



**PETS OF THE WEEK**  
**Meet Jasper & Shadow**  
 Page 2



**SCHOOLS**  
**Spring Fling in Palmer**  
 Page 8



**SPORTS**  
**Monson competes at Dunkin' Park**  
 Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

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

www.journalregister.turley.com

**COMMUNITY**

## Town-wide clean-up held on Earth Day

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EARTH DAY | page 5



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

## Boomer gives the assist to help promote poster contest

By Harrison Giza  
 Staff Writer  
 hgiza@turley.com

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

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

Students were thrilled to see

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

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

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

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

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

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

morning and throughout the afternoon.

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

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

POSTER | page 6

**COMMUNITY**

## ‘Pasta for a Purpose’ event to benefit heroic officer

By Harrison Giza  
 Staff Writer  
 hgiza@turley.com



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

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

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

OFFICER | page 5

**COMMUNITY**

## Board approves special permits for storage facility

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

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

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

**Bliss Street**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Margaret Street**

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

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

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

PLANNING | page 5

**EDUCATION**

## EARTH DAY celebrated at Monson Schools

By Ryan Drago  
 Staff Writer  
 rdrago@turley.com

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

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

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

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

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

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



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

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

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

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

a story walk for the students to review.

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

Teachers would then come up with ideas to expand the learning

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

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

MONSON | page 7



# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## BASEBALL



Lucas Pignone goes to his side to field the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Mustangs compete at Dunkin' Park

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

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

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

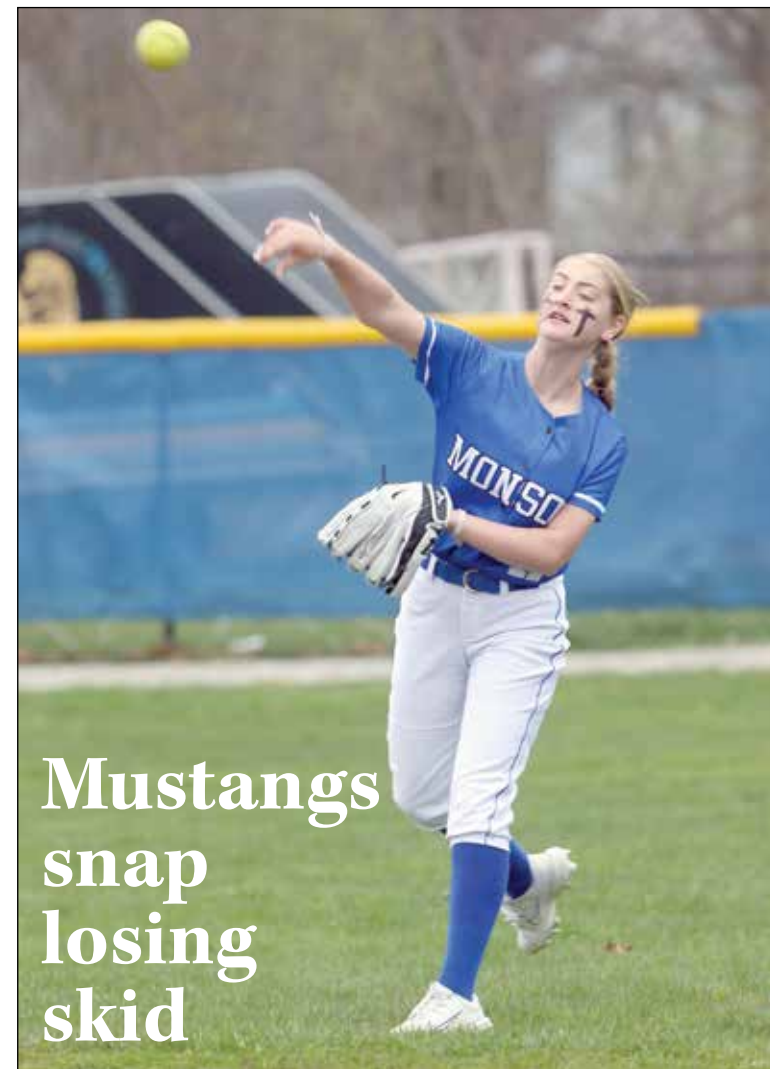
While it was a very memorable experience for both teams, the bus ride back to Massachusetts was a little more enjoyable for the Ware players.

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

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

MUSTANGS | page 10

## SOFTBALL



Madelyn Caron makes a throw in from right field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Mustangs snap losing skid

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

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

## SOFTBALL

## Palmer wins wild marathon with Holyoke



Amhia Mcelreavy sends a throw back to the infield.

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



Lily White tags out a runner at home.



Brooklyn Peloquin fields a grounder to short.

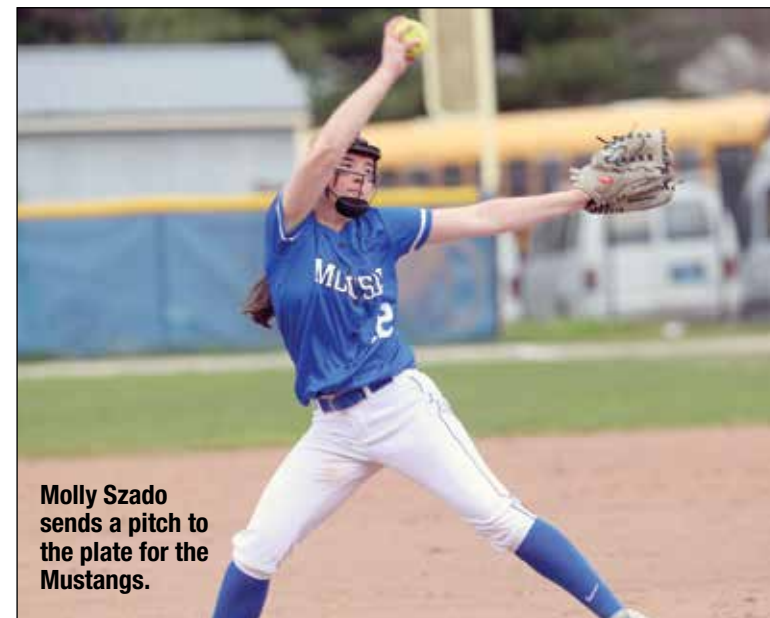
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



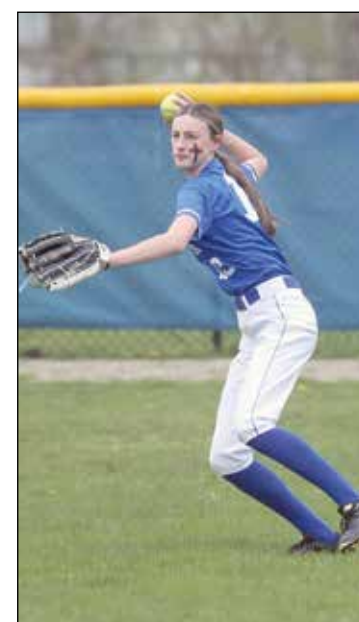
Avigail Lee gets ready to make a throw to second.



Ava Swist sends a throw to first.



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



Emma Bannon fires a throw back to the infield.



Chelsea Hull makes the catch at first base.



## SOFTBALL

## Rain hampers Pioneers early games

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

PATHFINDER | page 10

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

## LACROSSE

## Boys lacrosse splits pair of games

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

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

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



Catcher Mia Matthieu catches the swing and miss.