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The Journal Register



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Celebrating Earth Day



The MassWildlife trout stocking truck, with volunteers passing nets of trout down into buckets.

Turley Publications photos by Rebecca Wehner

MassWildlife hosts Earth Day celebration with forest cleanup, fishing lessons

By Rebecca Wehner
Staff Writer
rwehner@turley.com

PALMER— The local natural environment was preserved and appreciated by community members of all ages last week during an outdoor event held in honor of Earth Day.

On April 19, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife invited the public to take part in a town wide cleanup and

service event. This Earth Day Celebration emphasized the preservation of wildlife in the area, specifically in the woods around Forest Lake.

Volunteers met up at the boat ramp near the lake wearing gloves and sturdy boots to begin the cleanup process, and were assisted in the cleanup process by

MassWildlife employees. Even young children were seen taking part in the cleanup, and volunteers commented on how wonderful it was that kids were eager to help preserve the wilderness.

MassWildlife brought their trout stocking truck to the site to replenish the lake with fish for the

EARTH DAY | page 7

Students and families join Conservation Commission for Earth Day clean-up

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This past Saturday, town residents and members of the Conservation Commission gathered at Lavolette Field in Three Rivers to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up some of our town’s public spaces.

Commission Chair Donald Blais said that the Commission holds the event every year. The Commission greeted participants at the field by the Quaboag River, who left from there to clean up other parts of town, armed with trash bags and gloves provided

by the Commission.

Among the participants were a group of students from Pathfinder, who returned from the area around Bridge St. with full bags. Student Tyler Doran explained that they were part of the Future Farmers of America, an organization that prepares its members for careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

Senator Jake Oliveira was also at the field, dressed down in a hoodie and jeans, in between visits to other Earth Day clean-ups.

“Last year, Jake brought his CLEAN UP | page 7



Staff photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Pathfinder Tech students who assisted in the clean-up (from left) Tyler Doran, Ava Raines, Jade Libera, Mackenzie Fulton, Jack Mayham, Shane Logan, and Bryant Bressette.

COMMUNITY



Submitted photo

The J. Stolar Insurance team and family at the food drive.

Businesses host food drive to help those in need

By Rebecca Wehner
Staff Writer
rwehner@turley.com

PALMER— Several businesses in the community came together and gave back last weekend during a food drive donating to the non-profit organization Palmer Food Share.

The food drive was hosted at the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot on Thorndike St. by J. Stolar Insurance Agency, North Brookfield

Savings Bank, Monson Savings Bank, Classic Hits 97.7 and Turley Publications. Tents were set up in the parking lot by each company to promote their own services while also helping those in need.

J. Stolar President Renee Niedziela said her agency matched the first \$500 in donations to the food pantry. Community members were encouraged to drop off both food and monetary donations.

“It was fantastic to see everyone come out and donate,” Niedziela said. “We think that this fundrais-

FOOD DRIVE | page 8

GOVERNMENT

Town seeks ideas to address climate-induced disasters

By Michael Harrison
Correspondent

MONSON — Residents have two opportunities next week to participate in planning for strategies to help protect the area around Chicopee Brook from flooding.

The first is from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, and begins in the parking lot of Monson’s Town Hall, where residents are invited to a “public workshop.”

“Join us rain or shine for an on-site public workshop where

we’ll develop ideas to mitigate flood impacts and determine climate resilient solutions for properties adjacent to the Chicopee Brook,” according to a flyer from the office of Town Conservation Agent Toni Uliana.

That will be followed by a community meeting scheduled for 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, at Town Hall. That meeting, Uliana said, is an opportunity for residents to be part of a discussion on Monson’s fiscal year 2023 Munic-

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NATURE

Conservation commission to host summer scavenger hunt

By Rebecca Wehner
Staff Writer
rwehner@turley.com

PALMER— Following the success of the recent Easter egg hunt at the Midura family conservation area, the Conservation Commission hopes to provide the community with another fun-filled family event right before the next school year begins.

The commission met with

Recreation Director Andrew Saint George at their meeting on April 18 to discuss the possibility of hosting a late-summer historical scavenger hunt. Saint George said he wanted to continue increasing public awareness of the Midura trails.

“We had 69 registrations for the Easter egg hunt, with some registrations including groups or full families,” Saint George said.

CONSERVATION | page 5

CHAMBER



Staff photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Chris O'Connor of Edward Jones Financial Services bowled a few rounds at Diamond Junction.

Chamber bowling event rolls a strike

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce met last Wednesday night at Diamond Junction Bowling, North Main St., for a casual dinner and some friendly competition.

A dinner of stuffed shells and meatballs was provided by Apollo 1 Pizza. TJ’s Pop offered gourmet popcorn samples and Easthampton Cider Project had a hard cider

tasting. The Chamber exists to promote economic growth and tourism across the 15 towns it serves. The Chamber advocates for policies to develop the community, and to advance the interests of its members.

According to the Chamber’s website, the “Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. We help our business community from the smallest en-

CHAMBER | page 13



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LUCY AND HANK

Tammy Warren lives in Monson, and sent this picture of Lucy (little brown dog) and Hank (little black dog) for our Pet of the Week.

Lucy is the Warrens' fourth therapy dog. She has been working as a therapy dog for about four years, including some volunteer work during COVID, though not as much as after. Lucy works one day a week at Encompass Rehab in Ludlow. Hank is the Warrens' newbie, now in training to be a therapy dog. He was adopted just two months before this photo was submitted, and is looking forward to following in his little big sister's paw prints.

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 mharrison@turley.com.

Model train enthusiasts all-aboard for weekend railway show

PALMER — The Amherst Railway Society here is getting ready to kick off a must-see event this weekend for anybody interested in big model trains.

The Society sponsors the Northeast Large Scale Train Show April 28-29 at the Eastern State Exposition fairgrounds in West Springfield. Large scale trains include S-scale, O-scale (Lionel size), G-scale (often found in garden railroads), F-scale, 7 1/4 gauge, and 7 1/2 gauge models.

According to a news release, in addition to operating large scale railroads and exhibits by major model railroad manufacturers, the show offers some special features:

Live Steam-Up: The New Hampshire Garden Railroad Society is setting up a 44 x 22-foot layout specifically for steam powered model trains. Miniature versions of real steam locomotives will be generating steam power to pull their trains. And with that steam power will come the "chuff-chuff" sound of the locomotives and the beautiful steam whistles.

Drag & Brag: This section is one of the most popular attractions at large scale train shows. It's an opportunity for modelers to bring in projects and show them to an admiring audience. Show visitors, in turn, get to see some really creative modeling and ask questions about how the work was done.

Clinics: The show offers clinics on a variety of subjects, and all are included with show admission. Everything from garden railroads to battery-powered engines to large scale operations are on the clinic's agenda.

White Elephant Table: If you have any large scale model railroad gear, you are welcome to bring the items to the show and sell them at the White Elephant section.

The Amherst Railway Society also sponsors the Railroad Hobby Show — America's largest railroad-themed trade show — every January at Eastern States Exposition.

For more information, go to nelst.org.



Contributed photo

The Northeast Large Scale Train Show will be held April 28-29 at the Eastern State Exposition fairgrounds.



Submitted photo

Church Members Honored

PALMER — As part of its 175th anniversary, Second Congregational Church recognized its faithful who have been members for over 50 years during the Sunday, April 23 worship service. Shown here (from left) are: Keith Hooton 52 years; Joyce Sizer (standing in for Marjorie Mancuso, 53 years); Irene Sherman, 58 years; Wendy Story, 55 years; Shirley Christensen, 52 years; Janet Sullivan, 61 years; June Haendiges, 63 years; Janice Lovell, 72 years; Peter Izyk, 58 years; Barbara Hooton, 78 years; and Len Hooton, 66 years. Noah and Ben Les, the youngest members of the congregation, presented them with gifts from the church. Missing from the photo are Roberta Biron, 73 years; Archie Biron, 60 years; and Suzanne Gray, 64 years.

Monson water reports available

MONSON — The town's Water and Sewer Department enclosed the 2022 consumer confidence report in the mailing of the April 24 bills.

Anyone who did not receive a copy can access it on the town's website at monson-ma.gov, or pick one up at the Water and Sewer Department at 198 Main Street, the Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, or the Monson Free Library at 2 High Street.

Town of Palmer taxes due next week

PALMER — The town's tax collector would like to remind all taxpayers that fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by Monday, May 1.

The Tax Collector's office is accepting credit and debit card payments for property taxes either on the town website at townofpalmer.com or at the tax office inside the town office building at 4417 Main Street. No telephone payments can be accepted. Credit cards accepted are Master Card, VISA, Discover and American Express.

Call the collector's office at 283-2601 with any questions. Office hours are: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday (closed Friday).

CAMPUS NOTES

Elmira College

Alexis Barnes of Palmer was named to the Dean's List at Elmira College for the 2023 winter 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.

NOTICE

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

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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 mharrison@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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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 \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEADLINE

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

CLIMATE | from page 1

ipal Vulnerability Preparedness project and “concepts for implementing nature-based flood resilience measures along Chicopee Brook,” the flyer from Uliana’s office states.

Another related meeting, this one hybrid, is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 11. The town is updating its climate vulnerability and hazard mitigation plans and again wants public input. Having an updated plan allows towns and cities to apply for state and federal agencies that could yield \$1 million or more in public grants to implement plans and help pay for recovery efforts if needed.

This meeting can be attended in-person at Town Hall or over Zoom by accessing a link available on the town’s website.

Whatever amount of money that flows to the town through the effort, it could be used in a variety of ways, from shoring up infrastructure, to working with partner organizations tasked with informing and aiding residents during floods, power outages and other weather-induced events.

This type of planning and pre-emptive work has built-in cost effectiveness. FEMA estimates that for every \$1 invested in mitigation and planning, municipalities can save \$6 in the wake of a flood or other natural disaster.

Most of the Commonwealth’s focus has been on coastal areas, but Western and Central Massachusetts are starting to get some attention, too.

FEMA and other agencies correlate to increasingly violent and disruptive weather events, such as:

- Sea level rise of 11 inches over the past 100 years
- The average temperature increased 2.9 degrees in the Commonwealth since 1895
- Warmer weather extending the growing season by 15 days since 1950
- Fewer days below freezing during winter
- Incidents of heavy precipitation increased 55% since 1958
- Nearly a week’s worth of more “high-heat days – over 90 degrees – in the Commonwealth.

For more information, contact Uliana by calling 688-0022 or by emailing her at tuliana@monson-ma.gov.

Wilbraham Troop 359 to hold Annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale May 13

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13 in St. Cecilia’s Church parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sales and donations help pay for camping equipment, supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. People come and shop at the troop’s plant sale year after year. The generous community support is greatly appreciated. Thank you from Troop 359. For more info, contact Lorna Lawrence 413-214-8771.

Food policy council looks at short and long-term needs

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council met for the second time since its formation, and began brainstorming the Council’s vision and mission statements.

At the April 19 meeting, Project Coordinator for Community Health Emily Coderre had members break down into small discussion groups to come up with ideas for the statements, before coming back together as a whole to share their ideas.

“We will draft a vision and mission and bring it back to everybody for further input,” she said.

Coderre explained that a vision statement is what the Council wants to accomplish in a perfect world, and the mission is more action oriented.

“A mission statement is concise, outcome oriented and inclusive,” she said.

The Council was divided into two groups; in-person attendees and remote attendees.

Coderre asked them to create a vision for where they see the Council in the next year, three years and even five years.

For the first year, members said they would like to identify the nutritional needs and food security issues people in the Quaboag Valley are faced with.

“Wouldn’t it be great if we had a really good picture of food efforts going on?” asked Gail Gramarossa of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. “Where are gaps?”

One member of the Council, Jean

Smith, said she sees the need in the towns her food pantry services each day.

“Every day I have new families calling me because they are in trouble,” Smith said.

Smith’s food pantry covers three towns that are located miles from the nearest grocery store, limiting the availability of fresh and healthy food.

Not everyone has the means to travel either, she said.

“There’s no public transportation, no public housing, or you’re a senior living in a housing authority. There’s one bank and two stop lights in three towns. If they want to grocery shop, it’s 11 miles one direction or 12 the other,” she said. “I’m fighting every day to keep it going.”

Government assistance, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, can offer relief for people on fixed or low incomes, but many are unaware if they qualify or not.

The amount of SNAP benefits people receive each month has fluctuated greatly since the start of the pandemic as well, making it difficult to rely on.

One issue, Smith said, was giving too many SNAP benefits during COVID. “It’s a yo-yo,” Smith said. “They cut it back so far [after COVID] that it’s less than they were getting pre-COVID.”

With the cost of groceries and other necessary items going up, along with the cost of utilities and medicine, seniors especially can’t afford to meet their basic needs.

“They’re living on what I’m giving them,” Smith said. “The food pantry is used to supplement what they can’t afford to buy. Now they rely on me...I’ve basically become their entire food bud-

get and that’s sad.”

Smith shared some ways she has pushed back against this rising need in her towns, by contacting legislators, and also organizing a growing program with the local school along with a canned soup drive.

High school students grow plants in greenhouses and then give them out to bring home and plant. Whatever that plant produces, the grower gives to the food pantry.

“We get a lot of fruits and vegetables all summer long with that program,” Smith said.

Smith has also sent postcards to legislators, advocating for change.

Group members also looked at creating connections between food sources and building a volunteer base in the coming years.

“We should have a good picture of what is available now,” Council member and Senior Outreach Program Coordinator with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation Carol Zins said.

Members also talked about hosting cooking classes that focus on creating healthy and affordable meals, as well as increasing community dinners, similar to the Knights of Columbus’s monthly meal delivery program.

The nutritional and food needs will need to be understood, as well as the barriers preventing people from access.

Farmers markets are another way to bring fresh food directly to residents.

For the mission statement, Coderre asked the members why the Council exists, who will it serve and how it will serve them.

Gramarossa said this is the first time this kind of group has been organized in the Quaboag Valley and she saw it as an opportunity to speak for the needs of the region.

“This is a chance to represent this often-overlooked area,” she said. “They [the Council] can be the voice.”

The focus of the mission would be to connect people to existing resources, access to healthy food, share best practices among food pantries and improve on what already works.

“We have both the urgent needs, as well as some longer term improvements to work on,” Gramarossa said.

The next hybrid meeting of the QVFC will be held on Wednesday, May 10 from 9-10 a.m. at E2E, 79 Main St., with Zoom access available.

About QVFC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email the Council Coordinator, Caitlin Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Project Coordinator for Community Health, Emily Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

Baystate Wing Rehabilitation team moves to new campus space

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Physical Therapy, Audiology and Rehabilitation team will be relocating into the Griswold Building located on the Baystate Wing campus effective Monday, May 8.

“Improving access for patients to the physical therapy and rehabilitation team is essential,” said Tim Murphy, clinical rehabilitation supervisor at Baystate Rehabilitation Care – Palmer, located in Baystate Wing Hospital.

“The same great team our community has come to know and depend on will continue to deliver exceptional care in this new space,” said Murphy.

“Audiology is looking forward to providing state of the art care in our new wheelchair accessible sound booth that is equipped with the latest technology for hearing care for patients of all ages,” said Jeanne Coburn, the facility’s audiology supervisor.

“The relocation and renovations to the new space for rehabilitation services was a \$1.7 million dollar investment,” Baystate Health Regional Hospitals President Ron Bryant said.

According to a news release, moving into the Griswold building will improve access to services for community members in need of rehabilitation and audiology care. In the hospital, the rehabilitation clinic was located on the second floor – a long

walk for patients – many of whom already had mobility issues and were seeking physical therapy for that reason, the release states.

The Griswold building has ample parking and easy access to the entrance of the building and to our care team.

“The move to the new location includes renovating the space with new walls, flooring, cabinets, signage, furniture, and equipment,” Murphy said.

According to Coburn, “Another benefit of the move is the extra space for our team and patients, in addition to the open gym space there are five private treatment rooms. There are two private audiology rooms, each equipped with a sound booth and hearing aid programming equipment.” “Our rehabilitation team is ready to provide care to an array of patients of all ages and abilities and brings a passion for providing sports and stroke rehabilitation as well as amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation to the region,” Murphy said.

“We provide care with an understanding for the physical, emotional, and rehabilitative aspects of getting our patients back to the highest quality of life and an athlete back in the game or on the field. We offer early morning and late evening appointment hours to accommodate all schedules and are open

Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

The Baystate Rehabilitation Care team at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer provides a full range of rehabilitation and audiology services which help patients regain function and achieve recovery.

“Our team of experienced physical and occupational therapists will work with you and your referring physician to develop an individualized treatment plan designed to reach your goals,” the release states.

“Our team of audiologists will work with patients and their families to enhance communication so that all will enjoy their lives to the fullest. Additionally, the team offers rehabilitation services including; a certified hand program, vestibular disorders (balance, dizziness, and gait problems), and hearing aid dispensing services.”

For more information about Rehabilitation Services, including Occupational and Hand Therapy Services and Audiology at Baystate Rehabilitation Care - Palmer, call 413-370-5254.



Submitted photo
The Baystate Rehabilitation Care team at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer provides a full range of rehabilitation and audiology services which help patients regain function and achieve recovery.

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Viewpoints

Comments on
CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Balance the federal budget? Sure, but it's tougher than you think

There is a lot of discussion in Washington these days on what to do about the federal deficit. It continues to grow, and House Republicans in particular have made addressing it a key part of their agenda.

Early on, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy told his caucus that it would get a chance to vote on a 10-year pathway to a balanced budget at some point this year. More recently, though, GOP leaders have downplayed that expectation, instead arguing that they should focus on how to keep spending down as a short-term goal. And rank-and-file members are weighing in with their own plans, hoping to gain traction in the splintered GOP caucus.

None of this, though, takes into account the rough sledding Republican-favored proposals will face in the Democratic-led Senate, let alone negotiations with the White House.

While a balanced budget remains a potent talking point for many politicians, as well as for voters who worry about the impact of growing deficits, there's a reason that coalescing around a plan to make significant budget cuts — let alone reach a balance between federal revenues and expenditures — has proven so difficult. That's because it's not just brutally hard to achieve, but may be politically impossible. Especially if, as both Democrats and Republicans have declared, cuts to Social Security and Medicare and possibly defense are off the table.

To understand why this is, I've found a New York Times article from the beginning of March quite helpful. In it, Alicia Parlapiano, Margot Sanger-Katz, and Josh Katz, reporters and graphics experts, lay out what it would take to reach a balanced budget in 10 years. For starters, they point out that taking things off the table — tax increases, say, or cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or the military — makes things exponentially more difficult.

If all of those were to be considered non-starters, then balancing the budget would require cutting everything else by 70%. That's everything from food assistance to retirement benefits for the military to transportation and agriculture subsidies and spending on law enforcement and education.

"Cuts of that magnitude," the trio write, "would mean the firings of most federal workers in agencies like the F.B.I., the Parks Service and the State Department, and huge reductions in food assistance and military retirement."

It's hard to imagine something like that could get through Congress.

But of course that means tax increases and changes to Social Security, Medicare and military spending would need to be part of budget discussions. And every one of them is politically tricky.

This hasn't stopped Republicans in Congress from making a stab at it. The Republican Study Committee, which gathers together most of the GOP caucus in the House, has a plan that relies on deep cuts to Medicaid and other non-defense spending, along with raising the Medicare eligibility age over time to 70, doing the same with Social Security, and reducing Social Security payments to higher-wage earners. The House Freedom Caucus, meanwhile, has its own plan, which involves capping spending at 2022 levels for the next decade, instituting new work requirements for welfare recipients, requiring a congressional OK on all major federal regulations and other changes.

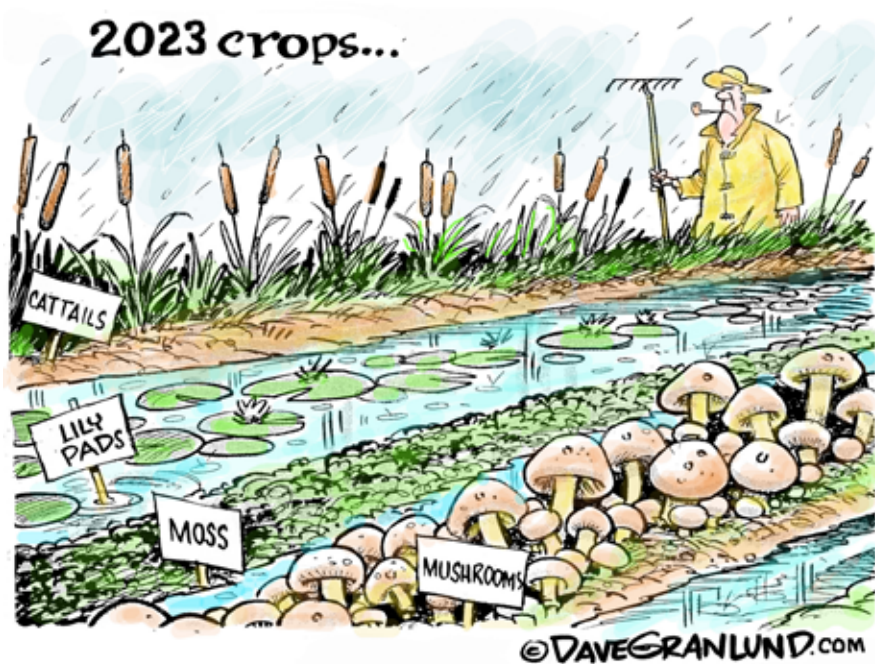
If you try to look at the issue in a non-partisan manner, it doesn't appear any more palatable. The Times article notes that the Congressional Budget Office has a list of over 100 steps that could make a meaningful dent in the deficit. These range from increasing payroll taxes or creating a new tax on consumption to eliminating itemized tax deductions altogether to deferring spending on military hardware and eliminating some agriculture programs.

Each would spark a pitched congressional battle.

My point here is not to say that a balanced budget, or even significant steps to cut the deficit, is impossible. But as members of the House and Senate and President Biden stake out their positions and then get deep into negotiations, it will help to understand why those negotiations are likely to become tense and difficult.

The budget, after all, is the blueprint for how the government affects life in the U.S. Everyone wants to balance it, but making serious steps in that direction will require true sacrifice.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Garden Lady questions for a rainy Sunday

I received a pruning question from a reader as a follow-up to my recent article on the subject of what to prune when in terms of spring flowering bushes.

The question was directly related to pruning a white magnolia bush. Without knowing the species exactly, I would venture to guess that because it is white the question relates to Magnolia stellata, or the Star Magnolia and not it's cousin, the large pinkish-purple flowered Saucer Magnolia.

The Star Magnolia is a shrub or small tree that is highly adaptable to various soils and heat/cold conditions spanning from Maine to Georgia, to Minnesota and even the West Coast.

Fragrant flowers are 3-5-inches wide and typically made up of 12-18 tepals (a term for petals and sepals together) but depending on which cultivar or variety chosen, there may be upwards of 30-50 of these per flower.

What makes this bush extra showy (if double flowers weren't enough!) is that it blooms prior to leaf break, and the flowers show up beautifully against smooth gray bark.

Because it can stay in bloom long - if conditions are right, almost three weeks, sometimes there is an overlap of unfurling leaves alongside flowers.

It's a beauty alright. Sometimes a heat wave, then a cold wave can turn the flowers to mush overnight, but it is a chance we gardeners take. This year the show is a glorious one, indeed.

Our reader wrote in that his Magnolia has suffered some damage in the late snow-storm we had. Branches were bent and broken and some corrective pruning needed to happen, but when? Typically, regular pruning would take place after flowering so as not to compromise upcoming blooms, but this type of pruning can be accomplished as needed to prevent further injury.

Prune back to limbs that show no sign of injury.

Regular training of the tree should be done within the first five years - magnolias are notoriously slow healers; so bigger cuts could take a long time to heal.

Thank you for your question. I hope this helps.

The following question came from Marvin, who is wondering how to acclimate overwintered geraniums back into the garden.

"I potted some geraniums from the garden last fall and took them into the house. They have been blooming since late February and bring sunshine and joy to the room!!! I would like to put them back into the garden this spring. What steps do I need to take to make this transition successful? Cut them back? etc."

Yay! I am so happy that you had success with your geraniums.

Like you, I have been doing this same process for a few years now and agree with you that they do indeed add "sunshine and joy" to our indoor spaces at a time when we need it.

You are smart to think about the transition back into the garden. If you were to simply move them outside on the first nice day, no doubt you'd be met with disappointment.

First off, I would gradually start reducing the amount of fertilizer you are giving them, if any. We don't want a lot of tender new growth that could be susceptible to damage from the elements. Next, give the plants a good grooming. Lift up foliage to reveal any brown leaves or spent flowers and pinch these away.

Now comes shaping. If the plants have grown lopsided prune them back to a good overall shape by cutting stems to right above a node (the place where the stems of the leaves attach). If you are happy, stop here and begin to harden them off.

I would try this beginning around Mother's Day Weekend barring there is no frost in the forecast. Find a sheltered spot (from wind and sun) and set them outside for a few hours then bring them in for the night.

Gradually expose the plants to more and more sun until they are outside all day and night. The process should take a week to 10 days.

By following these steps, you will hopefully avoid sun scald and other issues. Best of luck to you!

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.



Why can't I get Social Security Disability on my own or my husband's record?

Dear Rusty: I am considered disabled by State of Washington doctors, but Social Security has turned me down three times when I applied for disability saying I don't have enough work points. I am the wife of a retired, disabled veteran who served over 20 years in the U.S. Navy. I raised three children, one of which is disabled. How do I get Social Security to accept my disability?

Signed: Frustrated and Disabled

Dear Frustrated and Disabled: Social Security's criteria for disability eligibility are separate and distinctly different from any other authority such as the State of Washington. To be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you must have earned a minimum number of credits on your own from working and contributing to Social Security and that work must have occurred recently (you must have worked at least five of the last ten years). If you did not personally earn the required credits through recent work, you cannot get SSDI benefits. I presume that is what Social Security has determined to be the case for you. And to clarify, you must be totally disabled (rendering you unable to work for at least one year) and that must be confirmed by your medical service providers, who will be contacted by Social Security's representatives.

For information, SSDI is an individually earned entitlement, thus your husband's lifetime earnings history applies only to him, and his earnings record does not extend to you for SSDI purposes (in other words, he might be eligible for early SSDI benefits on his own, but his eligibility for those benefits does not make you eligible too). Nevertheless, if your husband is collecting SSDI benefits and you are caring for your child who became disabled before age 22, or if your husband is collecting SS and any of your children are under age 16, you may be eligible for "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spouse benefits are available at any age, but your husband would need to be collecting either SSDI or his regular SS retirement benefit for you to be eligible for those benefits. And if your husband is collecting SS of any kind, his disabled child (or any minor children under 18) may also be eligible for dependent child benefits from him, subject to the Family Maximum.

So, to answer your specific question about how to get Social Security to "accept your disability," unless you meet the recent work test and have earned the needed credits on your own as described above, and are totally disabled, you cannot. You may wish to confirm this by discussing your situation with an attorney who specializes in SSDI matters. You can find such an attorney online by searching for "SSDI attorney near me" - just be sure to fully vet any firm you are considering. SSDI attorneys should not charge for an initial consultation and they will only take your case if they believe you can win (they take their fees from any back SSDI benefits they can secure for you). SSDI attorney fees are also limited by federal law, and seeking such counsel should not result in any out-of-pocket expense for you.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

National Donate Life Month in April brings attention to the need for more organ donors

Focusing on the growing need for living donors

SPRINGFIELD — The need for donated organs and tissues in the United States and here in New England is great.

There are currently over 100,000 men, women and children on the national transplant waiting list. Every 10 minutes another person is added to the list. Despite the fact that some 170 million people in the United States have registered as organ donors, 17 people still die each day waiting for an organ transplant.

While that may sound like a large number of registered donors, the fact is that not everyone who registers is able to donate, and many more people are left waiting for a transplant than there are organs available, according to Dr. Kenneth McPartland, surgical director of Kidney Transplantation, Transplant Division, Baystate Medical Center.

"That is why more donors, especially living donors, are needed. Becoming a living donor is a growing option today for altruistic persons who want to give the gift of life," he said.

April is National Donate Life Month, a time when Donate Life organizations across the country strive to make life possible by edu-

cating and motivating individuals to register to become an organ, eye and tissue donor.

As part of Donate Life Month, the public is encouraged to sign organ donor cards. Potential donors need only to sign a donor card, indicate his or her wishes on a driver's license, or register online at Donate Life America (registerme.org).

However, while a signed donor card, on-line registration and driver's license with an "organ donor" designation are legal documents, organ and tissue donation is best discussed with family members prior to any donation so that one's wishes are known in advance, noted Dr. McPartland.

As a deceased donor, you can help multiple people in need of life saving organs and tissues. One person can donate their heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and intestines for organ transplantation. In addition, cornea donation can give the gift of sight, and tissue donation can change the lives of many people in need.

Baystate Medical Center offers the only Transplant Services in western Massachusetts for adults requiring kidney transplantation, with some 160 patients currently on its waiting list.

Approximately 85% of patients on the

national waiting list are in need of a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is often over five years. A kidney from a living donor, then, offers a patient an alternative to years of dialysis and the national transplant waitlist and is a safer option for the recipient. Donors can live healthy lives with one kidney and the act of donating can be extremely rewarding.

All potential donors must be in good health and undergo some medical testing before being accepted as a living donor by Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Team to make sure they are an acceptable candidate for donation. Living kidney donors must be over the age of 18 and in good health.

Barbara Kelleher of Belchertown became a living kidney donor on March 30, 2022.

She knew that a fellow parishioner was on dialysis and in need of a kidney. She friended his wife on Facebook asking if he was still in need.

She replied, "He does still need a kidney. It's been 2 1/2 years on dialysis, which keeps him alive but is grueling. Your prayers would be appreciated."

Kelleher responded: "God's been telling me to offer a kidney to him, and I'm happy to

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The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL

journalregister@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES

Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

STAFF WRITER

Marcelo Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com

STAFF WRITER

Rebecca Wehner
rwehner@turley.com

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@ Journal Register

www.journalregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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Please send opinions to:
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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@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 editor Michael Harrison 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.

C4R Watershed Council holds kick-off meeting

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council held its spring kick-off meeting, highlighting the work that's been done since it was formed almost 10 years ago, and plans going forward.

River enthusiasts from the towns within the commonwealth's largest watershed filled the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center in Three Rivers on April 20, discussing ways they can work together to bring awareness to the Council's work.

The purpose of the Council is to give a voice for the four rivers that make up the watershed, the Swift, Ware, Quaboag and Chicopee, said C4R Coordinator Keith Davies.

All four of those rivers converge in Palmer.

"A lot of communities are reconnecting with their river," Davies said. "We've kind of become the voice to get neighboring towns talking to each other."

Water sampling

Davies talked about some of the Council's focuses last year, including expanding the Blue Trails and continued bacteria monitoring.

Davies and a crew of volunteers take water samples at 15 locations to monitor the bacteria count, to determine if the water is safe for recreational activities.

"Sampling for bacteria is a simple way to do that," he said. "This helps river users know water is safe."

If bacteria counts are high, this speaks to the health of the river, and possible areas of concern.

"If you want to enjoy the rivers, you want to know it's healthy," Davies said.

Three out of four Americans participate in outdoor recreation each year, Davies said, and paddle sports are among the fastest growing segments of the industry.

"More people go fishing each year than go to Disney World," Davies said.

Samples are collected at the sites twice a month on Thursday mornings, June through September. These sites are paddling access points along the Blue Trails

A Blue Trail is just like a hiking trail, but for paddlers, Davies said.

"We're used to trails in the woods, in this case, the river is the path," he said.

Blue Trails

The Blue Trails cover 34 miles and are broken up into four sections, the Upper Ware River, Lower Ware River, Upper Quaboag River and Upper Chicopee River.

Most of the Blue Trails are on calm water, except for a section of the Upper Ware River Blue Trail where there is whitewater. This section starts at the Ware River Park access in Gilbertville and continues for three miles to the Church Street access.

The Ware River Park access was added to the Blue Trail last year after Davies approached the town of Hardwick about putting one up



stream from the existing access at New Furnace.

"It reignited their park project," Davies said.

Now Ware River Park has two access points for paddlers, a kiosk with Blue Trails map, more parking, and a nearly finished segment of rail trail, with more improvements planned.

C4R created another new access point on the Upper Ware River Blue Trail, along the newest section of Mass Central Rail Trail managed by the East Quabbin Land Trust on Church Street in Ware.

"It didn't exist before, and will

now be available to people," Davies said.

Further down the Ware River, a new kiosk with Blue Trail sign was added at the Banas Farm access off Robbins Road.

Davies described it as a "rustic" launch, which runs to the Bennet Street Bridge Abutments access behind Forest Lake.

Restoration

In addition to bacteria monitoring and expansion of the Blue Trails, C4R also works to remove invasive water chestnut plants.

These aquatic plants need to be

pulled from the water by hand regularly a few times a year to limit their growth.

The next water chestnut pulls will be held at Oxford Marsh in Chicopee on Saturday, June 24 at 9 a.m. (rain date June 25 at 1 p.m.); Saturday, July 15 at 9 a.m. (rain date Sunday, July 16 at 1 p.m.); Saturday, Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. (rain date Sunday, Aug. 13 at 1 p.m.); with a final pull in late August.

Water chestnut pulls will also begin at the Red Bridge access sometime in mid-June.

Other restoration work C4R takes part in are general cleanups to remove litter and debris.

Going forward in 2023

"Volunteers are always great to have," Davies said, adding that C4R needs a core team of people to continue moving forward.

"Sampling and trail work wouldn't be possible without volunteers," he said.

C4R is also hosting fun and educational events to bring more attention to the rivers, including a poetry and photo contest held over the summer.

The theme of the Haiku & Picture Contest is "Our Local Rivers," with entries accepted beginning June 1. Deadline for submissions is Sept. 18.

People can capture a Haiku moment or an image of a river or tributary in the C4R watershed. There is a limit of three Haiku poems per entry; preferably original, unpublished work.

Photos should be 5 by 7-inch

copies or jpeg format.

Poems and photos need to capture a sense of the local rivers or watershed, and a river or tributary in the C4R watershed should be the focus.

Electronic Haiku copies should be sent as a Microsoft Word document, and paper submission should have two copies, one with the author's name and one without.

Categories include youth under 18 and adults. Please note your age on the submission.

Winners will be announced at C4R's annual summit in early November.

How to help

People can also help support the work of C4R by becoming a member.

Memberships and donations help C4R with resources for basic operations, including preparing events, creating and maintaining Blue Trails, collecting samples, writing reports and performing community outreach.

C4R has established a nonprofit relationship with the Connecticut River Conservancy, which holds and manages C4R funds for tax exempt purposes for all donors who want this coverage.

To become a member, visit c4rivers.org and click on "Membership - Join/Support C4R."

For more information or to get involved, visit c4rivers.org, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com or find Chicopee4Rivers on Facebook.

Planning for Medicare – Countdown to 65

WILBRAHAM – Need help understanding your Medicare health insurance options? Planning for Medicare-Countdown to 65 is a no-cost seminar taking place at the Wilbraham Public Library in the Brooks Room on Monday, May 8 at 3:30-4:30 p.m. The seminar helps you understand your Medicare health insurance options outside of your employer-sponsored coverage, whether or not you're planning to retire.

This is a presentation and discussion led by Luisa Lewis, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative in collaboration with the Wilbraham Public Library. Topics include Medicare Parts A & B, Medicare enrollment timeline, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and plans and programs available to early retirees, such as COBRA. Please register on the library website: www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

CONSERVATION | from page 1

"I heard comments from people who have lived in town forever and had never known about it, so that tells me we need to promote it more."

Conservation Commission Chairman Donald Blaise also expressed a desire to put together a new event at the previous meeting, and hoped to continue the discussion with Saint George. Blaise said that years ago, a successful community event was put on, and that he wanted to bring it back after coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scavenger hunt will be dispersed throughout the conservation trails around town, with clues of historical and cultural relevance to the town. Commission member Dorothy Lawrence suggested the inclusion of different skill levels of clues, so that both children and adults of all learning levels can participate.

"Turning it into an all-day event across the entire town could be really fun," Lawrence said. "I think blowing it up into a big event and having some kind of a grand prize would be great."

Saint George and the commission members discussed different choices for the obtaining of clues throughout the hunt, such as individuals stationed at each location to provide a clue. It was also suggested that printed QR codes could be used for participants to scan and view the clues on their cell phones.

The scavenger hunt will take place on August 26, with times and more details to follow after further planning between Blaise and Saint George. The event will serve as a fundraiser to acquire a kiosk and more signage for the Midura conservation area.

"This will be a great opportunity for the town to really get to know our land," Blaise said. "A lot of people were out on the trails in 2020, wondering what this place is and what the history is and having no idea."

"Well, I think we can say through this event, come to learn more about this land and why we on the commission strive to preserve it."

For more information about the Conservation Commission, meetings can be found at m-pact.tv.

NOTICE

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Hampden County Sheriff's Office to host Internationally renowned jazz musician Avery Sharpe

LUDLOW -- For the first time ever, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office will be hosting an internationally renowned jazz musician and his band at a special concert for the justice-involved population at the Main Institution in Ludlow.

Avery Sharpe and his band will be debuting his new album, "I Am My Neighbor's Keeper," at the jail starting at 1 p.m. Friday, April 21 in one of three shows aimed at spreading the album's message about people doing a better job recognizing that we aren't as different as it seems at times and that we're all in this together.

"The U.S. political climate has drastically changed in the past 40 plus years. In this age of greed, basic human compassion has been eroded. There is a need to remind

people that each of us is here on this planet for a very short period of time," Sharpe said. "It doesn't matter if one has a religious approach or a secular approach, it all comes down to concern and compassion for each other. It is my hope and mission as an artist to remind us that we all are interconnected and that we are our neighbor's keepers. When we help to uplift one, we uplift everyone."

Sheriff Nick Cocchi, when presented with the concept of hosting such a concert for the justice-involved, was excited to welcome Sharpe and his music.

"Any time we can give the people in our care and custody something in addition to the wide range of programming and educational opportunities we provide, we jump

at it," Cocchi said. "And to have someone as well-known and revered as Avery Sharpe offer to play at our institution is amazing. We are truly thankful and very much looking forward to the concert as music has the power to transcend all the things that separate us and bring people together."

Sharpe was born in Valdosta, GA, but later moved with his family to Springfield, where he attended high school. He attended UMass Amherst and currently holds several roles at Williams College. Sharpe's musical credits include sideman stints and recordings with jazz greats like Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, Yusef Lateef, Bobby McFerrin, Pat Metheny, Billy Taylor and many more.

In 1994 he started his own art-

ist record label, JKNM Records, under which he has recorded more than a dozen albums to date. Interested media should arrive at the facility, 627 Randall Road, Ludlow, by 12:45 p.m. and text message Rob Rizzuto upon arrival. Entrance is through the public visitation lobby, and cellphones are not allowed and can be securely stored by staff prior to entering the secure facility. Visuals will include the full band and around 100 inmates (please shoot from behind to anonymize) as well as uniformed staff. More information on Avery Sharpe can be found here and with a full press kit available here.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. It's all over the beach
5. A cirque
8. Corpse count (abbr.)
11. Influential report author
13. Satisfaction
14. Recurring only at long intervals
15. Islamic calendar month
16. Neither
17. Gelatinous substance
18. American electronic music producer
20. Old computer system
21. Professional organization
22. Malaria mosquitoes
25. Not composed of matter
30. It's in the ocean
31. Peyton's little brother
32. French commune
33. Eyelashes
38. Equal (prefix)
41. Quality of little or no rain
43. One who beheads
45. Sung to
48. Influential punk artist
49. Amount of time
50. Polio vaccine developer
55. Abba's Israeli politician
56. Job
57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
59. Japanese wooden clog
60. Folk singer DiFranco
61. FL city
62. Naturally occurring solid
63. Language of indigenous Asian people
64. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

1. Soviet Socialist Republic
2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
3. Venomous snake genus
4. Uninteresting
5. Straightforwardness
6. Expression of wild excitement
7. Arrange in order
8. East Indian cereal grass
9. Hillsides
10. Bird beak covering
12. Baseball stat
14. Edge of a surfboard
19. Wrapping accessory
23. Express approval
24. Deduce
25. Similar
26. Born of
27. Automobile
28. Obligated to repay
29. Live in
34. Influential journalist Tarbell
35. Set aflame
36. OJ trial judge
37. Scottish town
39. African nation
40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
41. Mimic
42. Frees
44. In slow tempo
45. Sword
46. Related on the mother's side
47. Mars crater
48. Plant of the lily family
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Amazon river tributary
58. Adult male human

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Assistance with Medicare costs are referred to as Medicare Savings Programs. What may be covered depends on your and your spouse's (if you are married) income and assets. If MassHealth determines that you are eligible for payment of the Medicare Part B premium, they will notify Medicare. The most you can have in income & assets are as follows: Monthly income limit of \$2,734 (individual) & \$3,698 (couple) and assets limit of \$18,180 (individual) & \$27,260 (couple). For further info & an application, see Cindy at the senior center.

Transportation Services

Van 1 is available Monday thru Friday from 8:00 AM till 3:30 PM to and from the center, transportation to the bank, medical appointments and other appointments as needed. (no van service from 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM). The van comes off the road at 3:30 so plan accordingly.

Van 2 is available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-3:00 for all medical appointments, shopping, trips and general errands. Please call for appointment 24 hours before, at (413-283-2670) Press 3

when prompted. Van comes off the road at 3:30 so plan accordingly

Volunteer Drivers are also available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM till 3:30 PM, when the regular vans are in use for medical appointments or any other transportation needs. Please call the center to schedule your appointment.

Medical Advocate: We have a driver who can help you at the Dr.'s office. This advocate will accompany you into the office & be your ears & eyes. This program is only for those who need the help because they do not hear well or do not understand what the Dr. is telling them. If needed call & schedule an appointment. We also will have you sign off that you give permission for this person to accompany you into the office. All information is completely confidential for this service.

Interested in volunteering?

Join RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and help to support non-profits in your community. If you are over 55 and have a few hours each week or month to volunteer your time, experience, interests and talents, we have dozens of opportunities with area organizations that need you. RSVP offers free liability insurance to all volunteers, mileage reimbursement if needed and other benefits.

RSVP is a federal Senior Corps program, sponsored locally by the Hampshire Council of Governments, working with 58 non-profits and over 600 volunteers in Hampshire, Franklin and expanding to Hampden Counties. Sandra Mongeon, Program Assistant, RSVP of the Pioneer Valley, smongeon@communityaction.us (413) 387-

1298

Support Services

Breakfast: Tues & Thursday @ 9:15. \$ 3 donation is requested. Congregate Lunches by GSSSI: Mon, Wed & Friday @ 11:30-12:30. Please call before 10:00 the day before. A \$ 2.00 donation re-quested

Brown Bag: Second Friday of the month from 1-3 for pick up. See front desk for application if inter-ested.

SHINE Representative, Cindy Jasak Available Mon-Friday 8:30-4:00 or by appointment to answer insurance/healthcare questions.

Highlights for May

Cinco De Mayo Lunch - Join us for lunch May 5th (beef taco salad, zesty corn salad, yellow rice, tortilla chips, fresh fruit) provided by GSSSI. We will have festive music and mocktail Margaritas. This event takes place during our regular lunch at 11:30. Call to sign up. \$2 suggested donation

Movie "A Man Called Otto" - May 5th - Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Ice Cream Trips - For the summer will be taking trips to different ice cream shops watch the calendar for where we will be going. Call to sign up as space is limited. Westview Creamery May 9th at 1 pm, June 16th Cindy's 12:30 pm

Mass EDP - Marguerite will be here to provide information on accessibility programs such as the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program (Mass EDP). May 11th at 9am. This will be during break-

fast if you want to join us to eat breakfast please call to sign up.

Trip to Atkins & Target - We will be going to Atkins and Target to shop and have lunch. May 16th at 10:30 am, call to sign up.

Book Reading - Join Andrew Noone for a reading of his book "Bathsheba Spooner A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy" His book details the most sensational crime of the Revolution, events occurring in Brookfield and Worcester. The title character, when five months pregnant, was hanged alongside her three British and American accomplices. Spooner, John Adams' second cousin, was the first woman executed in the new U.S., the instigator behind the nation's premier capital case. May 19th at 1 pm

Movie "Wild Hogs" - May 26th - A group of suburban biker wannabes looking for adventure hit the open road, but get more than they bargained for when they encounter a New Mexico gang called the Del Fuegos.

Orchard Valley Memory Screening - May 31st 12-2 pm - A memory screening is a simple, safe, face-to-face evaluation tool that checks memory and other thinking skills. The screening consists of a series of questions and/or tasks designed to test memory, language skills, thinking ability, and other intellectual functions. Memory screenings are appropriate for anyone concerned about memory loss or experiencing warning signs of dementia, whose family and friends have noticed changes in them, or who believe they are at risk due to a family history of Alzheimer's disease or a related illness.

ACTIVITIES Mondays

8:30 Cards; 8:30 Zumba ;

10:00 Chair Yoga (new program); 11:30 Lunch; 12:15 Pool Table

Tuesdays

9:00 Knit & Crochet; 9:00 Walking
9:30 Breakfast; 10:00 Arthritis/ROM; 12:30 Pitch; 1:00 Painting with Grant

Wednesdays

8:30 Cards; 10:00 Strength Training; 11:30 Lunch

Thursdays

9:00 Walking; 9:30 Breakfast; 10:00 Tai Chi; 12:15 Pool Table 1:00 Big Y

Fridays

10:00 Line Dancing; 11:30 Lunch

MAY MENU

May 1

Seasoned Pork California Blend Veggies, Rice and beans, WW roll, mixed fruits

May 2

Breakfast TBD

May 3

May Birthday Celebration Chx & Sausage Gravy, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Buttermilk Biscuit, Cupcake/Dt. cake

May 4

Breakfast TBD

May 5

Cinco De Mayo Beef taco salad, zesty corn salad, yellow rice, tortilla chips, fresh fruit

All Breakfast are served with Coffee, Milk and Juice \$3.00 Lunch: suggested donation \$2.00

Menu subject to change without notice

ACTIVITIES

May 1

Pictionary 1 p.m.

May 3

Wii Bowling 1 p.m.

May 4

Lunch Bunch - Figlio's in Palmer 12 p.m.

May 5

Cinco De Mayo Lunch 11:30 a.m. Movie "A Man Called Otto 1 p.m.



Monson Senior Center

Senior Center Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Holidays; By Appointment only! 106 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057 413-267-4121 www.monson-ma.gov

The mission of the Monson Council on Aging is to identify and provide comprehensive programs and social and support services that enrich the quality of life for Monson's older adults and their families while also benefiting the well-being of the general community.

WHAT DOES THE MONSON COA DO FOR THE TOWN OF MONSON?

- We provide an infrastructure of support for older adults within the community.
- We help older adults to age with dignity and independence.
- We are usually the first responders in time of need.
- We provide an opportunity for socialization and growth.

ACTIVITIES

May 1

Strength Training 10:00; Art Class 1:00; Garden Club 6:00

May 2

Foot Care 9:00; Canasta 12:30; Line Dancing 4:00

May 3

Strength Training 10:00; Card Making 6:00; Crafts & Laughs 6:00

May 4

Lt. Gasparini 10:30; Chair Massage 11:00; Yoga 4:30

May 5

Strength Training 10:00; Wii Bowling 12:30; BP Clinic 1:00; Pitch 6:00

UPCOMING EVENTS

This month the Bunch will meet:

May 11th at Tables at the Farm; 3092 Palmer St, Three Rivers at 11:30. Call the Center by Tuesday, May 9th to make your reservation

Mother's Day Celebration

"Memory Lane"; Mike Tourville And Danny Roy; Friday May 12th, 12:00pm; Call For Reservations 267-4121, Cost Is \$5.00

iPad 101

Tuesday, May 13th, 11 am - 12 noon Monson Free Library/ Offered in Partnership with the Monson Senior Center; Join Rebecca from the Monson Free Library for: Call to register—267-3866

THE FRIENDS CORNER

NEXT FRIENDS MEETING TO BE HELD:

May 18th at 10:00 Come on out, all are welcome! See what we are all about and what forthcoming activities could be coming your way. Interested in joining our Group? Please contact us. Membership Dues are \$5.00 - June 2022 - May 2023 VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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The Daily local coverage in Sturbridge - Brookfield - West Brookfield - East Brookfield - North Brookfield & New Braintree

Connect with us online Quaboag Current Newspaper

Volume 16, Number 20 A TURLEY PUBLICATION www.turley.com Friday, March 31, 2023

Troop 163 closing in on five-year anniversary
By Paula Chalmers
Scouts BSA helps girls find their voice

Chamber's Legislative Breakfast looks at region's needs
By Richard Murphy
Unlike Any Other Author shares story of Bathsbeba Spooner

New principal and IT director named at Quaboag
By Dallas Cigam

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For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library



Submitted photo

Girl Scouts of Palmer got together on Saturday for Earth Day to clean up along the Swift River in Bondsville.



Submitted photos

Girl Scout Troop 64913 and family members help in the clean-up along the Swift River.



Pathfinder students trek through the grass to clean up Quaboag River.



Girl Scout Amelia Labarre reaches for an empty bottle.



Girl Scout Alexa Gould looks around the area for more trash to pick up.

CLEAN UP
I from page 1

mom," Blais said, though this year the Senator said she was at home.

Earth Day has been celebrated since 1970, as a way to inspire communities across the nation to participate in protecting their environment. This aligns with the Conservation Commission's stated mission to protect the town's natural resources, and events like this week's Earth Day clean-up represent a great initiative.

Blais and Commission Agent Heidi Manarino discussed that the Commission's meetings are among the town's most viewed, and it's likely because of their enthusiastic community engagement, as seen at Saturday's event.

Hand sanitizer was provided for the event by Country Bank, and Big Y provided boxes of donuts, and the event drew families to help clean up the park and its surrounding area. Seven-year-old Gabe was seen picking up trash around the park with his parents, Dan and Kate, while Lauren's son Elijah, age five, insisted on getting a second bag before returning to pick up more trash.



Turley Publications photos by Rebecca Wehner

The cleanup crew in the woods at Forest Lake.



Jim Legacy teaching volunteers about the different types of fishing rods.



A bucket of trout being thrown into the lake by a young volunteer.

EARTH DAY I from page 1

season. Chief of Hatcheries Dr. Caleb Slater said that nearly 470,000 trout will be stocked throughout the state in early spring, and that the fish are taken care of by staff throughout the year for the best size and quality.

The children in attendance were invited to participate in the trout stocking portion of the event, carrying buckets of fish from the truck down to the lake and releasing them into the water. The kids enthusiastically bid farewell to each batch of fish they set free, and were seen scrambling back up the hill to fill their buckets again.

"The fish we just put in are going to be pretty hungry," MassWildlife Aquatic Biologist Jim Legacy said. "We take them off of eating for about a week, so once they get acclimated to the water we give them

time to eat before they're settled in and get to be caught."

The trout stocking at Forest Lake was one stop in a weekend-long initiative by MassWildlife to bring the fish back to bodies of water in the area, including Pittsfield, Westfield, Woburn, and Plymouth. Many young people were able to participate at these events during the weekend due to their schools' April break.

After the trout stocking truck was emptied, the volunteers were given the chance to receive fishing lessons along the Forest Lake beachfront. Legacy instructed a beginner's fishing group of both adults and children and gave a lesson on the different types of rods, rigs, and hooks.

"There are plenty of fish other than the trout in the lake for us

to catch as well," Legacy said. "There's pumpkinseed, bluegill, bass, and American eel, so when we catch them we can take a look at a group and identify them."

The volunteers fished throughout the afternoon, and were joined by several local fishers who had heard about the batch of trout that had been released into the lake. Both MassWildlife volunteers and members of the public came together to learn different techniques and work together.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife hosts volunteer events throughout the year to educate others on how to care for the planet and its inhabitants. More information can be found at mass.gov/masswildlife.



**WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

School Choice openings for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grade 1.....	2
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	2
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	10
Grade 9	5
Grade 10.....	15
Grade 11	12
Grade 12.....	15

The School Choice application can be downloaded at www.wareps.org or picked up at Central Office 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082

Deadline to submit applications is May 11, 2023

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing, when the number of requests exceed the number of available spaces. The drawing, if needed, will take place on May 12, 2023.

The Ware Public School District strives to work with parents and the wider community to educate all students in an environment that supports high academic achievement, instills respect and fosters civic responsibility. We believe that the ultimate goal of education is to support students as successful lifelong learners.

Join us WARE you can prepare for your future career!

Programs at Ware Junior Senior High School

MAKERSPACE

Our Makerspace features innovative rooms that provide students with a hands-on experience. Whether working on our Milling Machine or working with a variety of hand equipment/technology, each student will have the opportunity to put together a number of finished products in one of our seven innovative workstations. Through teamwork, research and development, students will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills, which will help prepare them for the real world.

CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT

This advanced course for direct healthcare workers consists of academic and interactive, hands-on coursework. Foundational competency skills will be taught along with Healthcare Professionalism, Common Chronic Diseases, Patient-Caretaker Skills in a simulated home-care setting, Emergency Communication Procedures and two courses that lead to national certification: CPR/AED and Supportive Aide for Alzheimer's and Dementia. After taking this course, students can apply for their license to be eligible to work as a CNA.

To learn more about the programs offered at WJSHS, visit: https://whs.wareps.org/for_parents/guidance/course_catalog

WORK-BASED LEARNING

This opportunity allows juniors and seniors to enter an unpaid, educational work experience with an individual, company, or community organization. The purpose of the Work Based Learning Experience is to gain meaningful work skills and practices as related to the student's future career interests.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The Dual Enrollment Program allows juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn academic credit at both the college and high school level simultaneously. Dual Enrollment students enjoy the connection to their high school as well as the challenging and independent setting of the college.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

Virtual High School offers a catalog of full semester courses in the Arts, Foreign Language, Language Arts, Life Skills, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology and AP1 Study to students in VHS member schools.

It is the policy of the Ware Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, military service, union activity or genetics in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M.G.L. c. 71A and c. 76, s. 5.

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Local businesses host food drive to help those in need



The team from Monson Savings Bank working the event.

Staff photos by Dan Flynn



The team at J Stolar Insurance of Three Rivers.



Renee and Grace Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance and Lena Buteau of Monson Savings Bank.



ServPro of Belchertown readying for the food collection.



North Brookfield Savings Bank supporting the day's event.



Donations were piled up into the Serv-Pro van to be taken for distribution.

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Bruce Marshall and Lisa Marulli of classic hits 97.7 Radio.

FOOD DRIVE

from page 1

er was by far the best one yet."

Niedziela said that with recent increases in cost of living prices and inflation, a food drive to assist those in the community is more important than ever. The SERVPRO of Hampshire County van collected non-perishable items and personal care items throughout the day.

The radio station 97.7 broadcasted live throughout the food drive promoting the cause, and auctioned off a pair of Mother's Day tickets to a Red Sox game. Radio host Bruce Marshall congratulated "Mary from Ware" upon winning the tickets. By the end of the fundraiser, Palmer Food Share received \$2200 in monetary donations and gift cards that were donated by Ocean State. Niedziela said that the store was integral in helping the food pantry receive donations, as they made announcements about the event over



Bruce Marshall, Classic Hits 97.7 and Kevin Fall, ServPro promoting the event.

their intercom so that customers could be aware.

"Ocean State was a huge help in our progress," Niedziela said. "When we had this event at previous locations, I think people felt as if they had to bring a full bag of donations even if they couldn't afford it."

"With the announcements in the store, customers that were leaving could pick up one or two things that they could give to us on their way out."

700 pounds of goods were additionally loaded into the van as donations.

For those who couldn't attend the event but still want to donate, items can be dropped off at J. Stolar's headquarters in Three Rivers. Donations can also be made through the GoFundMe page in Renee Niedziela's name.

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SATURDAY - Sampler Saturday \$12
Mozzarella Sticks, Nachos, Wings & Bacon Tots

SUNDAY - \$15 Prime Rib Dinner

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SOFTBALL

Mustangs beat shorthanded Panthers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON— Palmer varsity softball coach Heather Korzec probably wishes that the first meeting of the regular season with Suburban West Division rival Monson wasn't held during the April school vacation week.

With five starters in Iceland on a school trip, the Lady Panthers gave up ten runs in the first inning. Things didn't get any better, as the Lady Mustangs coasted to a 17-1 home victory on a chilly morning, last Wednesday. The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the 12-run mercy rule.

"We've been in almost every game so far this season, but we were missing five of our starters, including our normal starting pitcher today," Korzec said. "We called up a couple of j.v. players and it was a good learning experience for them. They learned that it's a much different tempo at this level. We're hoping that it's going to be a much closer game when we play Monson again at our field."

Despite the final outcome of the first meeting, Korzec, who lives in Monson, has always enjoyed facing the Lady Mustangs on the softball diamond.

"It's always a lot of fun whenever we do play Monson," she said. "I've coached a couple of the Monson players in a summer league and the kids know each other very well. It's a fun rivalry game."

Nine years ago, Korzec was the Monson varsity softball coach.

It was a memorable season, as the Lady Mustangs captured the league title and played in the Western Mass. Division 3 semifinals at UMass Amherst. They finished the 2014 season with a 20-3 overall record.



Chelsea Hull pitches for the Mustangs.

The current Monson varsity players have also been very successful during the past couple of years.

After winning the Suburban West league title a year ago with an undefeated league record, the Lady

Mustangs (7-1, 5-0) won their sixth game in a row against the Lady Panthers last Wednesday morning. It was also their 15th consecutive league victory since the beginning of last season.

"All of the players have been working very hard this year," said



Lily White fields a grounder to short.

Monson head coach Jill Carneglia, who grew up in Connecticut. "We always enjoy playing against Palmer. We're looking forward to playing them again in a couple of weeks under the lights."

One of the reasons why the Lady Mustangs (7-1, 5-0) have been so successful during the past couple of years is because they have two outstanding pitchers.

Left hander Chelsea Hull, who's in the eighth grade, made the start against the Lady Panthers (1-5, 1-5) in last Wednesday's contest. She allowed one run, which was unearned, on two base hits. She struck out four and didn't issue any walks.

"Even though it was a cold day, Chelsea did a great job," Carneglia added. "She threw strikes, and the defense made the plays behind her."

Monson's other starting pitcher is sophomore Molly Szado, who plays first base when Hull is pitching.

MUSTANGS | page 10

SOCCER



Brady St Martin looks to pass.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com



Sam Lauzier watches his shot go in the net.

Four-run fourth lifts Pioneers



Tim Russell fires in a pitch during early action.



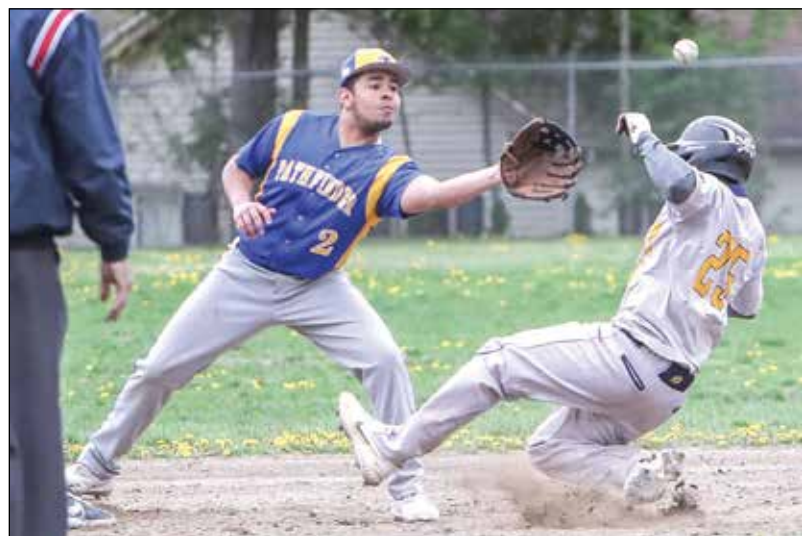
Catcher Jarett Skowrya runs down a Putnam player for the tag.



Brayden Mega tags second base for the out.



Trevor Millet readies to grab this pop up.



Tage Valliere gets ready to catch the out at second.

PALMER – Last Tuesday morning, Pathfinder scored eight runs in the first four innings en route to an 8-5 win over visiting Putnam Vocational. Jesse Cygan had a 2-for-3 game with two doubles. Brayden Mega had a hit and two RBI in the game. The Pioneers are up to 5-2 this season.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Mustangs struggles continue

MONSON – Last Thursday afternoon, Monson High School boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, fell against St. Mary's 10-5. The Mustangs have had a rough go so far this season, and have yet to win their first game. Monson hopes to rebound on Friday, April 28 against Smith Vocational.



Brayden Pratt eyes the field as he looks to pass.



Kyle Beaudry fires it down field.



Matt Murphy makes a great defensive move at goal.

MONSON

Athletic booster planning spring homecoming

MONSON – The Monson High School Athletic Boosters are planning another fan-friendly event coming up next Saturday, May 6.

There will be a day full of activity and home games galore for locals. The booster club is planning games and raffles, food trucks, and a slate of four games to enjoy in the

community. There will be activity and games going on concurrently, so there will be a lot of activity.

The activity will start at 10:30 a.m. with the first game set to begin at 11 a.m.

Monson boys lacrosse, which co-ops now with Pathfinder Region-

al, will be hosting Central at 11 a.m. That game takes place at the field at Monson High School.

Nearby at Quarry Hill School, Monson softball will take the field at 12 noon and face Springfield International Charter School.

Girls lacrosse will then be in action at 1 p.m. back at the high

school. Like the boys, the girls will also be facing Central High School.

The final game on the slate will be at 2 p.m. with the baseball team hosting Granby High School.

The MHS Booster Club hopes fans will come out and enjoy one or more of the games and bring their families to enjoy all the activity.

T-Birds lose first game of playoff series

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds were unable to quell a ferocious Hartford Wolf Pack attack, as the visitors skated off with a 6-1 win on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Atlantic Division First Round of the Calder Cup Playoffs inside the MassMutual Center.

Despite holding the home ice, the T-Birds did not get off to a flying start, and the Wolf Pack made Springfield pay for it just 3:37 into the contest. Tanner Fritz picked up a puck near the left-wing wall and slipped a pass through the slot to a waiting Lauri Pajuniemi on the right-wing side. Pajuniemi took care of the rest, lifting a wrist shot over Joel Hofer to give the visitors the opening goal of the series and a 1-0 lead.

Hartford continued to have the better of the offensive play all period, and Hofer was tasked with multiple stellar saves. Some of his best included a blocker-side denial on Pajuniemi in the slot, as well as a left-to-right pad save on a breaking Bobby Trivigno at the edge of the paint. Pajuniemi nearly extended the lead with a long flip shot that glanced off the crossbar with precious seconds remaining on the clock.

The second period was marred by Springfield mishaps, beginning with a lapse in coverage following an unsuccessful power play. After serving a two-minute minor, Wolf Pack All-Star defenseman Zac Jones stepped out of the box and went backhand-to-forehand to beat Hofer on a breakaway at 6:02 to make it 2-0.

Another Springfield power play generated more offense, but after Dylan Garand the Wolf Pack PK got the job done, Pajuniemi sneaked out of the box and got a breakaway of his own, beating Hofer on the stick side to make it 3-0.

After nearly scoring at the end of the first, Hartford did get on the board at the tail end of the second, as defenseman Blake Hillman crashed the far post to tap home a feed behind Hofer to make it 4-0 with less than six seconds on the clock.

Things continued to come up roses for the Wolf Pack when Ryan Carpenter connected on a one-timer at point-blank range at the 3:42 marker of the third. Springfield finally broke up Garand's shutout bid when Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time power play slap shot to the upper corner at 11:44, but that's all the T-Birds would get on this night, as Ty Emberson added his third point and first goal of the night with an empty-netter in the final two minutes.

Girls lacrosse holding even

MONSON – With a split prior to spring break, Monson girls lacrosse is even at 3-3 for the regular season.

On April 14, the Mustangs were handily defeated by Amherst 19-2. The Mustangs struggled on offense while Amherst excelled at winning faceoffs and retaining possession.

Monson's win was on April 12, defeating McCann Tech 19-2. That was

Monson's first big offensive explosion of the season, as the team had not scored more than 10 goals prior to that.

The Mustangs had two contests earlier this week, facing Hampshire Regional and Chicopee Comprehensive. Monson has a tough challenge coming up on Monday, May 1 when they face Hoosac Valley followed by a rematch on May 3 against Amherst.

Williams wins Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT — With the weather conditions cooperating one week later than expected, the 49th Icebreaker Weekend April 8 and 9 at Thompson Speedway successfully opened the 2023 New England racing season with plenty of heart-pounding thrills to set up the summer to come at the Big-T. The Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Icebreaker 125 came down to a stunning green-white-checker in one of the most spectacular open wheeled races in recent memory while winners in the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Models and the Thompson local divisions proved themselves as the class of the field.

The 49th Icebreaker 125 included some of the Northeast's best Modified pilots ready to tackle the highbanks for the \$10,000 winner's share of the \$46,000 guaranteed purse. Keith Rocco and Matt Swanson brought the twenty-two-car field to green with Swanson getting the jump in the Gary Casella-owned #25. Swanson would hang tough before a hard charging Ronnie Williams overtook the lead on lap 25 followed by Woody Pitkat and Chris Pasteryak as Swanson slid to fourth. Carl Medeiros Jr. brought out the first major caution on lap 55 with several mid-pack teams taking advantage and heading pit-side for adjustments.

Realigned side-by-side to return the field to green, Ronnie Williams got the jump on a slip-sliding Pitkat with Rocco coming around to steal second. While

Williams, Pitkat and Rocco battled hard in the top-three, 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Jon McKenney joined the top-five. McKenney would make it to third with Anthony Nocella also joining the top-five before Anthony Bello's spin on lap 72 would bring the first crucial caution. While all the top runners jumped pit side for fresh Hoosier Race Tires, Williams and McKenney elected to stay on the field to lead the impending restart.

RJ Marcotte stole away the lead from McKenney and Williams as the tire strategy helped Swanson and Nocella battle for second. Nocella would take the lead on lap 78 with Pitkat following and stretching out their lead before the caution flag flew on lap 107 as the engine expired on Teddy Hodgdon's machine. Nocella kept the lead while a four-way battle for second saw Pitkat, McKenney, Williams and Mike Christopher, Jr. toss and turn for position. Pitkat brought out the final caution on lap 123 after backing into the turn one wall to set up a green-white-checker between Nocella, Williams, McKenney, Christopher Jr. and Chris Pasteryak. Nocella gave it all he could, but Ronnie Williams rounded the long-standing leader to claim the \$10,000 49th Icebreaker 125 over Jon McKenney and Anthony Nocella. Mike Christopher Jr. brought the Baldwin Racing 7NY home in fourth and Todd Owen powered up to round out the top-five.

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. 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.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including base-

ball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, 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, archery, judo, 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 orga-

nizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State

Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.state-gamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystate-games.org.

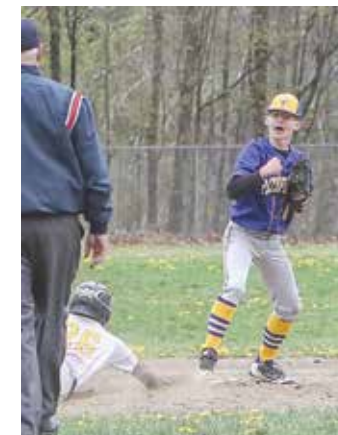
For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Brayden Mega
Pathfinder



Mega would help Pathfinder in a win over Putnam with a hit and two RBI. The Pioneers defeated Putnam 8-5.

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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Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the "Run-

ning Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Veronica Ouimet fields a slow grounder.



Carlee Meacham throws over to first.



Palmer's Fallon Lynch eyes a catch in center.



Hannah Roy makes a quick underhand flip to first for the out.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

"I've been splitting our pitchers so far this season," Carneglia said. "It's always very nice to have two very good pitchers."

After Hull retired the Lady Panthers on two infield pop-ups and a flyball out, the Lady Mustangs offense went to work in the bottom of the first inning against Palmer freshman righty Avi Lee, who made her first varsity start.

Hull, who drew a leadoff walk,

scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher. Szado, who went 2-for-2 with a pair of walks, knocked home another run with a flyball double to left field. After eighth grade second baseman Veronica Ouimet scored on a wild pitch, a sacrifice fly by sophomore centerfielder Ella Corthell (3-for-4) gave the home team a 4-0 lead.

Three more runs crossed the plate following a passed ball and

two wild pitches.

In her second at-bat of the inning, Ouimet (2-for-3) gave her team a 9-0 advantage by hitting a two-run double. She capped off the long inning by scoring on a wild pitch.

Palmer junior Lily White, who started the game at shortstop before moving behind the plate, blasted a triple to left field leading off the top of the second inning. She came

home with two outs following a throwing error by the catcher.

The Lady Panthers only other base hit was a two-out single in the top of the third by junior left fielder Fallon Lynch.

At that point, the Lady Mustangs, who banged out 15 base hits, was leading 13-0. They scored three more runs in the bottom of the second on RBI singles by senior right fielder Ailis Kealy, seventh grade

third baseman Maya Summers, and junior shortstop Carlee Meacham.

Kealy, who also had a two-run single in the third, is the only senior listed on the Monson varsity softball roster. Kealy and junior catcher Mia Matthieu are the Lady Mustangs co-captains.

"Ailis always plays the game with a lot of energy. She'll have her own senior day, which will be exciting," Carneglia said. "She and Mia

are also very good captains."

Matthieu chipped in with an RBI single and Hull contributed with a sacrifice fly in the third inning, as the home team scored four more runs.

The two neighboring high schools are scheduled to meet again under the lights at Palmer High School on May 12.

Around the Region



Contributed photo
A bridal chest crafted and constructed by Madeline Yale Wynne will be on display in the Flynt Center at Historic Deerfield beginning April 15.

Recently discovered rare wedding chest will be on display

DEERFIELD — Historic Deerfield recently announced its acquisition of the remarkable Garden of Hearts, a bridal chest crafted and constructed by Madeline Yale Wynne, who restored the grandest 18th-century house in Deerfield and spent her summers there starting in 1886, a press release states.

This chest, with finely crafted, forged, hammered, carved, and painted elements, was made in 1903 and is an important example of Arts and Crafts furniture by a groundbreaking female artist. It is now on display in the Flynt Center at Historic Deerfield.

Last photographed in 1903 before it was shipped to an unknown owner in England, the chest was lost for much of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

It is in an excellent state of preservation, with the colors and gilt paint of the carved inner lid still bright and intense, and all of its hammered copper panels and inset cabochons, or semi-precious stones, intact, according to the news release.

"This is an exquisite example of creativity and historically informed craftsmanship by the leader of an important circle of local women who combined Colonial Revival precepts with Arts and Crafts aesthetics to put Deerfield on the map in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," said John Davis, president of Historic Deerfield.

"In doing so, they reinvigorated the town's struggling economic fortunes and enabled dozens of women living on farms to bring some extra earnings into their families."

In 1903, Madeline Yale Wynne (1847-1918), a leader in the American Arts and Crafts movement, constructed an oak bride's chest and proudly carved "MADE IN AMERICA" on its back panel in rounded, flowing capital letters. Known as the "Garden of Hearts" for its low-relief painted scene of three inverted heart-shaped trees standing alongside a winding river, the chest is a tour-de-force of Arts and Crafts design-which favored hand craftsmanship over mechanized production-and showcases Wynne's many talents as a painter, metalsmith, jeweler, and woodworker. Wynne's Garden of Hearts chest will be exhibited for the first time at Historic Deerfield's Flynt Center of Early England Life from April 15 through March 3, 2024, in an exhibition entitled "Garden of Hearts: Madeline Yale Wynne and Deerfield's Arts and Crafts Movement."

According to Suzanne Flynt, lead curator of the exhibition, author of "Poetry to the Earth: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Deerfield" and Historic Deerfield trustee, "Wynne's creativity and artistry, at their best in her extraordinary Garden of Hearts, inspired her Deerfield neighbors to share her 'joy in labor' through self-expression in crafts. Through Wynne's knowledge of Arts and Crafts ideals-honest materials, simple designs, and hand craftsmanship-and an abundance of manual skills, Deerfield residents created crafts that were exhibited and sold nationally."

Dan Sousa, assistant curator at Historic Deerfield and co-curator of the show, said, "We are proud to have acquired Wynne's Garden of Hearts masterpiece. Not only is it a stunning example of Arts and Crafts furniture, but it is also the museum's first piece of furniture made by a woman woodworker. Its acquisition is significant, and will allow the museum to further strengthen and diversify its extensive collection of American furniture, as well as to share new narratives involving women's contributions to Arts and Crafts furniture design."

The chest will be featured alongside important examples of her metalwork such as hand-hammered bowls, jewelry, and belt buckles, as well as other hand-crafted baskets, textiles and ironwork produced in Deerfield at the time. Many of the objects in the exhibition are on loan from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum.

Wynne, who divided her time between Deerfield and Chicago, founded the Deerfield Society of Arts and Crafts in 1901 and served as its president throughout her life. Her charismatic leadership, prolific writing, and advocacy for Arts and Crafts principles resulted in Deerfield becoming highly regarded as one of the nation's earliest craft communities.

Inspired by 17th- and 18th-century Connecticut Valley joined chests, known as Hadley chests, Wynne considered the Garden of Hearts her greatest artistic accomplishment. This exhibition will celebrate the return of Wynne's masterpiece.

Historic Deerfield's acquisition of the Garden of Hearts chest would not have been possible without the generous support of the Deerfield Collectors Guild. Donors who contributed \$500 or more toward the acquisition of the chest are recognized as members of the Deerfield Collectors Guild, a group of supporters who are committed to Historic Deerfield's acquisition of significant objects of art, culture and history made or owned in Old Deerfield from the 17th to the early-18th centuries. 100% of contributions from Guild members provide financial support to help the museum secure important Deerfield objects that might otherwise escape preservation.

Approximately 100 individuals contributed the funds that allowed Historic Deerfield to acquire the chest and mount the related exhibition. Historic Deerfield opens for the season on Saturday, April 15.

More information on the exhibit and exhibition and Historic Deerfield, go to historic-deerfield.org.

Historic Wilbraham Hill Climb returns next month

Hundreds of classic cars will drive to Wilbraham for car show, race

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

WILBRAHAM — For the past nine months, preparations have been ongoing to make this year's Wilbraham Hill Climb race one for the ages.

Festivities will occur on May 12 and 13 throughout the town, as drivers coming from as far away from Colorado will race their vintage, million-dollar cars up the notoriously steep hill on Monson Road. The town will shut down the road while the driving commences.

Jeffrey DeMarey, the organizer, explained the history of the site, which was regularly used to test new vehicles well into the 1950s.

He said vehicles from the Duryea Motor Wagon Company, the first American firm to build gasoline automobiles, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and the Knox Automobile Company, among others, tested their state-of-the-art machines on the hill.

"All the different vehicles that were manufactured in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut (would use the hill) as a proving ground. Mechanics and engineers would build their prototypes and bring them to the bottom of the hill. They'd run them to the top of the hill and time them. Then, it was bragging rights," DeMarey said.

Bragging rights will be up for grabs again next month, as Mercers, Bearcats, Blower Bentleys, Bugeye Sprites and MGs will turn left off Main Street, race up the hill, slow down enough to turn left onto Ridge Road, take another left onto Mountain Road and return to Main Street.

"It's a 23% grade so it's a steep, steep hill that they go up," DeMarey said.

The most fun will occur on May 13, which will be full of activities such as a car show

at Minnechaug Regional High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that will include between 300 and 400 classic cars. Inside the high school, a craft fair will occur simultaneously.

Food trucks will be stationed at Gazebo Park and the high school. Five shuttle buses will be available to take residents from the high school to viewing spots posted at the beginning and halfway points of the Monson Road hill.

DeMarey has also been in contact with several New England-based vintage car museums and collectors. Represented will be auto museums from Bar Harbor, Seal Cove and Owls Head, ME, as well as others from Newport, RI and Springfield, which will bring an actual Duryea.

"It's pretty great to be able to have that particular car. It looks more like a horse and



GRH Plymouth Car#4 at the Start Line of the 2015 Wilbraham Hill Climb. (Photo courtesy of the Boston to Springfield Education Foundation)



Reed Blower cockpit, starting line of the Wilbraham Hill Climb, 2013. (Photos courtesy of the Boston to Springfield Education Foundation)



Jon Lee Windy City Spec #10 START of the 2015 Wilbraham Hill Climb.

buggy with no horse, but it's a very historic piece to have there at the climb," DeMarey said.

DeMarey is in communication with the abutters on Monson Road and has set up a hotline that will allow them



Dozens of drivers are waiting to see the green flag at the Wilbraham Hill Climb next month.

to safely leave and enter their properties. He's also been in consistent communication with the Board of Selectmen, the Department of Public Works and the police department.

Several renowned automotive experts will be present at the event. These include Wayne Carinin, host of "Chasing Classic Cars", former NASCAR crew chief and team owner Ray Evernham, and Wilbraham native and former NASCAR driver, team owner and TV personality Erin Evernham.

Thousands of spectators are expected to make the trip to Wilbraham from across the country. All proceeds will benefit the Springfield to Bos-

ton Education Foundation, which helps young adults find their passion in the automotive industry.

"The charity does just that. We find cars, we help people get involved in automotive because, like any other industry, we're losing all of our craftsmen," DeMarey said.

As the event approaches, DeMarey took the opportunity to thank LUSO Federal Credit Union for its support.

"They are an integral part and sponsor of the event. Without them, we really wouldn't have the funds to actually put it together. They're a huge part of the whole organization," he said.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel • The Sun
Town Reminder • Ware River News • Wilbraham Times
413.283.8393 • www.newspapers.turley.com



Quabbin Visitor Center renaming honors Campbells

Dedication ceremony will be held June 4

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – At the close of last year, efforts to rename the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Quabbin Visitor Center were successful.

Now, the Visitor Center is named in memory of two people who dedicated much of their lives to the Quabbin Reservoir, and were key in the creation of the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center will now be called the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, and it will be dedicated in their memory at a ceremony on Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m.

This honor comes two years after Les’ death in 2020 at the age of 95. His wife Terry, died in 2007 at the age of 66.

“We’ve been working on this for two years,” said Paul Godfrey, board member of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc., a nonprofit organization with over 300 members

across the country.

Godfrey said the Friends, along with Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and Quabbin Photo Group (photography clubs started by Les), contacted state representatives and senators to help them create a bill to rename the Visitor Center. Both state Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Susannah Whipps were instrumental in bringing this to reality.

“They both pushed to get this through,” Godfrey said.

As the end of the session neared, the groups were uncertain if their bill would become a law in time, especially as the world was dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Dec. 28, 2022, the bill became law when Governor Charlie Baker put his signature on it.

It seems only natural to name the Visitor Center after the Campbells, as they both had a prominent role in making it what it is today.

Les was born in Ware and spent most of his life in Belchertown.

His involvement with the Quabbin Reservoir began when he was still in high school, and started working for the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission in 1944 as a laborer.



(Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouimette) Shown from left are Paul Godfrey, Anne Ely and Mark Lindhult standing next to a poster Lindhult made using photos of Les and Terry Campbell, and some of Les’ photos of the Quabbin Reservoir.

After he graduated from Ware High School, Les became a Junior Civil Engineer.

He later went on to work in the Water Quality Laboratory upstairs in the Quabbin Administration Building where he stayed for 44 years, retiring in 1988.

Les was also an award-winning photographer, becoming nationally and internationally known for his wildlife photography.

“His photography came from his love of birds,” said Anne Ely, board member of the Friends and member of both the PVPA and Quabbin Photo Group.

Ely spoke about how Les would welcome photographers to his home and taught classes on how to matte and frame their photographs.

“There’s a number of photographers in the Valley that now frame their work because Les taught that class,” she said.

“He’d help any photographer,” Godfrey added. Les was also a pioneer in photography techniques including the innovative use of flash. He also developed lap dissolve multiprojector slide presentations.

“He had an international road show set to music,” said Mark Lindhult. This show included the use of 12 projectors.

Lindhult is also a board member of the Friends group and a member of the photography clubs, and he remembered how warm and welcoming Les was to club members.

“The notion of a ‘friendly critique’...it’s really pervaded both photography groups,” he said.

Ely and Lindhult said that while Les was responsible for many slide and photographic advancements, he never patented his work.

Ely said Les brought photography groups to the Quabbin Reservoir from all over the country, and he was instrumental in bringing the New England Camera Club Council to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

“He was very giving, his house was always open,” she said.

Godfrey said Les was involved with the master plan committee at MDC in 1975 and he proposed the creation of the Visitor Center, which didn’t immediately come to fruition.

By the 1980s, his proposal had piqued the interest of MDC Commissioner William Geary and state Sen. Robert Wetmore.

“They liked the idea and between the two of them, they made it real,” Godfrey said.

Les and Terry then formed the Friends group, comprised of a diverse group of people from around the region.

Terry quickly moved into the volunteer position of keeping the Visitor Center manned by a staff of Friends group volunteers for several years until she was hired as a Program Coordinator in 1988.

Terry started holding Tuesday Teas, a gathering for those displaced by the reservoir to talk about their feelings and get to know each other as they would have if they still lived in their original towns.

Tuesday Teas continue to be held the first Tuesday of each month at the Visitor Center.

Les amassed a large collection of photos taken of the towns lost to the Quabbin Reservoir, and he made stunning triptychs which are displayed in the Visitor Center.

These triptychs show views of the same place over time in a three-photo series, starting with photos taken by engineers before and during the construction of the reservoir, followed by a recent photo taken by Les.

“Everywhere you look, there’s a Les or Terry touch,” Godfrey said, gesturing around the Visitor Center.

Both Les and Terry were passionate about educating people about the Quabbin Reservoir, Godfrey said. “There’s so much more here than just water,” he said.

The dedication ceremony will be held at the Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, on Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m. There will be guest speakers and refreshments.

A former student of Les’ will be videotaping the ceremony.

Those wishing to attend need to register by May 12.

People can register by visiting <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8813b059a7d6416dad1cf461453a55c1>, calling the Visitor Center at 413-323-7221, emailing godfrey@umass.edu or mailing Paul Godfrey, 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

When calling, emailing or mailing, please include your name, address, phone number, email, number of guests joining you, as well as any special needs you or your guests may have.

About Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

The Friends of Quabbin, Inc. is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing public enjoyment and appreciation of the unique natural and historical resources of the Quabbin Reservation.

Through annual membership dues and donations, the Friends are able to continue this work, as well as preserve key pieces of the landscape, including the Keystone Bridge in New Salem. The stone bridge has suffered damage and needs extensive repairs in order to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Donation forms are available on foquabbin.org and can be mailed along with checks made payable to “Friends of Quabbin, Inc” to Friends of Quabbin, Inc., 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007.

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Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce goes bowling at Diamond Junction



Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce members enjoyed a night of bowling at Diamond Junction Bowling.



Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce members enjoyed bowling and socializing.



In between bowling, members enjoyed food provided by Apollo 1 Pizza and TJ's Pop, as well as cider from Easthampton Cider Project.



Andrew Surprise pulls the winning ticket for the Red Sox ticket giveaway.



Municipal employees take aim at the pins.

CHAMBER | from page 1

trepreneurs to the largest corporations.” visibility throughout the region. The Chamber offers training and seminars to help small businesses improve and expand, and boost business For more information about the Chamber, visit qhma.com.



Jan McCoy speaks animatedly with Anthony Surprise.



Photo submitted by Jan McCoy

Diamond Junction Manager Kristen Havens greeted members.



Photo submitted by Jan McCoy

Cindy Skowrya and teammates wait their turn to bowl.



Photo submitted by Jan McCoy

TJ's Pop brought gourmet popcorn.



Chamber members enjoy social outings throughout the year.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department reported 543 incidents on its log for April 18-25, including:

April 20

Emanuel Diaz, 18, of 2042 Main Street apt. 7 in Three Rivers was charged with domestic assault and battery. No other details were provided.

April 22

Officers responded to Baystate Wing Hospital after a call about a

missing person. No other details were provided.

Also that day, Ryan E. Coolidge, 30, of 9 Silva Street in Monson, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a number plate violation following a traffic stop in the vicinity of Breckenridge Street.

April 24

Officers responded to a complaint of assault and battery at Baystate Wing Hospital. No other details were provided.

Fire Logs

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call from April 18-24.

April 23 at 5:54 a.m. Responded to Palmer Road for a telephone pole on fire. Returned to service at 6:22 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to three fire calls and 14 medical assist calls from April 17-23.

April 19 at 5:41 p.m. Responded to State Avenue for a smoke investigation. Returned to service at 5:52 p.m.

April 22 at 3:02 p.m. Responded to Highland Avenue to assist EMS. Returned to service at 4:50 p.m.

April 23 at 9:22 a.m. Responded to Main Street for an odor investigation. Returned to service at 12:10 p.m.

service at 4:35 p.m. April 20 at 4:26 p.m. Responded to Hill Street in Thorndike for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 4:44 p.m.

April 23 at 2:01 p.m. Responded to Wilbraham Street for a lock-out. Returned to service at 2:54 p.m.

April 25 at 7:32 a.m. Responded to North Main Street for a motor vehicle accident with no injury. Returned to service at 10:20 a.m.

April 25 at 10:06 a.m. Responded to North Main Street for an alarm activation. Returned to service at 10:20 a.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department logged four calls from April 18-24:

April 21 at 9:15 a.m. Responded to Pine St for an EMS incident. Returned to service at 9:40 a.m.

April 21 at 11:48 a.m. Responded to Overlook Drive for an EMS incident. Returned to service at 12:12 p.m.

April 21 at 1:36 p.m. Responded to Palmer Road for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 1:50 p.m.

April 23 at 10:24 p.m. Responded to Belanger Street for a propane leak. Returned to service at 11:07 p.m.

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 12 calls from April 18-25:

April 19 at 5:47 p.m. Responded to Bridge Street for an unauthorized burning. Returned to service at 6:14 p.m.

April 20 at 3:41 p.m. Responded to Wilbraham Street for a motor vehicle accident with injury. Returned to

Monson nonprofit invites public to family travel fair

MONSON — Thanks to support from the Mass Cultural Council, Travelnitch will be hosting Spring into Adventure: A Family Travel Fair on Saturday, June 10, at Silver Bell Farm.

This event, which is supported by a Mass Cultural Council Festivals Grant, is open to the public and free to attend. Travel vendors will be on site to provide information – and inspiration – for families looking to get out and explore locally this summer, a press release states.

“With help from our friends in the travel community, we are introducing our neighbors to the wonders of Western Mass – and backyard travel,” according to Amanda Renna, founder and CEO at Travelnitch.

The Monson-based nonprofit already has a commitment from local partners such as Springfield Museums, Storowton Village Museum, Treetop Adventures, and Zoar Outdoors, but re-

mains open to new partnerships.

Renna said she hopes Spring into Adventure will become the organization's signature event, bringing together local businesses and families who love to travel.

“This family travel fair is an opportunity to provide parents with everything they need to plan their summer-from free outdoor activities to family-friendly, rainy-day fun,” she said.

The fun begins on-site with an alpaca meet and greet courtesy of Windy Crow Farm and stuff-your-own travel pals courtesy of Capt'n Cod's Bear Cove. The Silver Bell Farm food and ice cream truck will offer up tasty treats and the World on Wheels will be open for business. Travelnitch will even be raffling off tickets to Old Sturbridge Village, Six Flags, Storyland and more. For more information, go to travelnitch.org.

DONATE LIFE | from page 4

do so. I have a feeling I'll be a match. If you're both OK with it, point me in the right direction for the next step.” That direction was to Baystate Medical Center where she learned she was indeed a match.

One year later, Kelleher noted she “still walks 10,000 steps a day, and recently started playing Pickleball.”

“I am as active as ever, life is good, and one kidney is definitely enough for me. Whenever I share my story, people are amazed. My hope is that, down the road, one of them will also say ‘Yes’ to becoming a living organ donor. The need is great, but the reward is even greater,” Kelleher said.

Baystate Medical Center participates in a national kidney exchange program, the National Kidney Registry, commonly referred to as a ‘swap’ program. National exchanges facilitate more kidney donations and more transplants with the goal being to find the right kidney for the right person. The struggle of compatibility is no longer a worry for a donor and recipient because the exchange program allows pairs the opportunity to move forward in the process, even if not compatible. A donor and his or her recipient can choose

a path of direct donation, if compatible, or a kidney swap by way of paired exchange or voucher program. The voucher program allows donors to give now, and the intended recipient to receive a voucher that guarantees a living donor kidney when one is needed.

Living kidney donation has become more accessible and possible than ever before. Those who wish to learn about living kidney donation are encouraged to reach out to the Baystate Transplant Living Donor Nurse Coordinator.

“It is a pleasure and honor to work with those who even just consider living donation,” said Nancy Dias, BSN, RN, Baystate's living donor coordinator.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Services at 413-794-2321. To learn more about organ and tissue donation, contact New England Donor Services at 1-800-466-6362 or visit neds.org. Also, for more information on Baystate Medical Center's Kidney Transplant Program, visit <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/surgery/specialties/transplant>.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:50 P.M.** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the installation of a new septic system for the property located at 218 Wilbraham Rd., Assessors Map 028, Parcel 024, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owners are William & Amanda Skinner.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
04/27/2023

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Administration Building 110 Main Street. It is proposed to Amend the Monson Zoning Bylaws by adding new sections to 1.7 Definitions and make modifications as drafted to §4.1 Floodplain. A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw is on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board and is available on the Town website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
Monson Planning Board
04/27, 05/04/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

NISSAN VIN: JN8AZ18W49W147526
Megan Fortune 30 Flynt Ave Monson, MA; **NISSAN VIN: 5N1ED28462C515047**
Juliet Powell 23 Echo Lane East Hartford, CT; **VOLKSWAGON VIN: 3VWSK69MX2M103645**
Donald LaFleur 2214 Main St. Three Rivers, MA; **JEEP VIN: 1J4NF1FB2BD211032**
Jill Lovely 26 Northampton Ave. Springfield, MA; **FORD VIN: 3FA6P0K9XGR319293**
Adam Atwell 146 College Hwy Apt 3 Southampton, MA. This auction is to take place on **May 5, 2023, 10:00 A.M.** at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069. 04/20, 04/27, 05/04/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD175469EPI
Estate of:
Julia K Midura
Date of Death: 02/05/1978
CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Brad M Dimiero of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court Ratify and Confirm a Doubtful Act of the Fiduciary all as more fully set forth in said petition. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 05/31/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 14, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/27/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 8:00 P.M.** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the activity associated with the manual removal, cutting, and treating of invasive species along Lakeshore Dr and lake access R.O.W.'s for the properties located at Pulpit Rock Lake, Assessors Map 005, Parcel 034Q, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owners are the Pulpit Rock Pond Preservation Trust.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
04/27/2023

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Jason R. Voyik and Kaitlyn M. Voyik to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, a limited liability company, its successors and assigns, dated April 14, 2011 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 18737, Page 373 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on March 17, 2016 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 21099, Page 474, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, a limited liability company, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 20530, Page 476 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 AM on May 11, 2023** at 1 Lakeshore Drive, Monson, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land, with buildings thereon located on the westerly side of Silver Street, Monson, Hampden County, being shown and designated as Lot 1 on a plan by Sherman & Woods dated September 5, 2001 entitled "Plan of Land in Monson, Prepared for Lemon & Lemon Land Development" recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 322 Page 50, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

NORTHERLY by Lot 2 as shown on said plan, 372.22 feet;

EASTERLY by Silver Street as shown on said plan, 201.00 feet;

SOUTHERLY by Lake Shore Drive as shown on said plan, 154.54 feet;

And **WESTERLY** by land now or formerly of Paul M. Brodeur et ux, 378.94 feet. Containing 1,377 acres and being a portion of the premises described in deed dated July 17, 2001 recorded in Book 11802 Page 305 and in Book 11802 Page 308.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagees herein by Deed of David P. Paradis, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, simultaneously herewith.

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

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

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS PC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 17-002171 04/20, 04/27, 05/04/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P0773EA**
Estate of:
James Jacob Hard
Also Known As:
James J. Hard
Date of Death:
October 04, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kristen Casucci** of Brookfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration of the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 04/27/2023

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HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WARREN HOUSING AUTHORITY

WARREN, MA The Warren Housing Authority seeks an experienced housing administrator or managing agent to lead and manage its programs, properties, and contracts. The Warren Housing Authority owns and operates 60 units of state-aided elderly/handicapped public housing, 4 units of state-aided family housing, 11 MRVP, six Section 8 new construction units, and 66 HCV currently administered through a third party. Required Minimum Qualifications: A minimum of two years' experience in housing management, community development, public administration, or a closely related field; knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances, and maintenance systems in public and private housing; excellent written and verbal communication skills; knowledge of laws regulating State and Federal housing programs; clearly demonstrated management and organization skills, and; experience working with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from a HUD/DHCD approved accrediting organization is desired or must be obtained within one year of employment. The successful candidate must be able to pass a criminal background check prior to final selection. The annual salary range is up to \$62,775.00 depending upon experience, certifications, and in accordance with the DHCD Executive Director Salary Schedule/Calculation worksheet. The work week is 26 hrs. per week and includes a generous benefit portfolio. Candidates should apply in confidence by submitting cover letter and resume to: <https://files.constantcontact.com/a08b9b0e001/042de6b4-8e7b-4f6b-ad76-4321183847e9.docx> Managing agent respondents should submit a proposal to that same address. Closing date is close of business on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Late submissions will not be accepted. The Warren Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, women, veterans, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

HELP WANTED

WARREN PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

is accepting applications for seasonal positions of Summer Recreation Supervisor/ Summer Recreation Counselor and Lifeguards. Job description and applications available at www.warren-ma.gov or Town Clerk's Office, Charles E. Shepard Bld., 48 High Street, Warren, MA. Mail applications to Warren Parks & Rec., P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083. Deadline: June 1, 2023. Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

FOOD CONCESSION SEEKS HELP

May 10-13, cleaning, sandwich making, serving. Position requires long days standing, walking, email Ellen for more information @ realm4712@aol.com

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@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 mharrison@turley.com.

NEXT WEEK

FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD: The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road in Monson, presents actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays Eleanor Roosevelt in a program, "First Lady Of The World" at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, during an open house event. Using costumes, audio, slides and attention to detail, Faye tells Roosevelt's story as a child, wife, mother, first lady and widow. Free, but donations appreciated.

UPCOMING

PLANT SALE: The Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo on Main Street. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available starting at \$3. Rain date is May 20.

PLANT SALE: Down To Earth Gardeners holds its 25th annual Plant Sale 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 20, at the United Methodist Church, 162 Main Street Monson (across from Dunkin' Donuts). There will be a large selection of plants for shade or for sun, including perennials, ground cover, shrubs, herbs and more. For more information, call Debi at 267-5207.

DINNER AND CONCERT: The Music Committee of First Church of Monson, 5 High Street, will host a dinner and concert on Saturday, May 20. Dinner, at 5 p.m., will consist of chicken parmigiana, pasta, salad, Italian bread and dessert. At 7 p.m., West Mass Brass will present a concert featuring its all-volunteer brass band performing in the British tradition. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$20 and can be purchased by calling Gail at 413-267-4818. Concert tickets only are \$5 and will be available at the door.

INTERESTS

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Rd. to learn or practice different crafts. 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 sign posts). 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.

ONGOING

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.

BINGO: 6:25 p.m., Mondays. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. At Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers.

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.

DEATH NOTICES

Bedard, Chester R.
Died April 22, 2023
Services May 2, 2023

Hitchcock (Caron), Judith J.
Died April 19, 2023
Funeral May 20, 2023

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 \$100, 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.

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 mharrison@turley.com.

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O B I T U A R I E S

Chester R. Bedard, 79

PALMER – Chester R. Bedard, 79 passed away peacefully on April 22, 2023 at Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital in Ludlow with his family by his side. Born January 28, 1944, in Ware, Massachusetts. He was the son of the late Hector J. Bedard and Sophie V. (Lech) Bedard. After graduating from Hardwick High School, he went on to enlist in the Navy, and served as a Corpsman in Vietnam. After his service to his country, he worked for Pratt & Whitney, then went on to work and retire from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chet also served for 42 years as a fire fighter with the Hardwick, Monson and Palmer Fire Departments, along with being an EMT for Monson and Palmer Ambulance. He enjoyed traveling, watching the Red Sox and if he had the time, the beach or coastline was the places he loved to be the most. Nothing better than waking up seeing the

sun and heading for a drive to the beach for the day. He was happy just sitting on the rocks listening to the waves. To end the day, he would stop at one of his many seafood restaurants to enjoy some steamers and lobster. Looking back, it was clear how important those trips with him would become for anyone that went along. We all knew that it didn't matter what the map or GPS said was the best route to get there, he had his way and would take the "scenic route". When you had the pleasure of taking the scenic route with Chet, you had to come to terms with the fact that time no longer mattered. You just had to enjoy the trip itself and not just the destinations partnered with nonstop polka music which he loved to listen to. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by



his stepmother, Mary (Lanou) Bedard. Chet leaves his wife of 26 years, Sandy Bedard of Bondsville, his daughter Kym Perry and David of Palmer, son, Jason Bedard and Chelle of Brimfield, stepson's Chris Leroux and Tina of Palmer and Joe Leroux and Lori of Barre. He also leaves his grandchildren Tiffany and Clay Bedard, Brett Miller, and Chris Leroux. Along with his 2 beloved dogs Bailey and Lola. The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Encompass for the great care they gave Chet. Calling hours will be Tuesday May 2 from 5:00-7:00 PM at Beers & Story Funeral Home in Palmer. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Pawsafe.org. For more information or to sign the online guest book, please visit www.beersandstory.com

Judith J. (Caron) Hitchcock, 84

Brimfield – Judith J. (Caron) Hitchcock, 84, was surrounded by her loving family when she died peacefully at her home on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Judy was predeceased by her husband of nearly 60 years, Charles Robert "Bob" Hitchcock, who died May 13, 2021. They were married September 2, 1961. She is survived by her sons, Robert Hitchcock of Charlton, and Jonathan Hitchcock of Brimfield, and by her daughter, Mary Jane Gaumond of Warren; her grandchildren, Marcel Gaumond of Warren, Macey Gaumond of Worcester, and G. Beck Gaumond of West Brookfield; her brother, Roger Caron of West Brookfield; and by many nieces and nephews. Judy was predeceased by her grandson, Charles "Chas" Hitchcock, who died July 22, 2015, and by a brother, Phil Caron who died in 2016.

Born in Southbridge on May 14, 1938, Judy was the daughter of the late Philius and Marie Jeanne (Tetreault) Caron. She was a graduate with the class of 1956 from the former Mary E. Wells High School in Southbridge. She graduated with the class of 1959 from the former Worcester Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, and worked for 50 years as a Registered Nurse at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. Judy was a member of the St. Christopher's Women's Club, and also of the Brimfield Senior Center. She enjoyed gardening, flea markets, and most of all, her friends and her family. A calling hour will be held



at St. Christopher's Church, 16 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 11AM-12:15PM prior to Judy's funeral Mass. Her Mass will begin at 12:30PM. Burial will immediately follow at Brimfield Cemetery. The family requests in lieu of flowers that you kindly consider making a memorial donation to the St. Christopher's Women's Club, 16 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 or to Hitchcock Free Academy, P.O. Box 155, Brimfield, MA 01010. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA is handling arrangements. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

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Second Chance asks for help with injured 8-month old puppy

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is caring for a sweet 8-month-old shelter pup who suffered serious trauma to his leg.

Natty came to Second Chance in great pain, enduring one of the most serious injuries a dog can face - a degloving injury to his leg. Skin and tissue were torn from the bone and muscle, leaving his limb exposed and vulnerable.

Second Chance veterinarians attempted to save Natty's leg, but unfortunately, the injury was too severe. Despite pain meds and monitoring, he was in so much distress and pain that he was trying to chew his leg off.

Doctors had no choice but to amputate his leg to provide him with comfort.

"Natty was rushed into surgery this morning. We couldn't let him wait another moment in pain, but now we're asking for help. The costs for Natty's care and surgery are great due to the severity of his injury," said Second Chance Chief Development Officer Lindsay Doray in a press release. "We estimate his care may be close to \$2,500 and we're grateful for any help for this sweet pup. Donations will help give Natty and pets like him who come to Second Chance with major medical needs."

Those interested in helping can visit secondchanceanimals.org/natty to make a donation. Checks can also be mailed to Second Chance, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.



Natty is an 8-month-old puppy suffering from serious leg trauma.

29th Annual Spring Monson Art Show

By Mya Walker
Intern correspondent

"One of the best [shows] we have ever had!" says Alan Morin, a Committee Member and entered artist of the 29th Annual Spring Monson Arts Show. Located in the center of Monson and spread between two venues, the House of Art and Memorial Hall, this event shouldn't be missed.

The show features multiple different types of art that can fit into four different categories: Painting, Photography, Graphic Arts, and Three Dimensional Arts. Once in attendance, the art speaks for itself, ranging from methodically put-together sculptures to beautiful landscape paintings. Not only can you view great art, but you can buy some, too; the House of Art is also home to a gift shop, The Gallery Store, showcasing many handmade trinkets and accessories.

For most artists, it may not be a leisurely place to present their art, though. The Council holds a contest with multiple different awards every year, like the President's Award, the Committee Choice Award, and, for the first time, the Edward and Shirley Lastoff Prize, an award in the name of artist Linda Lastoff's parents.

This small but mighty display also gives a "contemporary city meets quaint hometown," feel and is

just what the locals of Monson and surrounding areas needed for a weekend endeavor. Many felt pride in the fact that the area contains so many artistically talented people.

For example, Lisa Anderson of Belchertown stated, "We're fortunate to live in an area that has so many talented people in it... I appreciate the fact that I can just pop in easily and enjoy some art locally, and not have to go into the city". If you're in the area on April 29 or 30, you should attend the Spring Monson Arts Show- you wouldn't regret it.



(left to right): Hannah Harvester, Matthew Cowles, Matthew Mattingly, Tom Ouellette, Gail Bacon "Drying Flowers" (The Edward and Shirley Lastoff Memorial Prize), Brian McQuillan "Molly" (Committee Choice Award)



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Alan Morin and his painting, "Snow Dog"



Artists shown from left to right: Catherine Smith, In Sun Russell, Joe St. John, Cynthia Andrews, Rachel Clark



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Artists shown from left to right: Frank J. Bly (Both Clown Pictures), Maurita Eaton, Maggie Hodges, Carol Dunn, Peter "Root Tree Portraits II: La Chapelle Baloue (Honorable Mentions)



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