudette is the 2023-24 recipient of the Willie Marshall Award, given to the league's leading goal scorer. Gaudette scored a league-best 44 goals in 67 games for the Thunderbirds, surpassing his previous career high of 27 goals set last season and tied for the fourth-most by a Springfield skater in 80 seasons of AHL hockey in the city. He becomes the first Thunderbirds skater ever to claim the award and the first Springfield AHL skater to lead the league in goal-scoring since Michel Picard of the 1990-91 Springfield Indians. Gaudette added 27 assists to finish third in the AHL scoring race with 71 points and was voted to the AHL's First All-Star Team this season, marking the first time a Thunderbirds player earned such recognition. The sixth-year pro from Braintree, Mass., has 77 goals and 57 assists in 138 AHL games, along with 27 goals and 43 assists in 220 career games in the NHL. Gaudette was originally a fifth-round pick by Vancouver in the 2015 NHL Draft and joined the St. Louis Blues organization via trade from Toronto on Feb. 17, 2023. The AHL's goal-scoring award was established in 2004 to honor Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time leader in goals, assists, points, and games played; past winners include Mike Cammalleri (2005), Alexandre Giroux (2009, '10), Tyler Johnson (2013), Frank Vatrano (2016), Carter Verhaeghe (2019) and Stefan Noesen (2022). Other previous yearly goal-scoring leaders include Bryan Hextall (1937), Lou Trudel (1942, '45), Fred Glover (1951), Dunc Fisher (1958), Jimmy Anderson (1961, '64), Yvon Lambert (1973), Gordie Clark (1980), Paul Gardner (1985, '86), Jody Gage (1988) and Brad Smyth (1996, 2001).

Roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

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

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

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

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY WILL HOLD A VENDOR SALE on Wednesday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. next to their gift shop at Wing Memorial Hospital. The sale will include handmade jewelry, paintings, wooden carvings, clothing and artwork. The sale will benefit Afrique Limited: Supporting girls and women in Massachusetts and Africa.

THE PIONEER VALLEY QUILT GUILD will be presenting their "Up, Up and Away" quilt show Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will be held at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield, MA and is handicapped accessible. In addition

to beautiful quilts and an 8' quilted balloon on display, there will be vendors, an appraiser, raffle baskets, a raffle quilt, and a food vendor. We will also be selling handmade items from our members at our PVQG Boutique. Admission is \$10. Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount by asking for Janet Foy upon arrival. Please come and join for a day or two of fun.

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

ONGOING

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

WALES FARMER'S MARKET - Baked goods, honey, antiques, plants, tag sale and craft items, every Saturday at 9 a.m. until noon from May 25, 2024, until Labor Day weekend at the Wales Baptist Church pavilion on Route 19. There will be fresh vegetables when in season. Vendor spots are available.

INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

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

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

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

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



This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.turley.com

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Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE
2 x 3 Advertisement

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



Love Dad, Mom & John

DEATH NOTICES

Karen Jean Grimes
Died April 19, 2024
Services are private
Beers and 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Karen Jean Grimes

PALMER—Karen Jean Grimes, 67, passed away April 19, 2024 with her family by her side. She was born on July 8, 1956 in Palmer, to the late Donald and Edith (Thompson) Smith. After graduating from Tantasqua High School in Fiskdale, Karen focused on raising her children and managing her home. Years later, she received her certification from STCC and worked as a CNA for many years before recently retiring in 2023. She loved lighthouses which became a common theme in her home

decor. She also enjoyed traveling and taking long, scenic weekend drives through the states of New England. Karen was very proud of her Native American history and was a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head in Aquinnah.

Besides her parents, Karen was preceded in death by her sister, Donna Smith. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Michael "Maxie" Grimes; her children, Robin Galica and Joseph Galica; step-children, Sean (Stacey) Grimes and Nicole

(Dan) Bromley; brother, Sonny (Darlene) Smith; grandson, Matthew Fontaine; step-grandchildren, Jake, Olivia, Charlotte, Michael, and Mila; as well as many extended family members and friends.

Services are being held privately and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Karen's name can be made to the Aquinnah Cultural Center, 10 Black Brook Rd. Aquinnah, MA 02535. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Kids free April promotion to end soon at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE—With April coming to an end, families and friends are encouraged to connect with history and nature alike at Old Sturbridge Village during the final days of the Kids Free Standard Daytime Admission Promotion, running through April 28, 2024.

Throughout April, up to two children, aged 17 years or younger, will be admitted for free with each adult standard full-price daytime admission ticket. Inspire your child's curiosity as they wander

through the recreated historical village. Explore the outdoors and history! Get out of the house and see our gardeners' preparing fields and gardens for planting, meet the new lambs, and see sparks fly in the blacksmith shop.

Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday - Sunday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Adult visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance to save even more! In addition to Kids Free April, tickets purchased online include a

\$3.00 savings compared to tickets purchased at the door. For full details, restrictions, and to purchase tickets visit: https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/.

The Kids Free promotion for April is applicable only to standard full price adult daytime admission only. Please note that this promotion does not apply to field trips.

Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday - Sunday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For a full list of events, visit: https://www.osv.org/spring/.

Around the Region

Final comment period for hydropower facilities extended

GREENFIELD - The Connecticut River Conservancy has been engaged in advocating for the health of the Connecticut River and the communities in the watershed since 1952.

As part of its mission, CRC has been a consistent participant in the relicensing of the Turner's Falls dam and Northfield Mountain pumped storage facilities for almost 12 years, working for a better deal for the river and its communities. These hydroelectric facilities use a public trust resource - the river - to produce power.

In exchange for this privilege, and to mitigate for impacts of the dams on recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, migratory and endangered species, water quality, and other resources, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires that hydropower operators provide direct benefits to the public and be protective of the ecological health of the river.

These requirements are laid forth in an operating license and the license serves as a public contract that CRC revisits periodically to examine the facility's impact on this public trust resource.

On Feb. 22, FERC issued a notice indicating that the final license

applications have been accepted as complete and ready for environmental analysis. This notice simultaneously initiated a 60-day period to submit comments and interventions for the projects.

The comment period will close on May 22. A comment communicates local concerns, recommendations, and desires to FERC as they make the decisions on what to include in the new license that will last for the next 30-50 years.

People are encouraged to submit a comment to FERC if you have concerns about how these dams impact the river, the surrounding communities, or your ability to interact with the river.

Public comments can be submitted by anyone or any entity that has an interest in or relationship to the river. This includes individual community members, town committees or commissions, Regional Planning Commission, recreation clubs, etc.

In addition to supporting the public's opportunity to comment, and submitting our own comments, Connecticut River Conservancy will also be filing a motion to intervene. This allows CRC to become a legal party to appeal this federal agency action if needed.

Nina Gordon-Kirsch, CRC's River Steward in Massachusetts, said in a press release, "These facilities have a major impact on the River and affect recreators, fish, water quality, and the ecology of the river basin. FERC will issue a new operation license to the facilities that will not be updated for another 40 years. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to make positive change for the River and all beings who are in relationship with it. Don't miss this opportunity to help shape the River for future generations!"

Hydropower relicensing information, as well as a FERC Comment Guide, can be found by visiting www.criver.org/our-work/hydropower/.

About CRC

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been a voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. It collaborates with partners across four states to protect and advocate for rivers, and educate and engage communities.

CRC brings people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the rivers and streams. Learn more at criver.org.

Connect with your local rivers with C4R

C4R, the Chicopee 4 Rivers watershed council, is launching into 2024 bringing continuity to our caring four local rivers (Swift, Ware, Quabog and Chicopee) with water quality monitoring/bacteria for recreational health, fun paddles, and Blue Trail care efforts.

C4R has posted a schedule of these on its website, c4rivers.org.

C4R is looking for a few committed sampling volunteers



for sites in Warren, Ware and Belchertown. Sampling is done twice a month, early on Thursday mornings in June, July, August and September. Training and all needed materials are provided.

Interested in helping? Email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

To help C4R continue with its effort, support and join them by visiting www.c4rivers.org.

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Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-69.

CLUES ACROSS 1. Excessively theatrical actors 5. Footwear 10. A way to disfigure 14. Exchange rate 15. Hawaiian wreaths 16. North-central Indian city 17. Bungle 18. Extremely angry 19. A short note of what's owed 20. Criminal organization 22. Mimic 23. Try to grab 24. U.S.-born individuals 27. Some are covert 30. Order of the British Empire 31. Don't know when yet 32. Payment (abbr.) 35. Winged angelic being 37. Variety of Chinese 38. A way to be anxious 39. Famed wrestler Hulk 40. Partner to cheese 41. Slang for sergeant 42. Canadian flyers 43. Actress Ryan 44. Highly unpleasant vapor 45. Body part 46. Halfway 47. Cool! 48. Consume 49. Salts 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass 55. Housepet 56. Cavalry-sword 60. Symbol of a nation 61. Frocks 63. Used to carry food 64. Portuguese folk song 65. Sharp mountain ridge 66. Ireland 67. Where golfers begin 68. Greek mythological sorceress 69. Fluid suspensions CLUES DOWN 1. "Mad Men" leading man 2. Water (Spanish) 3. Annoy 4. Bulgarian capital 5. Japanese title 6. Capital of Zimbabwe 7. Giraffe 8. A mixture of substances 9. Midway between south and southeast 10. Staffs 11. Turkish title 12. Type of acid 13. Thin, flat strip of wood 21. Russian river 23. Ribonucleic acid 25. Partner to flow 26. Airborne (abbr.) 27. Earthy pigment 28. Genus of earless seals 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman 32. By or in itself 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface 34. Partner to trick 36. British Air Aces 37. Ammunition 38. Supervises flying 40. Health care for the aged 41. Flanks 43. Millimeters 44. Where wrestlers perform 46. Not around 47. Flightless bird 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family 50. Expressed concern for 51. Satisfies 52. Flew off! 53. Wings 54. Load a ship 57. Vigor 58. British title 59. Whiskies 61. Adams: founding father 62. Body of water

The Library Loft Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons. Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons. Hours: Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition. For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100 Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Job Connection HELPING YOU FIND HELP If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need. Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection! Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers. 4.75" x 4" \$150 for three papers \$40 for each additional paper 4.75" x 8" \$300 for three papers \$80 for each additional paper 9.681" x 8" \$600 for three papers \$160 for each additional paper 9.681" x 15.75" \$1,200 for three papers \$320 for each additional paper Choice of any three papers Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE 12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal The Journal Register • Quabog Current • The Register • Sentinel The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times www.turley.com Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

WSU to Introduce Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Fall 2024

WESTFIELD—Westfield State University is pleased to announce the introduction of its new Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program. Housed within the University's Health Science Department, this program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for diverse careers in the health-care industry.

This initiative represents a significant milestone for Westfield State, as it becomes the sole provider of an OTA degree program in Massachusetts. It is also the only program in the country which allows students to interact with a fully simulated community, with accessible digital spaces such as a coffee shop, hospital unit, apartment complex, among others.

As occupational therapy assistants, graduates will play vital roles in various settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, and nursing homes. Their work encompasses supporting individuals with disabilities or injuries to regain independence and improve their quality of life.

"Simulated communities are fairly common in hospitals across the nation, but Westfield State is the first university in the country to have one right in the classroom," Dr. Karen Slydek, Professor of Health Sciences, and Interim Program Director, said. "This is super exciting from the teaching and learning perspective. Our simulated community has a grocery store, a public park with putting green, a car on a road, and a coffee shop in addition to the hospital unit and apartment set up. In addition, we are adding a warehouse work simulation and a subway car seating module. All of these will give students an opportunity to practice skills in areas they may work with clients."

More information on Westfield State University's OTA program can be found at www.westfield.ma.edu

Police/Fire

Fire Logs

BONDVILLE

For the period April 9 through April 15, Bondsville Fire responded to 1 call.

On Thursday, April 11 at 6:24 p.m., the department responded to First Street for an unknown object in the river. The item was retrieved, and the department returned to service at 7:20 p.m.

Public notices

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 14th day of MAY, 2024 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, 2024, 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, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 6.** 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, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 7.** 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, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto
- Article 8.** 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, 2024, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and acts in amendment thereof, or take any other action relative thereto
- Article 9.** 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, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto
- Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to establish a Reserve Fund-Water Account and to appropriate from water receipts a sum of money to the Reserve Fund-Water Account in accordance with Section SC of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 11.** 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 12.** 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 13.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a 2024 Command Vehicle Chevrolet Tahoe Car, 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 a 2024 Utility ¾ ton pickup truck, 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 repay an obligation to Monson Saving for the new pumper fire truck, 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 replace Vision21 Alarm Receiver in fire dispatch with a TRX50 Alarm Receiver, or take any other action relative thereto
- Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera W truck mount kit, 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 to purchase a Five Gas Meters (CO,LEL,HCN,H2S, and O2)Calibration gas Charging/Calibration Station, 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 replace 1st floor Central Air Conditioning, or take any other action relative thereto
- Article 20.** 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 a dam inspection, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 21.** 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 conduct a rate study, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 22.** 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 existing office CAD computer, 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 replace GAC filter media, 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 purchase Video/ Security Cameras at the Graves Brook Reservoir Treatment Plant, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 25.** 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 thereon, before the holding of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 24th day of April, 2024.

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, Clerk
 04/25/2024

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE SPECIAL 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, in the Depot Village of said Palmer, on Tuesday, the 14th day of MAY, 2024 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 segregation agreement fund a sum of money to be used to pay the Water Dept. O & M (operating services account), 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 24th day of April, 2024

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, Clerk
 04/25/2024

2024 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 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

To the voters of Three Rivers Fire District of the Town of Palmer:
Your Prudential Committee respectfully submits the following articles as recommended by the Finance Committee for your approval of the operations of the Fire District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024
 Chairman Ex Officio

- Article 1.** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Article 2.** To submit reports of the Treasurer, Prudential Committee, Fire Chief, Water Superintendent, and Special Committees and act on the same.
- Article 3.** To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of its officers and members of the Fire Department for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2024 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, 2024 or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 5.** To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Fire Department and District for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 6.** To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Water Department to defray its expenses, through the use of its water receipts and revenues, for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 7.** To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2024 tax levy, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Article 8.** To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the Reserve Fund, or transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to the Reserve Fund, or take other any action relative thereto.

True Copy Attest by:
 Guy Bellefleur, Clerk
 Date: 4/22/24

Prudential Committee:
 Norman Czech, Chairman
 Stephen Chiacchia, Vice Chairman
 Andrea Sullivan, Clerk
 04/21/2024

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 004800 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
John R Ebersold
 And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Holland, numbered 33 Brimfield Rd, given by John R Ebersold to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for TD Banknorth, N.A. dated February 8, 2008, and filed at Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 175628 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 30201, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above -mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **06/03/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 4/16/2024
 Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
 Recorder
 04/25/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Yvette M. Rioux a/k/a Yvette Rioux to Long Beach Mortgage Company dated August 8, 2006, recorded at the**

Seattle Bank claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Monson, numbered 196 Munn Road,** given by **Dolores C. Maheux and Robert L. Maheux to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated July 11, 2005, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15170, Page 473,** and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 3, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on April 16, 2024.
 Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 04/25/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 24 SM 001524 ORDER OF NOTICE
 TO:
The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Dolores C. Maheux,
Michael Maheux, Mark Maheux, Mona St. John
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

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

Two certain parcels of land, one on the westerly side of Stafford Road in Monson, Hampden County and located in the rear of the first described parcel, bounded and described as follows:
PARCEL ONE:
 The land with building thereon, on the west side of said Stafford Road, o/k/a Stafford Springs Road, o/k/a Route 32 in said Monson, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound in the west side of Stafford Spring Road, said stone bound being at the northeast corner of land of one Rufus Blodgett and also at the southeast corner of the tract herein described; thence S. 60° 18' 45" W. along land of said Rufus Blodgett, two hundred forty-seven and 45/100 (247.45) feet to an iron pin in a rock; thence N. 51° 22' 45" W. along said last mentioned land, sixty-three and 89/100 (63.89) feet to an iron pin at Parcel Two herein; thence

N. 20° 22' 41" E. along said Parcel two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin; thence S. 86° 11' 24" E. along said Parcel Two hundred fifty and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin in the west side of said Stafford Spring Road; thence
SOUTHWESTERLY along the curved line of Stafford Spring Road, having a radius of fourteen hundred ten (1410) feet, to an arc distance of forty-nine and 23/100 (49.23) feet to the point of tangent; thence S. 28° 42' 02" W. along said Stafford Springs Road, one hundred and 77/100 (100.77) feet to the stone bound at the point of beginning.

PARCEL TWO:
 The land shown and designated as Parcel C on a plan by Sherman & Woods dated May 20, 1999 entitled "Plan of land in Monson, MA. Prepared for William Lemon Sr." recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 313, Page 26, being further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the westerly line of Stafford Road as shown on said plan at the northeasterly corner of Parcel One described above; thence N. 86° 11' 24" W. Two hundred fifty and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin being the northwesterly corner of Parcel One described above; thence S. 20° 22' 41" W. along the westerly line of said

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

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

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

Article 12. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2024 in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than (1) one year, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money as permitted by law, to meet any appropriations or expenses incurred under any articles of this Warrant or take any actions relative thereto

Article 14. To choose committees and give them instructions.

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

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

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

Given under this hand and seal April 2024

True Copy Attest by:
 Guy Bellefleur, Clerk
 Date: 4/22/24

Prudential Committee:
 Norman Czech, Chairman
 Stephen Chiacchia, Vice Chairman
 Andrea Sullivan, Clerk
 04/21/2024

Parcel One described above two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin located at the southwesterly corner of Parcel One described above, at land now or formerly of Ronald L. Brodeur et ux; thence N. 55° 44' 41" W. along said Brodeur land one hundred twenty-three and 11/100 (123.11) feet to an iron pin; thence N. 55° 29' 49" W. along said Brodeur land one hundred seventy-four and 09/100 (234.09) feet to an iron pin in the southerly line of Parcel B as shown on said plan; thence N. 79° 33' 13" E. two hundred seventy-four and 65/100 (274.85) feet long the southerly line of said Parcel B to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

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

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: March 13, 2024
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-8
 By its Attorney
 DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC,
 100 Cummings Center,
 Suite 303C,
 Beverly, MA 01915
 (978) 921-2670
 www.dgandl.com 56271
 (RIOUX A/K/A YVETTE RIOUX)
 04/18, 04/25, 05/02/2024

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

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Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

A True Copy,
 ATTEST:
 William K. Cole, Clerk
 04/25/2024

Public notices

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00PM** in the Town Administration Building, Meeting Room # 1, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of William Peckham c/o Sharpline Construction of 17 Cosgrove St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for a proposed deck for a single-fami-

ly home. This work is proposed to occur between the 100ft buffer zone and 50ft No-Disturb zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

The project is located at 60 Beech St., Palmer, MA 01069. Assessor's Map 68, Parcel 107.

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission
04/25/2024

PALMER CONSERVATION

COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:30PM** in the Town Administration Building, Meeting Room #1, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of Paul R Bukowski c/o Sherman & Frydryk of 3 Converse St., Suite 203, Palmer, MA 01069.

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for a proposed replacement of a culvert at a stream crossing. This work is proposed within the bank of an intermittent stream and within the 50ft

No-Disturb zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

The project is located at 185 Ware St., Palmer, MA 01069. Assessor's Map 81, Parcel 28.

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission
04/25/2024

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:15PM** in the Town Administration Building, Meeting Room #1, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of Daniel Moran of 298 Boston Rd., Palmer, MA, 01069.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for a proposed demolition of a barn/accessory structure. A portion of this work is proposed to occur between the 100ft buffer zone and 50ft No-Disturb zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

The project is located at 298 Boston Rd., Palmer, MA 01069. Assessor's Map 21, Parcel 6.

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission
04/25/2024

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 24 SM 001500

ORDER OF NOTICE TO:
Angela M. Chartier;
Cesar M. Diaz
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 28 Fox Street, given by Angela M Chartier and Cesar M Diaz to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Equity Prime Mortgage LLC, dated October 28, 2020, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23501, Page 386, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/has filed with this court a complaint for determination of

Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 3, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on April 16, 2024.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
04/25/2024

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CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

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

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME, 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be dependable and have flexible schedule. Podiatry office. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful. If interested send CV to podbill@aol.com or pickup application at **77 Winsor St., Ludlow, MA; 413-589-7277.**

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM POLICE OFFICER

For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

FOR RENT

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

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

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FOR RENT

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Post your job openings in our classifieds. We get results! Call 413-283-8393

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

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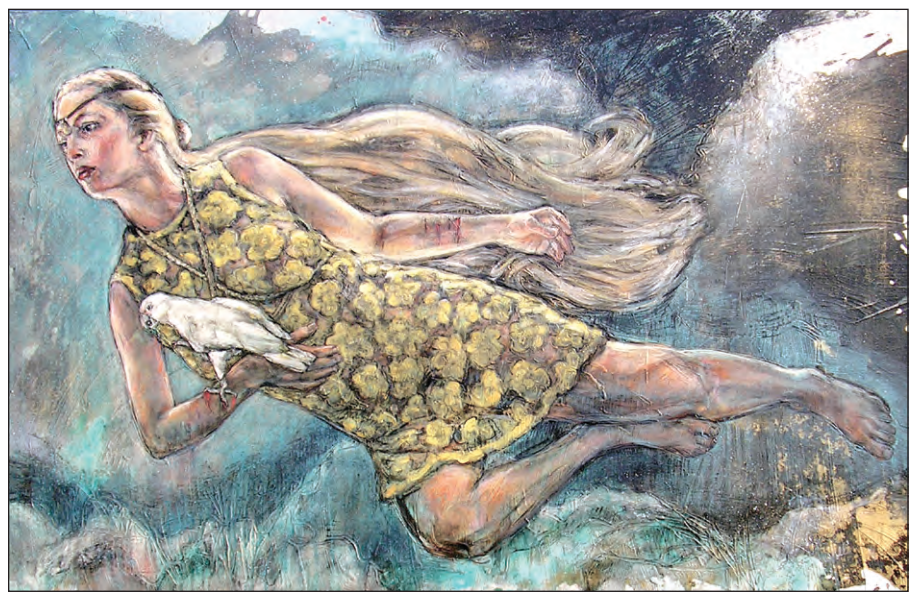
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'WOW: Wisdom Of Women' explored through multiple arts



Rhiannon by Mollie Kellogg

WARE – Amidst the challenges facing the world, Curator Terry Rooney has invited artists to the second WOW Show (Wisdom Of Women) to address pressing issues such as climate change, social justice issues and personal freedoms.

Women artists will be featured at two Workshop13 venues where they will express their outrage in visual images, poetry and music.

Rooney said in a press release, "Art is most meaningful when it provokes thoughts that lead to change."

Examples include Holly Murray's poignant depictions of melting icebergs, Mo Ringey Gareau's magnificent labor intensive mosaic refrigerator honoring her ancestors, Anne Burton's "To Be or Not to Be" focuses on government overreach into women's wombs, Millicent Young ethereal sculptures, Denise Beaudet life size portrait of women heroes and Susan Montgomery mythical/inspirational work "Pope Joan".

The WOW festival is able to present multiple art forms because Workshop13 has established several vibrant venues in Ware like the ArtWorks Gallery and the Great Hall, music and poetry venue. WOW will showcase the rich diversity and talent of the Pioneer Valley's visual



Direct Hit by Joanne Holtje



Tony Vacca and the Senegal-America Project

and musical arts community. Rooney builds upon the success of WOW's 2022 visual art exhibition and expands to include three musical performances that will literally highlight the voices of the Valley's Wild Onerly Women on the theme of the Wisdom of Women -WOW: Fanny, the first all-female rock band, Tony Vacca's Senegal-American Project and Rosemary Caine's Wild Irish Women.

WOW will be displayed at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St. Ware with an opening reception on Saturday, May 4 from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., with extended hours on May 11, June 1 and 8 from 5-7 p.m. before concerts.

The WOW Music Festival at the Grand Hall, 13 Church St., will be held on Saturday, May 11 featuring Fanny; June 1, Tony Vacca's Senegal-America Project; and June 8, Rosie Caine's Wild Irish Women. Each concert starts at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

For more information and tickets, visit workshop13.org.



Above and Below by Holly Murray



Kerosene Beauty by Millicent Young

Submitted Photos

River East to hold recognition event April 26

WILBRAHAM – River East School to Career, River East, will hold its annual Business and Education Recognition event on Friday, April 26 from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

The event will be held at the Country Club of Wilbraham. At the event, outstanding high school student-mentor teams that participated in Work-Based Learning experiences will be awarded as well as recipients of the River East annual scholarship program.

The program is an uplifting event that provides a venue for students, educators, and business partners to share their stories about the powerful impact of Work-Based Learning (Internship/Co-op) experiences. According to River East, properly designed and implemented college and career readiness programs, like internships and co-operative education, are proven methods for developing skilled employees for our future workforce.

Special this year, River East is celebrating its 20 year anniversary. Founded on the principles of helping students make decisions informed by real-world experience regarding their career and education goals, River East School to Career has consistently worked towards achieving its mission by offering scholarships, career exploration fairs, student leadership conferences, career speakers, and Work-Based Learning opportunities.

Student-Mentor Teams from nine high schools in the River East partnership, Belchertown, Longmeadow, Minnechaug, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder Regional VTHS, Quaboag Regional, Tantasqua Regional, and Ware will receive awards.

Event sponsors are Platinum Sponsor - Country Bank, Gold Sponsor - Baystate Wing, and Silver Sponsor - Luso Federal Credit Union. The Business Champion Award will be received by Mike DuBois, Palmer Ambulance.

The mission of River East is to promote K-16 career education and to assist in preparing youth for the demands of the 21st century workplace. The River East School-to-Career Partnership brings together schools, businesses, and organizations to create exciting career exploration opportunities for students.

In the past five years, over 1,500 students have participated in School-to-Career activities.

For more information on the services that River East provides, please call Amy Scribner, Executive Director at 413-283-5051, email her at ascribner@rivereaststc.org, or visit rivereaststc.org.

About River East

River East School-to-Career, Inc., a business and education partnership, was incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in February 2004. The River East School-to-Career Partnership is governed by a 20 member Board of Directors with representatives from member school districts, postsecondary institutions, and the business community.

Member school districts include Belchertown, Hampden-Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, Quaboag, Tantasqua, and Ware.

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A Celebration of Railroad Art and Photography

PALMER—On Saturday, May 4, 2024, the Amherst Railway Society will be teaming up with Springfield Union Station to sponsor the - Celebration of Railroad Art and Photography.

Railroads have long been the subject of art and photography. So, a day is being set aside to honor the talented people that paint and photograph railroads in America, and other places too.

Railroad art and photography will be on display in the main concourse of

Springfield Union Station from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and much of that work will be for sale.

Springfield Union Station is located at 55 Frank B. Murray St., Springfield, Mass.

About Springfield Union Station

Springfield Union Station is a landmark railroad station that has been completely refurbished. In addition to hosting Amtrak and CTrail trains, the station is also a transportation center for local and long-distance buses. The station houses office, retail, and restaurant space.

About the Amherst Railway Society

The Amherst Railway Society is a community of people who share a fascination with railroads.



Submitted Photo by Greg Maas

The society sponsors the annual Railroad Hobby Show, the Northeast Large Scale Train Show, a model railroad club, and a philanthropy program that has donated \$829,252 to railroad preservation and restoration projects all over the country.

The society started in the mid-1950s on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and is currently based in Palmer, Massachusetts.

For additional show information, visit: amherstrail.org.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Ken Levine is shown holding his banjo with a map of the Rabbit Run Railroad.

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A railroad, and it's important history

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Between the years of 1871-1938, the Rabbit Run Railroad was a hub for travelers, school children, and workers to travel through the area that we now know as the Quabbin Reservoir.

The rail ran from Athol to Springfield, and up until its last ticket was sold in 1938, served as an important part of the area.

"The Rabbit Railroad was the lifeblood of the Swift River Valley," Ken Levine of the Peter-sham Historical Society said at a recent program at the Clapp Memorial Library.

The valley was important to many people, and because of that, the Swift River Historical Society in New Salem wanted to preserve the history for all to see and learn about.

"I felt there was a lot of history that deserved attention in the area," Levine said. "The valley was important to many people, and it was heartbreaking when people had to leave."

After the valley filled with water to become what is now the Quabbin Reservoir, most of the tracks became submerged in water, however, there are still areas where parts of the tracks are still visible.

Levine created a diorama of the Rabbit Run Railroad, that can now be seen at the Society today. Two years in the making, it is a wonderful and beautiful creation.

"As a kid, I always found making shoebox dioramas exciting," Levine said. "It was like having your own little world."

The diorama itself is huge, using the map of the area to create the parts of the towns to be as realistic as possible.

The Rabbit Run is an important part of our history, and Levine has captured it in his diorama, as if it was frozen in time.



A model engine of the Rabbit Run Train, stationed and ready for passengers in Ken Levine's diorama.

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