



**PET OF THE WEEK**  
**Meet Charlotte & Lollipop**  
 Page 2



**BUSINESS**  
**TJ's Pop gourmet popcorn**  
 Page 5



**SPORTS**  
**Palmer loses to Ware**  
 Page 9

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# The Journal Register



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**MONSON**

## Select Board hears plan to improve ADA accessibility

By **Matty Anderson**  
 Staff Writer  
 manderson@turley.com

MONSON – Jim Masik and Mike Kennedy, from the Center of Living and Working in Worcester, went over their four-section plan to improve accessibility and ensure that policies and codes are being followed.

The four sections of their plan included a reference for the town, a self evaluation plan, a transition plan and an appendices survey.

They asked the Select Board at their April 25 meeting, to designate an official Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator and a commission composed of no less than five members.

They asked the Select Board to adopt and distribute a public notice policy and ADA grievance procedure. They pointed out that updates and modifications to procedures would need to be implemented and maintained to meet state law.

Concerns were voiced regarding people in wheelchairs being able to reach things and access spaces. There is also a lack of resources for the deaf and blind communities, such as text to speech tools and sign language interpreters which need to be hired a minimum of fourteen days prior to events.

Kennedy said, “The biggest thing that I as a person with a disability have encountered over the years are ramps and walkways that are not shoveled following a snow storm, that’s just one of many examples of accessibility issues to be

SELECT BOARD | page 6

## Blue skies shine on



Staff photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Paul Holloway, Special Education teacher from Palmer High School, encouraged students during the running jump.

# Special Olympics

*Athletes from five towns compete at annual games*

By **Marcelo Gusmao**  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Last Friday, April 28, Granite Valley Middle School hosted the annual Special Olympics for the surrounding towns.

Attendees of the event got a break from the week of rainstorms as the skies cleared up over the day’s athletic events. Students

from schools in Palmer, Monson, Ludlow, Belchertown, and Wilbraham attended the annual Special Olympics and played a variety of games.

“We’re very honored to host this event,” said Monson’s Superintendent Cheryl Clarke. “This is our fourth year.”

Clarke named Director of Special Education Colette Bidus

SPECIAL OLYMPICS | page 7

**While waiting to greet the Olympians, Palmer High School students Alayna Auclair, Angelica Sychtysz, Genesys Smith, and Esha Ahmad pose together.**



**EDUCATION**

## School Committee makes budgeting plan for grant

By **Rebecca Wehner**  
 Staff Writer  
 rwehner@turley.com

PALMER– School Committee members met last month to discuss the progress of the public school system under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund grant, and address upcoming budget concerns and solutions.

Director of Student Services Colleen Culligan spoke with the Committee on April 26 regarding the obligations under ESSER II, the second phase in the grant that helps public schools transition during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Culligan said that ESSER I was utilized starting in 2020 and has been completed, with the main focus being on technology, health and safety.

“ESSER I was instituted right at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we had reported on it during a School Committee at that time,” Culligan said. “We also had a significant amount of money that was utilized for increasing our capacity for technology hardware, Chromebooks, and hotspots.”

Culligan said that ESSER I’s expenditures have been fully completed at this time, and that they are now focusing on covering the funds for the second phase of the grant.

Prior to the hiring of Matthew Francis, Culligan served as interim superintendent for the district, and she is now working alongside Francis to bring him up to speed on the

SCHOOL | page 3

**EDUCATION**

## Pathfinder students win regional cosmetic contest

By **Marcelo Gusmao**  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder held the eighth annual Cosmetic Contest last week, and saw three students place as winners of the competition.

“Last year, I came in second place,” said Xavier Lagimoniere, who won first place in the fantasy category. This year, Lagimoniere entered a wig stylized to look like a jellyfish, with glowing lights and a blue, pink, and purple color scheme.

“It took me over a week to do the braids,” Lagimoniere said. “I chose the colors because when I think of jellyfish, I think of pink, and purple, and fuschia. Then I did some blue, because I wanted different accent colors on the top, and I painted the mannequin’s neck because I wanted her to look like she was coming out of the water.”

Shayla Ordi won first place in the texture category. Ordi said, “I

wanted to learn how to braid so I could do my sister’s hair, so I did this to help me practice.”

Ordi’s wig is made up of blues and blacks, which she said are her favorite colors. “I did a bunch of different types of braids, like twists and bubble braids,” Ordi said.

As for Giana Santana, the third place winner in the nail category, teachers described her as an exceptional nail technician, who is already a licensed cosmetologist and will be graduating next year. Santana demonstrated that her acrylic nail design included a hand-made swing with a fairy sitting in it.

“The only thing I didn’t make was the gold chain,” Santana said, “but everything else is by hand.”

Pathfinder’s Head of Cosmetology Shelby Raymond compared arranging the event as throwing four weddings.

“We reached out to the other vocational schools, and they came,” Raymond said, naming Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover, Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School in Rochester, Montachusett Regional



Pathfinder Tech students (from left) Shayla Ordi, Giana Santana, and Xavier Lagimoniere each won prizes for their cosmetics.

Vocational School in Fitchburg, Worcester Technical High School, and Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, which started the cosmetic contest back in 2013.

“The abundance of talent from all of the vocational-technical students was displayed prominently

throughout the day. This was a reminder that career and technical students are incredibly prepared, professional, career ready and can apply their academic learning in a stunning display of mastery of their field,” said Superintendent Eric Duda.

**GOVERNMENT**

## There’s still time to weigh in on Chicopee Brook plans

*Climate change a major concern for town agent*

By **Michael Harrison**  
 Correspondent

MONSON — Anyone who missed the “public walkshop” earlier this week about ideas for shoring up Chicopee Brook or the follow-up meeting on May 4, can still provide input.

“There will be an online survey to collect feedback from the community posted on the Town of Monson website,” Town Conservation Agent Toni Uliana said.

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 through a link on the town’s website.

There’s also another opportunity to learn more.

“The concepts of the MVP visioning walkshop will be displayed at the Monson Free Library,” Uliana said.

**Other concerns**

At least one Select Board member said the town should focus more on another environmentally vulnerable area. John Morrell, who was Monson’s highway surveyor for more than half a century before retiring and running for the board over a year ago, said Huey Kidds Brook should be a higher priority.

“I’m not as concerned about Chicopee Brook because they took away a dam to lessen the chance of flooding there and I’m bringing it up at the (May 4) meeting,” he said.

CHICOPEE BROOK | page 6

**LIONS CLUB PANCAKE SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**  
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# Pet of the Week



**CHARLOTTE AND LOLLIPOP**

These are Tami Elaine Prince's adorable work-from-home assistants. Charlotte and Lollipop are rescues from Virginia. Prince said, "They are our world." 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.

## Ashe's staff available to meet

MONSON — A staff member from State Rep. Brian Ashe's office will be available to meet with residents at the following locations on the following dates:

10 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main Street on May 10, June 14, July 12 and Aug. 23.

Also, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Monson Free Library at 2 High Street on May 10, June 14, July 12 and Aug. 16.

If you are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, call Chief of Staff Robin Frechette at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

## Top Floor Learning hosts May Basket Raffle

PALMER — Top Floor Learning, 1455 North Main St., is proud to announce its annual May Basket Raffle has 55 exciting and fun baskets this year.

Donated by individuals, groups, and businesses from all corners of the Pioneer Valley, they are honored by their generosity and creativity. Experiences, art, toys, food, beverages, and more are all available for you to win.

The baskets will be on display on the first floor of the Palmer Public Library beginning May 1 and tickets will be on sale all through the month of May.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

All proceeds from our May Basket Raffle will help Top Floor Learning serve students to reach their goals in adult literacy, high school equivalency preparation, computers and technology, English as a Second Language, reading, writing, math, and many other learning tracks.

Winning tickets will be drawn on June 1. For more information, please check out their Facebook page or website, [www.topfloorlearning.org](http://www.topfloorlearning.org).



(Courtesy Photos)

Motorcyclists from all over the region are invited to the annual "Blessing of the Bikes" on Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m. Rain date is Sunday, May 14 at noon.



The first 100 attendees at the "Blessing of the Bikes" at St. Paul's Church of Palmer will receive an embroidered jack patch.

## 'Blessing of the Bikes' at St. Paul's on May 13

PALMER — Motorcyclists from all over can assemble at St. Paul's Church of Palmer, corner of Park and Central streets, to have motorcycles and riders blessed at the "Blessing of the Bikes" event on Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m.

Rain date is Sunday, May 14 at noon.

It includes a gift of an em-

broidered "Blessings of the Bikes" motorcycle jacket patch for each rider. Local non-profit cycle groups will be represented and will share their unique rider's charities.

The event is free and open to the public.

According to Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's Church, "For many people, rid-

ing a motorbike is more than just a mode of transportation; it's an adventure, a sensation, and an experience unlike any other. It's frequently linked to liberation and the desire to be free of all shackles. It's no wonder that the motorbike has found its way into everyone's hearts. It's one adrenaline-pumping ticket to your liberation. Each rider and their bikes

will have prayers offered for them for safety, joy and companionship of the road and trail. We invite all motorcycle and motorsports enthusiasts out to our blessing. Come as you are, leave blessed!"

The first 100 attendees will receive a free "Blessing of the Bikes" embroidered patch. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

### About St. Paul's Church of Palmer

Since 1937, St. Paul's has faithfully served the greater Palmer community through various outreach and spiritual avenues. At its heart, is the message of grace, acceptance, and love.

For more information, visit [www.StPaulsPalmer.org](http://www.StPaulsPalmer.org).

## MBI awards \$5.1M to Baystate Health for 'digital equity' support

SPRINGFIELD — The Massachusetts Broadband Institute recently awarded \$5.1 million to Baystate Health on behalf of the Alliance for Digital Equity in western Massachusetts.

"Baystate Health along with the Alliance and MBI share the purpose and primary goal of the Digital Equity Partnerships Program to ensure that low-income communities and households in the western Massachusetts region, including those in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties, have access to a wide range of digital equity support and services," Frank Robinson, vice president, Public Health, at Baystate Health said in a news release.

The mission of the Alliance is to assure digital equity for all people, including access to the skills, computer equipment, and reliable high-speed internet needed to operate in the digital world, the release states.

It went on to say "the Alliance believes that digital equity is necessary for people to fully participate in modern

society. It plays a vital role as part of overall personal and community equity because all major parts of life — including health, housing, food, education, employment, childcare, banking, transportation, and civic engagement — have gone online."

A Network of Collaborating Organizations, all of which are subaward grant recipients to Baystate, the primary grant recipient, will implement digital equity solutions. NCOs include: Public Health Institute, Tech Foundry, Community Foundation of Western Mass, Holyoke Community College, Way Finders, Springfield Housing Authority, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Community Action Pioneer Valley, Springfield Partners for Community Action, Viability, New North Citizens Council, Center for New Americans, Stavros, Greenfield Housing Authority, Common Capital, and Western New England University.

These organizations will establish and administer projects in one or more of the following four program areas:

1. Digital Literacy Initiative — \$2,299,235 for NCOs to establish digital literacy training programs to ensure that target populations have the requisite skills to use devices, online resources, and digital tools. NCOs will collaborate with community-based organizations, community colleges, healthcare providers, libraries, senior centers, councils on aging, educational entities, youth groups, and other organizations to deliver digital literacy training that meets the needs of the end user along the continuum — ranging from basic computer skills to digital navigator and digital stewardship models.

2. Connectivity Initiative for Economic Hardship — \$689,313 for broadband connectivity to vulnerable populations through the provision of Wi-Fi cellular hotspots, such as jetpacks, to individuals lacking stable housing and are unable to have a fixed broadband internet subscription. NCOs will work with other organizations that provide social services to homeless or

transitional individuals/families to deploy cellular hotspots to enable this population to access the internet. These organizations include anti-poverty agencies, homeless shelters, social service providers, healthcare providers, and food distribution sites.

3. Public Space Internet Modernization Initiative — \$813,221 for NCOs to make improvements to inadequate broadband infrastructure and digital use in public spaces and increase daily use and services. NCOs will provide grants to entities that currently, or because of broadband improvements, could feature public internet use as a service to users of the space. These entities include libraries, community centers, senior centers, educational facilities, workforce training locations, commercial corridors, or other locations that serve the target populations and can illustrate the need for improved public infrastructure.

4. Outreach and Enrollment — \$1,347,693 for break-

ing down barriers to broadband adoption, involves increasing the number of western Massachusetts residents participating in the Digital Equity Partnership Initiative programs and FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program. NCOs will work with target populations to ensure that effective outreach, education, and adoption assistance is available in concert with other Project Initiatives to ensure their maximum impact. This outreach will involve in-person workshops, call center phone banking, door to door outreach, online or printed communications, public service announcements, and other media activities as deemed necessary.

According to the release, Initiatives are intended to provide services and support for residents of the Commonwealth who can not afford broadband service and/or internet-connected devices or lack the digital literacy skills needed to utilize the internet.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [baystatehealth.org](http://baystatehealth.org).

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### Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto: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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The Journal Register  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

**SCHOOL** | from page 1

school system's budgeting. They are now sending out reports on the ESSER I and II expenditures, and working to close the budget gap, according to Culligan.

Under ESSER II, the obligations are geared towards salaries, school lunch and wellness programs, additional paraprofessional support, and air quality. Culligan said health and safety also remains a priority in every phase, but with more of an emphasis on getting back to pre-pandemic living.

"Much of the grant has been expanded, so now we are working hard at this time with DESE [the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education] and the federal government to reconcile the numbers to complete the required federal reporting," Culligan said.

According to Culligan, the student services team anticipates an offset of \$955,000, which will be critical for balancing the 2022-2023 budget. Culligan will further address budget concerns and outline plans on how to reduce this gap in the coming weeks with Sara Menard, the interim Director of Finance and Operations.

Each budget category will be examined to determine where necessary cuts will need to be made, Culligan said. Through this planning process, some funds may be able to be pulled from other categories or grants could be utilized to increase the offsets.

Culligan has already trimmed back the budget for out-of-district tuition and special education, but she assured the board that it will not currently negatively impact these services if students are in need of them.

The current goal for student services according to Culligan is to request funds from the cash reserve that encompasses the allotted 14% Operational Services Division increase, as the town contribution thus far has been \$500,000.

Culligan said there is still hope that a special education stabilization fund will be created for the district to use, in which case the cash reserve would no longer be necessary to close the gap.

Reports on the budget will continue during the May school committee meeting. Meetings can be streamed at [m-pact.tv](http://m-pact.tv).

**DEVELOPMENT**

**Firms interested in potential of former Omega Mill property**

By **Michael Harrison**  
Correspondent

MONSON — A once-stalled initiative that could lead to the re-development of acres of prime local real estate is now back in play.

Two firms submitted proposals in response to a request for qualifications, officials said, as the town looks for ways to rehabilitate the former Omega Mill property at 21 Bliss Street. The mid-19th century mill along Chicopee Brook was effectively abandoned following a major chemical spill in 1989.

The main site and two adjacent properties — over 12 acres in all — could be used to create senior citizen housing and a riverwalk, according to an assessment prepared by the UConn School of Engineering. Other officials said redeveloping the

site could be an economic-driver for Monson.

After an initial RFQ last year failed to attract any interest, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, which is working with the town to turn the long-neglected property into something useful, issued a second one earlier this year. The two proposals were received not long before the April 21 deadline, according to Gabriel Filer, a senior planner with the PVPC, who oversees an Omega Mill re-use and feasibility study for the town.

He declined to name the firms during the evaluation process.

"I'm now working with my colleagues at the town administrator's office to review them and hopefully we're going to select a final contractor to kick off the project," Filer said.

"They (both) put together

very compelling responses to make it a more user-friendly place and increase commerce in the town."

Filer explained that "the RFQ is a study to create a blueprint of what it could look like."

The need for affordable senior housing is often mentioned during public meetings and in Monson social media discussions. The UConn study points out that, according to the 2020 census, the town's senior population rose during the prior decade and now 17% of the population is age 65 or older.

"Housing can be part of the equation," Filer said.

"It's definitely a possibility. We're looking potentially at senior housing. We're also looking at a park. It all depends on what the study spells out."

Although there was an EPA-supervised cleanup of the

property following the chemical spill, more extensive environmental assessments would be needed before any re-development plans could progress. The UConn study points out that the main Omega Mill building contains several environmental hazards, including asbestos and lead, and that groundwater samples — there's an aquifer running beneath the property — tested for "elevated concentrations of cadmium, weak acid dissociable cyanide and nickel."

In the meantime, the prospect of being able to add residential units aimed at serving low-income seniors is appealing to some town officials.

"I think it would be good to have senior housing there if everything can be cleaned up," Selectman John Morrell said.

"We certainly need senior housing."

Morrell also noted that some basic infrastructure, such as water and sewer pipes, are already in place, which should make the property easier to re-develop.

Filer, referencing the former mill's harnessing of Chicopee Brook for energy, said using some of the property for future hydroelectric, solar or wind power production could also be considered.

Although the project is still in the earliest of phases, there's a reason for residents and town officials to be optimistic, Filer said.

"We're really excited for the town and to start this study," he said.

"When you create the study, it's a gateway to what could be the future for unlocking that land and I think it's a great first step."

**Top Floor Learning hosts May Basket Raffle**

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Donated by individuals, groups, and businesses from all corners of the Pioneer Valley, they are honored by their generosity and creativity. Experiences, art, toys, food, beverages, and more are all available for you to win.

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Winning tickets will be drawn on June 1.

For more information, please check out their Facebook page or website, [www.topfloorlearning.org](http://www.topfloorlearning.org).

**Crafters, history material needed for Zucchini Festival**

HOLLAND — This year's town Zucchini Festival will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Aug. 20, at the Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road.

Organizers are looking for crafts vendors, especially any that didn't participate last year. They also are hoping someone can contribute anything history related that helps tell the story of Holland that can be displayed. Last year, a painting by Lynn Wrona, that showed the old hotel that used to be in town that showed some of the Sichel property and more was the historical centerpiece.

There will be free table space for nonprofits and "we will be looking for people who want to register their antique cars," according to a press release.

"We are bringing the zucchini cookoff competition back and the biggest zucchini winner. Lots of fun will be happening, so save the date."

To speak with the organizers and for more information, call 245-3163, email [communitycenter@hollandma.org](mailto:communitycenter@hollandma.org) or stop by the center.

**Baystate names new VP and director of heart and vascular**

SPRINGFIELD — David Bull, MD, has been named vice president and medical director of Heart and Vascular at Baystate Health.

His appointment becomes effective at the end of August.

Most recently, Bull served as chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, at the University of Arizona. He attended medical school and completed a surgical residency at the University of California San Francisco and the University of Arizona and completed fellowships in Vascular Surgery at the University of Arizona and in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

Bull served as chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Utah for seven years and spent three years as the executive director of several inter-



Dr. David Bull

grated practice units within the Cardiovascular Service Line there. He then became the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Professor of Surgery at the University of Arizona.

Academically inclined throughout his career, Bull has served on several national scientific and clinical committees and has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers in medical literature. He has performed extramurally-funded translational research and holds more than one dozen patents related to cellular- and gene-based therapy.

Bull specializes in aortic surgery, valvular heart disease, heart and lung transplantation, and cardiothoracic critical care.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [BaystateHealth.org](http://BaystateHealth.org).

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Computer Security Class in conjunction with POST Computer Systems on Wednesday, May 24th at 1pm

**May Basket Raffle begins May 1**  
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All baskets will be on display beginning May 1st

**Contact Us**  
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email: [info@topfloorlearning.org](mailto:info@topfloorlearning.org)



**Palmer Fire & Water District #1**  
**Notice of Annual District Meeting**  
May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
The Annual District Meeting of the Palmer Fire & Water District No. 1 will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at Palmer Public Library

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

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grade K	2	Grade 7	10
Grade 1	4	Grade 8	10
Grade 3	4	Grade 9	5
Grade 4	4	Grade 10	5
Grade 5	1		

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 2, 2023.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on June 2, 2023, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 4, 2023.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at [www.belchertownps.org](http://www.belchertownps.org) or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

*The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.*



## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Will minor children get Social Security benefits if father claims at age 62?

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 62 in 2024 and am considering starting benefits at that time. I will have two children under the age of 18. One of them will be 10 and the other 15. Will they be able to draw benefits in addition to my benefits?

Signed: Father of Two

**Dear Father of Two:** Yes, if you claim your Social Security retirement benefits at 62, your minor children will be able to get benefits from you until they are 18 years old or up to 19 if still in high school. You will likely be designated as Representative Payee for those benefits and will be obligated to use them only for your children's behalf, which could include simply saving the money for their future. But there's more to consider.

Normally, a minor child is eligible for 50% of the parent's full retirement age (FRA) entitlement even if you claim at 62, but Social Security's Family Maximum will likely restrict each child's benefit to make it less than 50%. Then, once the 15 year old ages-out of eligibility at 18 or 19, the younger child's benefit will increase to the full 50% of your FRA amount. That is unless you are married and your wife will also be collecting a spousal benefit on your record. In that case the Family Maximum will limit payments for all of the dependents receiving payments based on your SS record for both your children and your wife. Generally, the Family Maximum is between 150% and 188% of your FRA entitlement, from which your own FRA entitlement is subtracted, leaving 50% to 88% of the Family Maximum for your dependents.

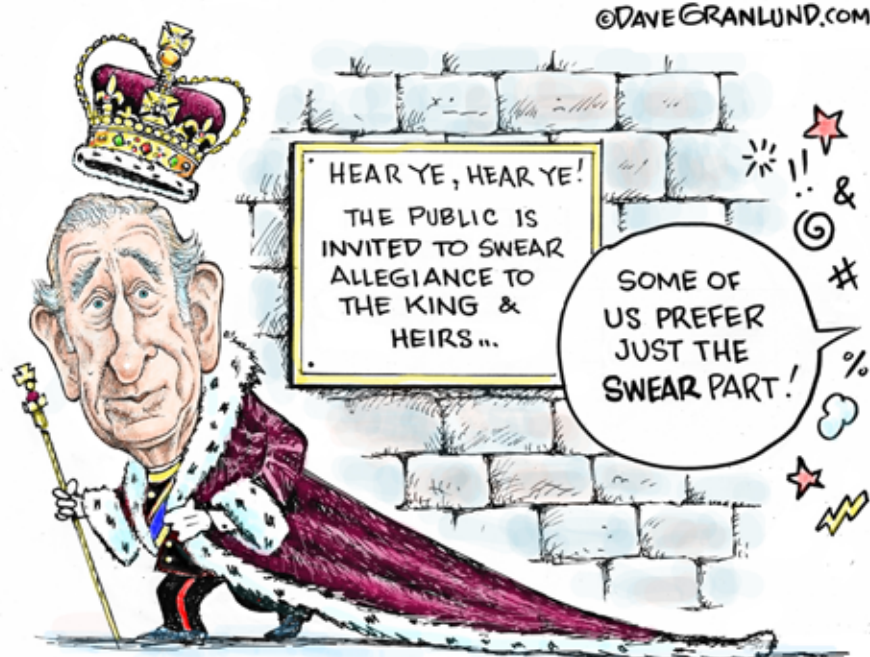
It's important to remember that by claiming your own SS retirement benefit at age 62 your monthly payment will be cut by 30% you'll get 70% of your FRA entitlement and that is a permanent reduction. So, you may wish to evaluate whether the money your children will get until they are 18 will offset the lifetime reduction to your own benefit payment. Your life expectancy is important when making that decision, and if you wish to estimate your potential longevity I suggest using this tool: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

It's also important to remember that claiming benefits before your full retirement age will mean that, if you work, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. The earnings limit changes annually (it's \$21,240 for 2023) and, if the limit is exceeded, SS will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will withhold future benefits to recover anything you owe for exceeding the earnings limit and, if your benefits are withheld for this reason, your dependents' benefits will also be withheld for those same months. So, your plans for working should be weighed carefully in deciding whether to claim your Social Security benefits early.

To summarize: If you won't work full time after age 62 and you're comfortable with 70% of your FRA benefit entitlement for the rest of your life, then claiming at 62 will also entitle your children and possibly your wife to dependent benefits restricted by the Family Maximum. But, if you continue to work full time, Social Security's earnings test will likely mean neither you nor your dependents can receive full Social Security benefits at this time. And for clarity, the earnings limit no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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 [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## April showers make for great transplanting weather

It was a lot of fun to take advantage of the overcast days this week to get some transplanting done.

Do you wonder why it is advantageous to undertake this task when it is cloudy, or even drizzling out? If you guess has to do with less stress on the plants, you are right on target.

Read on for more about what kept me busy and why!!

I hope I am smarting up some when it comes to homegrown seedlings. This year, instead of growing 300 tomato plants (yes, I was a little kooky last year) I downsized to just under 70.

Still enough for me to share but not so many that we have to have a brigade to get the many trays into the house each night that temperatures dip in my unheated greenhouse.

The tomato seeds were sown in the third week of March and were transplanted into 6 packs the second week of April.

Recently, they started to show signs that they were ready to be potted into bigger containers. Height was one giveaway. Secondly, was a root ball that was pretty filled out but not quite root bound (roots swirling in a tight mass).

I lifted each plant from the cell of its 6-pack and positioned the plant on the bottom of a 4" pot and filled in with new potting soil.

Tomatoes are unique in that they will make roots up the stem.

After all the transplanting was done, I gave them a drink or fish emulsion/sea-weed fertilizer to lessen any shock and provide them with a good boost.

Because it was overcast, I was able to do this right in the greenhouse and keep them in there without worry that the sun or heat would be too much for plants that recently had their roots disturbed.

On occasion, when I've been forced to get transplanting done during a sunny stretch, I would immediately water the plants then place the trays of plants in the shade to recover for at least a day or two.

Now, a mention on temperature. Cloudy is one thing, and today with my greenhouse doors closed, 50 degrees outdoors meant a few degrees warmer inside.

I would not keep tomato plants outside if temperatures were colder than

fifty or they will start to show signs of distress. They are much happier at 55 to 60 degrees.

So, for the next couple of weeks, (gasp) in and out they will go each day.

Without a greenhouse would mean moving them around your windows to catch the sun, or placing them back under the grow lights until temperatures moderate. At least I am not moving 300 this year.

Overcast skies were also helpful when it came time to re-do one of my

perennial borders. I did a soil test on this particular garden last year and followed the recommendations to increase nitrogen (blood meal) and potassium (wood ashes).

It is neat that the wood ashes do double duty to get the pH a little higher as well.

Once the amendments were mixed in, I began lifting plants from the old garden, dividing them up and replanting them in the new garden. Some of the plants were overgrown, hence the need for division.

Using a sharp shovel, I simply sliced them down the middle of the clump and if needed, divided the halves into quarters. Now lots of roots were severed in the process, so cloudy skies and the rain that followed really helped to settle the plants into their new locale without shock.

The garden is a collection of plants that butterflies love. I have a butterfly bush in the corner that is 3 years old. That one really frigid night we had where temperatures dipped into the negative double digits killed off top growth, but I am hopeful that growth will return from the crown.

Hopefully, I will see that over the next two to three weeks. What did you accomplish over these cloudy days?

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



## Palmer Senior Center

1029 Central Street, Palmer, MA 01069, (413) 283-2670 Fax (413) 283-2649  
Open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

## MENU

May 8

Spinach and Toma-to Penne Bake, Steamed Peas, WW Bread, Apple Juice, Mandarin Oranges

May 9

Breakfast TBD

May 10

Turkey w/cheddar, Lettuce/Tomato, Po-tato Salad, Oatnut Bread, Fresh Fruit

May 11

Breakfast TBD

May 12

Baked Ham w/Pineapple, Green Beans, Au Gratin Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Pound Cake/Dt. Cookie

All Breakfast are served with Coffee, Milk and Juice \$3.00; Lunch: suggested donation \$2.00; Menu subject to change without notice

## ACTIVITIES

May 8

Bake & Take 1pm  
No Bake Peanut Butter Treats

May 9

Ice Cream Trip "Westview Creamery"  
1 p.m.

May 10

Wheel of Fortune 10 a.m.  
Cornhole 1 p.m.

May 11

Mass EDP 9 a.m.  
Sunshine Village Craft 1 p.m.

May 12

Brown Bag 1-3 p.m.  
Craft Cork Wreath 1 p.m. Rescheduled

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

After attending the Monson Select Board meeting on April 25, 2023, I was compelled to write this letter.

Over the past year, I have attended many Select Board meetings. I have observed many attempts by the Select Board Chairperson Patricia Oney to use excessive restrictions in the rules for the public comments section of the Select Board meetings. It took a Massachusetts Superior Judicial Court decision on March 7, 2023, in a Southborough, Massachusetts case, which determined a civil rights violation took place because of the town's public comment policy. Ms Oney's rules concerning Monson's public comment section of the Select Board meetings were then partially changed. Some politicians may think we are their subjects but in this country, we are citizens who have a Constitutional right to free speech.

Also at the April 25, 2023 Select Board meeting, Ms Oney wanted to ban all political signs and signs in general on all town properties. However, thanks to Select Board members John Morrell and Mary Hull this did not happen. This is why I support a five member Select Board to ensure free speech, have fiscal responsibility and accountability in our town government.

Please come to the Monson Annual Town Meeting, Monday May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Quarry Hill School and make Monson a better community to raise your family. Vote for the 5 member Select Board

Sincerely  
Robert Kaddy

It is almost May and this is the month ruby-throated hummingbirds usually return to this area.

Some people already put out nectar feeders in anticipation of their return. I will put out a nectar feeder this weekend. I usually see the males first, then the females.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird found in Eastern North America.

These birds are only 3 1/2 inches long and are green. The male has a black head, iridescent red throat, which may appear black and a white breast and belly.

The female is green with a whitish throat and underbelly. Eyes and bills are black.

Hummingbirds eat flower nectar, insects, spiders and sap form sapsucker drilled holes. They come to hummingbird feeders.

In spring, the male defends a territory of about 1/4 acre.

In dive displays, he flies in a U shape, rising about 10 to 20 feet on both sides. It resembles the swinging of a pendulum.

After mating, the female lays two white eggs in cup shaped nest of plant down, bud scales, covered with lichens, bound with spider's silk and placed on a small, horizontal limb.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds, both male and female, near migration, will temporarily defend a food source such as nectar feeders. They migrate 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, having stored enough food to make the crossing.

Hummingbirds make varied chips and twittering noises. Their wings make a whirring or humming noise, which is how they got their name.

When I refill a nectar feeder and return to hang it out, I often hear their humming wings, or I will see them perched on a nearby branch.

## Nectar

I mix 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water. The mixture should be brought to a boil to ensure all the sugar dissolves and to eliminate bacteria.

Cool the mixture before setting it out.

It also can be kept in the refrigerator for about a week. It is important to keep nectar feeders clean and change the mixture frequently.

I prefer the nectar feeders that have a moat on top to fill with water to deter ants.

I have several larger birds, who drink water from the moat. I even have downy woodpeckers that drink nectar.

## Nesting bluebirds

A Belchertown resident said he saw a nesting pair of bluebirds in his yard, so he built a bluebird house and now the pair call the bird house home. He succeeded in his quest to attract bluebirds to his yard.

## Pileated woodpeckers

The Belchertown resident also has pileated woodpeckers at his feeders. I often hear pileated woodpeckers calling or hammering away on a tree, but I rarely see one.

The other day, I heard the call and looked up to see one fly from my yard to the woods across the street.

## Ospreys

I received an email this week. The writer visited the site in Wilbraham where osprey had nested previously.

He said, "I saw two osprey at a nest on a light pole. I don't think they are incubation eggs because one bird brought a stick to the nest while I was there and both birds left the nest which I don't think would happen if incubation had started."

He said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

He said, "The nest I saw the birds at was the right most light pole as viewed from the Wilbraham Senior Center." I think I will take a road trip to Wilbraham.

## Other birds

An Oakham couple saw the first grackle of the year last week. I had a male goldfinch in bright yellow plumage perched on my feeder pole recently.

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

## The Journal Register

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

Please send opinions to:  
The Journal Register  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St.,  
Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com)

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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



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# Seasons Pool & Patio to hold grand opening May 6

By Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

MONSON – Seasons Pool & Patio, located at 339 Boston Road, is up and running and will hold its grand opening this Saturday.

With a motto of “Create Paradise in Your Own Backyard,” Seasons Pool & Patio offers a variety of services and items relative to the installation and upkeep of pools and spas.

“What we’re really trying to focus on is high-quality products, knowledge so we can solve your problems, customer service and giving you the call back if you leave a message,” said Seth LeClair, a manager at Seasons Pool & Patio, who brings 29 years of experience in the pool industry to the job.

Although the business has a Wilbraham address, it technically sits in Monson, so the team invites residents from all communities to partake in the festivities on May 6. The event will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, raffles and special pricing on spas, equipment and cleaners.

Business owner Cheryl Lemelin-Hickman said much has been accomplished since the new lease began on March 1. The business was formerly a hardware store; new ownership has built out counterspace, expanded a service window and walked off office space.

“In the past two months,

we’ve basically renovated the whole inside of here. It’s been fast and furious just trying to get ready for the 2023 season. It’s really exciting. There’s a lot of enthusiasm,” Lemelin-Hickman said.

In mid-April, Seasons Pool & Patio completed their first inground installation of the season, creating a 24-foot by 50-foot pool.

By partnering with Lemelin Environmental Services, a second business owned in conjunction with Seasons Pool & Patio, the business has all of the trucks, employees and excavating equipment it needs to install inground pools.

The installation process begins when the team from Seasons Pool & Patio visits a property and learns the customer’s vision. The design phase is then completed before the actual installation occurs, which includes the excavation, the placement of steel walls, the shaping of the pool’s interior and lastly hanging the liner.

LeClair said installations are not the only major service that the business provides.

“We do repairs here too so if people need their pumps or filters repaired, we do it right in house,” he said.

LeClair stressed that customers who call the business will not be met with the voice of a machine. If a call is missed, it will quickly be returned.



Seth LeClair and Cheryl Lemelin-Hickman, pictured at Seasons Pool & Patio.

LeClair offered more information on why he’s been in the pool industry since 1994.

“Why I enjoy this so much is because you’re making people’s dreams come true. You’re putting pools in their backyard. You’re giving them what they’ve always been looking for, and your providing those memories for them,” he said.

Lemelin-Hickman describes Seasons Pool & Patio as a “one stop shop.”

She looks forward to building rapport with clients and learning names and faces, which

was difficult to do when she only worked on the construction/installation side of the business.

Lemelin-Hickman directed words of appreciation towards Monson Savings Bank, which helped get the operation off the ground, and to the business’ Vice President Dan Lenz.

And when you drive down Boston Road, she says you can’t miss Seasons Pool & Patio.

“All day long, as we’re here, the lighted sign is letting people know we’re open. We’re just trying to let people know,” she said.



(Photos courtesy of Seasons Pool & Patio)

Seasons Pool & Patio is open for business at 339 Boston Road.



Staff photos by Marcelo Gusmao

From left, Christina Hazzard, Tracey Giard, Jolene Mastalerz, Troy Atherton, Stephanie Skaza, and JoMaria Velez shared gourmet popcorn.

## Look what’s popping in Palmer

T.J.’s Pop sells gourmet popcorn

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Troy Atherton has started a new business selling flavored popcorn, which he distributed at a recent Chamber of Commerce gathering.

While working at the University of Massachusetts, Atherton decided he wanted to start a business, both for his future and the future of his children. Wanting to focus on something with personal meaning for him, he became a food vendor to sell popcorn, which he had a personal attachment to.

“I started making popcorn years and years ago with my grandmother, my mémé. We would make popcorn almost every night,” Atherton said.

After selling his popcorn at a flea market and as a mobile food trailer, Atherton described his business “skyrocketing” when he introduced new flavors. During the pandemic, Atherton described needing to “change things up a bit.”

“We started offering deliveries, going to different venues, weddings, birthday parties,” Atherton said. “Baby showers were big for us. Then it just kinda kept growing.”

Atherton shared the process of making gour-

met, flavored popcorn. “I pop the popcorn myself from seed,” Atherton said, “so I purchase all my seeds and then I pop it in my kettle. Then I make different varieties of flavors.”

Atherton said that the company currently lists as many as 60 flavors, with the classic kettle corn being the main one, but also including more unusual flavors, like bacon jalapeno, strawberry lemonade, french toast, garlic parmesan, and the new Dill Pickle White Cheddar Popcorn.

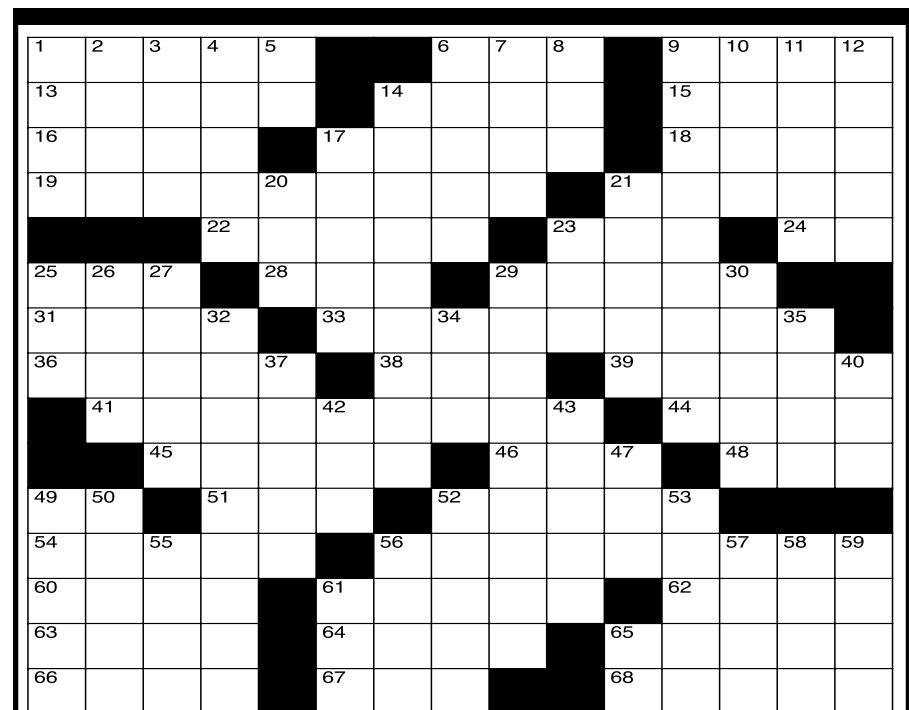
T.J.’s Pop sells pretzels, as well. “They’re hard pretzels that we flavor to be sweet, savory, spicy – a whole mixture of stuff, same with the popcorn.”

Atherton named a couple of events coming up, including attending Thunder in the Valley in Easthampton in June, a car show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge on May 11, and a food truck event at the Enfield Mall that Atherton said the company attends every Sunday.

Gourmet popcorn from T.J.’s Pop can also be bought from their website, tjspop.com.



T.J.’s Pop shared its wares to the Chamber of Commerce at Diamond Junction Bowling.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Dull and flat
  - 6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
  - 9. Education-based groups
  - 13. Not behind
  - 14. Runners run them
  - 15. Japanese ankle sock
  - 16. Grave
  - 17. Japanese industrial city
  - 18. People of southern Ghana
  - 19. Particular designs
  - 21. Device fitted to something
  - 22. Infections
  - 23. Pirates’ preferred alcohol
  - 24. Expression of sympathy
  - 25. Rock guitarist’s tool
  - 28. Neither
  - 29. Ancient city of Egypt
  - 31. You \_\_\_ what you sow
  - 33. Ruined
  - 36. Narrations
  - 38. Body art (slang)
  - 39. Fencing sword
  - 41. Apartment buildings
  - 44. Type of missile
  - 45. Fathers
  - 46. Extremely high frequency
  - 48. Type of school
  - 49. Incorrect letters
  - 51. Two-year-old sheep
  - 52. Nasty manner
  - 54. One who accepts a bet
  - 56. Indian prince
  - 60. Asian country
  - 61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
  - 62. “Uncle Buck” actress
  - 63. Detailed criteria
  - 64. Son of Shem
  - 65. Talked wildly
  - 66. Discount
  - 67. Not good
  - 68. Growing out
  - 2. A call used to greet someone
  - 3. Part-time employee
  - 4. Emaciation
  - 5. “Westworld” actor
  - 6. Gains possession of
  - 7. Relaxing spaces
  - 8. 23rd star in a constellation
  - 9. Northern grouse
  - 10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
  - 11. Manila hemp
  - 12. Unites muscle to bone
  - 14. Makes deep cuts in
  - 17. 18-year period
  - 20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
  - 21. Synthetic rubbers
  - 23. Unwelcome rodent
  - 25. Expression of creative skill
  - 26. Some is red
  - 27. Seems less in impressive
  - 29. Harry Kane’s team
  - 30. Gland secretion
  - 32. Action of feeling sorrow
  - 34. Disallow
  - 35. Deceptive movement
  - 37. More dried-up
  - 40. Crimson
  - 42. Actress Ryan
  - 43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
  - 47. Accomplished American president
  - 49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
  - 50. Sheep breed
  - 52. Appetizer
  - 53. Broadway actress
  - 55. Influential film critic
  - 56. NY Giants ownership family
  - 57. Type of script
  - 58. Assist
  - 59. London park
  - 61. Bar bill
  - 65. In reply indicator
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Actor Damon



## Monson Senior Center

### ACTIVITIES

#### MAY 8

Strength Training 10:00; Art Class 1:00  
Card Class 1:00

#### MAY 9

Birthday Party 12:00; Canasta 12:30  
Line Dancing 4:00

#### MAY 10

Strength Training 10:00; Rep. Ashe’s Aide  
10-11; BINGO 1:00; Crafts & Laughs 6:00

#### MAY 11

Sunshine Village Craft 10:00; Lunch Bunch  
11:30; Yoga 4:30

#### MAY 12

Ocean State Job Lot 9:00; Mother’s Day  
Lunch w/Memory Lane 12:00

## ‘Night Out’ at Villa Rose to help MJD

LUDLOW — Villa Rose Restaurant at 1428 Center Street is donating 20% of the proceeds for dine-in or take-out orders from noon to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, to the Michael J Dias Foundation.

MJD offers programs to those in recovery. The event is open to all. The patio will be open depending on the weather. Ample parking is available. For more information, call Karen at 413-304-0715 or call Villa Rose directly at 413-547-6667 for all takeout orders.

## Appointments of local residents at Big Y announced

SPRINGFIELD – The management of Big Y Foods, Inc. has announced the following new appointments:

Julio E. Carmona of Ludlow, Network Engineer in the Springfield Store Support Center.

Robert J. Doucette of Palmer, myPicks Manager in the Chicopee myPicks Micro Fulfillment Center.

According to Michael J. Galat, vice president employee services, “At Big Y, we are committed to providing the tools and training necessary to support our employees in their development. We look forward to their growth in the pursuit of excellence as they personally develop their own skills in order to take on these new levels of responsibility.”

**SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY EDITION**  
**May 26, 2023**

***Honor those who served our country***

All businesses, civic groups and individuals all welcome to place an remembrance ad today!  
Special ad rates for this edition.

**Ad deadline is May 18, 2023**

Contact Dan Flynn at:  
**dflynn@turley.com**



# Wellness Fair focuses on health at Memorial Hall

MONSON – The Board of Health will be hosting a Wellness Fair on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Memorial Hall, 198 Main St.

There will be raffles and a door prize. Attendees can enter to win their own composter.

This multi-generational Fair is aimed at people in all stages of life, from children to seniors.

A presentation by Dr. John Diggs about COVID prevention, home treatment and the importance of vitamin D will be held at 11 a.m. The Fire Department will share information about youth fire prevention, emergen-



cy preparedness and sounds of fire safety.

Participating in the event are Heartsong Yoga, Idle Moments Chair Massage, Police:

DART Team, Monson Community Garden, Medical Reserve Corp, Monson Substance Use Community Partnership, Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, Monson Library, MyMonson, Celestial Phases, oHhO Organic CBC and YMCA.

People can learn Hands-On-Only CPR instruction, basic First Aid, pool safety, forest bathing, about the Keep Homestead hiking trails project and more. There will also be a chance to enjoy animal-assisted therapy with a dog.

There will be blood pressure screenings, oxygen and

heart rate screenings, grip and pinch strength testing, accelerator to brake speed testing, fall risk balance tests and education.

Seniors will be able to learn about adaptive equipment for those with stroke or cerebrovascular accidents or arthritis as well as foot exercises to decrease fall risks.

Free socks will be given to any senior that tries the exercises.

This Fair is also an opportunity for residents to pick up composters and rain barrels.

## CHICOPEE BROOK | from page 1

"I am concerned about Chestnut Street and Bethany Road. When I was highway surveyor, several times we had to go out there and replace the road and the shoulder and I'd like to get a grant to put a retaining wall along the Huey Kidds Brook. That water really rises there fast when you get heavy rain and it seems like we get a '50-year storm' every year now. It's something that really needs to be addressed."

Morrell said the area along Chestnut Street Bridge needs a sidewalk for pedestrian safety.

"There's no place to walk and it's not safe," Morrell said.

"I've been telling people for years we need a retaining wall with a guard-rail. They're thinking about one area, but there are other areas that are important - maybe even more important."

### Climate 'biggest threat'

Chicopee Brook, roughly 10 miles long, begins on the eastern side of Peak Mountain and flows north, almost parallel to Route 32, Uliana explained.

"It flows into the Quaboag River on the Monson-Palmer border. Chicopee Brook powered the many industrial mills that flourished in Monson in the 1800 and 1900s. Now, as we face the reality of climate change, it is the biggest threat to the town," she said.

"Monson's hilly topography and rocky terrain mean that water bodies like Chicopee Brook are relatively confined, without broad floodplains to dissipate the force and velocity of floodwaters during large storm events or periods of significant snowmelt and runoff.

According to Uliana, Monson's MVP Planning process identified two actions as the highest priority needs to increase resilience: townwide assessment of culverts and developing a Flood Damage Reduction Plan "emphasizing nature-based solutions."

"The culvert assessment has been completed and under this current MVP grant is focused on the modeling of Chicopee Brook for flood resilience," Uliana said.

"The Chicopee Brook corridor was modeled to identify optimal strategies for protecting against impacts of flooding through implementation of nature-based solutions ranging from right-sizing of culverts to increasing flood capacity through floodplain reconnection and green infrastructure. The modeling incorporated current conditions under future precipitation and flow conditions to identify future floodplain impacts and quantify the flood reduction benefits that could be achieved through different combinations of resilience projects and develop a strategy and sequencing for carrying out implementation of improvements over time."

### Areas targeted

Uliana said key components of the plan include "infrastructure replacements at constriction points at Maple Street and Bunyan Road,

floodplain restoration at Cushman Field - historically a wetland area that could be restored for additional flood storage capacity - green infrastructure modifications at Veterans Field to improve an existing swale that collects stormwater from Main Street and discharges to Chicopee Brook to provide infiltration for flood dampening and improved water quality."

Several "critical facilities," including Town Hall, the Highway Department garage, the police and fire departments and the town's sole wastewater pump station "are all located within the flood hazard zones," Uliana said.

"A number of historic buildings are also subject to damage from flooding, which would impede the town's historic and cultural resources."

This century, the most severe flooding occurred in October 2005, when Chicopee Brook flooded Bunyan Drive, Fenton Road and Pulpit Rock Road, Uliana said, "submerging bridges and isolating critical facilities."

Flood events "with significant impacts" also occurred in August 2012 with the washout of Beebe Road and flooding on Chestnut Street), during Superstorm Sandy in October 2012 and in July 2015.

"Finally, it should be noted that Route 32, which runs approximately parallel to Chicopee Brook and crosses the brook at Bethany Road, is the town's major north-south evacuation route as well as a key route for heavy freight travel in and out of Monson," Uliana said.

"Route 32 is also subject to flooding at the town border with Palmer where the roadway is impacted by the flood zones associated with the confluence of Chicopee Brook and the Quaboag River."

### Impacts on marine life

Chicopee Brook is a cold-water fishery that supports populations of Eastern brook trout, Uliana said.

"They are threatened by climate change as they require specific parameters for survival such as cold, clean water with high levels of dissolved oxygen and abundant macroinvertebrates," she said.

One of the deadliest tornadoes in the history of the commonwealth touched down in Monson in 2011, causing town-wide destruction, including wiping out trees along the Chicopee Brook corridor.

"These trees helped to shade the brook and keep temperatures down," Uliana said.

"They also helped to infiltrate precipitation into the ground. There are freshwater mussels in the brook and their offspring depend on brook trout to carry them to suitable habitat. The former Church Manufacturing Company dam, a DER Priority Project, is set to be removed and the sluice gate was opened last May. Since then, species like brook trout and bald eagles have been sighted around that section of Chicopee Brook."

For more information, contact Uliana by calling 688-0022 or by emailing her at [tuliana@monson-ma.gov](mailto:tuliana@monson-ma.gov).

# Hall of Fame honors 'the Golden Era' of basketball

By Paula Ouimette  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

SPRINGFIELD – In celebration of National Library Week April 23-29 the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame gave away free copies of two books centered around the commonwealth's official state sport.

One of these books, "Jack 'The Shot' Foley - A Legend for all Time: With Togo Palazzi and Central Mass Basketball" by Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein, tells the story of the Golden Era of basketball in the 1950-60s, and its legendary players.

Copies of the book were given away to Hall of Fame visitors last week, and they will also be sold in the gift shop going forward.

Having his book selected by the Hall of Fame was a complete surprise for Epstein, who got the call notifying him of the honor at his home in South Carolina the week before.

"It was like a culmination of dreams for so many people," Epstein said. "The book represents so much...certainly, Jack and Togo won't be forgotten."

Epstein said that even though he authored the book, which is his second published work, it's not his story.

"It's not one person's book...it belongs to everyone," he said.

Epstein wrote this book over the better part of a year, interviewing hundreds of people, from athletes to coaches, and family and friends. Each one had

a story to tell.

"I was touched by so many people," Epstein said.

Having his book chosen is not just an honor for Jack, Togo and everyone else who made an impact on central Massachusetts basketball, it's also an honor for Epstein and his family.

Epstein is the son of the late Charlie Epstein, a Worcester legend known for his Water Street sporting good's store, Charlie's Surplus.

Charlie is still remembered by those in and around Worcester for his kindness and sense of humor. He was always quick with a song or a story, and had a seemingly endless supply of bullseye candies in his van.

Charlie would take that van, packed to the ceiling with clothing, shoes and socks, and visit families in the smallest towns in Worcester County, to make sure that every child had what they needed to play their favorite sport.

Being chosen by the Hall of Fame also recognizes both his father and his brother, Epstein said, not just himself.

"It's an appreciation for what my family did for central Massachusetts," he said.

When the call came to tell Epstein his book had been selected for National Library Week, he realized what it must feel like for the athletes that are inducted.

## Holland residents 55+ eligible for free groceries

HOLLAND — Low-income residents who are 55 and older can apply for free, monthly grocery deliveries through a Food Bank of Western Massachusetts program run locally by the Community Center.

The Brown Bag program is available for people over the age of 55 who meet certain income eligibility guidelines. Residents who qualify for SSI, Medicaid, fuel assistance, veterans aid or have a documented disability

to receive SSDI are likely eligible. Anyone who believes they could be eligible is encouraged to apply.

To apply, call 413-247-9738, ext. 3005; download a printable application at [foodbankwma.org](http://foodbankwma.org) and mail to: The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts P.O. Box 160 Hatfield, MA 01038.

For more information, stop by the center at 40 Brimfield Rd. or call 413-245-3163.

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**Troop 163 closing in on five-year anniversary**  
By Paula Ouimette  
to do, until they joined together to start the Scout Law as head as they could.  
Mendonians, who is also an Eagle Scout, explained the difference between scouting and selling.  
"Being projects, confidence," he said "It's in like to be good, learn to love your voice."  
Reporting the same week or phrase over and over again while talking can also help fend off an attack by alerting others, and sending a strong message to any potential attackers.  
Virtual communication is just one aspect of self-defense, Mendonians said.  
"We only communicate verbally 30%," he said. The rest is non-verbal.  
See TROOP 163 | PAGE 7

**Chamber's Legislative Breakfast looks at region's needs**  
By Richard Moughy  
WARE – Last Thursday morning, people gathered in the dining room of the Colerbrook Village at Ware to enjoy a hearty breakfast buffet while networking.  
The repeat, however, planned, was not the reason for attendance. Guests and members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce were there for a Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Chamber.  
See CHAMBER | PAGE 8

**Author shares story of Bathsbeba Spooner**  
By Paula Ouimette  
STURBRIDGE – On what should have been a quiet celebration of love, Bathsbeba Spooner took a turn which ultimately sealed her fate, carrying her a place in history as one of the country's most notorious women.  
Last Thursday evening at Sturbridge Historical Society's first event of the year, Warren author Ed Lombardi, shared information about Bathsbeba Spooner, the focus of his recent novel, "Unlike Any Other."  
Spooners was the first woman to be hanged in the state.  
See AUTHOR | PAGE 9

**New principal and IT director named at Quaboag**  
By Melissa Cragan  
QUABOAG – A new principal and IT director were named at Quaboag Regional Middle School.  
See QUABOAG | PAGE 10

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## SELECT BOARD | from page 1

aware of." Kennedy also pointed out that policies pertaining to disabled people aren't widely understood or even easy to find for educational purposes.

Select Board Chair Patricia Oney said, "I've looked through your report, it was amazing the detail that you went through with the buildings."

### Firefighter appointments

Fire Chief Brian Harris asked members of the Select Board to vote to confirm the appointment of two members of the Fire Department. The Board voted in favor of appointing Brian Messier, a current firefighter in East Brookfield and Andrew Haverfield, a student focused on carpentry at Tantasqua High School.

### Event approval

Aaron Carpenter of MyMonson, informed the Board about his "Rock the Lawn" event scheduled for June 17 at Veterans Field. The event will be a concert and cornhole tournament, all proceeds after expenses will be donated to various charities to support veterans and senior centers.

Since MyMonson is a nonprofit group, the Select Board allotted him a gift of \$4,000 to help fund the event which is estimated to cost about \$26,000 total.

### New logo

Next, Carpenter updated the Select Board about progress made on finalizing the official town of Monson logo.

He said, "We are done with the logo, all of the artwork is completed. As you are aware we went through a fairly rigorous process to get feedback."

But before officially deciding upon this logo an alternative design surfaced. Carpenter said, "I wish this alterna-

tive maybe made its way to the forefront a little bit sooner, an opportunity to collaborate would have been great and helpful so now we have two options."

The logo, designed by Carpenter and his team, took an abstract approach, they made a big letter M with the number 1760 cut out of it. The alternative design took a more literal approach by using a hammer to symbolize the town.

The Board decided to plan a second meeting to vote on a logo, or take elements of both designs and make a new one utilizing the strengths of both.

### Dangerous dog compliance

A resident of Cedar Swamp Road brought a complaint before the Board about a neighbor's dog.

This dog was deemed dangerous in 2019, and compliances were put in place.

These include the dog being humanely restrained when outdoors on the property, with a dog runner no closer than 50 feet to the property line; the dog must be restrained with a muzzle and leash when off the property and have a leash no longer than three feet with a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds. These rules were set on March 3, and receipts dated March 29 showed that the dog's owners had complied.

The resident said there's been no compliance, and that the dog is tied to the bumper of a vehicle. She feels the dog is a danger to the neighborhood.

The resident intended to show video proof to the Select Board at the meeting, but Oney and Board Clerk John Morrell said that a hearing must be scheduled, as they didn't feel comfortable making a decision without dog's owners being present.



# Blue skies shine on Special Olympics

**PALMER**



The Palmer Panther Unified Team showed their school colors with pride.



Felicity, age 6, cheers on jumpers alongside Mary Charette.



Students from Monson and Palmer High Schools unite (from left): Colin Beaupre, Jayda Pardo, and Maddy Rathbone.



Students from Old Mill Pond School had messages for the Olympians as they left (from left) Shea, age five, Mea, age five, Savannah, age four, Gwendolyn, age five, Eleanor, age four, Liem, age five, Ethan, age four, Christopher, age four, Tony, age five, Violet, age four, and Javier, age three.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8



Davian Motta gets air in the running jump.



Maddy Rathbone takes a kick.



Chris Boudry (left) conducts the Palmer High School Band.



Paul Holloway, Special Education teacher from Palmer High School, encouraged students during the running jump.



Palmer team members full of smiles.



While waiting to greet the Olympians, Palmer High School students Alayna Auclair, Angelica Sychtysz, Genesis Smith, and Esha Ahmad pose together.



Palmer High School students enjoy festivities at the Special Olympics.



Chris Boudry walks past Palmer High band members (from left): Tristan Ganieany, Hannah Huang, Kassi Perry, Kawan Freeman, Christian Ordonez, Sara Fosbreg, Colton Santorelli, Aubrey Boucher, Zack Goddu, Andrew Haley (on wall), Beverly Williams, Kiri Peck, Bailey Brooke, Tim Flebotte, and Niki Therrian.



Palmer High band members (from left) Colton Santarelli, Aubrey Boucher, Zach "Big Z" Goddeau, and Andrew Haley, waiting to perform for the Olympians.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** | from page 1

as the person responsible for the successful event. Bidus described working with the new Special Education Committee to put on this year's Special Olympic games.

"We have a great team that was put together from all of our service providers and a couple of Special Education teachers," Bidus said. "We've been working throughout the school year to have all the pieces come together."

"It's a lot of moving parts, so it's definitely great to see it all come together and everyone working as a group," Bidus said.

Palmer's Director of Special Education Colleen Culligan led a parade of students through Old Mill Pond School to the bus to go to the Special Olympics.

"We have a proud tradition of going to the Special Olympics," Culligan said. "We have had this collaboration with Monson for many years, and we've gone every year."

"I have never been in a district that has been so welcoming of our high needs students in the challenges that they demonstrate," Culligan said. "We're just so proud of all the students and what they've achieved, and what they feel is a blessing for them to be able to participate in a sports activity where they're honored and respected even with their disabilities and their challenges."

Bidus said that most of the volunteers are high school students, and appreciated that it offers students "lots of different leadership opportunities, and we love to see the environment and the energy, and just the inclusiveness of the day."

"What I love is the Special Olympians and their partners," Clarke said. "Because the bonds that they form and the support they give each other is just so heart-warming."

Bidus spoke about how the partner system promotes inclusion amongst the students by joining them for activities in the Olympics. "We want to have students with and without disabilities competing alongside each other," Bidus said.

"They have some mentor opportunities throughout the school year. Here at Granite Valley, we have an inclusion club called Lift. That is another way for them to get together throughout the school year."

At the end of the day's festivities, the students bused back to their respective schools.

At Palmer High School, the Special Olympians were greeted by the school band, and cheers from the assembled faculty and student body.



# Blue skies shine on Special Olympics



Senator Ryan Fattman (right) congratulates Superintendent Cheryl Clarke on the fourth annual Special Olympics on behalf of the State Senate.



The mounted horse patrol unit from the Hampden County Sheriffs Office represented by officers Tori Sullivan and Connie Burke were on hand to the delight of Monson Public School students Carly Pixley, Grace Gouvin, and Violet Bartlett.



From left, Steven Bidus and his mother, Director of Special Education Colette Bidus, Olympic skater Tiffany Pryor (Scott), and Corporal Patrick Roy.



Monson team members wait for their turn during the relay activities.



Monson athletes practice football tactics.



Students running the track relay.



Monson athletes perform soccer drills.



There were many spectators on hand to watch the athletes compete.



Monson players enjoy some soccer action.



Monson runners took to the track and smile to the spectators as well.

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**SOFTBALL**



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Natalie Hull throws to second.

## Mustangs fall in close league battle

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—After being swept by Monson during the 2022 regular season, sophomore Isabella Schaffer and her teammates on the South Hadley varsity softball team really wanted to win the first meeting of this season between the Suburban West League rivals.

The contest, which took place at the South Hadley softball diamond, was scoreless until the bot-



Chelsea Hull catches the out at first.



Molly Szado pitches for the Mustangs.

tom of the sixth inning. The Lady Tigers managed to put three runs on the scoreboard during that frame and Schaffer stranded a runner in scoring position in the top of the seventh, as the home team celebrated a thrilling 3-0 victory against the Lady Mustangs, last Monday afternoon (April 24).

"We lost to Monson twice last year, which gave us a little extra motivation coming into today's game," said Schaffer, who's a hard throwing righty. "I got into a groove early in the game and everything just fell into place for us."

Entering the contest, both teams were tied for first place in the

MONSON | page 10

**BASEBALL**

## Ware comes back to beat Palmer baseball



Brendan Hess makes solid contact during the first inning.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Whenever Ware and Palmer face each other on the gridiron, the winning team receives a trophy. When the two archrivals meet on the baseball diamond, the winning team doesn't get a trophy.

However, the Indians players and coaching staff have started their own tradition during the past several years, especially when the baseball game takes place at historic Legion Field in Palmer.

The Indians took a team picture on the pitcher's mound following an exciting 4-2 come-from-

behind victory over the Panthers in the Suburban Central match-up, last Wednesday night.

"The Palmer-Ware rivalry is something that's very special in every sport that we play them in," said Ware centerfielder Jack Auchter, who has never lost a game at Legion Field during his outstanding varsity career. "It feels great to win my final high school game on this field. We were also able to take a team picture on the mound, which has become part of our tradition after we win a game on this field during the past several years."

Auchter was also the starting quarterback for the Indians football team, which celebrated a 21-0

victory in the 96th meeting with Palmer on the same patch of grass located behind the old Converse Middle School last fall.

The Indians (7-3, 4-1) also pulled out a 4-2 victory over the Panthers (2-9, 0-6) in last year's baseball game played at Legion Field.

"Every time that we play Palmer in baseball, it's always a very close game," said Ware junior righthander John Mumper, who was the winning pitcher in last Wednesday's contest. "We struggled early in tonight's game, but we found a way to get the job

PALMER | page 10

**BASEBALL**

## Pioneers fall in five to Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

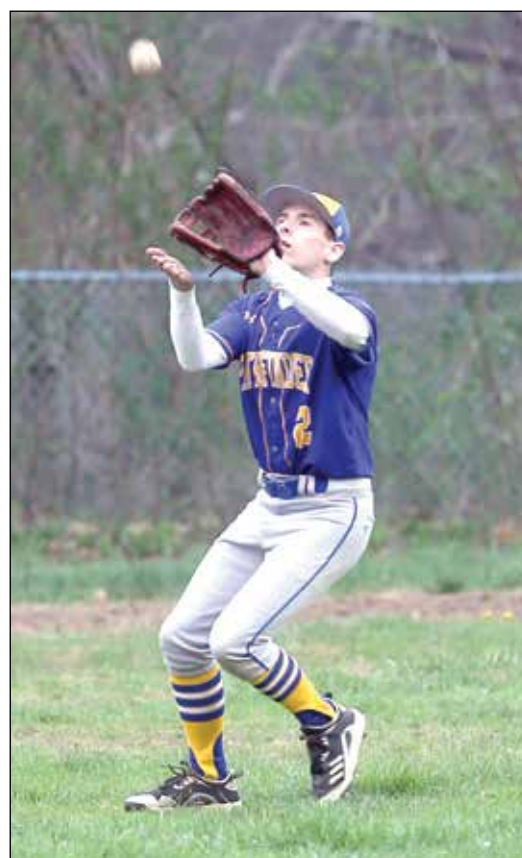
WARE—Several members of the Pathfinder Tech varsity baseball team played for the Ware junior varsity team when they were in the seventh and eighth grades.

When the crosstown rivals battled each other at historic Memorial Field, it wasn't a very memorable homecoming game for the Pioneers players who reside in Ware.

The Indians, who overcame an early 2-0 deficit, scored nine runs in the fourth inning leading to a 13-2 non-league victory on Saturday, April 22. The only meeting of the regular season between the two squads ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"I've known the Pathfinder players from Ware since they were little kids. They played on our j.v. team when they were in the seventh and eighth grades," said longtime Ware varsity baseball coach Scott Slattery. "We do wish that they were playing for our baseball team this year, but they decided to go to Pathfinder for the vocations."

PATHFINDER | page 11



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Zander Auffrey makes the catch in right.

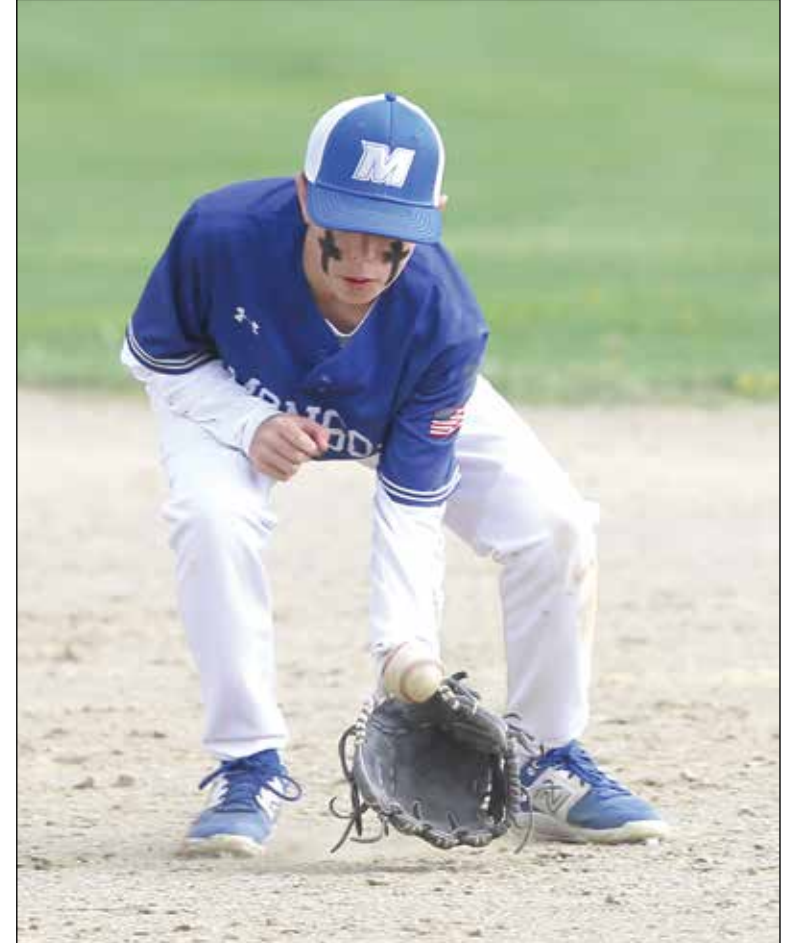
## Palmer wins Quabbin Valley League title

The 3/4 Boys Team Cowher "Palmer Blue Devils" went undefeated for the season with a 10-0 record defeating teams from Belchertown, Granby, Hampden, Ludlow, Monson, North Hampton and Wilbraham. Great season boys: Pictured above: Jase Daley, Brennan Babinski, Aiden Saintilma, Gunnar Paradiso, Levi Zajac, John "Jack" Haley, Henry Cosby, Blake Rodrigues, Mason Cowher, Jamal "Myles" Williams. Coaches Tim Jackson and Ashley O'Connor-Cowher.

Submitted photo



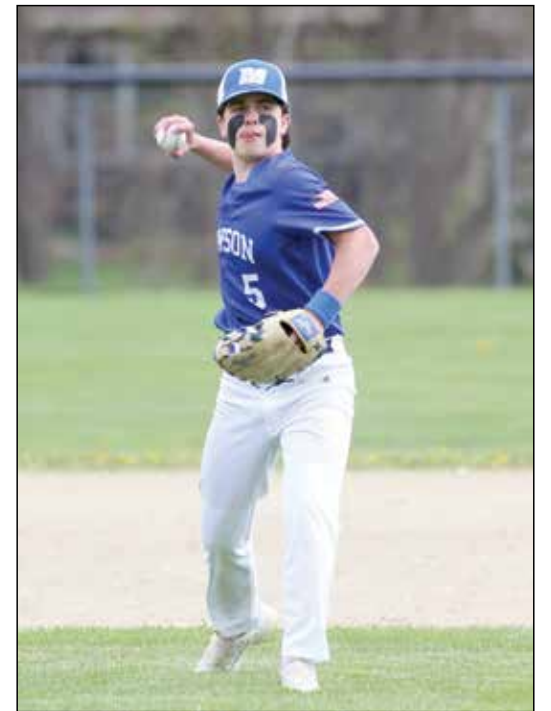
**BASEBALL**



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Niko Matthieu cleanly fields a grounder.

## Mustangs fall to Pioneers

MONSON — Last Wednesday afternoon, Pathfinder used a six-run second to pace a 10-6 win over host Monson. Monson got a great game from Austin Meacham, who pounded out four hits in four at-bats and scored three times. Tyler Labonte had a two-RBI hit and Benjamin Pignone had two hits as well. Monson is 0-9 this season.



Jake Beaupre throws to first.



Colin Beaupre makes the catch at first for an out.



Austin Meacham makes an off-balance throw.



Tyler Labonte pitches for the Mustangs.



## 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 Regional, 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.

## 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 "Running 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](http://www.minnechauglandtrust.org).

## T-Birds make large donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced a donation of \$30,000 to the Rays of Hope as a result of proceeds from the live jersey auction during the T-Birds' 6th Annual Pink in the Rink game on March 11.

Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa and Vice President of Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald presented a check to the Rays of Hope earlier this week inside the MassMutual Center. This year's Pink in the Rink game set new records for total funds generated, and the MassMutual Center came out in full force with a sixth straight "Pink" night sellout crowd of 6,793.

Established in T-Birds' inaugural season in 2016-17, "Pink in the Rink" serves as a kickoff to the Rays of Hope fundraising efforts each March to shine a light on breast cancer awareness outside of the traditional October awareness month. Each year, the fundraising efforts culminate in the annual Rays of Hope Walk & Run in October. Since the establishment of this staple night, the Thunderbirds have generated more than \$100,000 for the Rays of Hope Foundation, all of which stays local in Western Massachusetts in hopes of finding the cure.

Proceeds for this donation were raised primarily via the post-game live jersey auction, as every Thunderbirds player had his jersey sold to directly benefit the Rays of Hope. In addition, Chris Hayes, General Manager of Oak View Group Hospitality, the food and beverage partner for the MassMutual Center, contributed toward the donation total through the sales of Pink Whitney beverages throughout the evening.

"Pink in the Rink once again proved to be one of the most special nights of our historic season," said Costa. "We share in the Rays of Hope Foundation's pride for our community and our fanbase for their steadfast support year in and year out.

We want to congratulate the Rays of Hope on their 30th anniversary and are proud to continue such a meaningful partnership that celebrates so many brave women and men in Western Massachusetts who have not only survived breast cancer but also thrived in generating awareness through their Rays of Hope family."

"We're sending our signature big pink hug to the Springfield Thunderbirds and their fans for illuminating HOPE in our community," said Kathy Tobin, Director of Annual Giving and Events for the Baystate Health Foundation. "As we kick off Rays of Hope's 30th Anniversary, we reflect on those who have helped us get to this moment. We may not have a cure for breast cancer yet, but we have made lifesaving breakthroughs in treatment and the research continues. Importantly we have a big extended family of support here in western Massachusetts. Thank you to the T-Birds for lifting our survivors up!"

Since its inception in 1994, Rays of Hope has raised over \$16.6 million to support the women and men living in western Massachusetts touched by breast cancer. Funds also support vital research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research.

The T-Birds Foundation was established in 2018 with a mission of serving the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. During the 2022-23 season, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$131,000 for charitable causes in Western Massachusetts.

This year's Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 22. For more information, visit [Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope](http://Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope) or call 413-794-8001.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

### Austin Meacham

Monson

In a defeat against Pathfinder, Meacham had a huge game for Monson with four hits and three runs scored.

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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).



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## Roster spots remain open in Quabbin League

More players are needed for the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League as it seeks to infuse new talent into its league for the 2023 season.

The league recently held its open practice, but still has plenty of open roster spots remaining to fill for the 2023 season.

Registration for the 2023

season remains open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The season is scheduled to

begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

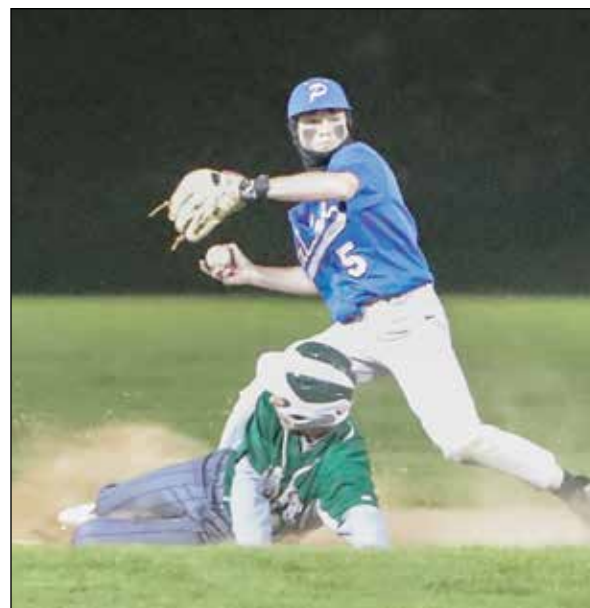
The Quabbin Valley league is an all abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2023.



Ty Miller fires in a pitch.



Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP:smugmug.com  
Matt Santos grabs a hot shot.



Theo Haley sets up for a double play.

## PALMER | from page 9

done."

Following a shaky first inning, Mumper certainly got the job done on the mound during the final six innings of the game. He allowed two unearned runs on just three base hits with one walk and a career-high 15 strikeouts.

"That's what John always does for us," Autcher said. "He and I have been playing on the same baseball teams for many years. It was a very special performance by him tonight."

The home team took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

The inning began with back-to-back singles from freshman second baseman Theo Haley, and senior Ty Miller, who was the Panthers starting pitcher. Haley crossed the plate when the Ware shortstop made a fielding error on a grounder hit by freshman first baseman Gavin Smola. Freshman left fielder Brendan Hess, who reached first base on a fielder's choice play, scored the Panthers second run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"We were able to jump out to an early lead, which is always very important, especially in a rivalry game," said first-year Palm-

er varsity baseball coach Jake Graveline. "Then we had one bad inning defensively, which hurt us. We're just a young and inexperienced team this year."

Graveline graduated from Palmer High School ten years ago. He was a starting pitcher on the varsity baseball team and won a couple of games against Ware.

"I do remember throwing a one-hitter against Ware in one of my starts against them," Graveline said. "It's a fun rivalry game between the two high schools because all of the kids know each other very well."

Miller, who's the ace of the Panthers pitching staff this season, managed to keep Ware off the scoreboard until the fifth inning.

"Ty Miller is one of the better pitchers that we've faced so far this season," said Ware head coach Scott Slattery, who could probably write a book about the Palmer-Ware rivalry. "He throws hard, and we were struggling at the plate early in the game. We finally put the ball in play in the fifth inning and put some pressure on their defense. The kids just did a very good job tonight."

Slattery, who graduated from Ware High School, also has a tre-

mendous amount of respect for Palmer senior catcher Dominic Allen, who he coached at the Bay State games last summer. Allen hit a single in the sixth inning, which was his team's first base hit since the bottom of the first inning.

Just like Mumper, Miller pitched the entire game allowing four runs, which were all unearned on only two base hits. He had nine strikeouts and issued just one walk.

Ware's first base hit of the game was a single to centerfield by senior left fielder Owen Welsh with one-out in the second inning.

The Indians took the lead for the first time three innings later without a benefit of a base hit.

Junior second base Jack McKeever was safe at first base leading off the inning following a fielding error by the shortstop. Then freshmen shortstop Brady Guimond reached base on a fielder's choice play. McKeever was also safe at second base on the play, as the second baseman missed the bag.

The Indians sliced the deficit in half when Autcher put down a bunt, which was fielded by Miller. Autcher would've been

out at first, but the first baseman dropped the pitcher's throw allowing McKeever to cross the plate.

The visitors tied the score on a groundout to second base hit by John Mumper, who's younger brother, Jason, is the Indians starting right fielder.

Autcher, who's planning to play college football at WPI in Worcester in the fall, scored the go-ahead run when a pop-up hit by junior catcher Dylan Sutkaitis was dropped by the shortstop.

"We had a couple of runners on base when I came to the plate in that inning and I just wanted to make something happen," Autcher said. "I was able to get on base and scored the go-ahead run on another error. It gave us the momentum."

John Mumper, who won his first varsity baseball game at Legion Field as a starting pitcher, struck out eight batters during the final three innings of the game. He also blasted a double to the gap in right center field with two outs in the top of the seventh. After stealing third, Mumper scored an insurance run following a throwing error by the catcher.



Carlee Meacham fields a grounder.



Maya Summers gets the tag out at third.

## MONSON | from page 9

league standings with a 6-0 record.

The Lady Tigers, who had an 8-1 overall record won their eighth game in a row since losing a non-league home game to Amherst in the season opener.

"This was just a wonderful game between two very good softball teams," said first-year South Hadley head coach Junior Perez. "It was scoreless until the sixth inning. We were able to take advantage of a couple of mistakes."

The Lady Mustangs (7-2), who are defending league champions, lost for the first time since a home loss to Wachuset Regional in the second game of the regular season. They posted 7-2 and 1-0 victories against South Hadley a year ago.

"We're two evenly matched softball teams and it was an awesome game today," said Monson head coach Jill Carneglia. "We did make a few mistakes in the sixth inning, which rattled us a little bit. Playing a close game like this one will help us in the long run."

It was an incredible performance in the middle of the circle by Schaffer. She didn't allow any runs on just one base hit with a career-high 19 strikeouts and two walks.

"Schaffer has thrown a perfect game and a couple of no-hitters so far this season," Perez said. "She now has 123 strikeouts. She's a very important player for us and the future is very bright for us."

The Lady Mustangs threatened to take an early lead in the top of the first inning.

With one-out, Monson sophomore second baseman Natalie Hull lined a single that found a hole between the Lady Tigers first and second basemen into right field. After the next batter struck out, sophomore Molly Szado, who was the Lady Mustangs starting pitcher, was intentionally walked. The move paid off as Schaffer ended the opening frame with her third strikeout.

"It was very important for us to keep Monson from scoring a run in the first inning," Schaffer said. "It gave us some momentum."

Schaffer would strike out the side in order in the second, third, fifth, and sixth innings. She also added two more K's in the fourth inning, which were sandwiched around a ground out to the shortstop by Szado.

"The South Hadley pitcher throws very hard," Carneglia said. "She's the best pitcher that we've faced so far this season. Molly also pitched very well in today's game."

Szado, who's also a righty, allowed three runs on only one base hit with ten strikeouts and five walks.

Szado walked the Lady Tigers leadoff hitters in both the first and second innings, but the home team couldn't push across any runs in those two frames.

South Hadley's best scoring chance came in the second when sophomore shortstop Karli Carmody walked and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by sophomore first baseman Sophia Butler. After Carmody stole third base, Szado buckled down and struck out the next two batters ending the threat.

Szado would retire eleven batters in a row before junior right fielder Amaya Dunn drew a walk with two outs in the bottom of the fifth.

South Hadley had runners on first and second with no outs in the sixth inning when Schaffer hit a flyball, which was misplayed by the right fielder for a two-base error.

Junior catcher Ara Powers, who broke up Szado's no-hit bid with an infield hit, scored the game's first run on the play. Senior centerfielder Ruth Pietrzykowski drove home the Lady Tigers other two runs with a ground ball single into shallow left field.

Szado walked for the second time with one out in the seventh inning. She moved to second base on a passed ball before Schaffer ended the ballgame with a strikeout and a groundball out.

South Hadley, who hasn't won the league title since 2006, will be looking to sweep the season series when they travel to Monson on May 15.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

## THIS WEEK

**ARTISAN EMPORIUM:** Nearly 40 vendors, live music and more 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, at 28 Depot Street next to Steaming Tender restaurant.

**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.

## SIGN UP NOW

**SPRING PROGRAMS AT HFA:** Hitchcock Academy 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield continues to host a vibrant line-up

of classes for all ages and interests. Spring classes currently enrolling include Let's Cake Decorate's Cupcake Flower Basket on May 11, High Fitness which starts May 16 and Intro to Mosaics on May 17. Along with ongoing sessions of a variety of fitness classes, a new session of Discover The Artist Within: A Watercolor Class, begins on June 1.

Learn more and sign up at [hitchcock-academy.org](http://hitchcock-academy.org).

## 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.

**FREE MEMORY SCREENING:** Benchmark Senior Living is offering a free memory screening, key to early detection and treatment of Alzheimer's and dementia, from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, in the Palmer Senior Center at 1029 Central Street.

## 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:** Lo-

cated 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](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://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

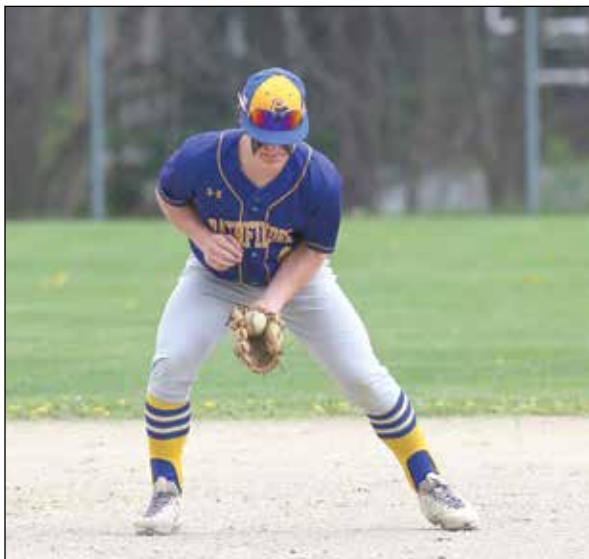
**LINE DANCING CLASS:** 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

**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](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

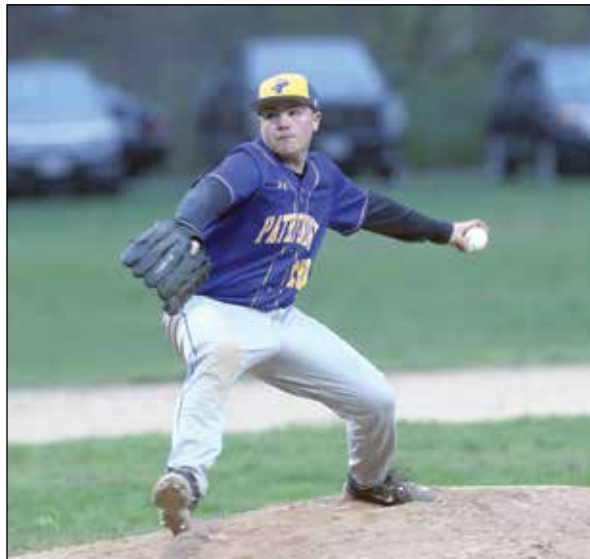
**NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special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

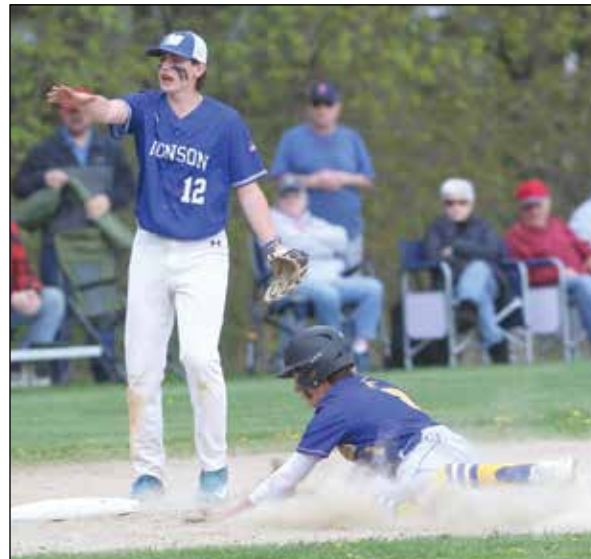
**QI GONG:** 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library,



Hunter Griswold smothers a ground ball.



Photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)  
Tim Russell pitches for the Pioneers.



Ethan Nompleggi slides into third base.



Tage Valliere fields a slow roller.

## PATHFINDER | from page 9

The Pathfinder Tech players, who live in Ware, are sophomore third baseman Trevor Millet, senior first baseman Jesse Cygan, and sophomore lefthander Tim Russell, who was the Pioneers starting pitcher against Ware.

The home victory improved the Indians overall season record to 5-2.

"I've never lost to Pathfinder in baseball since I've been the varsity coach," Slattery added. "We've been getting better in every game that we've played this season."

Six of the nine batters in the Indians batting order scored two runs.

The benefactor of the run support was junior righthander John Mumper, who was the winning pitcher for Ware. He allowed two runs on two base hits. He struck out ten batters and didn't issue any walks in 4 2/3 innings. The only reason why Mumper didn't pitch a complete game was because of the pitch count rule.

"We took John out at 70 pitches because he only needs three days rest before making his next start," Slattery said. "If he threw over 70 pitches, he would need four days of rest and he wouldn't be able to pitch in the game at Palmer on Wednesday night."

Mumper left the game with two outs and two strikes on a batter in the top of the fifth inning. Freshman righthander Kyle Kaczuwka threw a first pitch strike, which ended the ballgame.

"I wish that I could've pitched the whole game, but I'm just happy that we got the win," Mumper said. "We fell behind in the first inning,

but I settled down after that."

The Pioneers (5-3), who were missing four starters, took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning with a little bit of help from the Indians defense.

With one-out in the frame, Millet hit a flyball, which was misplayed by the leftfielder, and he wound up at third base. Then Russell hit a moon shot to right field for a triple. Millet scored easily and Russell also came home on the play following a throwing error.

Mumper retired the next two batters on a ground ball and a strikeout.

Pathfinder only had two more base runners during their final four at-bats. Freshman catcher Jarret Skowyrza singled to center with one-out in the third before being thrown out trying to steal second by junior catcher Dylan Sutkaitis. Sophomore shortstop Brayden Mega was hit-by-a-pitch with two outs in the fourth.

Ware took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Mumper reached base

leading off the frame following a throwing error by the shortstop. Then his younger brother, Jason, who's a sophomore right fielder, drew a walk. After the next batter hit a pop-up caught by Russell, Kyle Kaczuwka, who started at first base, and his older brother Nathan, who's a sophomore third baseman, tied the score with back-to-back RBI singles. Then a bunt hit by senior leftfielder Owen Welsh scored the go-ahead run.

Two innings later, the Indians

scored a controversial run.

Sutkaitis lined a base hit into left with one-out in the third. He tried stretching it into a triple but was initially called out by the home plate umpire after being tagged by Millet. Because the Pathfinder second baseman had interfered with Sutkaitis at second base, the base umpire called obstruction and he was safe at third base.

"I've never seen that called in a game before tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Paul Bouthiller. "My

second baseman was just covering second base and the runner ran into him. It was a bad call by the umpire. We just didn't play very well after that."

Sutkaitis scored on a wild pitch that sailed to the backstop giving the home team a 4-0 lead.

The Indians put the game out of reach by scoring nine runs in the following inning.

The two biggest hits of that frame were two run singles by John Mumper and freshman shortstop

Brady Guimond.

The Cougars are scheduled to make a visit to Memorial Field on May 17.

Nathan Kaczuwka also contributed with an RBI single during Ware's fourth inning rally. Kyle Kaczuwka had a sacrifice fly. The Indians other three runs scored on two wild pitches and a throwing error.

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## DEATH NOTICES

**Biastoff, Kathleen A.**  
Died April 25, 2023  
Services May 7, 2023

**Morrison Jr., William K.**  
Died April 26, 2023  
Funeral May 3, 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Kathleen A. Biastoff, 73

PALMER – Kathleen A. Biastoff, 73, passed away April 25, 2023. She was born on July 3, 1949 in Palmer to the late James J. and C. Alberta (Morstatt) Moran. “Keenie” attended Monson Jr. Sr. High School and received her undergraduate degree from Westfield State. She was a dedicated social worker for the Dept. Of Developmental Services for over 34 years. She fed her soul by feeding others. She could often be found cooking, would never turn down a card game, and found never ending joy in

all the children who called her Nana. Keenie was predeceased by her husband John Tytula, her former spouse Joseph Morgan Biastoff, and her brothers James and Richard Moran. She is survived by her sister Susan Cameron and family, her son Morgan Biastoff, her daughter Mary Grace Biastoff, and her grandchildren Sasha Rodriguez and Morgan Hayden Biastoff, as well as many loving



friends and family. Calling hours will be held on May 7, 2023 from 2-5pm at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be held at the family’s discretion. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kathleen’s memory can be made to United Cerebral Palsy by visiting [www.ucp.org](http://www.ucp.org). Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.

### William K. Morrison, Jr, 96

PALMER – William K. Morrison, Jr, 96, passed away at home on April 26, 2023. He was born February 14, 1927 in Palmer, son of William K. and Mary (McKee) Morrison. Bill was the loving husband of 69 years to Elizabeth (Zabik) Morrison. He grew up in Portadown, Northern Ireland, and England. While still living in England, he enlisted in the US Army to serve during WWII. He returned to the US after honorably serving his country. Bill was a longtime member and elder of the Union Evangelical Church in Three Rivers and was also a member of AMVETS and the Thomas Masonic Lodge. He was a semi-pro soccer player for Chicopee Portuguese Club and enjoyed gardening and most especially travel-

ing and spending time with his wife, Betty. For many years, Bill worked as a machinist at Tambrands in Three Rivers. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Betty, and their children, Pamela Havelles and her husband, Robert, and John Morrison and his wife, Shannon, all of Palmer. Bill also leaves seven grandchildren: Joshua Haveles of Framingham, Andrew Haveles of Stillwater, MN, Kayla Hopper of Palmer, Katie Morrison-O’Day of Millbury, and John, Mia, and Lily Morrison, all of Palmer, as well as six great-grandchildren. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren never failed



to bring a smile to his face. Bill is survived by two sisters, Moreen “Bette” Kardas and her husband, Richard, as well as Mary England and her husband, Dave. Besides his parents, Bill was predeceased by his brothers John “Jack” Morrison and Robert Morrison. Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 3 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a service to begin at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery. For those wishing, donations may be made to a veterans’ charity of your choice or the Palmer Historical & Cultural Center.

## Police/Fire

### Police Logs

#### MONSON

The Monson Police Department reported the following incidents among its activity for the period April 19-29:

##### April 19

Henry Stephen Piepho, 68, of 6 Sunnysdale Circle Meadow A Apt. 6 in Brimfield, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation.

##### April 20

Following a traffic stop, an 18 year-old man from Springfield received a summons for using an electronic device with operating a motor vehicle, first offense and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

### Fire Logs

#### BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call from April 25-May 1.

April 27 at 3:26 p.m. Responded to State and High Street for a motor vehicle accident. Returned to service at 4:02 p.m.

#### MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to four fire calls and 19 medical assist calls from April 24-30.

April 25 at 5:19 p.m. Responded to Cedar Swamp Road for a burn complaint. Returned to service at 5:35 p.m.

April 26 at 12:47 p.m. Responded to Main Street for an odor investigation. Returned to service at 1:06 p.m.

April 28 at 9:58 a.m. Responded to Palmer Road for a brush fire. Returned to service at 11:03 a.m.

April 28 at 1:48 p.m. Respond-

Also that day, a 56 year-old man from Ware received summonses for driving with a suspended license and operating a vehicle without an inspection sticker and not being in possession of the vehicle’s registration.

##### April 21

A 23 year-old East Longmeadow man received a summons for trespassing on state or county property.

##### April 23

Following a traffic stop, an 18 year-old Monson man received a summons for driving a vehicle that did not meet RMV safety standard while in possession of a suspended license.

##### April 24

Jamie Ross Mitchell White, 32, of 5 W. State Street apt. 4 in Granby, was arrested and charged with OUI drugs, possession of a Class A drug and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

##### April 25

A 17 year-old Monson resident was arrested and charged with vandalizing property. No other details were provided.

##### April 29

A 28 year-old man from Stamford Springs, Connecticut, received a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

ed to Lakeshore Drive for a burn complaint. Returned to service at 2:29 p.m.

#### PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to seven fire calls and five medical assist calls from April 26-30:

April 26 at 4:06 p.m. Responded to Highland Street for a CO detector activation. Returned to service at 4:33 p.m.

April 26 at 7:59 p.m. Responded to Thorndike Street for a mulch fire. Returned to service at 8:27 p.m.

April 27 at 9:41 a.m. Responded to Wilbraham Street for a smoke investigation. Returned to service at 9:51 p.m.

April 28 at 2:00 p.m. Responded to George Street for a brush fire. Returned to service at 2:21 p.m.

April 28 at 3:20 p.m. Responded to Fletcher Street for a lock-out. Returned to service at 3:41 p.m.

April 29 at 8:59 a.m. Responded to Main Street for a detector ac-

tivation. Returned to service at 9:09 a.m.

April 30 at 11:10 a.m. Responded with mutual aid for Wilbraham to Boston Road for station coverage. Returned to service at 11:55 a.m.

#### THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department logged four calls from April 26-30:

April 26 at 2:29 p.m. Responded to Sykes St for a fire in an outside trash receptacle. Returned to service at 2:40 p.m.

April 26 at 6:19 p.m. Responded to South Street for an EMS incident. Returned to service at 6:43 p.m.

April 28 at 8:54 a.m. Responded to Ruggles Street for an odor of burning in a residence. Returned to service at 9:09 a.m.

April 28 at 9:45 a.m. Responded to Main Street for a well-being check. Returned to service at 9:48 a.m.

## Free memory screenings offered soon at the Senior Center

PALMER – Benchmark Senior Living is offering a free memory screening, key to early detection and treatment of Alzheimer’s and dementia, from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, in the Senior Center at 1029 Central Street.

Alzheimer’s disease and dementia affects nearly 350,000 people in Massachusetts and numbers continue to grow, a press release from Benchmark states. According to the release, memory screenings are appropriate for anyone concerned about memory loss or experiencing symptoms of dementia or who believes they are at risk due to a family history.

They provide a safe and simple face-to-face way to check a person’s memory, language, intellectual functions and other thinking skills using a series of questions and/or tasks. It can indicate if someone should consult with a medical provider in order to identify what is causing memory loss.

If dementia is the cause, early diagnosis can help both individuals and their family members learn about the disease, set realistic ex-



Contributed photo  
Memory screenings, available for free on May 17, are key to early detection and treatment of Alzheimer’s and dementia.

pectations and plan for their future together.

“Like any disease, early detection is key,” said Cheryl Moran, executive director of The Atrium. “Over the past 25 plus years, we’ve seen that people and families affected by dementia often delay

planning, which makes for a much more challenging situation later. By offering this to the community, we want to help ease the burden.”

Register in advance by calling the Senior Center at 283-2670.

For more information, visit [BenchmarkSeniorLiving.com](http://BenchmarkSeniorLiving.com).

### STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

## Doctor: Knowing the facts about stroke prevention can save your life

SPRINGFIELD – “Spread the word,” says Dr. Rajiv Padmanabhan of the Department of Neurology at Baystate Medical Center.

“Strokes can be prevented,” is just some of the good news, he says.

“The other good news is that more people are surviving the initial stroke thanks to advanced therapies today.”

But, according to a recent press release, there is “not so good” news, too: Stroke is occurring in younger individuals. Also, not everyone is familiar with the signs of stroke and the need to act quickly in what doctors have long described as “time is brain.”

May is National Stroke Awareness Month and the perfect time to be “in the know” with facts that may save your life. Stroke is the leading cause of death for Americans and a leading cause of serious long-term disability.

Strokes – some 80% – can be prevented by lifestyle changes and treating your risk factors such as lowering your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, losing weight if you are obese, eating a heart-healthy diet, and getting active, Padmanabhan said.

“It is very important to identify your risk factors and manage these conditions with assistance from your primary care physician,” said Baystate neurologist Dr. Ennis J. Duffis., noting other risk factors include heart disease and atrial fibrillation, diabetes, sickle cell disease and a family history of stroke.

“It’s also important to note that as risk factors for older adults are increasingly being seen in young adults such as obesity and its resulting health problems, there are signs that stroke may be increasing in young adults. These risk factors

in the younger population must be addressed early on by primary care doctors,” Baystate neurologist Dr. Heydi Flores Podadera added.

While still understudied, authors in the medical journal *Pediatrics* wrote of the potential harms caused by drinking too much caffeine found in energy drinks, including the risk of stroke.

Acting quickly and getting medical assistance is key to survival and benefiting from the advanced therapies to treat stroke victims.

In addition to traditional clot-busting drugs, advances in technology have made it possible for doctors to reduce one’s risk of permanent damage or death. A newer tool in the battle against ischemic stroke is an advanced procedure called thrombectomy, and in Western Mass., this procedure is performed exclusively at Baystate Medical Center’s state-of-the-art neurointerventional laboratory, the release states.

Thrombectomy involves anesthetizing the patient, then inserting a thin metallic stent-like device into an artery in the leg. The surgeon then threads the device up to the blockage in the brain, where it opens to immediately restore blood circulation, eventually grabbing onto the clot and pulling it out.

A similar procedure is also used to secure a ruptured brain aneurysm.

“Time is crucial and the longer you wait to get care, the more damage can occur to the brain cells,” said Padmanabhan, who serves as medical director of the hospital’s Stroke Program.

Close to two million brain cells die every minute during a stroke – which occurs when blood vessels carrying oxygen to the brain are either blocked by a blood

clot or rupture – increasing your risk of permanent brain damage, disability or death. In case of a clotting stroke, a clot-busting medication is administered within the first few hours of the initial stroke. The sooner this is given, the better the outcome, including any disability.

Better stroke outcomes begin with stroke recognition and calling 9-1-1 immediately can make a difference. Yet, calling 9-1-1 within one hour of symptoms is done in fewer than 50% of stroke cases and only 53% of stroke patients use emergency medical services in the nation.

“Knowing the warning signs of stroke is key to survival and preventing any long-term disability,” said Dr. Padmanabhan.

#### Major warning signs of a “brain attack” or stroke are:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden loss of vision.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden unusually severe headache with no known cause.

The acute stroke team at Baystate Medical Center provides care for more than 1,600 stroke patients each year, more than any other hospital in western Massachusetts. Treatment and rehabilitation services include inpatient stroke services, stroke emergency services, telestroke services, rehabilitation services after stroke, and stroke support services.

For more information on Baystate Health and its stroke services, visit [baystatehealth.org/stroke](http://baystatehealth.org/stroke), and follow Baystate on social media.

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# Regional

## Tantasqua Regional Jr. High School lists honor roll

STURBRIDGE – Tantasqua Regional Jr. High School announced the third quarter honor roll for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Grade Eight, Highest Honors

Shery Ataalla, Colin Bailey, Sophia Bochicchio, Connor Boivin, Jax Buday, Bryn Carey, Hailey Cooper, Anya Couture, Hayley English, Bralynn Fenneuff, Jacob Fernandes, Keira Fitzpatrick, Morgan Goody, Lila Grant, Ella Herrick, Abigail Korenda, Shelly Ly, Aalana Mazzone-Gourley, Liana McCarthy, Shannon McGrath, Jeremy Mrotek, Sora Ng, Annaleise Olander, Abigail Parent, Emma Pesaturo, Emme Powell, Isabel Raczkowski, Kelsey Rodas, Reanna Salisbury, Sara Savard, Edith Simpson, Noah Smith and Andrew Weeden.

### Grade Eight, Honor Roll

Aliyah Abdul-Aziz, Sean Allen, Michael Anderson, Gabriella Antezak, Owen Ashe, Cian Babcock, Alexis Baker, Mateo Barboza, Chase Blanchard, Eli Bosen, Brody Bouchard, Valeria Brambila, Aidan Butler, Braeden Campbell, Nikol Cantwell, Aidan Carmel, Jasmine Cartier, Madison Casey, Jillian Chevalier, Brady Chisholm, Lola Comunale, Sam Conroy, Tyler Culverwell, Graydon Curboy, Haven Dalton, Maya Deltoro, Dessa Demears, Elora Devlin, Matthieu Dores, Lillian Dugas, Gavin Espinoza, Gwynth Fairbanks, Nicholas Fazzuoli, Jordan Field, Connor Fitzgerald, Emma Fitzgerald, Harper Foley, Lillian Fuller, Riley Gauthier, Carly Goodwin, Stella Guerraz, Madeline Guertin, Owen Gustafson, Brielle Hanlan, Matthew Hernandez Saad, Rory Herrick, Megan Holm, Jace Inthirath, Eliza Jaeger, Radisson Jumawan, Kaydena Kindberg, Colin Kowal, Sophia Kozyra, Stephanie Krog, Desmond Kupranowicz, Benjamin Landine, Emma Lavalley, Patrick Linton, Juliette MacDonald, Colin Marquis, Sienna Martelli, Kadence Martin, Maddison McCarthy, Elizabeth McGlinchy, Gavin McGuinness, Olivia Merrick, Ella Mizikar, Nathan Molle, Michelle Nansasi, Lukas Nash, Adalyse Nolan, Jewels Normandin, Maggie O'Gara, Justin Olden, Audrey Papandrea, Aylah Patraw, Amanda Peck, Lilliana Perreault, Gavin Perron, Gabrielle Pottie, Griffin Potvin, Alise Quinn, Andrew Radebaugh, Owen Raymond, Samuel Raymond, Lily Recknagel, Brayden Reidy, Tayvia Reissner, Katrina Robbins, Abigail Robidoux, Ethan Ryan, Keenan Scherer, Jacob Smith, Donovan Smith Robbins, Jack St Laurent, Leslie Stromberg, Lillian Sturges, Benjamin Tenczar, Louise Terwilliger, Carly Thomas, Trysten Thor, Aliyah Velasco, Lucas Vilandre, Foster Vosnakis, Adeline Walder, Cody Wass, Jaylin Wassmer, Deven Wheeling and Sean Wickens.

### Grade Seven, Highest Honors

Madeleine Bachand, Zachary Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Kayley English, Emilio Fiorucci, Kylie Fornigal, Joseph Gomes, Alexander Green, Teagan Gunnerson, Connor Howe, Vivian Jaeger, Mason Julian, Liv Kearns, Isabella LaFlamme, Samuel Lamas, Thomas Moore, Dane Mullin, Tyler Neifert, Westley Nemet, William Neslusan, Olivia Neuenschwander, Miles Oprica, Tyler Phillips, Trevor Resener, Kaleigh Sabelis, Tyler Scanlon, Katelyn Spillane, Violet Spooner, Matilda St Clair, Elway St George, Arianna Starr, Madalyn Strause, Callie Toro, Mairenn VonHold, Roman Whitcomb and Olivia White.

### Grade Seven, Honor Roll

Fraser Aldenberg, Nathan Alicea, Nadine Ankin, Bret Bond, Peter Briggs, Leeanna Caouette, Hannah Cardenas, Finley Carlisle, Logan Cavaliere, Cameron Ciandella, Sydney Cizik, Reese Collette, Elijah Colon-Orengo, Abigail Corriveau, Sara Croteau, Nathan Cutler, Samuel Davey, Lily David, Jacob DeLong, Alynah Desmarais, Olivia Donovan, Matthew Ehrhard, Summer Ferreira, Olivia Fiske, Chad Fonseca, Lily Garrett, Lillian Gingras, Arthur Goncalves, Allison Gregory, Dominic Grillo, Austin Guinta, Emmaline Gumlaw, John Gunagan, Cameron Hall, Brody Havalotti-Lusier, Leah Hill, Moira Hill, Catelyn Holm, Nathaniel Jacques, Andrew John, Enzo Jones, Kaitlyn Kenney, Mark Kenton, Lukas Krueger, Cameron Lemanski, Theodore Leveille, Travis Lloyd, Peyton Logan, Elijah Mandigo, William Marker, Augustin Mbouadeu, Keira McCord, Grant Meacham, Andrew Miller, Nora Miller, Ainsley Mills, Jaden Mitchem, Ryan Mount, Charlotte Nameika, Anthony Natale, Dylan Nguyen, Jack Nichols, Colby Norman, Kayde O'Malley, Maeve O'Neil, Noah Olszta, Jon Orquiola, Jane Panek, Angelina Pereira, Issac Perez, Caylee Perry, Gibson Pettis, Leah Phaneuf, Patrick Pope, Myra Quinn, Kaitlyn Reed, Nathan Regan, Alexis Santos, Paul Savage, Finley Shyock-Taylor, Ellie Shute, Jonathan Solari, Wyatt Springer, Samantha Szczypien, Lucas Tully, Kayla Weidler, Roselyn Whyte and Easton Zeleznok.

## 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](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

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(Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette)

Members of the chorus hail from all over central Massachusetts and parts of Connecticut.

## Wings of Song sail our 'Blue Boat Home'

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

Get ready to set sail as Wings of Song embarks on a musical journey on a "Blue Boat Home" with three multi-media performances meant to bring awareness to climate change.

Led by Music Director Nym Cooke, the 40-member community chorus will perform songs spanning decades, cultures and genres, accompanied by a backdrop of images and readings of poignant texts.

The images projected in a slideshow are both beautiful and sad, showing views of Earth, along with endangered and extinct animals. The slideshow is run by 15-year-old Bella.

While views on climate change differ (even within the chorus), all agree that Earth needs to be cared for.

"It is good to acknowledge that we're scared about what's happening with the climate," Cooke said. "We don't have to agree but we still work together."

The performance is named after the theme song, "Blue Boat Home" by Peter Mayer and comes from the line "and the Earth is my blue boat home."

"Blue Boat Home" will be a mix of chorale pieces, vocal solos and audience sing-alongs.

Joining the chorus is Tim Loftus on rhythm guitar and flute and Brooks Milgate providing piano accompaniment.

"Brooks is a key part of the success of our sound," Cooke said.

Loftus plays a Native American-style flute, and was inspired by Choctaw music to write his own tune.

"We have several Native American songs, including a Navajo round," Cooke said.

There's also a blend of pop music by Neil Young, John Lennon and Elton John, as well as folk music by Pete Seeger, Jean Ritchie and even some rhythm and blues by Marvin Gaye.

The performance begins and ends with Mayer's "Blue Boat Home", and it also features original pieces written by chorus members.

Terry McGinty of Warren wrote "The Shadows", which is an elegy for extinct and endangered species.

"It's not only our species being affected by this [climate change]," Cooke said. "We're all in this together."

The second piece was written by Donna Dufresne of Pomfret, Connecticut.

Cooke said Dufresne is a singer/songwriter and actually wrote this piece three years ago when Wings of Song first planned to premiere the performance.

She presented "Wake Up" to Cooke, who made a chorale arrangement of it.

"It's powerful," he said. Cooke said "Blue Boat Home" is made in a framework to respect and celebrate Earth.

"The whole program is about honoring a planet...our only home," he said. Using his love of music to bring awareness to climate change, just seems natural for Cooke, who has been immersed in music his entire life.

"I grew up in a household surrounded by music" Cooke said.

Both of his parents were classically trained, and his father was a composer.

While his youthful musical interests were more focused on rebellion and rock and roll, Cooke dedicated his professional career to the early New England sacred chorale music of the 1770s-1820s.

"You had literally hundreds of self-taught composers teaching singing schools. Teaching young people to sing and read music," Cooke said.

These singing schools turned into supply for church choirs and were run only by men, Cooke said, although he will continue searching for women composers.

"I'm looking all the time," he said. These composer arranged songs in four-parts like traditional chorale music,



Tim Loftus, left, provides rhythm guitar and flute accompaniment and Brooks Milgate, right, plays piano.



A slideshow projects images related to climate change during the performance.

but with more of a folk-like feel.

"They started writing by instinct," Cooke said.

The songs were written with tenor carrying the melody, before adding in the bass, soprano, and lastly, alto.

"They didn't test them out," Cooke said of the arrangements. "That's what give the music a cool flavor...it's linear."

Unlike the choirs that sang those early composers' pieces, Wings of Song has had three years to test out "Blue Boat Home" as they had originally prepared to perform it at this time back in 2020, but were unable to due to the pandemic.

"My hope is this will raise people's awareness, and encourage them to do a little bit more for the planet," Cooke said.

About 'Blue Boat Home' People will have three opportunities to experience "Blue Boat Home," with the first being on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joachim Chapel, 16 Church St., Fiskdale.

The second will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church (the "Hill Church") in Woodstock, Connecticut.

The final concert will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m., in the auditorium of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley. Students at the school, under the direction of music teacher Becky Bussiere, have been learning sing-along melodies to join the chorus during the concert.

A special feature of that concert will be some brief remarks delivered by Massachusetts's "Climate Chief," Melissa Hoffer, who was appointed to her newly created position by Gov. Maura Healey on the Governor's first day in office.

Admission to all the performances is free, and people are invited to make a freewill offering at intermission.

All concert venues are handicap accessible. Doors will open half an hour before each concert; in Fiskdale and Woodstock, Connecticut, people are advised to arrive early in order to be sure of a seat.

Anyone wishing for more information on these concerts or on joining Wings of Song, whose fall rehearsal season begins Monday, Sept. 11, is encouraged to email Cooke at [nymcooke@gmail.com](mailto:nymcooke@gmail.com), or President Carol Curtin at [carolcurtin77@gmail.com](mailto:carolcurtin77@gmail.com).

A portion of what is collected during the concerts will be donated to a leading organization working to combat climate change. After the concerts, the chorus will announce the amount of its donation, and the recipient.

"Blue Boat Home" is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Poster artwork for "Blue Boat Home" was designed by chorus member Cindy Young.



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Public Notices

**Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance M.G.L. Chapter 40A § 11 the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday May 25, 2023, at 7:10 P.M.**, at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, MA 01057, on the application of Ronald Griswold Jr. for a variance from the requirements of §3.2, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to install a 24ft. x 25ft. carport that will violate the required setbacks. The property is located at 106 Fenton Road, Map 146 and Parcel 007, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is available for review with the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals. David Beaudoin, Chairman 05/04, 05/11/2023

District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as are necessary to pay the salaries of its Fire Department's officers and firemen and to defray the expenses of the Fire Department for the ensuing year and to cover special appropriations made under the articles of this warrant, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 8.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate any sums of money to continue the Fire Department stabilization fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 9.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate any sums of money to purchase Turnout Gear or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as are necessary to pay the salaries of its District officers, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 11.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expense of the Water Department for the ensuing year and to cover special appropriations made under articles of this warrant, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money to pay for interest incurred in borrowing money relative to Articles 4 and 5 from the Water Department, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from certified free cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2023 tax levy or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from certified free cash to fund the replacement of the Boiler for the Fire & Water Department complex or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from certified free cash to fund the matching portion of the \$12,000 USDA Grant for Engineering Services for the Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Review for the location of a replacement tank or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 16.** To see if the District will vote to appoint and choose committees and give them instruction or take any action relative thereto.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy thereof in two or more public places in the Village of BONDSDVILLE, in said Palmer, not less than fourteen days before holding of said meeting in a newspaper published in Palmer.

**The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday May 25, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** on the application of Amanda & William Skinner for a Special Permit as provided by §6.7 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a special permit to construct an addition with a 417 sq ft in-law accessory unit on property located at 218 Wilbraham Road, Map 028 and Parcel 024, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals. David Beaudoin, Chairman 05/04, 05/11/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BONDSDVILLE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF PALMER FISCAL YEAR 2024 Hampden, ss.**

**Bondsville, Massachusetts**  
To: Stephen Nagy, Acting Clerk of the Bondsville Fire and Water District of the Town of Palmer:

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of all Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the qualified voters of the Bondsville Fire and Water District of the Town of Palmer to meet at BONDSDVILLE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT COMPLEX in the Village of Bondsville, on TUESDAY, the 23rd day of MAY 2023, at six o'clock in the evening, to act on the following articles.

**Article 1.** To choose a Moderator to preside at this meeting.

**Article 2.** To choose by ballot the following officers:

- For a term of one (1) year
- one (1) Auditor
- one (1) Clerk
- one (1) Treasurer
- For a term of three (3) years
- one (1) 2nd Assistant Engineer
- one (1) Water Commissioner

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant before holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand on 25th day of April 2023:

DAVID LA VALLIE, Chairman

STEPHEN NAGY, Acting Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

05/04/2023

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant before holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand on 25th day of April 2023:

DAVID LA VALLIE, Chairman

STEPHEN NAGY, Acting Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

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**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

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

DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
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x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
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 Suburban  
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# Public Notices

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Scott Duncan to USAlliance Federal Credit Union dated April 25, 2005 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 14966, Page 401 of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on the 31st day of May, 2023 at 14 Paige Hill Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land located in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts on the westerly side of Paige Hill Road together with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances there-to belonging, and shown as Parcel D and Parcel E on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Brimfield, Mass., Surveyed by Joseph H. and Carla M. Gelinis," said plan being recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 286, Page 4, and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description. Containing approximately 10.2 acres.

For Mortgagor's title see said Registry Book 14966 Page 399 and Book 15345 Page 28.

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

### TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) shall be required to be paid to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or bank's cashier check at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid in cash, by certified check or by bank cashier's check in or within 30 days from the date of the sale. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.

USAlliance Federal Credit Union

Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorney,  
Edward P. McCarthy  
McCarthy Law Office, LLC  
303 Wyman Street, Suite 300  
Waltham, MA 02451  
(781) 577-6686  
05/04/05/11, 05/18/2023

## (SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket Number: 23 SM 001813  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
To:  
Gisela Elias  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
**Freedom Mortgage Corporation**  
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 2186-2188 Palmer Road, given by Gisela Elias to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Finance of America Mortgage LLC, dated June 24, 2020, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23276, Page 521, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three**

**Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 12, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **Gordon H. Piper**, Chief Justice of this Court on April 27, 2023.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
23741  
05/04/2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 001680 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

**Rebecca Gaumond and Joseph P. Paul, III**, and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.:

**Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 1269 South Main Street, given by Rebecca Gaumond and Joseph P. Paul, III to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated August 13, 2021, and recorded or filed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24083, Page 365, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **6/5/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on 4/20/2023.

Attest:

**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
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:1J4NF1FB2D211032**  
Jill Lovely 26 Northampton Ave. Springfield, MA; **FORD VIN:3FA6P0K9XR319293**  
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 Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
Docket No. HD23P0680PO TRUST CITATION  
In the matter of:  
**The Dolor R. Major Irrevocable Trust Petition for Removal of Trustee**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by **Charlene Desjardins of Belchertown, MA** requesting for Removal of Lawrence Major, Co-Trustee of the Dolor R. Major Irrevocable Trust, 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 05/30/2023.**

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 25, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/04/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P0864EA Estate of: JOHN F. SUGRUE Date of Death: DECEMBER 1, 2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **CAROL A. SUGRUE OF WARE, MA.**

**CAROL A. SUGRUE OF WARE, 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 from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to 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.  
05/04/2023

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue 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 Mortgagors 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

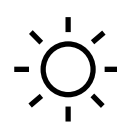
a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**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

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



everyone shines  
**SUNSHINE VILLAGE**

**Come join Our Team!**

*Sunshine Village, a non-profit organization provides day habilitation and community services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Sunshine Village is an employer of choice and a great place to work!*

**Job Title: Van Driver**

**Job Summary:**  
Provide transportation to individuals with Developmental Disabilities to and from our day programs

**Route:**  
Palmer, Monson, Ware, Ludlow, Wilbraham area

**Hours:**  
Part Time, approximately 20 hours  
General hours (may vary): Monday – Friday  
7:30am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**Experience Required:**  
Must have experience driving individuals with disabilities (15 passenger van experience a plus)

**Educational Requirements:**  
High School Diploma/ GED/or Equivalent

**Other Requirements:**  
Ability to lift 30 lbs comfortably, a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Drug Screen, CORI, SORI and Fingerprint check required.

**Salary:** \$16.02/hr

**Accepting applications:**  
Apply in person at 75 Litwin Lane, Chicopee, MA 01020.  
**AA/EOE. Sunshine Village is a great place to work!**

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

## Four Ways To Use Cash Wisely

There has been a lot of talk about a "cashless" society, but it's not here yet. In fact, cash can still be a valuable element of your overall financial picture – if you employ it wisely. But how?

Consider these four key uses of cash:

• **Everyday spending** – Of course, you need sufficient cash on hand to pay for your cost of living – mortgage, debt payments, utilities, groceries, etc. You'll likely rely on your savings or checking accounts to pay for these needs.

• **Unexpected expenses and emergencies** – It's never a bad idea to establish a monthly budget. But, as you know, life is unpredictable – and sometimes you may encounter "budget-busting" expenses, such as a major home repair or a large medical bill. If you haven't planned for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA and 401(k), which can result in taxes, penalties and less money for your retirement. A better alternative is to prepare in advance by building an emergency fund containing up to six months' worth of living expenses in cash, or at least in a highly liquid account, held separately from your regular checking or savings account so you won't inadvertently spend the money.

• **Short-term savings goal** – When you are investing for a long-term goal – especially retirement – you will likely need to own a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds. The value of these investments will fluctuate, so, if it's possible, you'll want to avoid selling them when their price is down – which may make them unsuitable for short-term goals. But if you're aiming for a goal that you want to achieve in a year or so – a wedding, a long vacation, and so on – you'll want to be sure a specific amount of money is there for you when you need it. Consequently, you'll want to put away cash for this type of goal, possibly in a short-term savings or investment vehicle that might pay somewhat higher interest than a regular checking/savings account.

• **Source of investment** – In regard to your longer-term investment strategy, cash can play two important roles. First, it can serve as its own asset class, alongside other classes, such as stocks and fixed-income vehicles. Unlike these other classes – especially stocks and stock-based mutual funds – cash won't fluctuate in value, so it can potentially help lessen the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, having the cash available in your portfolio gives you the opportunity to quickly take advantage of other investment opportunities that may occur. And you may be able to use your existing investments to help replenish the cash in your portfolio. For example, if you choose to take stock dividends in cash, these dividends can be "swept" into your brokerage account and held there until you're ready to invest them. (However, depending on your comprehensive financial strategy, it may be a good move to simply reinvest the dividends into the same stocks or stock funds.) Keep in mind that you won't want your investment accounts to contain too much cash, as its purchasing power can erode due to inflation.

By managing your cash efficiently, and putting it to work in different ways, you can gain some key benefits – and you'll help yourself to keep moving toward your short- and long-term goals.

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## Production staff needed for 'The Mousetrap'

MONSON — The Arts Council is putting out the call to all directors, stage managers and producers interested in helping pull together the fall show, Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" — the longest running production in theater history since debuting in 1952.

The production will be presented in Memorial Hall.

The roles that need to be filled offer a stipend. According to a press release from the Monson Arts Council, "If you are the kind of dynamic person that can help make this production come alive (and get murdered on occasion), please send your resume to [macdrama@monsonartscouncil.org](mailto:macdrama@monsonartscouncil.org). In the subject, please reference the role you are interested in."

Brimming with intrigue, sophisticated humor and surprising twists, Agatha Christie's iconic murder mystery — about a group of strangers trapped during a snowstorm — is the world's most successful and longest-running play. After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm.

It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another. A police detective, arriving on skis, interrogates the suspects: the newlyweds running the house; a spinster with a curious background; an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef; a retired Army major; a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift; and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone.

When a second murder takes place, tensions and fears escalate. This record-breaking murder mystery features a brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

The Arts Council encourages anyone with little or no experience to apply "when they feel they have a vision and the ability to meet the criteria described when clicking the links" at [tinyurl.com/2k6hmmk](http://tinyurl.com/2k6hmmk).

## Plant sale at Hitchcock kicks off lively spring events

BRIMFIELD — The Hitchcock Academy lawn will be bursting with flowers and plants for the taking at its annual Grow With Us Plant Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6.

The array at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd., will include perennials, annuals, vegetable plants and hanging plants just in time for Mother's Day. Orders can also be placed for bee boxes and bat houses for pickup at a later date. The homes for bees and bats help with pollination and mosquito mitigation, respectively.

Established at Hitchcock in 2020, the organization's popular annual "Grow with us" Plant Sale was previously a fundraiser for the now retired Brimfield Ambulance Fund. Volunteers/staff will be on hand to answer plant questions to help customers get the best out of their gardens. Including members of the Southbridge Garden Club.

For anyone looking to thin out their garden beds, plant donations can be dropped off in front of the building the week before through the evening of Friday, May 5. Donors should be sure to label the plant and include any other information (such as color and sun or shade preference) on the label. Unwanted empty pots are also welcome and can be dropped off at any time.

Plant Sale customers can also visit the Brimfield Farmers' Market, hosted across the street in Hitchcock's parking lot on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. With the exception of Brimfield Flea Market weeks (May 9-14, July 11-16, Sept. 5-10), the market runs weekly until the end of October. Homemade goods and locally-grown, seasonal



Contributed photo

Hitchcock Academy's annual Grow With Us Plant Sale is 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, kicks off a season of events.

plants, produce, meat, baked goods, maple products, ice cream, wooden and sewn crafts, soap, and more can be found at the market, with vendors varying week to week.

Hitchcock will also host a pop-up event from the Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation offering women's gently-used professional and casual attire from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 17. For more information, contact Sheila Rivest at 413-668-8885 or [carolrivestfoundation@outlook.com](mailto:carolrivestfoundation@outlook.com).

### Town tag sale

Hitchcock's annual Trash to Treasure Town-Wide Tag Sale is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. It's also a great opportunity to make some extra cash from your spring cleaning or those unwanted items you just inherited from your great aunt. Registering for the tag sale gets your location and a listing of key items a spot on our map, making it easier for treasure and bargain hunters to find you.

Participating houses will receive an identifying number to post at the road that corresponds to the map. Registration is \$12 per house. If you don't have a good location to host your own tag sale, there are spots available for rent on Hitchcock's lawn for \$30. Maps of the registered tag sales will be available in print for just \$2 at Hitchcock beginning the day before and throughout the event as well as at a neighbor's sale at 8 North Main Street.

"Hitchcock's Farmers' Market, Plant Sale, and Town-Wide Tag Sale are long-standing favorite community events that mark the start of spring and bring people together," says Trustee Carrie DeToro. "I can think of no better way to reconnect with the community and kick off the season."

Sponsors are welcome for the Town-Wide Tag Sale. Interested local businesses can reach out to Cindy Skowrya, executive director, for more information at [execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org](mailto:execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org).

## NATIONAL NURSES WEEK MAY 6-12

### At Baystate for 43 years, Nute carries on a family tradition

PALMER — Once a year in May, National Nurses Week is celebrated worldwide. It recognizes these medical professionals and the incredible work they do for others in healthcare.

Taking care of patients when an emergency occurs in the middle of the night takes a special person. Cheryl Nute, RN, of Palmer, is one of those special people who uses her unique skills to care for patients that come for care at Baystate Wing Hospital.

With an impressive 43-year career as an employee

at Baystate Health, "I believe I was genetically made to be a nurse since most of the women in my family are or were nurses," Nute, an Emergency Department nurse, said.

"Some people have a defining moment in their lives when they decide to become a nurse, but I was inspired by my mother and grandmother, who were both nurses. I loved hearing their stories. I grew up learning from them and that is why I decided to become a nurse. Twenty years ago, my daughter, Erin, decided to go to college and become a nurse. It made me happy, and I encouraged and supported her, and I still do."

Nute's family of nurses also includes her sister, son-in-law and niece.

She began her career in nursing in 1975 after she received a scholarship from Mary Lane Hospital. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts and working a few months in Virginia, Nute returned to Baystate Mary Lane and then Baystate Wing Hospital.

"My beliefs are that nursing consists of nurturing, understanding, respect, sympathy and empathy," she said.

"Those are the values that I have practiced as a nurse my entire career as I cared for patients. Although the number of patients that we care for in the Emergency Department at Baystate Wing has greatly increased especially over the past few years, I still love providing care in the ED as part of the overnight team."

Nute added that, "Whether I am caring for someone critically ill, someone with a broken bone, or a sick child, I am proud to deliver the best care to our patients. I work with a great team of doctors, nurses, and support staff who are dedicated to caring for our community 24 hours a day. The best part of my job is when patients thank me for taking care of them. Knowing that I helped them feel better and make their experience a positive one is why I am a nurse."



Submitted photos

Cheryl Nute, RN, now in her 43rd year at Baystate Health.



Nute as a young nursing student in 1975.

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