

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com May 7, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 15 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

Supt. presents report on school calendar

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The recent School Committee meeting featured a Superintendent’s Report that focused on the nuances of the School Calendar.

Superintendent Matthew Francis presented his report to the committee at its meeting on April 15. The presentation went over the processes and procedures involved in creating the School Calendar, and aimed to dispel any misunderstandings or misinformation about it.

Francis said that the dates are not picked arbitrarily, but have to follow certain regulations regarding students aged six and up.

“I wanted to go through it because, in years past, we have put forward the calendar, approved the calendar, but have not devoted enough information to go out to the general public on how it’s created,” Francis said.

Francis said that the pro-

REPORT | page 12

MONSON



Special Olympics Pep Rally big hit at MHS

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

student body attended the 45-minute rally to honor the Special Olympians.

“It was truly a memorable day for our Special Olympians, and our students were tremendously supportive,” said Physical Education Teacher Eric Degnan.

MONSON – On Friday, May 1, the regional Special Olympics were held in the school district, following a pre-emptive pep rally at the high school.

Last Thursday, April 30, the high school held its second annual Special Olympics Pep Rally for the school’s nine participants in the Special Olympics. The rally featured nearly 200 posters to decorate the walls of the gymnasium, and the entire

The school held a pep rally for the Special Olympians for the first time last year, holding it on the day leading up to the Special Olympics, which are hosted by the district.

“There are nine Special

RALLY | page 8



Submitted Photos
Top photo, Eric Degnan stood behind the podium, while the Monson Mustang cheered on. Above, the Monson Mustang gave Ryan C. a high hoof.

PALMER

ConCom approves healthcare center addition

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This week, the newly restructured Conservation Commission held two public hearings.

The May 5 meeting began with Elizabeth O’Connor introducing herself as Acting Chair as of Donald Blais’s recent resignation.

The commission held two public hearings, first for a Request for Determination for the demolition of a mobile home, and then to continue the hearing on the proposed construction of an addition to the healthcare center.

O’Connor took time during the meeting to highlight that there are two vacancies on the commission

and read Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin’s vacancy announcement.

“Are you passionate about protecting Palmer’s wetlands and natural resources? This is your chance to make a real difference in our community.”

Interested parties can email a Letter of Interest to Town Manager Brad Brothers at BBrothers@TownOf-

Palmer.com, and any questions about the commission can be answered by Ladin, either by calling her at or sending an email to JLadin@TownOfPalmer.com.

Shearer Street
The second hearing was the continuation for the Notice of Intent for Palmer Healthcare Center at 250

CONCOM | page 7

PALMER



Submitted photo
Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda (left) shakes hands with Governor Maura Healey at the press conference in Marlborough.

Pathfinder receives record-breaking grant to expand opportunities

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

campus.
Superintendent Eric Duda described the award as a transformational moment for the district.

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional School District has been awarded a monumental \$3.5 million grant from the state.

Last week, Superintendent Eric Duda attended the official announcement event and press conference in Marlborough that was hosted by Governor Maura Healey to announce the funds being awarded to Pathfinder.

The funding will support the expansion of 150 Career Technical Education seats, and the repurposing of the former Cold Spring School in Belchertown as an expanded

“This \$3.5 million award is truly game changing for Pathfinder Tech,” Duda said. “We are about to embark on the largest expansion in the history of our school district, and we are honored to receive the largest grant award ever awarded to Pathfinder Tech.”

The new campus in Belchertown is scheduled to open in September of this

GRANT | page 12

THREE RIVERS



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
The Brotherhood of Three Rivers Fire Department filled the room at Villa Rose, (back row, from left) Chris Bergeron, Kevin Jusko, Dan Daigle, Matt Lemieux, Ben Duby, Jody Santos, Chris Geoffrion, Terry Hawk, Dan Moore, Mike Matthews, Ted Bock, Pat O’Connor, Erin Sullivan, Phil Dalessio, and (seated) Pete Shabot, John Sasur, Richard Pobieglo, and Francis Sullivan.

Three Rivers Firefighters reunite for annual dinner

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – This past Saturday, the Brotherhood of the Three Rivers Fire Department held their annual reunion dinner, where former and retired firefighters were invited to eat, share stories,

and socialize with long-time friends.

The dinner was held May 2 at 6 p.m. at Villa Rose Restaurant, where a delicious meal of fish, chicken, and beef was served to the gathered fire-fighters. The old colleagues had lively conversations, as the former fire-fighters recounted old stories

about accidents and mishaps in the workplace, and of the many faces that have come through the department over the years.

“What this is, it’s a family reunion,” said coordinator Mike Matthews.

Matthews started the tradition five years ago. He sends over 50 letters to past

firefighters, and regularly gets about 35 attendees.

The dinner is about promoting brotherhood among the firefighters, and is limited to people who served at the Three Rivers station, and their families. The department previously held family

REUNITE | page 11



Monson advances through state grant investments

MONSON—The Town of Monson, through the Monson Conservation Commission, is advancing a comprehensive approach to land stewardship and climate resilience through two significant state funding awards that support conservation, cultural revitalization, and public access to natural lands.

Monson was awarded funding through the FY26 Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program – Action Grant for a project titled “Monson Cedar Swamp Land Care Project.” The grant will support the design, permitting, and community engagement phases of an innovative forest stewardship and climate resilience initiative at the Cedar Swamp Conservation Area.

The Monson Cedar Swamp Land Care Project focuses on restoring a degraded 75-acre inland Atlantic white cedar swamp at the headwaters of Sawmill Brook within the Quinebaug River watershed. Atlantic white cedar swamps are a state-imperiled

(S2) natural community in Massachusetts and provide critical functions including flood mitigation, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and water quality protection.

As a design and permitting grant, MVP Action Grant funding is supporting collaborative planning of the restoration, required permitting for restoration activities, hydrological study and monitoring, community education and outreach, and continued advancement of the collective Nooswetamooonk framework. The project will enhance climate resilience, restore cultural connections, and help move forward the conservation commission’s goals to engage in meaningful land stewardship.

The project integrates the Indigenous stewardship principle of Nooswetamooonk, meaning “our shared duty of care,” a framework offered by Nipmuc partners to guide land care. Nipmuc land stewards and cultural bearers have invited the Town and project partners to collaboratively develop this Nooswetamooonk framework alongside local conservation organizations

and the Monson Conservation Commission.

The Cedar Swamp Land Care Project is being carried out in partnership with Nipmuc organizations and regional conservation, academic, and forestry partners; including No Loose Braids, Chagwás Cultural Consulting, Nipmuc Cultural Hunt and Fish, Mass Audubon, UMass Amherst, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, Opacum Land Trust, and others. Lessons learned through this work will be shared regionally to support other communities interested in equitable, climatesmart forest stewardship.

In addition to the MVP Action Grant, the Town of Monson has also been awarded a Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant, a state program that supports conservation commissions in protecting ecologically and culturally significant lands. Monson was one of only five municipalities statewide selected to receive a LAND grant for the acquisition of over 115 acres on Reimers Road.

The Reimers Road prop-

erty has long been stewarded as a working forest and valued for passive recreation and public enjoyment. The property contains exceptional ecological communities and historic significance and is located within the Silver Street Historic District. The land reflects the area’s deep Indigenous heritage as well as more recent historic land uses, further strengthening Monson’s commitment to conserving landscapes that connect natural, cultural, and community values.

Together, these investments demonstrate Monson’s longterm commitment to land protection, climate adaptation, and inclusive stewardship. Both projects advance the priorities identified by the community in the Town’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan and Open Space and Recreation plan, including forest health, flood resilience, community education, and equitable access to nature.

“These grants represent a major investment in Monson’s forests and cultural landscape,” said Toni Uliana, Conservation Agent and Proj-

ect Lead for the Monson Conservation Commission. “They allow us to protect important land, restore a rare ecosystem, and advance more inclusive, climate-resilient land stewardship. By centering Indigenous stewardship principles and shared decision-making, these projects strengthen ecological resilience while also repairing and restoring long-standing cultural relationships with the land.”

The Monson Cedar Swamp Land Care Project is hosting a spring Woods Walk series. The public is invited to attend and learn more about the Cedar Swamp Conservation Area and about this exciting project. Registration is required. If you would like to attend, please email Amy at Aadamslt.org or call 508-347-9144 to be added to the list.

Exploring Monson’s Cedar Swamp Conservation Area
Date: Thursday, May 14 (rain date May 15)
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Join Andre Strongbearheart Gaines of No Loose Braids, Chris Buelow of MassWildlife, and Andrew Randazzo of Mass Audubon

for a guided walk through Monson’s Cedar Swamp Conservation Area. Together, we will explore the unique ecology of this rare habitat and the plants, birds, and wildlife that depend on it. This is a rare opportunity to experience this landscape through the eyes of experts in Indigenous land stewardship, ecological restoration, and forest ecology.

Registration for this walk is currently full. Email Amy at Aadamslt.org if you’d like to be put on the waiting list.

Bird Walk at Monson’s Cedar Swamp Conservation Area
Date: Saturday, May 30
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Join Mass Audubon field ornithologist Jeff Ritterson for a guided bird walk through the Monson Cedar Swamp Conservation Area. Taking place during spring migration, the walk offers a chance to spot a variety of resident and migratory bird species moving through the region. Registration is required. If you would like to attend, please email Amy at Aadamslt.org or call 508-347-9144 to be added to the list.

Monson nomination papers available for town election

MONSON – The Monson Town Clerk’s Office announces that nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town Election to be held on June 9, 2026.

The following slate of offices are available:
Select Board, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
Town Clerk, 1 Seat,
term 3 years

Board of Assessors, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
School Committee, 2 Seats,
one term 2 years
one term 3 years
Water/Sewer Commission,
1 Seat,
term 3 years
Cemetery Commission,
1 Seat,
term 3 years

Parks and Recreation Commission, 1 Seat,
term 3 years
Housing Authority, 1 Seat,
term 5 years
 The deadline to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, April 16.
 For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk’s office at 413-267-4115 or email: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

Nomination papers available

PALMER – The Town Clerk of Palmer will have nomination papers available the week of March 9.

The available seats on the June 9, 2026 town election are as follows:
Councilor at Large
1 seat
3-year term
Councilor at Large
1 seat
1-year term

District Councilor PCT#1
1 seat
3-year term
Planning Board
2 seats
3-year term
School Committee
2 seats
3-year term

Last day to obtain Nomination papers is April 16, 2026. Nomination papers must be filed with the Reg-

istrar, no later than April 21, 2026. Fifty valid signatures are required. The fifty signatures must be registered voters in the Town of Palmer; the District Councilor Precinct #1 seat requires fifty signatures of registered voters from Precinct #1.

If you have any questions regarding filing requirements on above seats, please reach out to the Palmer Town Clerk’s office.

Riding season kicks off with Blessing of the Bikes

PALMER – As warmer weather returns and motorcycles begin to reappear on New England roads, St. Paul’s Church of Palmer will once again host its annual Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10 a.m., offering riders a meaningful and memorable start to the season.

Held in partnership with the Christian Motorcycle Association (Western Massachusetts Chapter), the event is expected to draw a wide range of riders—from longtime touring enthusiasts to newer riders discovering the freedom of the open road. In

recent years, interest in motorcycling has seen a steady resurgence, with riders of all ages embracing it not only as recreation, but as a source of connection, clarity, and adventure.

The Blessing of the Bikes has become a distinctive local tradition, welcoming cruisers, sport bikes, trikes, vintage motorcycles, and custom builds alike. Additional non-profit motorcycle groups will also be present, sharing their work and contributing to the sense of community that defines the event.

The gathering itself is

simple and accessible: a brief outdoor ceremony offering a blessing for both bike and rider—for safety, awareness, and the shared experience of the road. It is a moment to pause before the miles ahead, acknowledging both the joy and the responsibility that come with riding.

Each rider will receive a commemorative “Blessing of the Bikes” patch, and light refreshments will be available following the ceremony.

“For many riders, being on the road is something deeper than just getting from one place to another,” said Rev. Steven Sousa, min-

ister of St. Paul’s Church. “There’s a sense of freedom, focus, and even reflection that comes with riding. This event simply recognizes that—and offers a moment of goodwill and blessing for the season ahead.”

The event is free and open to all riders, whether experienced or new, riding solo or with a group. No registration is required. St. Paul’s Church is located at the Corner of Park & Central Streets in Palmer, Mass.

For more information, please contact St. Paul’s Church at 413 283-8185 or visit StPaulsPalmer.org

Plant sale on May 16

MONSON – The Down on Earth Gardeners will hold their 28th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16 at 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, next to the United Methodist Church located at 162

Main Street, Monson. Many plants for shade or sun plus a large selection of perennials, ground covers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and more. For more information call Debi at 267-5207.

Monson ATM May 11

MONSON – The Monson Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday May 11 at 7 p.m. at Granite Valley School located at 21 Thompson St. in Monson.

See the town website to view the warrant: www.monson-ma.gov

Copies of the warrant are available in the Monson Town Clerk’s Office, online, or at the meeting.

For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk’s office at: 413-267-4115 or email us at: townclerk@monson-ma.gov

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal



Clean Out Solutions
 Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts
 Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals
 Arthur “Skip” Gervais
 (774)397-6500

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us
Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm
to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.
 Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

TOP DOLLAR PAID
CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
“WE COME WITH THE CASH”
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069



ROBINSON
TREE SERVICE
 LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
 Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
 Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

www.richardgreeninsurance.com
 Fax: 413-267-3496
 Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

RICHARD R. GREEN
Insurance Agency, Inc.

- AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE
- Great Locations • Registry service
- Quotes gladly given • We make housecalls

Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes

Two Locations:



128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495



32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028

Women of '76 program at PPL

PALMER – Women of '76 program to be held at the Palmer Public Library on Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

Step back in time and discover the untold stories of five courageous women - both patriot and loyalist, both American and foreign-born - who witnessed,

chronicled, and in some cases changed the course of the American Revolution.

Experience these untold stories of courage and conviction presented by Rita Parisi of Waterfall Productions.

This program is free, and registration is not required.

Actors sought for Living History Cemetery tour

BRIMFIELD – As part of Brimfield's 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13, 2026. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom. Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed.

Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at 413-239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive.

Monson Garden Club hosting plant sale

MONSON – Monson Garden Club will hold its annual PLANT SALE on Saturday, May 9 at a NEW LOCATION in front of Memorial Hall on Main St. in Monson starting at 9 a.m.

A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Prices range from \$3 and up.

There will also be an assortment of special gift planters for Mother's Day gifts.

The plants come from members' gardens, and members will be available to answer questions about the plants they enjoy.

Proceeds from the sale are used for local community projects such as the downtown plantings, holiday greens, and scholarships.

Pancake supper scheduled for May 9

MONSON – Pancake Supper on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Monson-Glen-dale United Methodist Church. 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are preferred, deadline for ordering is May 7.

Walk-ins are welcome

Call 413-267-5207 to place your order.

Meal includes fluffy & delicious pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee, tea. Our specialty pancakes include blueberry and chocolate chip. Toppings include your choice of strawberries,

apple/cinnamon, whipped cream, butter, and we are featuring Monson's own: Bryson's 100% pure maple syrup.

Price is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children.

Come enjoy a mouth-watering special breakfast for supper.



Veterans recently visited the American Heritage Museum thanks to the Veterans Services office.

Submitted photo

Veterans visit American Heritage Museum

PALMER – A group of local veterans along with their family and friends enjoyed a trip to the American Heritage Museum followed by dinner at the Longfellow's Wayside Inn. This trip has turned into a yearly event through the efforts of the Palmer Veteran's Service Officer Tina Broughman. But this year it was a group effort with help from Homefront Strong and Char-lann Griswold, Ladies Aux-iliary AmVets 74. It could not have happened without the generous support of our fantastic sponsors. Country Bank, J Stolar Ins, Griswold Glass, Noonan Energy, JTS

Mechanical, Cute Kids Pre-school, Nick's Sport Shop, Baldyga Inc., along with personal donations from Isaiah Garced, Gary Pierce & Aline Cortez, Rick Pobieglo and William & Rose Ladue. And we cannot forget the continued generous support from the Sons of AmVets 74 & the Ladies Auxiliary AmVets 74.

The day started early as the group picked up the bus at AmVets in Three Rivers. The sun was shining and everyone was excited to get started. After the preliminary instructions, all participants were given a gift bag of snacks & water and items

for the day along with a thank you card for their participation. The group was lively and it did not take long for everyone to get to know each other and the friendships began. The drive was uneventful and we were there in no time at all. For some of our veterans, this was the first time and for others it was a return visit. Either way the experience was still awe inspiring. We arrived at 10:00 and after a couple of hours we were on our way again for lunch. The countryside views were fantastic for our short drive to Longfellow's Wayside Inn. A quaint inn in

a country setting was the perfect place to take a seat and enjoy great food. The choice was Pot Roast or Turkey, two New England favorites. The room grew quiet as we all settled in for good conversations with what now turned out to be friends.

With full bellies and great memories, we once again boarded the bus for the ride home. But one more surprise awaited everyone. A final raffle of a home-made blanket. The winner was Gary Pierce, one of our Veterans. All in all, it was a good day with anticipation for what is to come next year.

Songs & tales of community concert this Friday

BRIMFIELD – Folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will perform for a free public concert at the Brimfield Senior Center on Friday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. This program is supported by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massa-

chusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Entitled "Landscapes of Hope," Van Egmond's program will be a collection of traditional and contemporary songs as well as tales about what draws a community together. Themes will include a shared sense of belonging and inspiration drawn from the land around us, the fabric of family, friends and neighbors, and the hope everyone shares for peace and plenty.

Van Egmond's presentation will range from the rib-tickling to the spine-tingling to the heart-warming. He'll accompany himself with guitar, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer

A resident of Montague MA, Van Egmond has performed for over 40 years throughout the country, appearing at hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers, and on television and radio. He's been

chosen for the New England States Touring Program, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council's STARS Residency Programs. His dynamic talent, warmth, and humor create a moving and enjoyable experience for all. Renowned author and storyteller Jane Yolen has said, "Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!"

Subscribe to The Journal Register online at journalregister.turley.com

Palmer Fire & Water District #1 Notice of Annual District Meeting May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

The Annual District Meeting of the Palmer Fire & Water District #1 will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 at Palmer Public Library, 1455 N Main Street.

Join us Saturday, May 9th at Tailgate Tavern from 6 p.m. to close for the OFFICIAL LAUNCH of ThRio VODKA



We'll have drinks flowing, pizza available, and a full night celebrating the start of something local.

Be there for the first night. Be part of what's next.



Eddie Jusko, Dylan Tenczar, Evan Jusko

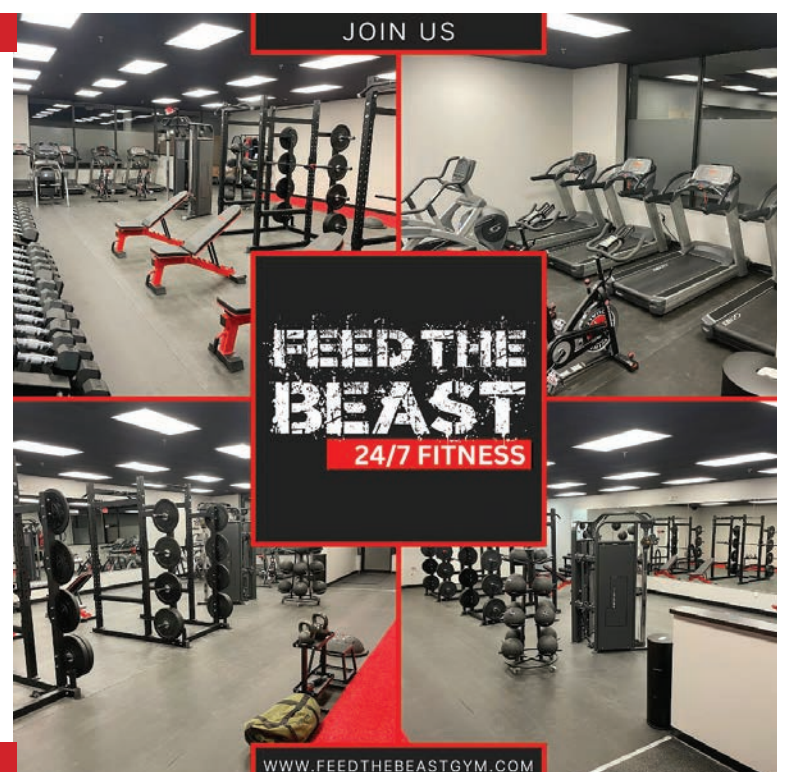
Founded by three friends in Three Rivers, Thrio Vodka was built to bring people together and create something with real energy behind it. This launch marks the beginning, and we're bringing it to life the right way.

FEED THE BEAST

FITNESS & GYM CENTER

119 Main Street, Monson (Adams Plaza) support@feedthebeastgym.com • www.FeedTheBeastGym.com

- 24/7 Access
- Weightlifting
- Multi Membership Discount
- Personal Training
- HIIT Classes Included
- Functional Training
- One on One Coaching
- Nutritional Counseling
- Strength Conditioning



WWW.FEEDTHEBEASTGYM.COM

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I want to do everything right when I claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:

I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?

Signed: Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon:

Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher

personal benefit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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



Garden Lady takes on spring bulb woes

Debi, who gardens in Hardwick, reached out to the Garden Lady with concerns over her daffodils.

They didn't bloom well this year, and she wonders if they need fertilizer.

"Dear Garden Lady, sorry to bother you in this busy season but our daffodils aren't doing well. I'm guessing they need food. What would you suggest?"

I am happy to answer your question! There are typically four reasons why daffodils don't bloom.

Probably the first mistake gardeners make is removing the foliage too soon after the flowers go by. Foliage needs about six-eight weeks of ripening before it can be removed.

While it is still green, it is photosynthesizing and making energy for next year's flowers.

It can get unsightly as it starts to yellow and finally turn brown and dry up, but we must be patient.

It is ready when it comes off with a gentle tug. Some gardeners get strategic with nearby plants so that the eye moves away from the foliage and to another plant taking the stage in full bloom.

Another reason why daffodils may be stingy with their flowers is that the clumps are overgrown and need to be divided. Wait until the foliage has turned brown, then dig up the bulbs, pry them apart and replant them twice their width from one another and about two to three times their height deep.

I recommend using a pointed shovel, not a trowel. Sometimes they can be down deep and you want to make sure you get the bulb out intact.

Do this while the brown foliage is there so that you can find them. While it may feel "off" to be replanting in early summer, it is a perfectly fine time to do it.

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Rose, who reads the column in the Ware River News, was concerned that a number of her hyacinths were broken off at ground level when just buds, and she wondered what or who could

the culprit be.

"This is so disheartening, I don't want to even grow them any more."

I was astounded to hear this, because the same thing happened to me in one of my gardens at Old Sturbridge Village where I have a multi ring of hyacinths and tulips. Grooming last week yielded at least 10 hyacinth buds that looked as if they were but off at ground level.

Although the experts say rodents could be the cause, the cut was almost perfect, not gnawed in any way, plus hyacinths contain natural deterrents making them rodent proof, typically. I did cultivate the bed awhile back, my thought being that I may have cut a few of them off under ground.

As the stems elongated, they could have forced the bud above ground even though it was already dislodged, but the mystery remains. I'm sorry this happened, Rose, and I wish I had a definite answer for you, but at least know you are in good company with your hyacinth woes.

If anyone has any answers I would love to hear them.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Debi's bulbs could also need fertilizer, like she suggested. A sprinkling of granular fertilizer with low nitrogen, but sufficient phosphorus and potassium for blooming and rooting, respectively, would be ideal.

The two best times to feed are when the bulbs are up a few inches and now, just past bloom. Daffodils do require less fertilizer than tulips and hyacinths, and sometimes bloom for years without the addition of fertilizer.

I am wondering if the trees or the ground cover adjacent to Debi's daffodils were fertilized with a high nitrogen blend and it affected the bulbs? I have a few daffodils near an apple tree that is close to my compost pile, where I mix chicken bedding with vegetable scraps, etc.

I think the high nitrogen run-off from the pile affected my blooming, just as an example. Of five possible clumps I had a measly two flowers. Bone meal, high in phosphorus, is in order to rebalance the soil.

Knowing Debi's sun exposure, I don't think this is an issue, but it is worth the mention for other readers who may struggle with sparse blooms. Daffodils won't bloom in deep shade. Dappled sunlight is fine.

Planting under deciduous trees is also fine. If you think shade is the culprit, wait until the foliage ripens and move them using the guidelines I provided for bulbs that are overcrowded.

I sure hope one of these suggestions will help your daffodils regain their former glory!

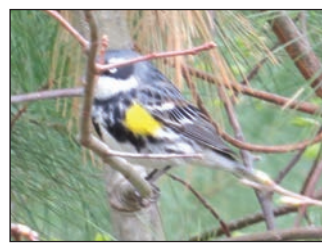
POETRY CORNER

A Spring Sonnet To Charlann The Blue Flag

*In the depths and dews of the garden quiet –
They opened, and stood – as evening came on:
Like moist sapphires beheld in their gaze,
Saying, it is here for earth we are born.
And are there sounds to accompany –
As from Rogers and Hammerstein?*

*Its now late May – and many an other,
Might have filled the overflow of your arms;
A fleur-de-lis – the world does know;
But for you, a green-stemmed wand:
The blue flag – vibrant as any that grows –
Finding no prickly habits like the rose:
But held aloft, pass for a shooting star –
Of kindest wishes, the Springtime brought near.*

– Charles Barnes



Photos by Doug Moore

This photo shows a side view and back view of a yellow-rumped warbler.

flight is agile and swift and the birds often call as they change direction.

The female builds the nest and sometimes uses ma-

The Journal Register

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR

journalregister@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



WEB

journalregister.turley.com

PHONE

(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.
Palmer MA 01069
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

These yellow-rumped warblers, also known as Myrtle warblers, flitted around the edges of Lake Wallace in Belchertown, on April 22.

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting he saw two yellow-rumped warblers. These warblers are about the size of black-capped chickadee and have a long bill and narrow tail

They are gray with yellow on their sides, a small patch on the head and of course, the large patch on the rump. They have white on wings, throat and underneath. They have black and white streaking on the breast. Males have a large black patch around the eye. The female is duller.

In summer, yellow-rumped warblers inhabit open coniferous forests and edges and not as often deciduous forests. They primarily feed on insects in the summer. On migration and winter they eat fruit and berries particularly bayberry and wax myrtle. Their song is a series of high-pitched notes often described as "chewy" or "chip-chip."

When males court females, they fluff their feathers, raise their wings and the feathers of the crown and hop from perch to perch, chipping. They may also make display flights in which they glide back and forth or fly slowly with exaggerated wingbeats. The yellow-rumped Warbler's

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

May Vendors

- May 13 - Generations of Cookies
- May 19 - Wicked Good Treats
- May 27 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- April 30 - Jewelry for Diane

May 9

Brimfield Farmers Market save these dates: May 9 is the annual Hitchcock Plant Sale, and this year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on May 30.

June 6 and 7

7th Annual Pioneer Valley wine festival. Brimfield Auction Acres, Birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows will host the 6th annual Pioneer Valley wine festival on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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 at 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 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Getting hip to joint replacement surgery

atient. If you're facing a joint replacement, here are some considerations:

Hospital or surgery center?

All four of my joint replacements took place at outpatient surgery centers, which I consider much cleaner environments than hospitals. After early morning surgery, I was home by noon and received home health care, so I never went to rehab.

A 2023 study by University of Pennsylvania researchers found that the rates of revisits and complications for surgery center patients were lower than for similar patients who had surgery in a hospital. However, that could have something to do with healthier patients choosing surgery centers and those with other health conditions, heart failure for example, going to hospitals.

That said, this is a topic for you and your doctor to discuss. In the end, you will decide where to have your joint replacement, so go where you are most comfortable.

Choosing a doctor
Look for a surgeon who

is affiliated with professional organizations and has completed fellowships in the surgery you're having. You should also prioritize their experience, asking how many times they've performed this particular surgery.

Studies have found that surgeons who have performed more than 50 procedures have lower rates of complication and revision. You can ask the doctor directly how many times they've performed the surgery and what their complication rate is. Also ask whether you can speak with other patients the doctor has treated.

Second opinions

Joint replacement is a major medical undertaking, so if you're feeling at all unsure about it - or the doctor isn't all you had hoped - Medicare covers second opinions subject to the 20% co-insurance. Medicare Advantage plans also generally cover second opinions, but check with your plan for details.

Robots or no robots?
Robot-assisted joint replacement is becoming more

common. A study published in the Journal of Arthroplasty reported an increase in surgeons who have adopted robotics, from 10% in 2018 to 35% in 2023. Nearly half of partial knee replacements were robotically assisted. Fewer total knee and hip replacements were reported.

The study noted that further research is needed on outcomes, but surgeons who use robotic assisted systems say that the robot is simply the navigation system while the doctor is in the driver's seat.

Rehab in a facility or at home?

With my surgeries, I wanted to avoid a rehab facility because that's another name for nursing home, where there are a lot of germs, more patients with compromised immune systems and generally higher infection rates.

Today, in fact, most joint replacement patients do recuperate at home. A project by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services found that patients who can safely recover at home heal faster,

have fewer complications and have a greater sense of ownership in their own recovery.

Not everyone can come home immediately, though, if they lack family support or access to home health care. Be sure to have this conversation with your doctor before your surgery.

Chances are your joint replacement will get you back to doing the things you enjoy, especially with a little bit of education and preparation.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

BIRDS | from page 4

terial the male brings to her. The nest is a cup of twigs, pine needles, grasses and rootlets. The female also may use moss, horse and deer hair, moss and lichens. The nest takes about ten days to complete. She lays a clutch of one to six eggs speckled with brown or reddish gray.

Bluebirds

A Rutland couple say two bluebirds in their yard on April 25. They hope they will nest in the yard.

Great blue heron

I finally saw a great blue heron perched in a tree at the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. Every year, one or two are frequent visitors and even nested there.

Purple martins

A purple martin watcher spotted the first purple martins in Massachusetts for 2026 in Rehoboth on April 4. The largest species of swallow in North America, they wintered in Brazil and flew 7,000 miles to the United States and Canada.

Hummingbirds

Soon the ruby-throated hummingbirds will be back. It is time to get out the nectar

feeders. Instead of purchasing prepared nectar in powder or liquid form, avoid the harmful dyes and boil a one to four ration of sugar to water. I preferred to mix small batches, ¼ cup white sugar to 1 cup water on a more frequent basis to avoid spoilage. It can be stored in the refrigerator for about one week if making larger amounts.

Tom turkeys

In my travelers, I spotted in three different locations Tom turkeys displaying their tail feathers for one or more hen turkeys. I noticed one Tom with two hens strutting about as the females kept on eating near him.

Bird fact

Annually, over 50 million Americans purchased more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowne@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

DEADLINE

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

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 an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

GRAND RE-OPENING KORAN'S FARM & Gift Shop

160 EAST HILL ROAD, MONSON, MA
HOURS: FRIDAY 9-4 • SATURDAY 9-4 • SUNDAY 9-4
413-267-4035

MOTHER'S DAY

DON'T FORGET TO STOP BY FOR YOUR MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS!

We have beautiful flowers, hanging baskets, deck pots and more.

We Have Wave Petunias, Million Bells, Geraniums, Coleus, Daisies, Angelonia, Bidens, Verbena, Silver Falls, Lobelia, Marigolds, Begonias, Lobularia, Bacopa, Thunbergia, Torenia, Scaevola, Spikes, Vinca Vine & More.

We look forward to seeing you!






PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

In the classroom

COLLEGE
NOTESJordan Bigda
inducted into
Stonehill
College
Honor Society

EASTON — Jordan Bigda, a member of Stonehill College's Class of 2027, from Palmer, MA, was recently inducted into Lambda Epsilon Sigma, Stonehill College's honor society. The organization recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who have demonstrated an excitement for learning and sharing their knowledge.

Junior Achievement of Western Mass.
to honor 18 Under 18 Class of 2026

SPRINGFIELD — Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts (JAWM) will honor its 18 Under 18 Class of 2026 at a special celebration presented by Teddy Bear Pools and Spas. The awards dinner will take place at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, at Storrowton Carriage House, and will spotlight 18 outstanding young people from throughout Western Massachusetts who exemplify innovative spirit, leadership and community involvement.

"We are proud to celebrate this year's honorees and the example they set for their peers and their communities," said Amie Miarecki, president, JAWM. "Their accomplishments reflect tal-

ent, drive and a strong commitment to making a difference."

The following students comprise JA's 18 Under 18 Class of 2026:

- Miracle Chambers, Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy
- Kyleigh Dorman, Holyoke High School
- Brayden Federico, Agawam High School
- Alia Ghaoui, Williston Northampton School
- Graham Howard, Longmeadow High School
- Khloe Jacobs, Springfield International Charter School
- London Lester, Central High School
- Fynn Maldonado, Holyoke High School

- Xzavier Markham, Pittsfield High School
- Janyiah Mateo, Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy
- Nilani Mathur, Longmeadow High School
- Mykella Meadows, Central High School
- Adrien Pazmandy, Frontier Regional High School
- Rachel Roblinski, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Addison Rodriguez, Holyoke High School
- Arianna Turner, Central High School
- Toni Vassallo, Agawam High School
- Miya Wranovix, Longmeadow High School

JAWM thanks Teddy Bear Pools and Spas, Holyoke Community College, the Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA), The UPS Store and The Realistic CEO Magazine for supporting JA's 18 Under 18 Class of 2026.

Tickets to the event are on the Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts at westernmass.ja.org.

About Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts

(JAWM) the organization's first chapter. Today, it serves thousands of young people in Western Massachusetts and parts of Worcester County and Vermont who participate in JAWM learning experiences annually. For more information, visit jawm.org.

smart academic and economic choices. JA learning experiences are delivered by educators and community volunteers and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students ages 5 through 25 knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. JA was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1919, making Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts (JAWM) the organization's first chapter. Today, it serves thousands of young people in Western Massachusetts and parts of Worcester County and Vermont who participate in JAWM learning experiences annually. For more information, visit jawm.org.

64-year-old photography student stays focused through health challenges

SPRINGFIELD — When Candy Oyler walks into a classroom at Springfield Technical Community College, she brings decades of resilience and reinvention — and she carries a spirit that refuses to stop moving forward.

Now in the Digital Photography program, Oyler is on track to graduate with a certificate this spring. Her path to STCC is unlike any other — shaped by extraordinary health challenges, an impressive career in technology and business and a lifelong determination to create meaning, beauty and purpose in every chapter of her life.

Fifty years ago, Oyler was just 14 years old and living in Chicopee when she was diagnosed with bone cancer. The treatment was grueling. She underwent 18 months of chemotherapy and lost her leg. But she pushed forward, finishing high school and earning admission to Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. At the time, she imagined becoming a doctor or another type of health professional, inspired by her early medical journey, but life pulled her in a different direction.

After graduating, she entered the tech world in the early 1980s, an era when few women held sales roles in the booming computer industry. She thrived.

"It was crazy," said Oyler, now 64. "I was one of the few women locally selling

computers and software... and I built my career on that."

That career eventually took her across the country and around the world as vice president of business development for North America. But just as she was soaring professionally, her health took another turn.

At 58, she learned that her heart and other organs were failing. Within days of being placed on the transplant list, she received a donor heart at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"It'll be eight years this June," said Oyler, now living in Southwick. "I did really well. And you move on."

But even after the transplant, she wasn't done confronting medical adversity. She later developed stomach cancer. The treatment needed for that was the most difficult experience of her life. She lost more than 80 pounds.

"It was the darkest time I ever had out of everything I've been through," Oyler said.

It was her partner who planted the seed for a new beginning: "He said, 'You're so good at taking pictures. Why don't you become a photographer?'"

Oyler had always loved capturing moments for friends and family. But formal training? At her age? After everything she'd endured? She wasn't sure, until she realized nobody could walk her through learning a camera.

So she did what she has done her entire life. She reinvented herself.

Oyler enrolled at STCC in fall 2024. The switch from PCs to Macs was humbling. She had to learn a new operating system. But she embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, notebooks and humor.

"Being in class with young people was so much fun," she said. "I liked to talk to young people to see what was going on. So, it was fun, but it was hard."

Despite the learning curve, she excelled. Oyler made the Dean's List, joined the Honor Society, and began producing work that earned praise from faculty. She credited STCC faculty, including Professor Philip Ruderman, with supporting and inspiring her to do her best work.

Wendy McCann, an adjunct faculty member, also provided support that Oyler called "invaluable," helping her learn editing techniques, use new software and build confidence in the studio.

"Without that opportunity, I don't know if I'd be the student I am," Oyler said. "She helped me learn editing, how to use the computer — everything. I felt comfortable going to her."

Miah Dreger, Dean of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), said STCC welcomes students from different generations and backgrounds.



Candy Oyler at STCC campus.

Submitted photo

"Students like Candy remind us of what makes STCC such a special place," Dreger said. "Her determination and joy in learning show that education truly is for everyone, and that it can be a powerful source of purpose and connection at any stage of life. We're proud to support her and all students who choose to pursue their passions with us."

Alongside her coursework, Oyler has continued to manage ongoing cancer treatments and Mohs surgeries for the skin cancers caused by immunosuppression. But STCC gave her something to return to — something grounding, creative and forward-looking. She forged many friendships at STCC — students from different age groups and with different backgrounds.

"School gives me a reason to come back," she says. "I don't sit home dwelling on it. I have a schedule. I love it."

Last year, in an advertising photography class, Oyler created a logo and brand for herself, "Victory Road Photography."

"It says a lot about me," she reflected. "My life is reinventing and moving on."

And the business is already taking shape. She has photographed weddings, baby showers, children's holiday portraits and a writers' conference where she shot 33 professional headshots. With every job, her confidence grows.

"I know how to network, how to knock on doors," she said. "Showing up is more than half of it."

Her next goal: building

a website and continuing to refine her craft through advanced courses at STCC.

For Oyler, photography is more than a hobby or a career pivot. It is a way of reclaiming life after profound loss and illness — a medium through which she captures beauty, memory and the simple joy of being present.

"I'm doing this because of all the challenges and trying to be new and creative," she said. "People say I'm reinventing myself, but I reinvent for survival. I want to be contemporary and have a purpose."

"I don't know how the rest of my story is written," Oyler said. "But for today, I'm pursuing photography. And it's fun. Once you get past the classes, you can really dream."

NOTICE

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

BELCHERTOWN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL CHOICE
PROGRAM
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2026-2027 school year:

Grade	Openings	Grade	Openings
Grade K	3	Grade 6	1
Grade 1	3	Grade 7	7
Grade 2	3	Grade 8	7
Grade 3	1	Grade 9	14
Grade 4	2	Grade 10	14
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, May 29, 2026.

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 May 29, 2026, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 15, 2026.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$285/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
- 100% Workers Compensation • 60 Ton Crane

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

EARLY
DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
there will be an
EARLY AD DEADLINE

To advertise,
place your ad no later than NOON
Thursday, May 21

— Thank you! —

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Psychedelic Visions
Featuring
The Art of
Alan J. Morin

Sat., May 9
Sun., May 10
Noon - 4pm

HOUSE OF ART
200 Main Street
Monson, MA

FOR RENT
Quabbin Estates
41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094
Accepting applications for wait list.
The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower.
RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379

Pioneer Valley Wine Festival on June 6-7

BRIMFIELD – Brimfield Auction Acres, Birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows will host the 6th annual Pioneer Valley wine festival on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

Tantasqua celebrates student talent on May 13

FISKDALE – Tantasqua Regional School District's Annual All-Region Arts Show is coming up on Tuesday, May 13.

Showcasing the artwork of student artists from grades K-12 throughout the district, this community favorite event will be rounded out by musical performances from the high school band and choruses.

The art show will be held from 5-7 p.m. with the musical performances starting at 7 p.m.

The Annual All-Region Arts Show provides an opportunity for students from all of the district's schools, including Brimfield Elementary, Brookfield Elementary, Burgess Elementary, Holland Elementary, Wales Elementary and the Tantasqua Regional Jr/Sr High Schools, to display their creative talent.

This year, the show will

bring together an impressive array of 2D and 3D works combined with live musical performances by the senior high bands and choruses, offering a glimpse into the wide-ranging artistic talent cultivated across the district.

Among the evening's highlights are the senior showcase celebrating artwork created by graduating seniors, immersive elementary art presentations, face painting, and fun activities for all ages, with raffles and prize drawings for Tantasqua Regional students attending the event.

The Tantasqua community and beyond are warmly invited to attend the Annual All-Region Arts Show and experience the remarkable talent of the district's students firsthand.

For more information, please contact Bryce French at 508-347-9301, extension 5010.

Church announces plant, bake, craft, tag sale

HARDWICK - The Tri Parish Community Church welcomes the public to their 20th annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale May 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the beautiful Hardwick common. The sale will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm & Garden both of New Braintree, and "homegrown lovelies" from private gardens. A delicious assortment

of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold.

The church will be holding a drawing featuring the "best" of the plant sale. No purchase is necessary to win. Several outdoor activities and games will be available for children.

A number of craft vendors have rented space on the common for the event. The Friends of the Stone Church will also be on hand, highlighting their preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville, as well as the upcoming programs that are offered at the center.

The Tri Parish Community Church's Pastor, Duncan Washburn, will lead a brief prayer service Sunday morning on the common in lieu of the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service.

The proceeds from the plant and bake sale support the operational expenses of the church. Come spend the day enjoying all that Hardwick has to offer while supporting the fund-raising efforts of the church. Browse the plants and vendor booths, connect with old friends, visit the Hardwick Historical Society, open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. both days, and the 1906 Paige Memorial library which

will be open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday.

Both buildings are located near the common, a short walk from the plant sale venue. Bring your bicycle and tour some of the great riding routes in the east-Quabbin area and scenic vistas preserved through the East Quabbin Land Trust such as the Mandell Hill property located just one mile east of the Hardwick common (we will hold your plants for you), and top it all off with a bite to eat at Mimi's Coffee House overlooking the common.

All are welcome. This is a rain or shine event.

CONCOMM | from page 1

Shearer St. Wellman Realty, LLC and the Healthcare Center had proposed the construction of a building addition at the location of the existing healthcare center.

"The project proposes redeveloping and expanding their existing facility with a two-story addition, additional parking, new landscaping, lighting, utilities, and stormwater systems," O'Connor read. "Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer zone and 500-foot no-disturb zone bordering vegetated wetlands."

Mike Scott, the engineer from Land Design Collaborative had previously met with the commission to present the project before it was continued. Scott pointed out the more substantive changes in the revised plan.

"One was to eliminate a little parking in the front," Scott said. "The intent is to put an addition on the right side of the building, and we have a parking lot in front."

Scott said that two parking spaces were eliminated from the corner of the parking lot at the request of the Planning Board, primarily for lighting nuisance and to provide a greater buffer that would allow for some vegetation.

"We've called for a row

of ewes that could be trimmed into a hedge at an adequate height," Scott said, "so it'll provide year-round screening for any lighting."

The other substantial change was not visible on the plans, but was the increased size of the infiltration system, which is under the parking lot, and received comments from the Department of Environmental Protection.

"To alleviate those concerns, the system was expanded, that reduced the rates and volumes of run-off to below what is modeled as running off the site today," Scott said.

Another change Scott pointed out was to the existing parking lot to the left of the existing building.

"It's gravel or dirt and gets muddy in the winter, so it's not an ideal situation," Scott said. "There are probably 13 to 14 usable spaces out there, dimensionally, so the revised plan has six spaces in the location, but to be stabilized as grass paver, or similar."

Scott described grass paver as a plastic or polymer structure that's fairly shallow and gets infilled with soil and set upon proper base material, like pavement would be, but is a drainable base material.

"In the event that they need the extra parking, they have six spaces they will be designated," Scott said, mentioning boulders that will be

brought in to block paths and identify the spaces.

Scott added that the Planning Board had already reviewed and voted to approve the finding and site plan and stormwater permit. The commission voted unanimously to approve the new plans.

Ware Street

The first hearing was for the destruction of a condemned structure at 253 Ware St.

"The applicant submitted a Request for Determination of applicability for proposed activities associated with the demolition of an existing mobile home and the construction of a new residence," O'Connor read. "Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer of vegetated wetlands."

Ladin shared photos of the site, showing the building to be demolished, where the new structure will go, and the wetland area. The property owners, Peter and Sandy, were invited to speak before the commission.

"One-and-a-half years ago, we bought the place with the vision of bringing a new mobile home and replacing the one that is existing right there, because right now it's condemned," Sandy said. "The vision is to bring something new, fresh, and make it beautiful."

The owners said that the structure needs to be torn

down in order to build a slab for the new home. The owners estimated the slab would be 80-90 feet away from the wetlands, within the 100-foot buffer zone.

"There's a paved area that we're going to use to tear that one down," Sandy said, "so we don't mess with the wetlands. We want to try to keep everything smooth and clean."

Ladin pointed out erosion controls in the plan and commented that the flatness of the property would make things easier. The owners said that they had tested the water already, and that the original structure is further within the wetlands buffer zone, and that the new one will be constructed further out.

"We're going to use the same septic that are in the property," Sandy said. "We're going to use the well that is for both houses - the one in the front, and our property - so it's going to be the same. We're just going to use the

same things that are right there, just replacing what's old from anew."

"This morning, we noticed that there are invasive plants that we want to remove," Peter added.

The owners said that it took a full dumpster and three trucks to clean the property.

"We would like to clean up that area and have something pretty," Sandy said. "When we bought it, it was old trash. Trash here, trash there; so we have been cleaning it up little by little."

Commissioner Peter Izyk, who visited the property to take the photos for the meeting, said that he had no problem with the development.

"It's already disturbed with the hold trailer there, so I have no problem with having a new house put in there," Izyk said.

Commissioner Nicholas Zeo said that this plan looked like an improvement, and O'Connor agreed, adding that the owners would

be able to remove invasive plants. The commission voted unanimously to approve the project.

"The work described in the request is within the buffer zone as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an area subject to jurisdiction under the act," Ladin said. "Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a notice of intent, subject to the following conditions."

Ladin explained that once the erosion controls are in place, she will go to the property to make sure that they match what's on the plan, and then when the work is finished, she will return to make sure everything is stable, describing seeds or grass that would be written into the plan.

"Then you can remove the erosion controls, but that's all within the conditions," Ladin added.

More information about the commission can be found on their webpage at TownOfPalmer.com/Conservation.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



NURSES: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CAREER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- ✓ Become a Private Patient Advocate
- ✓ High Pay | Rewarding Work | Flexible Schedule
- ✓ Online Training & Mentorship with Expert Guidance
- ✓ Help Patients Navigate the Healthcare System



BOOK A CALL TODAY WITH TERI FRYKENBERG



www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners, HiSet English, Writing & Math Computer/Tech

April Showers Bring MAY BASKETS!

The May Basket Raffle begins May 1st
Baskets displayed in the Palmer Public Library
Tickets on sale in the Library,
Top Floor Learning's office, and in your mailbox
\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20
Drawing June 1st LIVE at Top Floor Learning

- Basic Computer Use
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Starting April 8, tutors will be available from 1:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: director@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

RALLY | from page 1

Olympians in our building who participated," Degnan said. "When each of the students was introduced individually, they received thunderous applause from the student body."

As they entered the gymnasium, the Olympians were given walk-up songs, which were played over the loud-speaker to yelling and cheering from the other students. Approximately 200 posters were made by the students and teachers to decorate the gym and encourage the Olympians leading up to the event this weekend.

"The kids were phenomenal, huge smiles came out," Degnan said. "The Olympians sat in chairs in front of the entire student body, and they gave them a nice round of applause. Then we talked about what they'd do the next day."

During his information-

al speech, Degnan took a moment to recognize the 21 student helpers who donated their time to the event, including students who helped set up the music for the rally. The assembly closed out with a 10-14 minute volleyball game.

"All in all, it was a really good day," Degnan said. "We gave them a little 'ra-ra!'"

A student named Teddy S. was asked to come to the microphone and recite Special Olympics Oath, which is read prior to all Special Olympics ceremonies.

"Let me win," the oath reads, "but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Degnan said that Teddy's reciting of the oath was "pretty slick," and that he was asked to do the same thing before the Special Olympics the following day.

The Olympics themselves went well, according to Degnan, which he credited to the work of Director of Curriculum Collette Bidus.

Students from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and the Hampden-Wilbraham district have attended the Special Olympics in the district for several years, and the event draws hundreds of participants.

"All of our students walk down from the high school and we do a quick little send-off," Degnan said. "We go outside and play music when the Special Olympians walk out of our building and hop on the van to head to the event. Then, as soon as that's over, our students walk down and hang out outside the track and watch the ceremony."

Degnan was thankful for the support from the teachers and students, and said the event was very upbeat and positive.

"When the kids were introduced, they had big old smiles," Degnan said. "Hopefully, it meant a lot to them. Our students were absolutely supportive and spectacular; you name it, they were great."



Ryan C. led the Special Olympians in a procession into the school gymnasium.



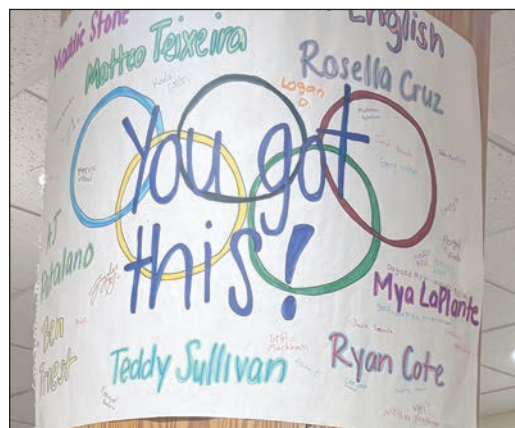
Cheerleaders greeted A.J. as he arrived for the pep rally.



Eric Degnan provided the Special Olympians with information about the event.



Rosie C. cheered as the procession of Special Olympians entered the gymnasium.



Nearly 200 posters decorated the walls of the gymnasium, with encouraging statements like "let's go" and "you got this!"



91 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-277-0009
www.hannasonmain.com

Mon & Tues Functions Only • Wed & Thurs 11:00 AM - 9PM
Fri & Sat 11:00 AM - 10pm • Sun 8AM - 9PM

Complete Catering Services!
Hot Foods • Cold Foods
Salads • Sandwich Trays

Graduations • Holidays • Anniversaries
Business Events
Birthdays • Retirements • Reunions



www.hannasonmain.com
413-277-0009

Function Room Available

Mother's Day at Hanna's on Main

TREAT
Sunday, May 10th
MOM

9am - 6pm

Treat Mom to a day out with her favorites, from morning favorites to evening specials

9am - 12pm
Full breakfast menu
Chef's Specials

12:30pm - 6pm
Full dinner menu
Mother's Day Dinner
Specials

hannasonmain.com

Call to reserve your table
413-277-0009

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

sports.turley.com

BASEBALL

Warriors pick up shutout win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE – The Belchertown and Tantasqua varsity baseball teams have qualified for the Division 3 state tournament in each of the past four seasons.

As May began, both teams found themselves with records below .500, raising

uncertainty about their ability to secure a spot in this year's state tournament.

The Warriors celebrated a 6-0 non-league victory against the Orioles at Emrich Field, last Friday afternoon.

"We're a young and inexperienced team this season, so this is a very big win for us," said Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux. "We began the

season slowly. Our starting pitchers needed to learn how to consistently throw strikes. We've played very well this week, and I think we're now heading in the right direction."

The Warriors, who also defeated the Orioles the past two years, had 4-8 overall record following the only meeting of this season.

Tantasqua's turnaround began at the beginning of last week. They were trailing Millbury, 7-2, before making a late comeback. They wound up losing that game by the final score of 7-6. Two days later, the Warriors outslugged Auburn, 16-13, in a road win.

"We made an outstanding

WARRIORS | page 10

LACROSSE



Brennan Peterson makes a throw on the run.

SOFTBALL

Mustangs get by Belchertown

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, Monson High School softball defeated visiting Belchertown 8-5 in a good battle between the two schools. Monson did more of its scoring early in the game, getting out to a 7-2 lead. Belchertown made a

push in the fifth inning, scoring three runs, but Monson was able to prevent any further damage to get the win. Belchertown got a hit and two RBI from Kina Roy. Sophia Mitus scored a pair of runs and had a hit. Monson was led by starting pitcher

Chelsea Hull, who had a three-hit, four runs scored game. She also pitched a complete game. Monson is now 10-5 on the season while Belchertown fell to 9-4.



Monson's Chelsea Hull fires a pitch home.



Mia Cancel makes a throw to second.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Mai Uliana fouls off a pitch.



Madelynn Caron tries to make a catch.

Boys lacrosse keeps winning

MONSON – Last Saturday afternoon, Monson got another big win, defeating visiting McCann Tech 15-1 to improve to 8-3 on the season. Monson has also won five straight games with some tough challenges coming through in the next two weeks. Monson will make the state tournament, but will be fighting to also get into the small Western Mass. tournament that will be held prior to states. Monson will face Saint John Paul II on Saturday, May 9 at 1 p.m. on the road.



Kyle Beaudry reaches out to get the loose ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Parker Libs holds the ball back.



Dom Menard heads up the field.



Isaac Summers gets ready to turn and fire at the goal.



Landon Couture is pursued by the opposing defense.

@turleysports | www.turleysports.com | facebook.com/turleysports

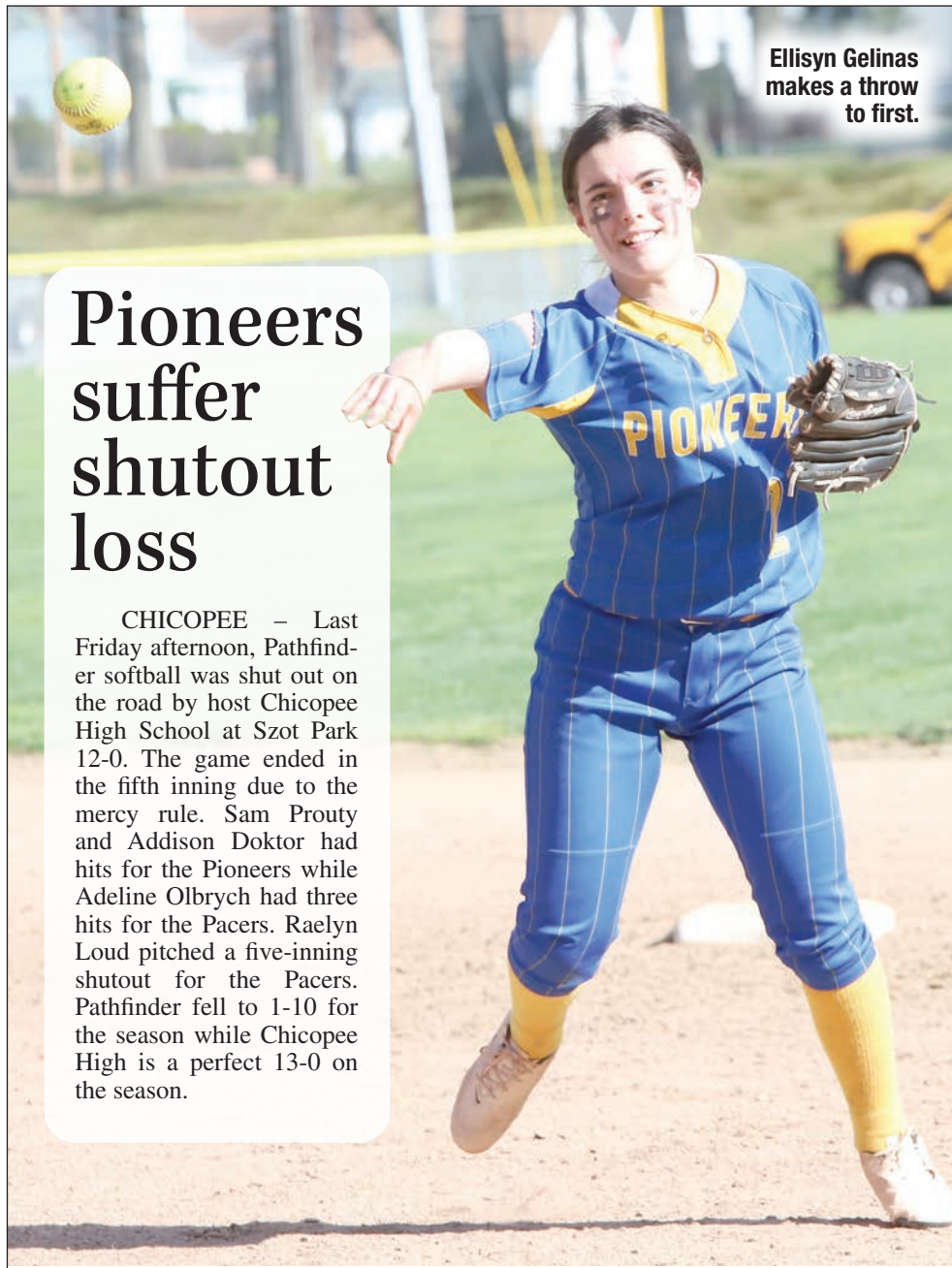
Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Chelsea Hull
Monson High School

Hull not only gutted out a complete game win over Belchertown, but she also had three hits and four runs scored in the matchup.

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

Ellisyn Gelinas makes a throw to first.

Pioneers suffer shutout loss

CHICOPEE – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder softball was shut out on the road by host Chicopee High School at Szot Park 12-0. The game ended in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule. Sam Prouty and Addison Doktor had hits for the Pioneers while Adeline Olbrych had three hits for the Pacers. Raelyn Loud pitched a five-inning shutout for the Pacers. Pathfinder fell to 1-10 for the season while Chicopee High is a perfect 13-0 on the season.

MOULTON
Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

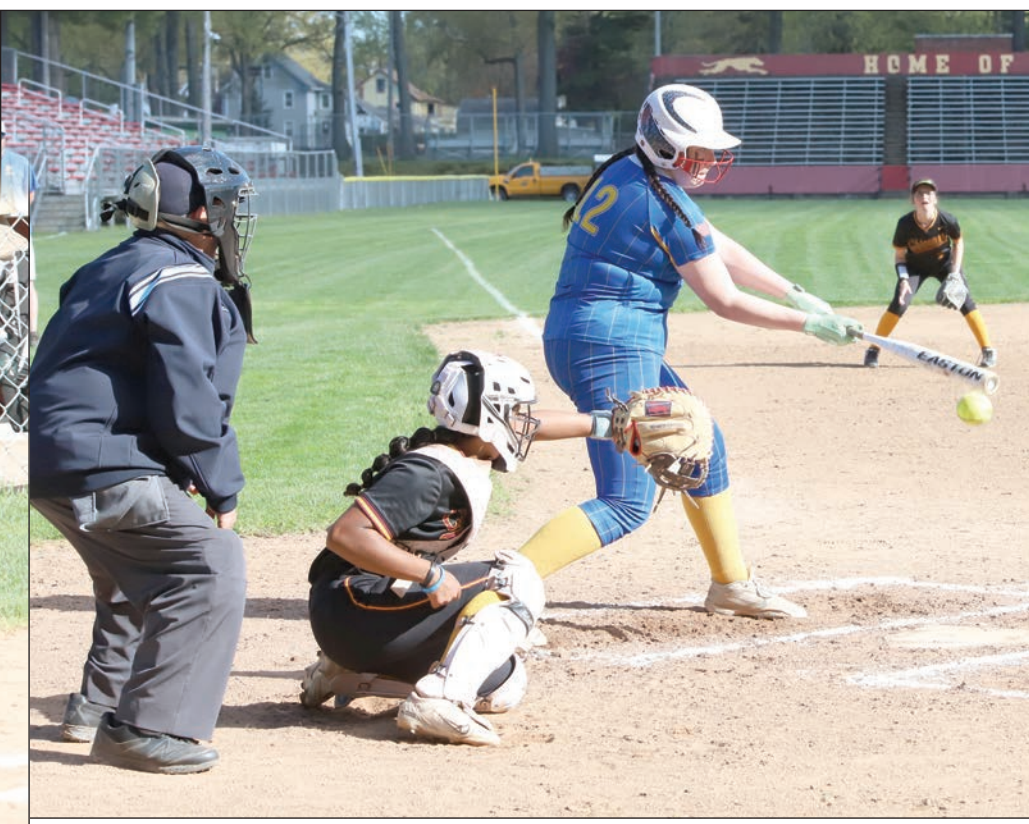
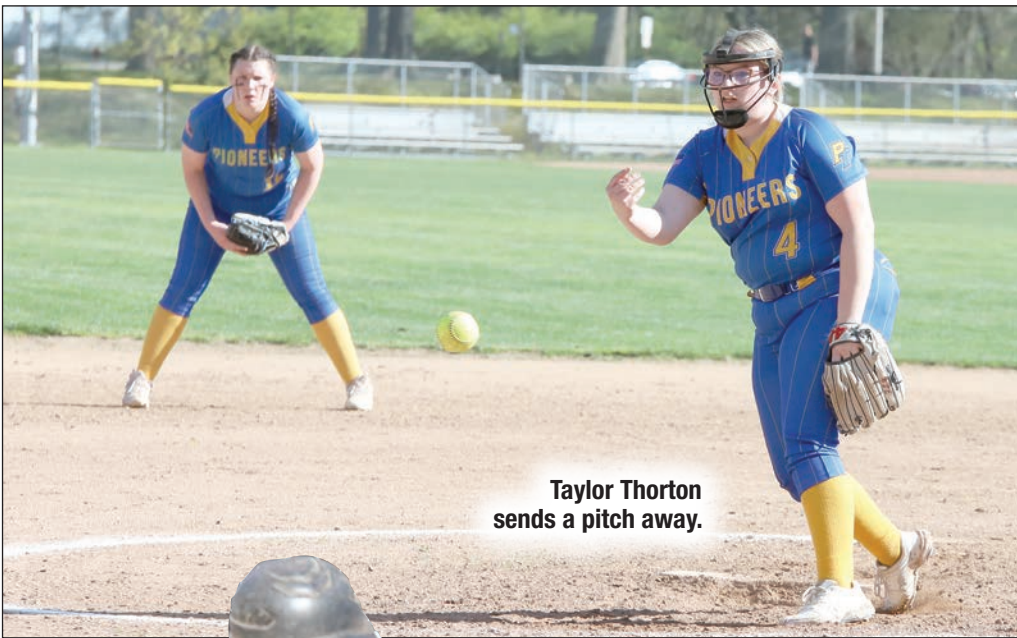
143 West Street Ware, MA 01082 | 45 North Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

Safety Insurance
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

Our Family Cares About Your Family



WARRIORS | from page 9

ing comeback against Millbury, but we came up one base hit short of winning the game," added Leroux, who was drafted by the New York Mets in the 32nd round of the 2012 MLB draft. "We scored 16 runs the other day against Auburn, who's a very good baseball team."

The Orioles (4-7), who lost their fourth consecutive game, haven't celebrated a victory since defeating Agawam, 5-1, at home on April 16.

One of the eight sophomores listed on the Warriors roster is righthander Jack Nichols, who was the winning

pitcher against the Orioles.

Nichols, who's a second-year varsity baseball player, pitched the first five innings, allowing no runs and two singles. He issued five walks and struck out two batters.

Belchertown senior second baseman Nathan Marino drew a four pitch walk leading off the game. He moved to second base on a perfect sacrifice bunt by senior left fielder Austin Raymer. Following a flyball out, Nichols picked off the runner at second base for the final out of the inning.

Nichols walked two more batters in the next inning, but the Orioles had a runner tagged out at the plate trying to score on a wild pitch, which

ended the inning.

The Warriors responded by scoring three runs in the bottom half of the second inning against senior righthander Canyon Charron, who pitched six innings.

Nichols hit a groundball to the shortstop leading off the frame and he wound up standing on second base following a throwing error. Nichols scored the game's first run when sophomore third baseman Paul Savage blasted a triple over the right fielder's head. Senior catcher Ethan LaPlante hit another groundball to the third baseman. Savage got himself into a rundown between home and third. He was tagged out, but the umpire called interference on the play and Savage

wound up scoring the Warriors second run. The other run crossed the plate when a pop-up hit by sophomore right fielder Evan LaFountain was mishandled by the Belchertown right fielder.

With two outs in the third inning, Nichols, hit a flair single into rightfield before stealing second base. He scored following a single to right by Savage.

Nichols and Savage accounted for four of the Warriors' seven base hits.

Trailing 4-0, Belchertown had the potential tying run at the plate with two outs in the fifth.

Their rally began with senior catcher Joe Minnon reaching first base following

a fielding error by the shortstop. Then sophomore third baseman Alex Ryzek hit into a fielder's choice play. The inning continued with Marino lining a single to left and Raymer drawing a walk, which loaded the bases.

Nichols escaped the jam without allowing any runs when senior shortstop Ryan Gould flied out to right.

"A baseball game can change very quickly at this level," Leroux said. "If they get a hit in that inning, the score is 4-2 or 4-3 and we're in a tight game. Jack did an outstanding job getting out of that jam."

Nichols traded places with Savage before the start of the sixth inning after delivering an RBI triple to right with

two outs in the bottom of the fifth.

Savage, who has only pitched in relief this spring, retired six of the seven batters that he faced during the final two innings. He allowed a single to freshman centerfielder Max Matthews (2-for-3) with one-out in the sixth.

LaFountain capped off the Warriors scoring with an infield hit which scored senior Gabe Lopez, who had doubled down the left field line, with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

As the Warriors aim to maintain their strong performance as the regular season draws to a close, the Orioles are eager to change their fortunes.

REUNITE | from page 1

picnics that were put together by the three chiefs, initially for the firefighters, then opening up to the families as their families got bigger.

"A couple of guys said we should be getting together again," Matthews said. "Three of us, myself, Matt Lemieux, and Ben Dube, got together and decided we'll start it."

During the dinner, firefighters shared stories around the table. During previous years, the firefighters would stand up and address the room at large, but they were able to keep the conversation more intimate by talking amongst their table, and visiting other tables to connect with the other guests.

Matthews said that reg-

ular social gatherings among the firefighters help to tighten the bonds between them and their families, and talked about the ways that the members of the Three Rivers department would gather and socialize while they were still working together, such as softball games and picnics.

"I'm going to keep doing this as long as I can," Matthews said. "We used to do memorial breakfast, we would go to station on a Sunday morning, we'd have steak and eggs for breakfast, go to every cemetery that we had one of our past members in, say a prayer, play 'Taps', got a bagpipe they'd play 'Amazing Grace' instead, and then we'd go back to the station and do the same thing, talk about old times, sit there and sometimes play cards.

"That stuff all ended," Matthews lamented. "One of the reasons I started doing this is one of my buddies, just before I got off the department, said, 'Once you're gone, all this is going to stop.' And he was right; I understand that they tried doing it last year, but they had no idea what to do."

Most of the members of the department that Matthews reached out to RSVP'd, and he is committed to continuing this tradition. Matthews said that if anyone knows a former Three Rivers firefighter who hasn't been getting invitations, to reach out to him so he can send them an invitation next year.

"The fact is, we're a brotherhood," Matthews said. "It's our family reunion. We worked hard, and we played hard."



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

This writer enjoyed a wonderful dinner of chicken, beef, and veggies with (from left) Dan Moore, Josette Before, Theresa and Ben Dube, Matt and Sharon Lemieux, and Candace and Ted Bock.



Dan Flynn sat with Terry Hawk, Francis and Erin Sullivan, and John and Heather Sasur.



Laura and Richard Pobieglo, Chris Geoffrion, and Pete and Deb Shabot patiently waited for a delicious meal to be served at Villa Rose.



The first course of fish and rice was served to (from left) Tracy Bergeron, Holly Daigle, Tracy Santos, Sherri Lajzer, Kevin Jusko, Jody Santos, Dan Daigle, and Chris Bergeron.



Seated together were (from left) former Deputy Chiefs Phil Dalessio and Mike Matthews, Carol Dalessio, Patricia Matthews, Belinda and former Chief Pat O'Connor.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



Mike Matthews sends invitations to former and retired firefighters for the reunion every year.



Erin Sullivan and Chris Geoffrion joked about getting matching haircuts.



Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation
& Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation

QVCDC IS HIRING!

We are hiring for the following positions:

- Credit Assistant** (25 - 30 hours per week)
- Accounting Assistant** (30 - 40 hours per week)
- Loan Program Coordinator** (40 hours per week)
- Community Specialist** (35 hours per week)

For more information, please visit <https://qvcdc.org/employment>

The Quaboag Valley CDC/BAC is an equal opportunity employer, lender and provider and does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family/parental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity (including expression), sexual orientation, marital status, income derived from public assistance programs, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact **Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.**

A.A./E.O.E.

REPORT | from page 1

cess begins early in the school year, with monthly meetings between the superintendent and union representatives and the union president to discuss nuances that will come into play the following year. Francis goes to the school principals for their input, and then the executive team irons out a draft before finally bringing it to the committee.

"This year was a year that the union – and I'll get to why – sent out two versions to their membership to vote on," Francis explained. "As part of the Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Teachers Union, it's supposed to be a collaboration between administration and the teachers; it's not something we just impose upon them."

Francis drew the committee's attention to the consecutive yellow boxes marking Aug. 24, which will be a Convocation Day and Professional Development Day, and then the first day of school on Aug. 25. He then addressed a common question about the first day for kindergarten and preschool when compared to other grades.

"A question that we get from time to time is why does kindergarten start after, and why does preschool start after grades 1-12?" Francis

said, explaining that the law requires students over the age of six to be educated for 180 school days. "Kindergarten is under the age requirement, and because of that, they're not held to the 180 days, as well as preschool."

Francis further expanded that, through talking about the matter with Principal Holly Riopel, he was told that this allows the kindergarten and preschool teachers to do the screening they need to do so they have data on each of the students coming into the building.

"In addition, the other regulation I want to mention is the time on learning regulation," Francis said, then added, "just for the general public, secondary school children must meet 990 hours minimum over the course of those 180 days, where elementary students must meet a 900 hour minimum."

Francis said that there is time students spend in the school that does not count towards the requisite hours, such as lunch, or "passing time," the two or three minutes where students transition between classes. He said that this information has to be submitted to the state, and then transitioned into talking about how this requirement affects snow closures.

"In years past, you might

have seen five snow days being accounted for," Francis said, comparing the storms of this past winter across the state as an example. "We fortunately didn't get hit with as much as the east, but that last storm we got, a lot of the districts east of Worcester were out for a few weeks."

"It is kind of a misconception that if you make up your five snow days, then you can submit a waiver to the state if you go above that," Francis said. "That is inaccurate; you must meet the 180 day requirement."

Francis described state regulations that state that the last day for 12th grade cannot be more than 12 days before the last scheduled original day of school.

"12th graders are always happy when there's a snow day, because they do not have to make those snow days up," Francis said. "They get no more than 12 days prior for their last day of school."

Francis said that since 2023, the calendar no longer lists snow days, because the district can expect anywhere from less than five to more than five days of snowfall over the winter.

The district's proposed calendar for the 2026-27 school year, with the Aug. 25 start date, goes until June 8, which Francis described as a

"solid landing point for the end of the school year."

"It is two days earlier than when we would've ended this year," Francis said, "but with snow days, the last day for the high school is on June 16, and the last day for Old Mill Pond is June 17."

Lastly, Francis explained why Good Friday was removed from the draft calendar, based on early conversations with the union president.

"We have, throughout the past couple of years, shared the demographic changes of the school district," Francis said. "We have many staff and students who do not practice or follow the Christian belief. We have many students and staff members that may be of Jewish belief, or Muslim, Hindu, and the like."

Francis said that, if the district is to be true to its goal of respecting the entire community and creating a safe and welcoming environment for everybody, to continue observing Good Friday would set preference for a specific religious belief.

"Good Friday is the only Christian holiday that we take off," Francis said. "All the other holidays that fall within the Christian belief system happen to fall in other vacations, Christmas being an example, Easter is always on a Sunday, and all the other ones

do not have the day off. Good Friday is the only one that we recognize as a day off for a religious holiday."

"Are we really creating and living by our five core values by recognizing that sole religious holiday of Good Friday?" Francis asked the committee.

The union received two drafts of the calendar, including one where Good Friday was removed, and one where it was not, and received a split 50-50 vote. With that, Francis proposed a draft calendar to the committee without Good Friday.

The school year, with the Aug. 25 start date, goes until June 8, which Francis described as a "solid landing point for the end of the school year."

"It is two days earlier than when we would've ended this year," Francis said, "but with snow days, the last day for the high school is on June 16, and the last day for Old Mill Pond is June 17."

Lastly, Francis explained why Good Friday was removed from the draft calendar, based on early conversations with the union president.

"We have, throughout the past couple of years, shared the demographic changes of the school district," Francis said. "We have many staff and

students who do not practice or follow the Christian belief. We have many students and staff members that may be of Jewish belief, or Muslim, Hindu, and the like."

Francis said that, if the district is to be true to its goal of respecting the entire community and creating a safe and welcoming environment for everybody, to continue observing Good Friday would set preference for a specific religious belief.

"Good Friday is the only Christian holiday that we take off," Francis said. "All the other holidays that fall within the Christian belief system happen to fall in other vacations, Christmas being an example, Easter is always on a Sunday, and all the other ones do not have the day off. Good Friday is the only one that we recognize as a day off for a religious holiday."

"Are we really creating and living by our five core values by recognizing that sole religious holiday of Good Friday?" Francis asked the committee.

The union received two drafts of the calendar, including one where Good Friday was removed, and one where it was not, and received a split 50-50 vote. With that, Francis proposed a draft calendar to the committee without Good Friday.

GRANT | from page 1

year. The school promised additional updates and announcements regarding the project in the coming months, as the district prepares the campus for students.

"This is a tremendous opportunity not only for Pathfinder Tech but for the entire region," said Duda. "We are ensuring that a former school building remains an active, thriving educational space while giving more students the chance to pursue rewarding career pathways. This expansion is a milestone for career technical education in Western Massachusetts, building on decades of success at Pathfinder Tech and opening new doors for students."

To ensure that the new campus preserves its local roots and maintains a strong connection to the community, Pathfinder will invite Belchertown residents to help select a name for the new campus through a community survey.

In addition to creating new educational opportunities, The Cold Spring location is expected to create new educational opportunities, generate local job growth, and strengthen community partnerships by preserving a valuable community asset and addressing the increased need for skilled career training.

"This is truly a win-win," added Duda. "We're expanding opportunities for students, creating jobs, and keeping an important school building in Belchertown alive with purpose. The excitement will only continue to build as we move closer to opening our doors in 2026."

Duda emphasized that the expansion is intended to significantly increase access to career technical education opportunities for students throughout the district's nine member communities.

"If a student from Palmer, Monson, Belchertown, Granby, Ware, Warren, Oakham,

Hardwick, or New Braintree wants a Career Technical Education, now is the time to apply," Duda said. "Pathfinder Tech will have a seat and space available for you next school year beginning in September. We are ready to prepare students for direct entry into a high-wage career, college, military service, or any other aspirations they may have."

This 150-seat expansion is possible thanks to the Cold Spring expanded campus in Belchertown, and represents the single largest student expansion in the district's history. Duda reported that this initiative is being completed without incurring debt to the nine member towns, as well as without major capital requests, and without immediate impacts to local taxpayers assessments.

This strategic initiative is being accomplished solely through strategic financial planning, along with grant funding secured from the commonwealth.

"Support for this planned expansion has been comprehensive and widespread," Duda said. "Senators, state representatives, and elected officials from all nine member communities have signed on in support of this creative, forward-thinking, and affordable approach to increasing access to career and technical education opportunities for students throughout the region."

Now in his fifth year as superintendent and his 20th year serving the district, Duda has made strategic long-term planning into a strength of his leadership. In recent years, the district has received record levels of grant funding. These include over \$5 million in competitive grant funding to increase student access, purchase equipment, renovate facilities, and add square footage to support expansion efforts, and an additional \$1.5 million to support new adult and continue education programming, and to help keep the campus active and vi-



Governor Maura Healey spoke about how Career and Technical Education provides students with hands-on learning for skilled jobs and great careers.

“ You don't need to try to duplicate with an introductory version of what we offer. Instead, remember that Pathfinder Tech is already the town's school, and students are now guaranteed to have a seat available for them to attend. ”

– Superintendent Eric Duda

brant during the evenings and weekends when it's used by adult learners.

Compared to other school districts in the region that are struggling with budget cuts, declining enrollment, and closures, Pathfinder is a notable exception, with its record levels of enrollment, carrying no debt, and requesting no major capital funding from its nine member towns.

Duda described Pathfinder as a model for what's possible in education throughout the region. As a graduate from Pathfinder himself, Duda said he understands firsthand the life-changing opportunities this model of education can provide students. While some districts in the region are attempting to replicate aspects

of Pathfinder Tech's programming, Duda emphasized that Pathfinder already belongs to the nine member communities and exists to serve their students.

"Pathfinder Tech is already your school," Duda noted. "It belongs to the students and families of our nine member towns."

"There's no need for member school districts to waste money, time, and resources on introductory elective type career courses like the ones occurring in the towns of Palmer and Monson," Duda said. "You don't need to try to duplicate with an introductory version of what we offer. Instead, remember that Pathfinder Tech is already the town's school,



Submitted photos

Superintendent Eric Duda (left) met with Governor Maura Healey to accept the grant of \$3.5 million.

and students are now guaranteed to have a seat available for them to attend."

Duda recommended that the towns "encourage students to apply and take advantage of the career and technical education already available to them, should that be the desired educational model they want to pursue."

In addition to Governor Healey, the event was attended by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Secretary of Education Stephen Zrike, and Commissioner of Educa-

tion Pedro Martinez, as well as several additional cabinet members, mayors, and state and local officials.

Pathfinder Tech plans to continue pursuing funding sources to support the expansion, including the recently announced \$100 million CTE Capacity Expansion Grant Initiative from the Healey-Driscoll Administration.

Pathfinder Tech is currently accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Prospective students can apply at PathfinderTech.org.

Parents, Grandparents & Friends

Congratulate YOUR Graduate

2026

SPECIAL!

CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE

in your community graduation issue.

Submit a photo and a brief message.

2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

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

Love, Mom & Dad

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 29th

EMAIL YOUR AD TO: dflynn@turley.com

SPECIAL! \$55.00

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:

Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

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

Obituaries

Katie Lynn Pranaitis

PALMER – Katie Lynn Pranaitis, age 41, of Palmer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, April 17, 2026. Born on March 27, 1985, at Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, Massachusetts, Katie was the beloved daughter of Debra Pranaitis and David Pranaitis. She attended Palmer High School and went on to work for Dr. Peter Kelly, as well as Crimmins Insurance in Palmer. Katie had a deep love for animals and cherished her companions, especially her rescue dog Eldon, along with Oliver the cat, Sydney the macaw, and her turtle and tortoise. She found joy in the simple pleasures of life, including caring for her koi pond, where she spent many peaceful hours, and tending to her collection of houseplants gathered from garden shows. Katie was a devoted fan of Taylor Swift and Harry Potter. She loved traveling, particularly with her mother, Deb, enjoying trips to Disney, various parts of Florida, and cruises to many beautiful islands. She also enjoyed attending tag sales and expressing her creativity through crafts, often selling her handmade items at craft fairs and gifting them to family and friends. Katie is survived by her maternal grand-



mother, Alice "Bacci" Smith of Palmer, and her paternal grandmother, Teresa Pranaitis of Bondsville. She also leaves behind her uncles, Paul Pranaitis and his wife Shirley of Windsor, Connecticut, and Mark Pranaitis and his wife Andrea of Simsbury, Connecticut, along with many first, second, and third cousins. She will be deeply missed by her best friend, Dena, with whom she shared many adventures. Katie was especially close to her cousins, "Auntie Theresa and Uncle Keith", and their children, Jake and her goddaughter Abby. Katie was predeceased by her loving parents, Debra and David Pranaitis. She was a devoted granddaughter and took great care of her beloved "Bacci." Katie leaves behind many friends who shared her passions for animals and plants. She was taken far too soon and will be remembered for her kindness, creativity, and love of life. It is comforting to know she has been reunited with her parents and the many pets she loved so dearly. No services will be held at this time. New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Katie's memorial page at www.nefcc.net for expressions of sympathy.

Joseph R. White, Esq.

LUDLOW – Joseph R. White, Esq., 84, passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Baystate Medical Center on April 24, 2026. Born on September 4, 1941, in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Joseph V. and Kathryn M. (Ziembra) White. Joe was raised in Palmer and went on to build a life defined by service, dedication, and leadership. Joe was a proud and distinguished veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Gulf War era. His final active-duty assignment was during Operation Desert Shield, where he worked at the Pentagon. A counter-intelligence officer, Joe attained the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and retired as the Commander of a Massachusetts Army Reserve unit. He also shared his expertise as an instructor at the US Army Judge Advocate General school in Charlottesville, Virginia. Joe was also honored to serve as a member of the adjunct faculty of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the fac-



ulty of the First Army Intelligence School at Ft. Meade, Maryland. Joe earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1970. He graduated from Suffolk University Law School in 1973 and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar that same year. He began his legal career practicing with Attorney Jim Rooney in Palmer, Massachusetts, before opening his own private practice, Law Offices of Joseph R. White in Palmer. He was joined by his daughter, Elizabeth, in 2007 and together they created White Law Offices, P.C. Joe proudly owned and operated the practice for 50 years. Throughout his legal career, Joe was a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Hampden County Bar Association. He was admitted to practice before the Massachusetts Federal District Court, the Court of Military Appeals, and the

United States Supreme Court. He also served as Assistant Register of the Hampshire Division of Probate and Family Court in Northampton, and as a law clerk to Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Deeply committed to civic service, Joe served as Town Moderator for the Town of Belchertown for 20 years. Outside of his professional life, he held a private pilot's license and enjoyed reading, listening to music, spending time with his grandchildren, and proudly attending their sporting events. Joe recalls many significant memories during his life with his late wife Phyllis and treasures the many accomplishments of his children, especially when he was honored to administer to Peter the oath of induction into the military service; to make the motion to the US Supreme Court to admit Elizabeth to the bar of that court; and to witness Susan receive the Green- spoon Foundation award for

excellence in teaching. Joe was predeceased by his beloved wife, Phyllis A. (Hoffman) White, in 2025; his sister, Beverly Sherman; and his nephew, Eric Sherman. He is survived by his son, Peter White; his daughter, Elizabeth Chouinard and her husband Robert of South Hadley; and his stepdaughter, Susan Murphy and her husband Daniel of Belchertown. He is also survived by his eight cherished grandchildren. Joe will be remembered for his unwavering integrity, dedication to service, love of family, and the many lives he touched throughout his distinguished career. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, May 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held on Friday, May 15 at 12 p.m. at the funeral home followed by burial at 2 p.m. with military honors at the Massachusetts Veterans' Cemetery in Agawam. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Joes memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



DEATH NOTICES

Christopher J. Clark
Died May 3, 2026
Visitation May 11, 2026
Beers & Story Palmer
Funeral Home

Joseph R. White, Esq.
Died April 24, 2026
Services May 15, 2026
Beers & Story Belchertown
Funeral Home

Katie Lynn Pranaitis
Died April 17, 2026
New England Funeral
& Cremation Center

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
 - ❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
 - ❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs
- 201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360

Tracie's Greenhouses

OPEN SEVEN DAYS 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Find The Perfect Gift Today! 

BEAUTIFUL MOTHER'S DAY Baskets & Flowers

HANGING BASKETS
Wide Selection of Colors & Sizes

VEGETABLE PLANTS • HERBS

Memorial Days Pots For Your Loved Ones

1,000'S OF ANNUALS IN MANY VARIETIES

Tracie's Greenhouses • 3 Ashley Street, Ware, MA
Look for signs off of Homecrest, next to Big Y

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.
Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.
HOURS:
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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


Find it in the Classifieds



413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • www.turley.com

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. BONELESS CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.19 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH COOKS 1/2 SPIRAL HAM \$1.19 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. WHOLE BONELESS KAYEM SMOKED BUDABALL PIT HAM \$3.69 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS CUT FREE \$9.89 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL \$6.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. NATIONAL KAYEM CASING HOT DOGS 2 1/2 LB BOX \$9.89 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX \$17.50 ea</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS \$1.66 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN OVEN STUFFERS WHOLE CHICKENS 99c ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN JUMBO APPLE PIE LATTICE CRUST 5 LB..... \$7.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. 90 MEAT'S BROOKIES BROWNIES 6 PAK..... \$2.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CODINO'S STUFFED SHELLS WITH RICOTTA 48 OZ \$5.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN BLUE SEA SHRIMP RING FULLY COOKED WITH SAUCE 2 LB \$17.99 ea</p>
--	--	---



90 Meat Outlet
 HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288
www.90meat.com
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 5/7-5/13/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

ESTATE SALE
HUGE ESTATE SALE DON'T MISS IT!
2 Christopher Lane, Wilbraham Saturday, May 9 only, 9am-3pm
 Everything is priced to sell - and it all must go! Browse a wide variety of items including: extensive holiday decor, Beanie Babies, household items, furniture, Disney collectibles, New England sports memorabilia. Come early for the best selection!

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
 Fresh cut & split \$240.00
 Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
 *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes guaranteed!! New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

2022 LOADRITE BOAT TRAILER, Model C650-1T. Capacity 650 lbs. Used two seasons with canoe. Adjustable for conventional boat. Original owner, \$1500, 413-244-4520.
SIT-IN KAYAK, Santee Hurricane 126, \$300.00. Call 413-583-5278.
WHEEL HORSE COLLECTORS: 4 old models, 312-B (2), C-81 Elctro 12. Call Eleanor 413-283-3540.

TAG SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 8 AND SATURDAY, MAY 9, 8am-3pm. Rain/shine. 63 Walker Rd., Wales. Antiques, furniture, plants, arts, rare finds.

HUGE ESTATE SALE DON'T MISS IT!
2 Christopher Lane, Wilbraham Saturday, May 9 only, 9am-3pm
 Everything is priced to sell - and it all must go! Browse a wide variety of items including: extensive holiday decor, Beanie Babies, household items, furniture, Disney collectibles, New England sports memorabilia. Come early for the best selection!

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
 Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:
 Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
 Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
 We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
 Fully insured.
 Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
 Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
 I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
 Master Elec. #20773A.
 Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
 Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
 Call John at (413)206-6509

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
 Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
 Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
 INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
 Residential/Commercial
 Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
 Excavator Services
 Overgrown property? Extreme Brush Cutting! Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
 Lawn/Arborvite Installed
 Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
 Storm Clean-up
 Small Demolition/ Junk Removal Insured
 Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON****
 Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
 Landscape Design and Installation
 Paver Patios, Walkways
 For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
 Call or text 413-266-9975
 Insured - Commercial - Residential

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services
Walker Home Improvement
 Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

LAWN & GARDEN

A.A.A. ROTOTILLING Yes time to till gardens and flower beds too. Be safe grow your own. Call for appointment, fair and reasonable rates. Suburban residential only. 413-626-1927.

"RANDY and RICKY Spring Cleanup, Call Paul Amherst"

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
 All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call 413-896-8264.

PRO PAINTING
 Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS
 Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
 Work done at your home.
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
 Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AUTO CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD
 LENGTH 33'; 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$8000. BRIMFIELD - (413)374-1880

HELP WANTED

LABORERS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
 Positions available with local work. Proper licenses required including OSHA compliance. Compensation will commensurate with experience. Transportation required.
 Email: bradwayconstruction@yahoo.com
 with your resume and for more information.

SEEKING YOUNGSTER(S) for assisting older couple with organizing/moving items for tag sale/clean-out. Computer skills a plus. Call Bob at Hilltown Animal Control, 413-374-8451.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
 Call 1-413-283-8393

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
 Call 413-283-8393

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
 Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
 12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
 413.283.8393
 www.turley.com
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 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: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
 Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
 Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
 Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
 Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Public notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 18th, 2026, at 6:30 PM** in the Police Department Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Randy Pascale, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.45 to allow for vehicular egress through the rear lot line to create access from Norman Street at 27 Lathrop Street, Palmer. These parcels are also known as Assessor's Map 63, Lots 29.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
04/30, 05/07/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice
In accordance with the Wet-

land Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:50 PM, Tuesday, May 19, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent for proposed replacement of a culvert that conveys an unnamed stream underneath Bacon Road in Palmer, MA. The purpose of replacing the stream crossing is to protect the public roadway and improve stream continuity. Work is proposed to impact resource areas including bordering vegetated wetlands, land under waterbodies and waterways, bank and riverfront area. The project address is Bacon Road in Palmer (Latitude 42.22630, Longitude: -72.25704). The applicant making the request is the Town of Palmer. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Elizabeth O'Connor,
Vice-Chair,
Palmer Conservation
Commission
05/07/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P0377EA Estate of: Thomas Edward Burzynski Jr.

Date of Death: December 15, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mark J Burzynski of Southbury, CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Mark J Burzynski of Southbury, CT 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.
05/07/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P0866EA Estate of: William H. Curtin Also Known As: William Howard Curtin Date of Death: 02/11/2026 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **William H. Curtin Jr. of Deerfield, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

William H. Curtin Jr. of Deerfield, 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.
05/07/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:40 PM, Tuesday, May 19, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability to verify whether the boundaries of resource areas depicted on plans and maps are accurately delineated. The proposed vegetation management on railroad right-of-way is in accordance with guidelines set forth in Massachusetts Right-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) and the Vegetation Management Plan. Vegetation management activity is proposed along MCER's right-of-way from Foundry Street in Palmer to the Ware town line. No work will take place within 10 feet of resource areas. The applicant making the request is TEC Associates. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Elizabeth O'Connor,
Vice-Chair,
Palmer Conservation
Commission
05/07/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:55 PM, Tuesday, May 19, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent for proposed replacement of a culvert that conveys an unnamed stream underneath West Ware Road in Palmer, MA. The purpose of replacing the stream crossing is to protect the public roadway and improve stream continuity. Work is proposed to impact resource areas including bordering vegetated wetlands, land under waterbodies and waterways, bank and riverfront area. The project address is West Ware Road in Palmer (Latitude 42.22585, Longitude -72.25640). The applicant making the request is the Town of Palmer. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Elizabeth O'Connor,
Vice-Chair,
Palmer Conservation
Commission
05/07/2026

Public safety

Monson Fire Logs

MONSON – Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of April 27 through May 3, 2026. The department responded to 20 EMS calls and 2 Fire calls.

On **Wednesday, April 29** at 5:05 p.m. the department responded to 144 Fenton

Road for the smoke investigation. The department returned to service at 5:15 p.m.

On **Wednesday, April 29** at 5:53 p.m. the department responded to 233 State Avenue for the burn complaint. The department returned to service at 6:10 p.m.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, May 21
– Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Smola announces Firefighter Safety Equipment grants for local fire depts.

BOSTON – State Representative **Todd M. Smola** (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) is pleased to announce that several communities within his district have been awarded funding through the FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program, a statewide initiative supported by State Fire Marshal **Jon M. Davine**, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Secretary of Public Safety and Security **Gina Kwon**, and the Legislature.

The following fire departments in Representative Smola's district applied and received funding:

- Town of Brimfield**
\$12,500
- Palmer Fire District No. 1**
\$15,500
- Bondsville Fire District**
\$12,500
- Town of Sturbridge**
\$12,742.11
- Town of Wales**
\$7,453.52
- Town of Ware**
\$18,953.99
- Town of Warren**
\$12,438.81

it is essential that they have access to modern, reliable equipment. These grants will not only help safeguard first responders but will also improve outcomes for the residents they serve."

The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program is a key component of the Common-



State Rep. Todd M. Smola

wealth's broader efforts to enhance emergency response capabilities and promote the health and safety of firefighters across Massachusetts.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.

THE CENTERED PLACE

SINCE 1988

Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine

Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.

413 436 7374
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

THE SPAGS OF SPENCER!

GAS GRILL SALE!

END OF THE YEAR TV SALE!

2025 THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY'S CHOICE AWARDS Best of Central Mass

- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 Regularly \$249.9
- 50" HDTV Television..\$229.99 Regularly \$269.99
- 65" HDTV Television..\$329.99 Regularly \$599.99
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99 Regularly \$699.99

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199 / FULL: \$269 / QUEEN: \$299
(REG. \$299) / (REG. \$499) / (REG. \$599)

BETTER THAN ANY BIG BOX STORE!

- DELUXE AIR FRY RANGE - Reg. \$699.99 \$749
- FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER - Reg. \$699.99 \$299
- 21 CU. FT. FREEZER - Reg. \$999.99 \$799
- G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR - Reg. \$1999.99 \$1,399
- 5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER - Reg. \$699.99 \$189
- AMANA WASHER OR DRYER - Reg. \$599.99 \$489.99
- FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR - Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99
- FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE - Reg. \$249.99 \$229.99
- LG WASHER & DRYER - Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1,399.99
- MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER - Reg. \$699.99 \$499.99
- WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE - Reg. \$1,499.99 \$1,049.99

BIKE SALE!

1000's IN STOCK!

WE REPAIR BIKES!

SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: \$49.99!

E-BIKES IN STOCK!

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM

FOR 100's OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

Zonta in Action: Connecting Communities, Changing Lives

LUDLOW – On May 11 at the Ludlow Country Club, learn about the local and global reach of Zonta.

Locally, we will award the Young Women in Leadership Scholarship to Assala Ali of Springfield Central High School and three Service Grants to organizations working with women and girls: The YWCA of Western MA, Girls Inc of the Valley, and Girls on the Run.

Globally, we will learn from Zonta Foundation of Women Ambassador Dr.

Mary Ann Rubis about Zonta's international projects to end gender-based violence, combat child marriage, and increase access to education.

The public is invited to join us at the Ludlow Country Club on May 11, please register by May 4, 2026 at info@ZontaQV.org. The reception will begin at 5:30, dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the Program.

Pay at the door for the buffet \$30 or pay online \$35 zontaqv.square.site/.

Details at www.ZontaQV.org

Since 1919, Zonta has been working to create a more equitable future for women and girls. We believe that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality a reality. For more information on visit Zonta.org or contact info@zontaqv.org. Join us in building a better world for women and girls.

C4R hosts birding paddle on May 16

BROOKFIELD – Join C4R for a special Birding on the Quaboag paddle on Saturday, May 16 from 8:30-11 a.m. The Quaboag Marsh offers a special habitat for spring birds. Participants will listen for and perhaps see the American Bittern.

Meet at the Route 148 state boat launch, then park nearby. Limit is 15 paddlers. RSVP required by emailing chicopeewatershed@gmail.com. C4R is also seeking volunteers to conduct water quality sampling at sites in Wilbraham and Palmer twice a month on Thursday mornings in June, July and August and once in September.

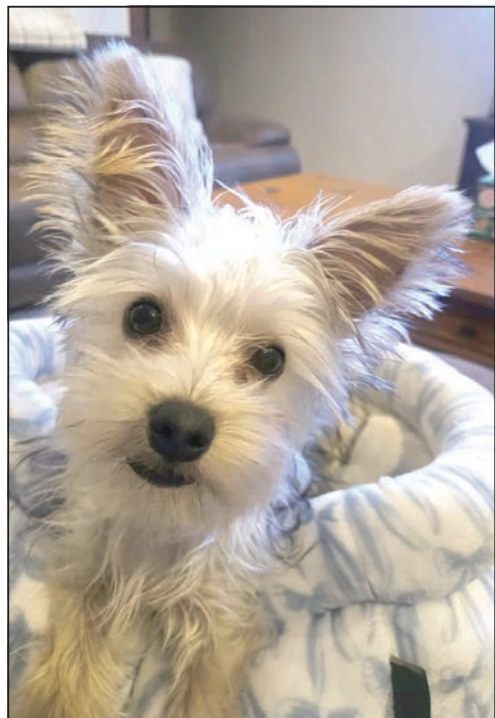


Submitted Photo
An American Bittern is just one of the birds that could be seen while paddling the Quaboag Marsh.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Winnie!



She is a York Terrier and will be 1 year old this month! She loves to chase squirrels, birds, and anything that crosses her eyes. She also loves to chew on empty plastic water bottles. She lives in Hampden with Barb & Kenny Whitehead who adore her!

ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



ELDOTC East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club

Classes held at
546 Main Street, Hampden, MA
Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings



Start Your
Puppy or Rescue
Off Right With
Obedience Training
at ELDOTC!

Obedience Training -
Beginner to Utility

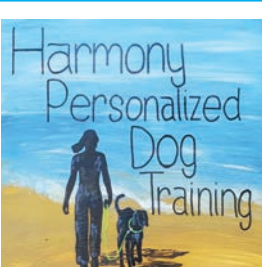
[Facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience](https://www.facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience)
For Information or to Register
Call (413) 355-0553
eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com
We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

Andrew R. Hersman, DVM
William D. Anderson, DVM
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
Nicholas Schipper, DVM
Madison Harris, DVM
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM
Leah Guidry, DVM
Denise Chiminiello, DVM
Caitlin Vaughn, DVM



Wilbraham Animal Hospital
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA
413.596.8395
wilbrahamanimalhospital.com
East Springfield Veterinary Hospital
525 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA
413.739.6389 • evshospital.com
(Less than 1 mile from Rt. 291)
Open Evenings & Saturdays



PACK WALKS

– Every Saturday in Post Office Park Wilbraham at Noon.
– Every Sunday in Belchertown behind the Police Dept. at 10 a.m.
All Ages And Breeds Welcome
\$20 Each - Weather Permitting

NEW CLASSES!

MAY - EVERY WEDNESDAY
Obedience & Socialization Group Class at the common area in front of the Belchertown Day School & Christopher Heights.
No registration necessary. - Join us at 5:30 p.m.

JUNE - SIGN UP NOW!

- Basics in Obedience & Socialization
- Beginners Tracking Class
- Life Skills

All at the Belchertown Recreation Department

*Sign Up Online for these classes at the Belchertown Rec Dept.

413-246-0859 • AKC Certified



Porter Road Pet Care

141 Porter Road
East Longmeadow MA
413-525-3532

www.porterroadpetcare.com

- Day Care
 - Boarding
 - SPA Services Available
- Web Cams
Heated
Large
Indoor/Outdoor
Accommodations
Playtime Available -
Fenced in
1/4 Acre Lot

Save \$5
on Daycare,
Grooming
or Boarding
Services

Limit 1 coupon per pet.
Expires 5/31/26



How to Read Your Dog's Body Language

Although we may not be able to speak to our dogs, we can still communicate with them by learning how to better understand their body language. Dogs communicate nonverbally, using their ears, tails, and more to express their emotions.

Relaxed dogs are happy dogs. This is when they are feeling their best, no matter whether they are resting or playing. Relaxed dogs are engaged with their surroundings and may be eager to receive or show affection. They may be squirmy if they're feeling

excitable, and their motions may be overdramatized during play. Their tail will wag in wide, gentle motions. Their ears will be held in a relaxed, natural position, and their eyes will be soft. Their forehead and mouth will have no tension.

Stressed or anxious dogs often display mannerisms meant to soothe or dissipate tension, avoid attention, and demonstrate their discomfort. These behaviors include looking or turning away, hesitant movements or darting away quickly, licking or smacking lips,

yawning, holding their body in a curve, raising a paw, scratching or pawing, trembling or freezing. If your dog appears distressed, try to find out what is agitating them. If the stressor is someone or something in their environment, remove the trigger so your dog can calm down.

When a dog is alert, they pay close attention to their surroundings. They are not necessarily agitated, but they may become agitated if they feel something is wrong. Alert dogs will have wide-open eyes and perked,

forward-facing ears. There will be no tension in their mouth or forehead. They will stand evenly on all four paws, poised and balanced so they can act at a moment's notice. As for their tail, it will extend outward and may wag slightly.

Appeasing body language can be deceptive to the human eye. While this behavior is submissive and geared to make them appear unthreatening, it can appear frightening to humans. Appeasing dogs may pull their lips back into a grin or snarl, which can be mistaken

for aggression. Other signs include pinned-back ears, squinted eyes, and a low-tucked tail. In addition to their scrunched-up mouth, they may lick their lips often.

Spotting signs of fear in dogs is often easy for owners. Scared dogs will have a stiff, hunched posture and hold their heads close to the ground. Their ears will be tucked close to their head, and their tail will be tucked and pressed close to the belly. They often turn their head away from whatever is frightening them, but they keep their eyes locked on

the stressor. They may keep their mouth closed tightly or pant as though they are hot. Be aware that a frightened dog can quickly become an aggressive dog, biting out of fear.

Aggressive dogs will react to a stressor with a rigid posture. The fur on their shoulders and the base of the spine will stand up straight, and their body will be shifted forward in a "ready" stance. Their eyes will be locked onto whatever is causing their aggression, and they will likely have wrinkles along the mouth and forehead.