

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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ELECTION

2025 Town Election Results

MONSON

Select Board (3-year term)
• John R. Morrell – 756 votes

Moderator (3-year term)

• Laurent Raymond McDonald – 620 votes

Board of Assessors (3-year term)

• Russell Andrew Bressette Jr. – 961 votes

School Committee (3-year terms)

• Colleen E. Flynn – 650 votes
• Jamie A. Murphy – 695 votes

Water & Sewer Commissioner (3-year term)

• Michael T. Szwed – 901 votes

Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)

• October Marie Boots – 913 votes

Parks & Recreation Commissioner (3-year term)

• Christopher David Howard – 933 votes

Housing Authority (5-year term)

• Dolores Marie Scott – 921 votes

PALMER

Councilor at Large (3-year term)

• Jessica Rose Ferry – 211 votes

School Committee (3-year term)

• Sandra Jean Noonan – 275 votes

Planning Board (3-year term)

• Robert S. Lucier – 182 votes

District 4 Councilor (3-year term)

• Matthew J. Lemieux – 52 votes



PALMER

Resident angry over property

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer Town Council met Monday evening, June 9, under the shadow of ongoing local elections, with residents filling the chamber to raise concerns about neglected properties, mounting infrastructure needs, and rising household costs.

Public anger over abandoned Thorndike property

The meeting opened with a public comment session that quickly became a forum for airing long standing frustrations about municipal oversight and quality of life in various parts of town. Randy Jasak, a resident of High Street in Thorndike, described the daily view from his window: a roofless, graffiti-covered industrial structure with exposed steel beams; an eyesore he says has become a symbol of town inaction. Jasak accused the town of neglecting its responsibility to hold the property owner accountable, pointing out that the developer had previously received tax incentives only to fall delinquent again as of June 4.

RESIDENT | page 14

SCHOOLS



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

The students standing and taking a bow while receiving a standing ovation from the audience.

Old Mill Pond debuts beginner band concert

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Old Mill Pond Elementary School gymnasium was alive with excitement on Tuesday evening as proud families and community members gathered to witness a milestone: the first-ever Spring Concert of the school's newly formed Beginner Band.

The event, held at 6 p.m. on June 10, marked the debut performance of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who have been meeting weekly to learn their instruments under the direction of music teacher Sydney Andrews. This program is part of a larger effort to rebuild the district's music pipeline, which has seen declining participation

at the high school level in recent years.

"Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our spring concert for beginner band," Principal Holly Riopel said as she opened the event. "We are so happy that you are here tonight. Your presence means a lot to these young children."

The concert began with a warm show of gratitude, as Riopel recognized Superintendent Brian Francis, members of the School Committee, faculty, and parents for their support. She also offered special thanks to Ms. Andrews, whose passion and dedication have helped lay the foundation for the return of instrumental music education at Old Mill Pond.

"Your guidance and

expertise have been invaluable," Riopel said to Andrews during the opening remarks. "You have nurtured these young talents, helping them find their rhythm and encouraging them to express themselves through music."

Andrews, who is in her second year of teaching and her first year running the beginner band program, addressed the audience with enthusiasm and pride.

"I am so proud of how far they've come this year," Andrews said. "They show up every single week, and they are doing such a great job."

The program featured performances by each instrumental section, as well

CONCERT | page 16

SCHOOLS

Superintendent Matthew Francis receives high marks in evaluation

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer School Committee met on Wednesday evening to conduct a wide-ranging session that included budget updates, policy revisions, staff recognitions, and a comprehensive performance evaluation of Superintendent Matthew Francis.

Student advocacy

While no members of the public spoke during the comment period, the committee gave considerable attention to a letter received from Palmer High School eighth grader Madeline Everett. In her message, Everett challenged the district's current four-block schedule, suggesting a shift to a five- or six-block day would help students retain academic material more effectively and

better prepare for standardized assessments like MCAS. She wrote, "Changing the four block schedule to either a five or six block day would be a greatly appreciated change... This would allow students to be able to have all of their essential courses on a daily schedule and potentially students could have more electives." Committee members praised the letter for its clarity,

thoughtfulness, and civic engagement, with some encouraging Everett's initiative as an ideal example of student voice in policy discussions.

Celebrating 186 years of service

Superintendent Francis and the committee next turned to a moment of recognition for ten retiring staff members whose careers have spanned

decades within Palmer Public Schools. In total, the retirees represented 186 years of combined service. Among the honorees were Catherine Deneen, who dedicated 26 years, Paula Corcoran with 33 years, and Sandra Wilk who served for 25 years. Each was acknowledged for their lasting contributions to the district, with the committee expressing gratitude and admiration for

the positive impact these educators had on generations of Palmer students.

Budget Review: Spending, transfers, and audits

A detailed financial report presented by Sara Menard, the district's Director of Finance, revealed that 88.4% of the district-wide \$6.5 million

FRANCIS | page 14

SCHOOLS



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Superintendent Eric Duda, Adult Education Director Trish Woodcliff, Instructor Bill Darling and the 9 carpentry continuing education graduates.

Carpenters graduate from Pathfinder's adult program

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – In a celebration that marked a turning point for adult education in the region, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School held its first-ever graduation ceremony for the new Adult Education Carpentry

Program. The event, held in early June, recognized a group of adult learners who completed 200 hours of intensive training through the school's Career Technical Initiative (CTI), a workforce development program funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Trish Woodcliff, Director of Adult Education at Path-

finder, opened the ceremony by welcoming the audience and underscoring the significance of the moment. "They really did pioneer this particular carpentry cohort," she said. "We learned a lot from them." Calling the group "pioneers," Woodcliff emphasized that this was only the beginning for adult vocational training

at Pathfinder. "We're going to continue to grow programs in this room and in this building as a stellar group," she said.

Woodcliff credited Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda with having the vision and persistence to bring the program to life. Duda, in turn,

MONSON

Westmass to take over former hospital

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – On the evening of the town election, the Monson Select Board gathered Tuesday, June 10, to take up a full agenda that ranged from redevelopment progress at the former Monson Developmental Center to infrastructure priorities and renewed efforts to improve recreational facilities.

Town Administrator updates: Redevelopment momentum and community outreach

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz began her report with a major development regarding the Monson Developmental Center (MDC). As part of a statewide initiative led by Governor Maura Healey to repurpose 17 state-owned properties, Monson's for-

mer state hospital campus is now expected to transfer from the state to Westmass Area Development Corporation by the end of June. Negotiations between Westmass and the state are already underway, and proposed plans for the property include single-family housing, veterans' residences, 55-plus communities, and mixed-use commercial developments. Several historic buildings on-site, such as Daley Hall, staff residences, and the Assembly and Rec Hall, may be preserved for future community use.

Westmass will take ownership of the land and coordinate with private de-

WESTMASS | page 14



CARPENTERS | page 8

Three Rivers hosts Firefighter-1 Recruit graduation

By Amanda Munson
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THREE RIVERS – On June 10, the Monson Fire Department hosted the Regional Recruit Program graduation that aims to train personnel to the firefighter 1 level and to better prepare them for continuing education. This program has been occurring every six months for the last couple years, and 5 recruits have since graduated from Bondsville, Monson, Wales, and Three Rivers fire departments.

The graduation was held at the Three Rivers Fire Department station where Chief Stephen Nodurf spoke briefly before the ceremony began. “I’d like to welcome everyone to Three Rivers; it’s an honor to host this year and we are here to celebrate the work these people have put in.” In attendance were Chief Michael Germaine from Bondsville, Chief Edward Poulin from Hampden, Chief Brian Harris from Monson, Chief John Croke from Wales, and Chief Stephen Nodurf from Three Rivers. The program graduates were Deyton Ritchotte from Bondsville, Troy Milne from Monson, Anthony Arventos, Jr. from Three Rivers, Jason Lisiecki and Tom Smith from Wales fire department; with their Recruitment Program Coordinator Lt. Reuban Baker of Monson Fire.

Monson Fire Assistant Fire Chief Jonathan Miller who’s been at the fire department for 37 years spoke about the Regional Recruit Program and his involvement throughout the years.

“I’ll start with the origins of the program; we’ve had internal training for firefighters all along. It’s been 20 years now and the fire academy also has had a program for call firefighters for a very long time, full-time, but not for firefighters that we had here. Volunteerism has been going down a lot for the last couple of years and we couldn’t bring in staff, we couldn’t bring in volunteers and have them join. And that was the problem, we had only one to two firefighters through the program, but you can’t get only one to two people jump in a truck, raise a ladder, or

do evolutions together. That’s where we came up with this idea. Every town around us had the same problem. So, Monson reached out and asked if I could make this program happen. We can’t do this alone, and Reuban Baker has really taken the lead, coordinates it all, teaches every class, he is the man.”

Monson Fire Lieutenant Reuban Baker added that the classes are ranging from four to sixteen people.

Three Rivers Fire Cadet Anthony Arventos, Jr. who recently graduated from the Regional Recruit Program spoke about his experience and how it’s helped him prepare for the fire academy.

“I am part of the Cadet Program at Three Rivers and have been part of it since April of 2024. Outside of this, I am your typical high school student. I attend Pathfinder Tech as a sophomore, and I am in the electrical program. As soon as I got into the recruit program, my parents always knew I was going to be a firefighter, it’s just something that I’ve always been involved in. It’s cool, I like helping people and it’s something I like doing, if anyone needs a helping hand, I am always going to be there. This job is a lot of hard work. I learned a lot from my father, he’s been in the service for a long time. It’s not as easy as I thought it was going to be, you must do your studying and do the book work because if you don’t know what you’re studying, you won’t be useful on the firegrounds. It’s how well you can handle pressure, so being involved with the guys, asking those questions and doing the training really helped a lot.” Arventos plans to become an EMT once he turns 17 years old to further his commitment to being a firefighter.

Miller continued, “We put them through a lot, we make them give up two days a week, two evenings or an evening and a weekend day. It’s a three-month program, they put in over one hundred hours with us, not even counting the studying and written/practical test you get in the fire academy. Fires don’t discriminate on what your training is, we must keep them up to a high



The Bondsville, Hampden, Monson, Three Rivers, and Wales fire department chiefs with the program graduates: Anthony Arventos, Jr., Deyton Ritchotte, Troy Milne, Tom Smith, and Jason Lisiecki.



Deyton Ritchotte from Bondsville Fire Department smiles with Assistant Chief Miller of Monson, Chief Michael Germaine from Bondsville, and Lt. Reuban Baker of Monson.



Tom Smith from Wales Fire Department pictured with Assistant Chief Miller, Chief John Croke, family members and Lt. Reuban Baker.



Three Rivers Fire Cadet Anthony Arventos graduated from the Regional Recruit Program last Tuesday, alongside Assistant Chief Miller, Chief Stephen Nodurf, Chief Edward Poulin, and Lt. Reuban Baker.



Troy Milne from Monson Fire Department poses with Assistant Chief Miller, Chief Brian Harris, Lt. Reuban Baker with family members.

standard. It’s been successful, every six months we wonder if we’ll be able to get a class together and it happens every time. It’s because we are drawing from ten different communities, Three Rivers may not have recruited every six months, but Holland may have some or Stafford. That’s

how it kind of keeps going.” When asked why it’s important for these recruits to go through this program before the fire academy, Baker continued. “When people join the department, a lot of the times they’ve been on for a couple of months and for this class,

this was their first introduction to it. Firefighting is inherently a dangerous job, so there’s a lot of training for that and this program is designed to prepare this class for the academy and learn the basic skills of getting on the truck, going on a call and being safe. Knowing how to operate the basic things and being able to contribute to their departments while waiting to go to the academy and get their certifications, they get to learn the basics and get an introduction of what the

academy will be like.” “The fire academy is a fantastic program, it’s free for firefighters in Massachusetts and about the same length of time as the recruit program. When we get people who volunteer in February and they just missed the start of the class, they’re going to not do anything at the fire department for a year until the academy. This program fills the gap so while we are waiting to get you certified, let’s get you in the field. That’s what this is all about,” said Miller.

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION
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Huge graduating class, growth highlights Pathfinder's year

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Three words define the 2024–2025 academic year at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, according to Superintendent Eric Duda: growth, achievement, and pride.

As the school year wrapped up, Duda reflected on the district's successes and share a glimpse into the future for both students and adult learners at Pathfinder Tech.

"It was an excellent school year," Duda said. "A year of growth. We had a huge graduating class...possibly the largest among the nine member towns. There's a lot to be proud of."

Pathfinder continues to live up to its mission of preparing students for both college and careers. This year, a high percentage of graduates entered the workforce directly through vocational placements, while many others were accepted into colleges or enlisted in the military.

"We made huge strides with our district and school improvement plan," Duda said. "Our students were placed directly into careers at a very high rate. Others are college-bound or entering the military. That balance is exactly what we aim for."

While students are heading off for summer break, the school will remain active with a variety of programs designed

to serve both young learners and adults.

For youth ages 9 to 13, Pathfinder is offering a multi-week summer program in July, led by trained staff. The initiative gives children a taste of vocational education in a hands-on, engaging setting.

"We're not just closing our doors for the summer," said Duda. "We're engaging the community, updating our building, improving curriculum, and moving forward with a new district and school improvement plan."

Adult education continues to be a growing focus at Pathfinder. Following a successful evening of continuing education presentations that featured carpentry students completing a 200-hour cohort, the school is planning to expand its offerings significantly next year.

"We're planning to run about a dozen programs," Duda shared. "From special interest courses like art and ceramics, to practical training in EMT and CPR. We'll also launch a new grounds and equipment maintenance course, another 200-hour program."

All adult learning programs are designed with workforce readiness in mind and are grant-funded, serving underemployed and unemployed individuals who are seeking entry-level skills.

One of the most cherished traditions at Pathfinder is the annual send-off for students

on the last day of school. Staff line up in front of the school to wave goodbye as students depart for the summer, rain or shine.

"It's been happening as long as I can remember," said Duda, who is now in his 19th year at Pathfinder, with over a dozen years as an administrator. "We don't have to tell staff to be there. We just say, 'We'd like you out front,' and everyone shows up...because they want to."

That sense of togetherness is felt by students as well, many of whom leaned out bus windows to honk, wave, and call out teachers' names on their way out.

"I always refer to it as the Pathfinder Tech family," Duda said. "Students feel it. Staff feel it. That's the climate and culture we've embraced here."

The school's end-of-year festivities included a celebratory outdoor staff lunch, featuring food from local business Eggroll Evolution, run by Chris Snow of Belchertown.

"It's important to us to support local businesses," said Duda. "It makes these events feel even more like a community celebration."

As Pathfinder closes one chapter and prepares for another, Superintendent Duda remains optimistic.

"We're always moving forward," he said. "We're proud of what we've accomplished, and we're excited about what's ahead."



The Pathfinder Tech faculty and staff enjoying their end of year staff lunch brought to them by local food truck Egg Roll Evolution.



All of the Pathfinder Tech's faculty and staff lined up down the driveway waving bye to students for the summer.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

'No Kings' protest draws downtown crowd

PALMER - Local residents joined Americans in approximately 2,000 U.S. towns and cities Saturday who participated in a "No Kings Day" event held to protest the policies and administration of President Donald Trump.

The standout rallies were organized by several independent organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and Indivisible, that united under the No Kings umbrella group. Similar demonstrations were held simultaneously in the region, including in Belchertown and Springfield, as well as dozens of neighborhoods across the Commonwealth, all 50 states and in several other countries. The demonstrations were inspired by the president's decision to hold a massive military parade in Washington, D.C., Saturday to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army as well as his own 79th birthday.



Disagreement with the Trump administration over a range of issues drew an estimated 200 protesters to downtown Palmer for a No Kings Day demonstration.

Many of the protests were timed to begin and end during the duration of the parade in the nation's capital.



This couple painted satirical portraits to get their point across.



This protester said he repurposed a paper crown from Burger King to express his opinion.

Photos courtesy of Michael Harrison

Lions Club collecting for kids with cancer

PALMER – The Palmer Lions Club will be conducting a "toll road" collection Saturday, June 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Divine Mercy Church at Four Corners to benefit children with cancer and Lions Eye research. The rain date will be the following

week. The Palmer Lions were established in 1949 and has raised money to benefit local need and national eye research. Lions International has recently started to raise money to fight childhood cancer.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

Signed:

Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for

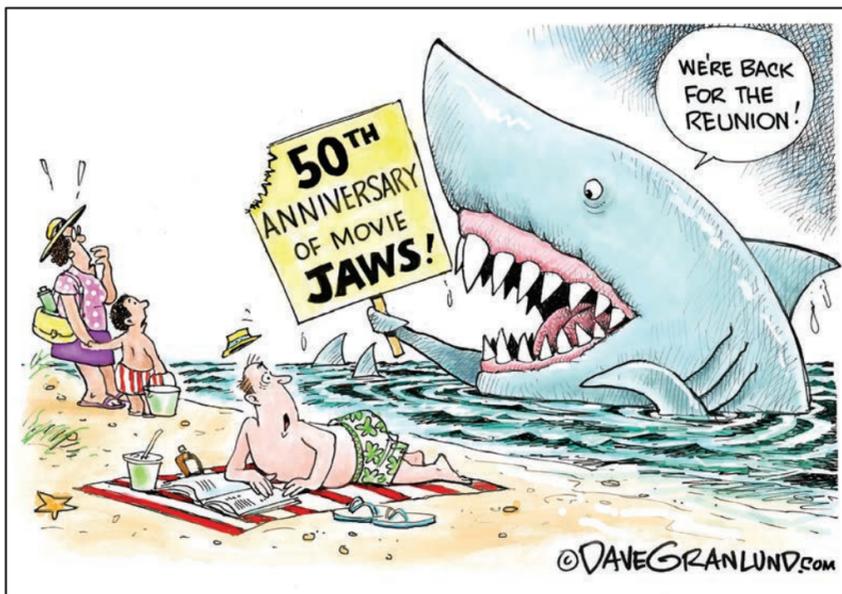
enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will

SECURITY | page 5



What not to do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out develop-

ing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as

well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag.

If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal garden-

GARDEN | page 5



By Ellenor Downer



Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

Mute swans and cranes

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons

begin to look for a breeding territory of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without

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The Journal Register

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

Please send opinions to:

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

Father of the Bride

I took a pale horse through the pastures of Spring -
And down the track to where the great city swells -

It was over Memorial Day weekend -
The modern world a memorial becomes:
To remember ... in the time tipping over;
But for the living - were the wedding bells.

Finding my way, by subway and cab -
Past Times Square where the tall buildings climbed:

Soon inside: standing together -
Midst friends, they spoke the wedding rhymes.
As each of us - recited it inward?
Where no forsaking would be done.
As if the earth still counts on us -
That life is yet like this, now and then.

As music played, - plate.s were filled - a feast!
With the incense of whiskey and wine:
Bridesmaids in solemn frolic wore headbands
Of flowers, and moving in long flowing gowns:
Framing the woman, with her warm patrician manner -
Love-tied to the man in blue linen.
Love is eternal - saith the earth -
Could be heard from groups around the room.
Nothing greater will you ever have to give -
Let us raise it once again ...

One more have I married off to the world
Made happier? midst the crowd, went on -
Gain's might be a long time never seen -
And when shall ... to prove itself?
Midst entanglements, healings, laughter;
The separating, getting on and off; hardships;
Four-leafed clovers; an amulet; a charm.

And the rattling cars noisy as New York,
Soon rolli-g through the open countryside -
Past oil-sooted stations, junkyards, and new homes -
Maybe sensed by the passengers, snug inside.
Ari the building, taking down, to get even higher -
Going where? who knows - what then will decide?
Be ye fruitful! and conquer your time -
If far from where the fajniliar wheels do ride.
The dream I pass to you, tho' no one sees
What it is, or what tomorrow .it may mean -
That its in you, tho' only you, and a thousand years it takes -
O' train may you go on - far, today ...
Toasted the father of the bride.

Charles Barnes

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

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SHOP
40 Wright St., Palmer

JUNE VENDOR SALES
June 18 Hobbit Hollow Herbs
June 26 Thera Feet
June 30 Generations of Cookies

JULY VENDOR SALES
July 8 K and H Jewelry
July 14 Generations of Cookies
July 15 Wicked Good Treats
July 16 How Charming

AUGUST VENDOR SALES
August 5 K and H Jewelry
August 7 Sweets and Treats
August 12 Wicked Good Treats
August 18 Generations of Cookies
August 19 Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 20 How Charming

June 21
Concert Butcher & The Summer of Love at Brimfield Winery 35 Main St., Brimfield. Tickets available at brimfield-winery.com.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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 be-

ginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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

UPCOMING

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

GARDEN | from page 4

ers may skimp in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a

tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but

only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

Forgetting to “butterfly” root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are

“root bound.”

If this situation isn’t remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or “butterflying” the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don’t prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you’ll take the flowers

with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

BACKYARD | from page 4

a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six–seven years old.

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

SECURITY | from page 4

help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will

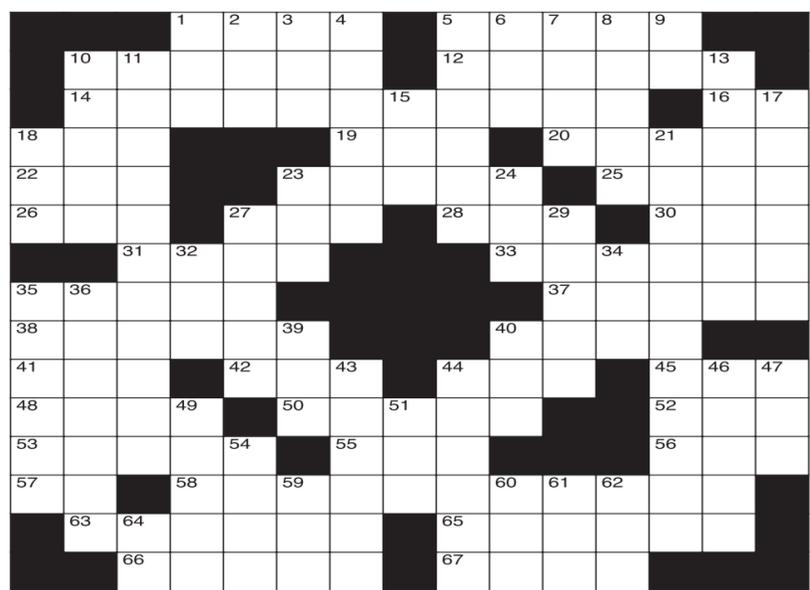
provide the SSA with your husband’s earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren’t disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband’s monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount

(maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

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 pres-

ents 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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread
5. Range of mountains
10. Ended
12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
14. On the nature of being
16. Law enforcement agency
18. Australian flightless bird
19. Subway rodent
20. More dried-up
22. A beaver might build one
23. Suggestive of the supernatural
25. Art __, around 1920
26. American rocker Snider
27. Not or
28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man
30. Firearm
31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene
35. Low shrub some call “fat pork”
37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
38. Revolutionary War era spy
40. Portion of a book
41. Hoover’s office
42. Title of respect
44. Tax collector
45. Cool!
48. Real estate
50. Boy’s name
52. Airborne (abbr.)
53. Strongly recommends
55. Hit lightly
56. Bar bill
57. Atomic #54
58. Devotes again
63. Fish sauce
65. French stock market
66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak
2. Equal (prefix)
3. Israeli city __ Aviv
4. Loved
5. A type of analyst
6. Ad __
7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
8. Ran without moving
9. Opposite of yes
10. Diffuse clouds of gas
11. Mentioning one by one
13. Instruments used to dilate
15. Freshwater fish
17. Remotely-manned flying objects
18. Doctor of Education
21. Renews
23. Not the start
24. Pitching stat
27. Small water buffaloes
29. Ceramic jars
32. I (German)
34. Something to toss on a fire
35. The process of flowing in
36. A series of acts at a night club
39. Egg of a louse
40. Inquire too closely
43. Travelers
44. Drink
46. Behave in a way that degrades
47. Electronic music style
49. Northern Ireland city
51. Upset
54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
59. Father
60. North Atlantic fish
61. 8th month (abbr.)
62. Make an effort
64. Commercial



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Science connects abound at Norcross Open House

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

WALES – Despite the cool and damp weather, curiosity and community spirit were in full bloom at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary's Summer Open House, the first of its kind held during the warmer season. The event welcomed guests with a blend of environmental education, hands-on experiences, and live demonstrations; uniting federal organizations, local clubs, and university groups to foster appreciation for nature, wildlife, and conservation science.

"This is not our first open house, but it is the first one we've hosted in the sum-

mer," explained Caroline Kay Adams, Director of Education at Norcross. "Historically, our events have coincided with Earth Day in April...but April in New England can be chilly and wet. Ironically, so is today."

The event featured an engaging mix of vendors, including representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Local and academic organizations joined in, such as Ompompanoosuc Community Trust (OCT), Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and the Fern Entomology Club from UMass Amherst.

Visitors, especially younger ones, were drawn to the live insect exhibit provided by the UMass Fernald Entomology Club. Children eagerly held hissing cockroaches and examined a striking shield mantis, guided by student volunteers. "It's usually the adults who recoil, not the kids," Adams said with a laugh. "Fear of insects is a learned response, and we're hoping to change that perspective."

Eliza Fassler, representing both the UMass Bee Campus Committee and the Entomology Club, helped lead games designed to teach guests how to distinguish between bees, wasps, and flies. "That's a very important difference," she noted.

Also present was a student volunteer showing off the elegant shield mantis. "She's beautiful," she said proudly, noting the species' unique thoracic shield that inspires its name. "We're not exactly sure why it evolved that way, but she makes it work."

The open house also gave attendees a chance to learn about broader environmental initiatives. Emelia Obodum Kusi, a representative from the UMass chapter of MANRRS, emphasized the importance of community, representation, and professional development in environmental fields. "MANRRS connects students with professionals across academia, government, and industry. It's about inclusion, mentorship, and building a pipeline of opportunity," Kusi said.

Federal agencies brought not only educational resources but also live demonstrations. One highlight was a presentation by Micah Kiefer, an emeritus researcher at the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory, part of USGS. Kiefer displayed preserved sturgeon scutes and a live adult sturgeon, explaining the ancient biology of the armored fish and their role in

environmental research.

"Sturgeons are living fossils," Kiefer said. "They've been on Earth for about 200 million years. They kind of got it right the first time." The lab's mission, he added, is to study migratory fish and find ways for them to coexist with human activity like hydropower and commercial fishing. "We're not enforcers or managers, we're investigators."

Representatives from the Springfield Armory National Historic Site also participated, sharing information about their work under the National Park Service and promoting upcoming events, including the Armory's 50th anniversary celebration as a national park on August 16.

"Our goal is to connect the public to their public lands," said Jennifer Lapis, outreach coordinator. "The Armory is open Wednesdays through Sundays, and we have concerts, lectures, and even a 'Bark in the Park' event for dogs. There's something for everyone."

Back at Norcross, Adams emphasized the broader purpose behind the open house. "We want the community to know that the Sanctuary is open seven days a week, dawn to dusk. We offer free programming for kids, families, and now some new adult classes as well. We've revamped our education department, and we have a lot of exciting opportunities coming up."

Event materials and trail maps were available on-site, and the Sanctuary encouraged attendees to visit its website and Facebook page for updated program schedules.

With hands-on encounters, scientific insight, and a warm community atmosphere--despite the chilly weather--the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary's open house left attendees informed, inspired, and a little more fearless in the face of bugs.



Micah Kiefer holding a captive bred full-grown Sturgeon.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Student Volunteer Toby holding a female Shield Mantis.



Jackie Cullen and Jennifer Lapis from the Springfield Armory.



A variety of pinned bugs that people can view.



Eliza Fassler from the UMass Bee Campus club with her game, "Fly, wasp, or bee?"



Emelia Obodum Kusi and Marissa Henely representatives from the UMass chapter of MANRRS.



A table full of free native perennials, including wild strawberry, for participants of the open house to take home.



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.

Lions Club congratulates Rachelle Morse



Submitted photos
The Monson Lions Club is proud to announce and honor Rachelle Morse, who is our 2025 \$1000 recipient of our Harold Barclay Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a well deserving senior that we see as dedicated to their future goals, and who has shown kindness, compassion and volunteerism in their community. Rachelle will be furthering her career as a Psychology major at Western New England University. Rachelle, be proud of your achievements, and the kindness and passion for helping others, that you've shown throughout your high school years. We are so proud of you and know that you will surely make a difference!

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In the classroom

Palmer resident reflects on career journey

SPRINGFIELD – When Russ Bukowski enrolled at Springfield Technical Community College more than two decades ago, he never imagined that one day he would become president of a global leader in Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM) industry.

But in May 2025, Mastercam, a company recognized worldwide for its powerful CAD/CAM software, appointed Bukowski as its new president. In his position, Bukowski is helping to lead Mastercam into the future of intelligent manufacturing and also helping shape the next generation of engineers, programmers, and innovators – many of them, like him, starting their journey at STCC.

Not long after being named president this spring, Bukowski returned to STCC where he and his leadership team from Mastercam toured the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program space, located in Springfield Technology Park. That's where students use Mastercam software for their hands-on learning. He met with MET

Assistant Professor Lineisha Dominicci-Rosario, an STCC graduate and former employee at Mastercam, and other faculty who teach the software.

He also sat down with STCC President John B. Cook and spoke about how the community helped launch his successful career.

"Russ Bukowski exemplifies the very best of STCC," Cook said. "His journey from student to technology leader illustrates the power of a community college education and the doors it can open. We are proud to count him among our alumni."

While Mastercam is based in Tolland, Connecticut, about a 45-minute drive from STCC, Bukowski's roots run deep in the greater Springfield area. He was born at Baystate Medical Center and grew up in Palmer. "I still live there today, in the same house my grandparents once owned," Bukowski said.

Bukowski's educational path started in the Palmer public schools and continued at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, where he studied computer

programming. Graduating first in his class, he had plenty of college options, including interviews at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, but he chose STCC. He graduated from the community college in 2003.

"It was the peak of the dot-com boom. I wanted to get into the workforce quickly because it was such an exciting time," he said. "STCC offered smaller classes, hands-on technical training and the ability to build on my vocational background."

Bukowski thrived at STCC, graduating with high honors from the Digital Media program while juggling three jobs – an early morning shift, STCC classes during the day, and night work at a communications company across the street from campus in the Springfield Technology Park.

"It was challenging," he said. "But I had the support of STCC professors. John Wakelin and Tom Powers were gracious with their time and helped guide me. John's

feedback was always specific and thoughtful, and Tom was flexible, understanding I was working multiple jobs."

Bukowski credits STCC not only with sharpening his technical skills but also with preparing him to lead.

"I learned how to speak confidently and communicate clearly," he says. "The teleproduction courses and being on camera were experiences that gave me the confidence to stand in front of a room full of a thousand strangers and give a presentation."

That foundation helped Bukowski launch early ventures in web development and e-commerce which grew into leadership roles in technology and business. Today, as president of Mastercam, he leads a company with a global footprint after the company was acquired in 2021 by Sandvik Manufacturing Solutions, a multinational organization based in Sweden.

His management philosophy? Think long-term, stay grounded, and communicate constantly.

"The biggest challenge I faced as a leader in my entire 25-year career now is align-



Submitted photo

Russ Bukowski and Lineisha Rosario with the STCC MET program.

ing and managing people," he says. "Whether it's my executive team, our partners or employees, it all comes down to clear, actionable communication."

Bukowski also remains attuned to the rapidly evolving manufacturing sector. AI is transforming how people enter and succeed in the field.

"Manufacturing is a high-tech, white-collar job now," he says. "Not everyone coming in has deep manual machining experience. Mastercam is working on positioning AI features to enable people who don't have all that manufacturing knowledge to still be successful in a manufacturing career."

Helping bring new people into the door of companies like Mastercam is where STCC plays a vital role. STCC is the only technical community college in Massachusetts, and the College offers a variety of STEM programs, including some, like Laser Optics Technology, that cannot be found elsewhere in the region.

"There's a continuously growing skills gap in U.S. manufacturing," Bukowski says. "Programs like ones offered by STCC are essential because they're producing students who are job-ready on day one. Employers are spe-

FRANCIS | page 8

COLLEGE NOTES

HCC announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 term.

BONDSVILLE:

Matthew David Corsi, Leeanna P. Lacombe, Alice Peabody.

BRIMFIELD:

Harrison Meitzler.

MONSON:

Nicholas James Aliengena, Joshua Alan Gorham, Paige Hebert, Dasia Renee Jones, Owen Scott Kenyon, Logan James Mitchell, Jack T. Mitchell, Emily Lucille Nadeau, Kazelis Rosario, Elijah James Smith.

PALMER:

Kayla Rose Andre, Zackary Andre, Jeffry Vincent Black, Joseph Vincent Black, Damon Cole, Cardenales, Grace J. Maria Cosby, Andrew K. Haley, John Charles Jebb IV, Alissa Ann McKinney, Emily Jin Jin Mendrala, Brandon Lee Phommasith, Dana Russo, Treyana Rose Soya, Nichole May Spaulding, Peiwhiet Timmy Tim, Lauren Marie Vaill, Jared T. Yetts.

THREE RIVERS:

Sara Kate Bracey

WALES:

Samuel John Champigny, Gabryelle Makalyn Fullen

Area residents named to Dean's List at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN – The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Monson

Joshua Iby

Palmer

Tori Edwards*
Matthew Fontaine
Alyssa Penna

Wales

Tristan Hughes

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Resident Aiden Custance named to WPI Dean's List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that **Aiden Custance**, a member of the class of 2028 majoring in Biomedical Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects. A total of 2,331 undergraduate students achieved these criteria for WPI's spring 2025 Dean's List.

Johnson makes Spring 2025 Eastern Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester, in which 1,302 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is **Hannah Johnson** of Holland, a full-time junior who majors in Physical Education.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time stu-

dents are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Jolie Gaffron named to Spring 2025 Dean's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, NY – **Jolie Gaffron** of Ludlow excelled during the spring 2025 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List. Jolie's major is Mechanical Engineering.

Residents earn degrees at Clark University

WORCESTER – Clark University awarded 468 undergraduate degrees and 1,014 advanced degrees during two ceremonies as part of the University's 121st Commencement exercises, held at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., on Monday, May 19.

Maya E. Senquiz, of Monson, Mass., graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Joy Uwamahoro, of Palmer, Mass., graduated with a Master of Arts.

Plumley named to Dean's List at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

ALBANY, NY – Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences announces its Spring 2025 Dean's List recipients. Approximately 220 students were named to this honor, awarded to full-time students who have successfully completed their coursework with a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher out of a possible 4.0 score.

Among those named to the Dean's List is **Alexis Plumley** of Brimfield, MA.

The students honored study programs across ACPHS' array of 10 undergraduate

academic offerings including Biology, Biotechnology, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Forensic Psychology, Forensic Science, Health Sciences, Microbiology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Psychology and Public Health.

Humphries graduates from Northfield Mount Hermon

MOUNT HERMON – **Elliott Humphries** of Hampden was among 192 students, from 24 states and 25 nations, who graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon on May 25.

Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY – Nichols College proudly congratulates the spring 2025 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 3, 2025, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Anne F. Ackerley, a senior advisor to the retirement business at BlackRock and former head of the firm's U.S. Retirement Group, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Karissa Wood, of Three Rivers, earned a Bachelor of Arts

Michael Pelozo, of Brimfield, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

Local students named to Stonehill's Dean's List

EASTON—Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for this recognition, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better. They must also have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered during the term.

Allison Moloney of Brimfield

Jordan Bigda of Palmer

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Summer activities and music offered in surrounding towns

PALMER:
Summer Movie Nights sponsored by the Youth Advisory Board at the Palmer Public Library:
 Friday, June 20 at Legion Field
The Barbie Movie
 Friday, July 11 at Hryniewicz Park
Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves
 Friday, August 1 at Edelson Park

Howl's Moving Castle
 Friday, August 22 at Old Mill Pond School
Lilo and Stitch (2002 animated film)
 All movies start at dusk!
Summer Reading Kick-off Party
 Thursday, June 26, 1 – 4 p.m. at Palmer Public Library
 Free ice cream from Rondeau's, Glitter face paint, Crafts and games

Crafters Wanted!
 Saints Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality of Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers is looking for vendors for our 39th Holiday Craft Fair which takes place Saturday, November 8 at the Parish Center, on Main Street. All items must be handmade. For more information and to register contact June Slovak, 413-283-8013.

MONSON:
Bike Blessing & Ride
 Saturday, June 21st, 10 a.m. at the First Church of Monson, 5 High St, Monson
 Motorcyclists from all around are invited to come and have their motorcycle blessed.
 Each rider will also receive a gremlin bell as a special gift of love from the church.
 After the blessing, we

will embark on a ride together that will end at Westview Farms Creamery where all will receive an icecream!
 All riders are welcome!
HOLLAND:
Holland Community Center Summer Concerts:
 40 Brimfield Rd., Holland, MA
 Free event! Local food vendors! Monday evenings at the center!

Livestock - June 23, 6-8 p.m.
 Cold Train - June 30, 6-8 p.m.
 Dan Fontaine-Elvis Tribute Artist - July 7, 6-8 p.m.
 Catnip Junkies - July 21, 6-8 p.m.
 Ms Behavior - August 11, 6-8 p.m.
 Fennario - August 18, 6-8 p.m.

Fire Logs

The Monson Fire Department responded to 3 fire calls and 17 medical calls for the week of Monday, June 9 through Sunday, June 15.

On Monday, June 9, at 7:50 a.m., the Department responded to Main Street for the fire alarm activation. The Department returned back in service at 08:00am.

On Wednesday, June 11 at 7:34 p.m., the Department responded to Palmer Road for the public assist with a flooded basement. The Department returned back in service at 9:24pm.

On Thursday, June 12 at 8 a.m., the Department responded to Thompson Street for the fire alarm activation. The Department returned back in service at 08:17am.

LEGION | from page 7

cifically looking for people with Mastercam experience – and there aren't enough of them."

Bukowski is proud that Mastercam software is used at STCC, giving him a full-circle moment in his life.
 "We stay connected be-

cause we believe in supporting education," he says. "One of our employees working in our manufacturing lab was once a professor here. We've brought visitors to tour ST-

CC's programs."

Reflecting on his path – from a tech-savvy teenager in Palmer to the helm of a global company – Bukowski offers one key piece of advice for today's students.

"Stay flexible and open-minded. Sometimes opportunities show up that don't look like the opportunity you want, but they're the opportunity you need," he said. "Remaining flexible in my career allowed me to go from tech to communications to working on the business side."

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.

About Springfield Technical Community College
 STCC, the Commonwealth's only technical community college, continues

the pioneering legacy of the Springfield Armory with comprehensive and technical education in manufacturing, STEM, healthcare, business, social services, and the liberal arts. STCC's highly regarded workforce, certificate, degree, and transfer programs are the most affordable in Springfield and provide unequalled opportunity for the vitality of Western Massachusetts. Founded in 1967, the college – a designated Hispanic Serving Institution – seeks to close achievement gaps among students who traditionally face societal barriers. STCC supports students as they transform their lives through intellectual, cultural, and economic engagement while becoming thoughtful, committed and socially responsible graduates.



Mastercam MET classroom at STCC.

Submitted photo

CARPENTERS | from page 1

shared the realization that sparked his interest in adult education four years ago. "It was immediately clear to me...we were missing out on a focal point...individuals like yourselves that could have been trained and prepared for the next step in your careers," he said. Acknowledging the persistent demand for tradespeople, he added, "We're always hearing about the need for skilled labor, all the time."

Duda stressed that the value of what the graduates had earned extended far beyond the classroom. "These businesses want you more than you may even realize," he told them. "This is about \$1,500 in tools, safety equipment, and training...and you got it all." He encouraged students to return to the school in the years ahead, saying, "I hope maybe in three years, five years, ten years you come back and visit us for one of these graduations."

The program also included CPR training, OSHA-10 certification, and "Stop the Bleed" training, giving graduates a well-rounded foundation in jobsite safety. More importantly, Duda pointed to the less tangible but equally vital tools the students now carried:

"This is about giving you the tools, both literal and metaphorical, to go out there and compete," he said.

Instructor Bill Darling brought his own reflections to the ceremony, openly admitting that he was unsure at first about taking on a group of adult learners. "I was a bit apprehensive to take this on...but I'm extremely glad I did,"

he said. "Money consideration is kind of lower on the totem pole for me. I need to know it's worthwhile, and this was." Darling said his goal was to make the training practical and memorable, using a four-part teaching framework he called CLCI: Communicate, Layout, Cut, Install. "We need to talk, work together," he explained. "Understand the process. Precision and skill. Put it all together."

Darling also spoke directly to the students' growth, saying, "Every single one of you made great strides that I think future employers will definitely benefit from." He praised the class's desire to learn, noting, "I felt a real connection with all of you...your attentiveness, your desire to pick up everything you could."

As part of the ceremony, each student was individually recognized by Darling, who offered a few words about their progress. His remarks revealed the strong personal connections that had formed in the workshop. "She was great... I thought I should be doing what she's telling me to do," he said of Amanda Motta, who was affectionately nicknamed "Foreman" by the class for her natural leadership. For her exceptional contributions, Motta received the first-ever Exemplary Student Award, which cited her "outstanding dedication, craftsmanship, and perseverance." Darling added, "By all means, there was leadership that was evident in your teammates as well, but Amanda truly earned it."

Elias Rodriguez was recognized for his careful attention to detail and steady progress.

"He never lost accuracy as he sped up...and that's one of our goals," Darling noted. Isai Bahamundi was acknowledged for sticking with the program despite initial scheduling difficulties. "He worked hard to adjust and paid attention to detail," said Darling. Gabriel Coleman, a familiar face to the program staff, was praised for his grit and persistence. "He just keeps at it, at it..." Darling said.

Tyler Campbell, whose sense of humor sparked some good-natured banter with the instructor, was recognized for his drive to complete tasks. "Every now and then we saw a fire in there," joked Darling, referencing their shared experience of living in a raised ranch. Quintin Davis was described as someone with "inner pressure to get things right the first time," and someone who "took ownership of mistakes and learned from them." Michael Mittler was commended for being a dependable team player who "jumped on tasks quickly." Justin Sykes was called out for his punctuality and reliability. "One of the first always here, ready to work," Darling said. Julio Morales was described as a role model who "took on solo projects and completed them effectively," and someone who showed "a very good example of taking responsibility and doing the work."

The ceremony also featured remarks from Woodcliff that reflected on the program's many moving parts, and the perseverance of everyone involved. "Every single one of you...demonstrated resilience and a willingness to learn," she said, recalling how the group



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

An example of the tools given to each of these students, estimated value around \$1,500 worth in tools.

overcame scheduling challenges and delays. "I thought for sure this was going to pose barriers to completion, and it did the exact opposite."

As a final surprise, students were given new laptops, valued at over \$500, to help them with resumes, job searches, and continued professional development. Woodcliff explained the inspiration behind the gift: "Every single one of you is getting a laptop... to help you navigate and grow as young professionals." She acknowledged that many students had created resumes and managed their schedules entirely on their phones, which prompted the idea to offer a more substantial tool for the future.

Each graduate also received a folder with their certifi-



Instructor Bill Darling thanks all of his students for giving it their all of the time and never letting him down.



Director of Adult Education, Trish Woodcliff, thanking everyone for being there to support the adult graduates and this new program.

jackets on, and laptops ready, the graduates of Pathfinder's first adult carpentry cohort left the ceremony equipped for more than just a job, they left with confidence, mentorship, and a future they helped build themselves. As Adult Education Director Trish Woodcliff told them before they walked out the door: "You now have your laptop...your certification...you're ready to roll."

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BASEBALL

Legion picks up win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the playoffs. That won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion playoffs.

Two days after having their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed

due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the State tournament. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be hosting one of the pods in

the preliminary round of the double elimination state tournament. There are going to be a total of seven pods with four teams each. The winner of each pod, along with Quincy Morrisette Post 294, will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, which will be held at Adams Field in Quincy from July 26-30.

The Northeast Region One Tournament will be

LEGION | page 9



Nathan Kacuwka, of Ware, slides into third base.



Miguel Velasquez, who attends Pathfinder, makes a throw to first.



Pathfinder's Brayden Mega delivers a pitch home.



Shane Szado, of Monson, frames up a pitch.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Matthew Santos from Palmer High School picks up a grounder.



Liam McGrath fields a throw to second.

BASEBALL

Mustangs defeated in Round of 16

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SHEFFIELD – Shane Szado hit a sacrifice fly in the top of the seventh inning tying the round of 16 game against the 11th-seeded Mount Everett at 5-5 earlier this month.

With two outs in the bottom half of the inning, freshman second baseman Jonny Ireland delivered a walk-off base hit giving the Eagles a 6-5 home victory over the 27th-seeded Mustangs.

"We came close in today's game, but we just couldn't come out on top," said Szado, who went 2-for-2 with a walk and two RBIs on his birthday. "We're going to come back next year and try our best to make it to the Elite Eight."

Monson, who finished the 2025 season with a 12-10 overall record, began the state tournament by defeating 38th-seeded Springfield International Charter School, 5-2, in a preliminary round home game. They then celebrated a 5-0 upset win at sixth-seeded Hopkins Academy in the round of 32.

The Mustangs advanced into the round of 16 for the first time since the MIAA changed the postseason format in 2022.

"We made a couple of mistakes, which you can't afford to do in a postseason game," said Monson head coach Curtis Orlik. "Hopefully, today's game is a very good learning experience for the players. We'll be returning our top four players next year and we'll be looking to take another step forward."

15 of the 16 players listed on the Mustangs baseball roster

MUSTANGS | page 11

SOCCER

Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont

Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 reg-

PIONEERS | page 11

SOCCER

Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shutout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had

four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis, who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.

MUTINY | page 10

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Brayden Mega
Pathfinder

Mega got his summer off to a great start with a victory over Aldenville Legion last Wednesday evening.

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.



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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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Summer Edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – The summer league on Wednesday nights at Bogey Lanes has reached week number six.

In first place is Sophia's Raiders with a record of 40-8. In second place is Gutter Dolls with a record of 34-14. With eight weeks left in the summer league, Sophia's Raiders is looking to expand their lead and maintain their #1 seed position.

During week six, Sophia's Raiders bowled against Gutter Fingers. In game one, the score was 456-432 in favor of Sophia's Raiders. Sophia Hearnlay had a good game of 117 to start the match.

In game two, Sophia's Raiders won again by a score of 474-436. Trevor Kenneson of Sophia's Raiders bowled a

125 to help his team get the victory.

In game three, Sophia's Raiders won the last game and swept Gutter Fingers by a score of 442-433. Kenneson bowled a 116 in game three for a series of 343. The final score was 1372-1301 in favor of Sophia's Raiders.

Kristen's Squad bowled against Straight Shooters during week six. In game one, Kristen's Squad won by a score of 482-465. Bob Button of the Squad began the match by scoring a 129, which featured a double strike.

In game one, Straight Shooters bounced back with a win of their own, 469-426. Alan Nason of Straight Shooters bowled a 106, fifteen points higher than his current league average.

In game three, Straight Shooters won by a score of 479-420. The final score was 1413-1328 in favor of Straight Shooters.

The Rolling Stones

bowled against the No Shows in week six. In game one, No Shows won a close game by a score of 448-445. Kathy Swistak was well over her league average with a 101.

In game two, Rolling Stones won by a score of 443-422. In game three, No Shows won the last game by a score of 459-432. Steve Swistak made a clutch spare to help his team regain the lead in total pinfall. It was a matter of pinning the last few frames, which Swistak did to have No Shows win total pinfall by a final score of 1329-1320.

Gutter Snipes bowled against Clock Barn. In game one, Gutter Snipes won by a score of 452-393. Marc Vinciuilla of Gutter Snipes started the match with a 107.

In game two, Gutter Snipes won again by a score of 426-409. In game three, Clock Barn won the last game by a score of 424-423. Gutter Snipes won total pinfall by a final score of 1301-1226.

Bonsignore breaks record

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – Justin Bonsignore had a perfect day Sunday at Riverhead Raceway.

Driving the No. 51 Phoenix Communications machine for Kenneth Massa Motorsports, Bonsignore was fastest in both NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice sessions on Father's Day, then followed it up by capturing his first pole award of the season in qualifying.

Bonsignore rocketed to the lead early, then settled for second for much of the middle stages of the race. It was on pit road where the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team again shined - getting Bon-

signore back out front into the final stages.

He would hang on, holding off Ron Silk, Patrick Emerling and Matt Hirschman over a flurry of restarts in the second half of the race to take the victory.

The win was Bonsignore's 46th career on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, all with Kenneth Massa Motorsports. It was also his 12th career at Riverhead - breaking a tie with Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time in Whelen Modified Tour competition at the New York quarter-mile.

"I've been wanting to break the record for a long

time," Bonsignore said. "Mike was a childhood hero of mine. The pit crew did another awesome job, with two excellent pit stops. To have my family here, it's the first race that all of them have been to this year. For it to be on Father's Day at home and everything we did, it's just really cool."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track at Pocono Raceway on Saturday, June 21, driving the No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. The team will carry sponsorship from TW Cable LLC for the event, which will air live on The CW at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Springfield Thunderbirds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason

while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To

register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix

of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the Mass-

Mutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf

in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.



Anna Carson sends a kick home.



Laci Lewis dribbles toward the goal.



Bella Meadows traps the ball on defense.



Jenna Kalwa pops up a pass forward.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

MUTINY | from page 9

legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women's soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home match during the 63rd minute.

The scoring play began when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the

right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the net past goalie Riley Melendez.

"We knew that tonight's opponent was a very good team," said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. "It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the

net, it was a very good feeling."

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79th minute.

After dribbling around a couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said. "It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer team. She's an outstanding player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a

senior on the American University women's soccer team.

During her outstanding high school career, Klingensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke, was also an All-American and it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun

celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis. "I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.

LEGION | from page 9

held at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech, was the winning pitcher for Monson against Aldenville. The righthander went the distance allowing two runs on just three base hits. He issued two walks and recorded six strikeouts.

"We received an outstanding pitching performance from Brayden Mega," Tripp said. "This is the third year that he's been playing for us, and he has improved each year. We do have several other very good pitchers on this year's team."

Monson's other pitchers are Austin Meacham (Monson High School), Nate Kaczuwka (Ware High School), and Liam McGrath (Quaboag Regional), who's a first-year member of the Legion team.

Mega, who won five games for the Pioneers this past spring, will be playing college baseball at Monroe University, which is in New York City. Their baseball team competes at the NJCAA Division I level.

Mega can also play for the Legion team again next summer.

4-0 lead."

Aldenville (2-1) began the Legion season with a 9-1 road win against the Wilbraham Falcons.

A year ago, Aldenville lost to Belchertown in the District 3 championship game.

Righthander Justin Moskal, who was the ace of the South Hadley High School pitching staff this past spring, didn't receive very much support from his defense against Monson.

The majority of the Aldenville players are from South Hadley.

Monson second baseman Miguel Velasquez led off the second inning with an infield hit. Then Kaczuwka, who started at third base, bounced into a 6-4 fielder's choice play and catcher Shane Szado drew a walk.

After stealing third base, Kaczuwka scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"Nate is a fantastic base runner," Tripp said. "He has very good baseball instincts. You can always count on him to do the right thing."

With one-out in the fourth, Kaczuwka reached first base following a fielding error. Szado and right fielder Jarett Skowrya followed with walks, which loaded the bases. Then McGrath hit a foul pop-up which was caught by first

baseman Matt Drobiak. He threw the ball to catcher Memphis Huertas, but the runner at first base broke towards second on the play. Kaczuwka crossed the plate following a run down. An infield hit by center fielder Jason Mumper scored Monson's third run. Another run scored on a throwing error, which gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Aldenville cut the deficit in half with a two-out rally in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Shortstop Brandon Carillon was hit-by-a-pitch, and third baseman Alex Savlick walked. One run scored on a double by centerfielder Noah Carillon. Drobiak also drove home a run with a single into center field.

Mega would then retire the final seven Aldenville batters of the game, which gave Monson its first win of the Legion season.

"We just made several costly mistakes in tonight's game," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We did battle back after following behind 4-0. We're now looking forward to playing Westfield."

Aldenville squeaked out an 8-7 win at Westfield Post 124 last Friday night

On the same night, Monson suffered an 11-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 in their first home game at Legion Field in Palmer.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

ter will be eligible to play for the team again in the spring of 2026.

Tyler Labonte, who was the Mustangs starting pitcher in the round of 16 contest, received his diploma during the school's annual commencement ceremony on May 30.

"We're going to miss Tyler big time," Szado said. "He's been a very good pitcher for us during the past few years. He pitched well in today's game."

In his final high school baseball game, Labonte allowed six runs (two earned) on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings. He issued three walks and struck out two. He's planning to join the Nichols College golf team in the fall.

The Mustangs made their second trip to Mount Everett, which is a regional high school located in Sheffield, in less than two weeks. Back on May 25, the Eagles posted a 10-0 shutout victory in a non-playoff game.

"The stakes were much higher in today's game, and we came here ready to play," added Szado, who'll be playing for the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team this summer. "It would've been nice to have won this game, especially on my birthday. We're looking forward to

next year now."

The Mustangs did hit a couple of line drives off senior right-hander Sean Warren in the first inning, but they weren't able to take an early lead.

Eighth grade third baseman Max Kowal began the game with a walk before junior shortstop Jake Beaupre (2-for-2) lined a single into right field. Junior right fielder Austin Meacham also hit a line-drive, but it was caught by sophomore first baseman Brady Carpenter. He tossed the ball over to Ireland, who completed the double play. Szado followed with an infield single before Warren ended the inning with a strikeout.

The Eagles (13-7), who scored an unearned run in the first inning, took a 3-0 lead on Ireland's two-run single with one-out in the second.

Monson battled back and took the lead in the third inning with the help of four consecutive walks.

The Mustangs rally began with an infield hit from sophomore second baseman Niko Matthieu. After the next batter struck out, Beaupre and Meacham drew back-to-back walks, which loaded the bases.

Warren also threw four pitches out of the strike zone to Szado and Matthieu scored the Mustangs first run.

At that point, Warren was replaced on the mound by junior lefthander Brodie Kinna, who allowed three inherited runs. He walked Labonte cutting the Mustangs deficit to 3-2. Then junior centerfielder Ben Pignone tied the score with a line-drive single into center field. The go-ahead run crossed the plate when sophomore left fielder Lucas Pignone hit a ground ball to the third baseman.

The Eagles tied the score with a run with one-out in the bottom of the third and they retook the lead in the following frame.

Szado doubled to left leading off the fifth, but Kinna retired the next three batters with two strikeouts and a comebacker.

Kinna was relieved by senior righty Jacob Kreis before the start of the seventh inning.

Beaupre greeted the new pitcher by hitting a ground ball single into right field. After stealing second, Beaupre advanced to third on a passed ball. Following a strikeout, Szado hit a sacrifice fly to left field tying the score.

Ireland became the hero in the bottom half of the frame by hitting a single to left, which ended the ballgame and the Mustangs season.

PIONEERS | from page 9

ular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said.

"He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career

goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the

field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Diffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a breakaway opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

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Public notices

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING

BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 10 & 11 M.G.L., the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 30th, 2025 at 6:15PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Country Bank for Savings, is requesting a variance from §171-35 Dimensional and Density Regulations. The variance request is to allow for the construction of a standalone ATM building with overhang within the side setback. The property is located at 191 Sykes Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 79, Lot 39.

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://mass-publicnotices.org>).

Dennis Fountain, Chairman
Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals
06/12, 06/19/2025

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, July 7th, 2025 at 7:15 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Justin Dias, is seeking a major amendment to Site Plan as required under section 171-29 for the installation of concrete sidewalks, employee parking spaces, and landscaping at the property located at 2022-2026 Main Street, Three Rivers MA. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 70 Lot 86.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department 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://mass-publicnotices.org>).

Palmer Planning Board
06/19, 06/26/2025

Town of Brimfield Highway Department Invitation for Bids Brookfield Road Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2026

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Thursday, June 26, 2025, by 11:00 AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 11:05 AM in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2026 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on June 30, 2025:

I. Bituminous Concrete Excavation Cold Planer – Brookfield Road

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Wednesday June 11, 2025 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked "IFB2025HWY02BR – FY2026" and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square

yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (May 2025) of \$635 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and "Special Provisions" as attached.

Contractors intending to bid on Super Pave, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is "Pavement Surfacing." The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$381,659.30. NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2026 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Road Resurfacing, are subject to the provisions of applicable provisions of the General Laws including Chapter 534, Chapter 30B, and Chapter 30, Section 39M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction). All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications.

Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
06/12, 06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD13P1014EA Estate of: Tom Michael Grassetti Date of Death: 12/28/2011 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Maureen O'Shea of Monson, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/03/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections with-

in thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 12, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0530EA Estate of: John S. Handzel Date of Death: 05/22/2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Marion L. Handzel of Palmer, MA**.

Marion L. Handzel of Palmer, 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.
6/19/2025

Town of Brimfield Highway Department Invitation for Bids Haynes Hill Road - Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2026

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Thursday June 26, 2025, by 11:00 AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday June 26, 2025 at 11:05 AM in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2026 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on June 30, 2025:

I. Road Resurfacing – Haynes Hill Road

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked "IFB2025HWY02HHR – FY2026" and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (May 2025) of \$635 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and "Special Provisions" as attached.

Contractors intending to bid on

Super Pave, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is "Pavement Surfacing." The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$305,569. NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2026 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Road Resurfacing, are subject to the provisions of applicable provisions of the General Laws including Chapter 534, Chapter 30B, and Chapter 30, Section 39M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction). All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications.

Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
06/12, 06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P1139EA Estate of: Karen E Horton Date of Death: 03/29/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert A. George of Sturbridge, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Robert A. George of Sturbridge, 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.
06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD02P183737GV1 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of **Joyce Mundry** of North Andover, Essex County, formerly of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the Thirty-Third to Thirty-Ninth and Final Account(s) inclusive of Bank of American, N.A. and Susan Mundry, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said Joyce Mundry have been presented to said court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said

account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the **28th day of July, 2025**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 11th day of June, 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P1075EA Estate of: Irene C. Sherman Date of Death: 01/13/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael D. Sherman of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Michael D. Sherman of Palmer, 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.
6/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department Hampden Division Docket No. HD03P158212GR1 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of **Nicolette Tardy** of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the Thirty-Third to Fortieth and Final Account(s) inclusive of Bank of American, N.A. and Jay Tardy, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said Nicolette Tardy have been presented to said court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the **28th day of July, 2025**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 11th

day of June, 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1235EA Estate of: Lewis Walter Valle Also known as: Lewis W Valle Date of Death: 05/04/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sandra J Spalding of Morrisville, VT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sandra J Spalding of Morrisville, VT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/22/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 10, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Sections 9 & 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 7th, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Bondsville Fire & Water District, is seeking a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as allowed under sections 171.28, 171.29, & 171.69 to construct a 600,000-gallon concrete water storage tank on the property located at L25 Jim Ash Road, Bondsville. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 36, Lot 25.

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://mass-publicnotices.org>).

Palmer Planning Board
06/19, 06/26/2025

Public notices

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Matthew A. Tulloch to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns, dated September 16, 2019 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22854, Page 351, subsequently assigned to CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24701, Page 352, subsequently assigned to ALLIED FIRST BANK, SB DBA SERVBANK by CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25135, Page 168 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on July 10, 2025** at 3039 Pleasant Street, Palmer, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

TWO CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IN BONDSVILLE, PALMER, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS AS FOLLOWS:

PARCEL I: A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATE ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF HIGH STREET IN BONDSVILLE IN SAID PALMER, CONTAINING 24 SQUARE RODS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE AND STONES ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID STREET, BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE LOT CONVEYED; THENCE EASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES WITH SAID STREET, SIX (6) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE NORTHERLY ON A LINE PARALLEL WITH SAID STREET, FOUR (4) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES, THENCE WESTERLY IN LINE PARALLEL WITH SAID FIRST LINE, SIX (6) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES ON LINE OF SAID STREET; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON LINE OF SAID STREET, FOUR (4) RODS TO FIRST MENTIONED BOUND. BEING THE SAME PREMISES DESCRIBED IN A DEED FROM LUTHER COLLIS TO JOHN BROWN DATED APRIL 1, 1887 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 433, PAGE 171.

PARCEL II: A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE VILLAGE OF BONDSVILLE IN SAID PALMER AND BOUNDED AND DESCRIBE AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE AND STONES ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF PLEASANT STREET AT CORNER OF LAND OF SAID PATRICK J. BROWN; THENCE A.P.N #86-57 EASTERLY SIX (6) RODS ON LAND OF SAID BROWN TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE S. 07° 45' W. ON LAND OF SAID BROWN AND LAND OF R. L. BOND, TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN (214) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES ON LAND OF WILLIAM TAYLOR; THENCE S. 74° 02' ON LAND OF SAID TAYLOR, ONE HUNDRED TEN (110) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE S. 16° 34' W. ON LAND OF SAID TAYLOR, THIRTY (30) FEET TO A STAKE AND

STONES; THENCE S. 74° E. ON LAND OF JOHN CARMODY'S HEIRS, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) FEET TO A PINE TREE; THENCE N. 10° 05' E. ON LAND OF THOMAS CARMODY, FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT (428) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES ON LINE OF SAID CARMODY, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY (380) FEET SOUTHWESTERLY FROM A STONE MONUMENT ON THE WARE ROAD, MARKING THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN LAND OF HIRAM E. W. CLARK AND ELBRIDGE G. HASTINGS AND LAND OF SAID CARMODY; THENCE WESTERLY THROUGH A MAPLE TREE ON LINE OF LAND OF SAID CLARK AND HASTINGS, FIFTEEN (15) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES AT LAND OF PETER WOODS; THENCE S. 07° 45' W. NINE (9) RODS AND TWELVE (12) LINKS ON LAND OF SAID WOODS AND LAND OF DAVID FITZGERALD TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE WESTERLY ON LAND OF SAID FITZGERALD, SIX (6) RODS TO AN IRON PIN IN THE GROUND ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF SAID PLEASANT STREET; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON SAID PLEASANT STREET, FIFTY-TWO (52) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE MORTGAGOR HEREIN BY DEED OF MARY C. CHRABSZCZ TO BERECORDED IN HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HERETO.

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

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

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

Servbank SB, f/k/a Allied Bank SB d/b/a Servbank Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 22-009322

06/19, 06/26, 07/03/2025

Obituaries

Susan Hamilton

Susan Hamilton, 78, of Palmer, passed away peacefully in her home on June 13, 2025, surrounded by her family.

She was born on January 24, 1947, in Ware, Massachusetts, and was predeceased by her parents, Theodore Grzywacz and Julia A. (Dubay) Laviolette. Susan spent her early years in Hardwick, MA, and Wilmington, NC, before returning to Palmer in 1979—a place she would forever call home.

Sue worked at Nick's Sport Shop alongside her mother and stepfather, Nick



Laviolette. It was there she met Richard Hamilton, the love of her life. They married in 1983 and shared 42 wonderful years together. As co-owners of Nick's Sport Shop, they not only ran a business but also forged lifelong connections with their customers and neighbors.

Sue was a dedicated member of the Nenamesek Sportsmen's Club for 40 years, where she proudly served as an officer for many of those years. She and her husband shared a love for competitive shooting and devoted countless hours volunteering and

supporting the club's events and activities.

Sue was a devoted Boston Red Sox and Celtics fan—rarely missing a game—and an avid reader who always had a book nearby. But above all, her greatest joy came from her family. She was a devoted and loving grandmother and great-grandmother who took pride in being actively involved in their lives. Whether cheering from the sidelines at a game or applauding at a dance recital, Sue was a constant and proud presence, offering her unwavering support and love at every opportunity.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Richard Hamilton; her children, Joanne Edgar and her partner

Ross Mason of Ware, Kelly Joyce and her husband Robert of West Brookfield, and Nicole Bigos and her partner Eric Searson of Palmer; her sister, Frances Niegocki of Pennsylvania; her beloved grandchildren, Kristine (Edgar) Roth and her husband Nick, David Edgar, Chad Bigos, and Chelsea Bigos; and her adored great-grandchildren, Nora, Owen, and Evelyn Roth.

Services will be held privately for Sue's family. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Sue's memory to either Dana Farber Cancer Center by visiting dana-farber.org or to Brigham and Women's by visiting give.brighamand-womens.org.

Richard L. Tenczar

Richard L. Tenczar passed away peacefully on June 8, 2025, one day before his 88th birthday, with his three sons by his side. Born on June 9, 1937, in Ware, MA, he was a proud graduate of Springfield Technical High School. He went on to attend Bentley College in Boston before beginning his accounting career at General Electric. Richard later took over the family business in 1969, co-owning and managing the Four Corners Service Station ("On The Hill, But On The Level") in Three Rivers,



MA, alongside his beloved wife, Doris. They enjoyed a blissful marriage of 58 years, devoted to each other until Doris's passing in 2022.

Known to many as Dick, he was a loving husband, devoted father, and proud grandfather.

A talented athlete, he excelled in baseball and football during high school and remained an avid sportsman throughout his life. He was also a dedicated bowler, famously achieving a perfect 300 game. The winnings from his bowling tournaments allowed him to purchase

Doris's engagement ring.

A lifelong New England sports fan, Dick loved cheering on the Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins. One of the highlights of his life was attending the 2018 Red Sox World Series. He also enjoyed harness horse racing and spent many enjoyable afternoons and evenings watching the races.

Dick instilled a strong work ethic in his children and led by example, living with honesty, humor, integrity, and an unwavering love for his family. He leaves behind his eldest son, Rick and his wife Sharon of Canton, CT; his middle son, Bob and his wife Jennifer of Sammamish, WA;

and his youngest son, Ray and his wife Abbey of Easthampton, MA. He also leaves his cherished grandchildren: Christopher, Matthew, Andrew, Dylan, Sam, and Sophie.

The family would like to thank the staff at Linda Manor Assisted Living Facility, his private nurses and Pioneer Valley Hospice for treating him with dignity, respect and kindness at the end of his life.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Pioneer Valley Hospice and Palliative Care.

In keeping with his wishes, a private family service will be held. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Rudolph Richard Zulch, Jr.



A beloved father (Niatay), Grandfather (Grampy, Grumpy, Grumpbug), and friend ("Rich," "Rudy," "Dick") passed on December 29, 2024. To summarize such an abundant, multi-faceted life of 91 years is impossible, but here I shall try:

Rudolph Richard Zulch, Jr. was born at Nathan Littauer Hospital to Rudolf and Mary (Ferreira) Zulch on July 6, 1933. Gloversville, NY, where a young Rudy was born and raised, considered the southern foothills of the Adirondacks, afforded he and his peers such fun as tobogganing, cinematic escapades at the local theatre, train-hopping, and scoldings from the local beat cops.

Circumstances led dad to move to Milwaukee, WI., Boston, MA., and Salem, MA., where he was a Salem High School graduate. After graduation, he served in the



U.S. Army during the Korean War. Dad went on to become a machinist at Pratt & Whitney for many years, retiring in 1994. Not one to sit on his laurels, after retirement, Dad didn't exactly retire. He was the owner/operator of Monson Power Equipment Repair, where he served the local community's yard equipment needs. He modestly claimed to be a Jack of All Trades, King of Nothing, but we were always left to believe there was nothing he couldn't do, and do well.

While dad was an enterprising, hard-working provider, he always was there for his family. He enjoyed taking us to trips to Salem, Newport, and Ocean Beach in New London, CT. We would read the comics in the mornings, and the classics before bedtime. He was never opposed to a game of catch in the backyard. We enjoyed many bike rides, particularly on the East Bay

Bike Path in Rhode Island. We'd have sing-a-longs in the car, particularly to songs of the 40's and 50's. Delicious pot roast dinners in the cooler months, family barbeques in the warmer ones. He and I would even pseudo-ballroom dance in the living room! Besides all the fun and adventure, most important to Dad was instilling certain values in his children: respect for ourselves and others, self-discipline, a strong work ethic, and an interest in politics and the world around us. He taught us determination and cheerful sacrifice.

Dad, as soft-spoken as he generally was, could be stern and stubborn, but he maintained a warmth and great sense of humor right until the very end. I will miss his smile, his laugh. I'll miss asking him how he's doing, to inevitably get the response of, "lousy, but everything's normal!" I will miss him enveloping me in his arms when I was sick or sad, or just because. I am so glad "I love you" was always freely said. As "old-school"

as he was, he was never one to throw his affection for his children and grandchildren to the wayside. He was our rock. Now, our rock is gone, onto greener pastures, free of the limitations of old age. Our rock is gone, but will never be forgotten, and will always be so very loved.

Dad is survived by 6 children, David, Donald, Michelle, Holly, Eric, and his caretaker and "daddy's little girl," Danielle. He is also survived by 11 treasured grandchildren, T.J., Brendan, Christopher, Tyler, Michael, Andrew, Elrych, Joe, John, Gianna, and Josiah. He is survived, as well, by great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and friends. He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brother, Ernest Gamelin, and beloved grandson, Ryan Szafranski.

Per dad's wishes, there will be no services.

"Keep smiling, even if it hurts."

To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneral-home.com.

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

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON

Thursday, July 3

– Thank you!

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 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.

DEATH NOTICES

Desmond, Daniel

Died April 24, 2025
Celebration of Life
June 28 at 2 p.m.
Scout Hall,
47 Pleasant St.,
Rockport, MA

Hamilton, Susan

Died June 13, 2025
Services are private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Tenczar, Richard L.

Died June 8, 2025
Services are private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Zulch, Jr., Rudolph Richard

Died Dec. 29, 2024
Introvigne Funeral Home

WESTMASS | from page 1

velopers to build out specific components of the site. To support this effort, the town and Westmass have jointly applied for a \$5 million grant from the Department of Transportation to rehabilitate the Old Bridge and are also seeking funding to adapt community-use buildings for modern needs. Wolowicz clarified that demolition work currently being conducted by Costello Dismantling, specifically the removal of trailers at the Children's Colonies area, is unrelated to the Westmass project.

Reflecting on the years of planning that led to this point, Wolowicz said, "As someone told me once: you plant a seed and then sometimes it grows."

Wolowicz also spoke about her ongoing community outreach efforts through monthly Meet & Greet sessions. The most recent, held at the Polish American Club, drew approximately 30 participants, a marked increase from the usual dozen. Topics covered included town government structure, the town's contract with Republic Services for trash removal, and the MDC's redevelopment status. The next session may be held outdoors at the town gazebo and is expected to feature department heads.

Infrastructure issues
The board turned its attention to two long-standing infrastructure challenges. The first, the Hospital Road Bridge, is town-owned and notable as the only Monson bridge on the federal aid system. Closed for over 15 years,

the bridge remains out of service due to its deteriorated condition and the presence of a hanging water line. Board members agreed it should be prioritized for rehabilitation, especially given its eligibility for MassDOT project funding, which could cover 75 percent of costs federally and 25 percent by the state. One board member noted, "It makes sense to open that. It's the only federal aid system road... and I think we're missing a big opportunity."

The second bridge discussed is located near the Westmass redevelopment site. Although not currently designated as a public way, there was agreement that it should be brought up to public road standards to support future development and traffic needs.

In a separate presenta-

tion, Director of Parks and Recreation Tim Pascale proposed refurbishing the 90-foot baseball diamond at Veterans Field, which has seen little use in recent years due to the absence of a junior varsity team. Now that a JV team is active again, Pascale emphasized the need for a safe and functional field. His plan includes regrading the infield, adding safety fencing along the baselines, relocating benches, and constructing a handicap-accessible path to the restrooms. He also recommended expanding access to nearby recreational facilities such as the pickleball court, skate park, and basketball court.

Pascale suggested pursuing funding through a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) application, noting that much of

the work could be done in-house, which would keep costs relatively low. "For me, it's about the kids," he said. "And I hated that we had a JV team without a place to play or practice." A board member recalled the field's former prominence: "That diamond was a nice ball field at one time. When the grandstand was there... people don't have any idea what it used to be like." The board unanimously voted to support the project and proceed with the CPC application.

Council on Aging, community events, and department updates

Wolowicz reported that the Council on Aging had recently received a Subaru Outback through a state earmark to support senior transportation and the Meals on Wheels program. However, she also

warned that federal funding cuts are expected in Title III-B and III-C programs, which provide support for outreach and nutrition services.

The town is also preparing for a pair of performances by the Old Post Road Orchestra, which will offer a movie-themed concert at Memorial Hall on Friday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will also be performed in Springfield on Sunday, June 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Important upcoming dates include the Juneteenth holiday on June 19, when all town offices will be closed. Additionally, Paul Foster, the newly appointed school superintendent, is scheduled to begin his duties on July 1 and will be invited to attend an upcoming Select Board meeting.

RESIDENT | from page 1

"There's no reason why I have to live the rest of my life sitting there looking at that," he told councilors. "It's a ghost town."

Town Manager Brad Brothers acknowledged the problem but said that ongoing litigation over the site limits what the town can do, both legally and physically. Several councilors expressed shared frustration but emphasized that legal constraints have tied their hands. Still, they noted that portions of the property not under litigation may be addressable through other avenues.

Jasak was not alone in his criticism. Steve Cosmere,

also from Thorndike, lent support to the complaint and cited additional examples of neglected properties on Main Street and Church Street. He remarked that despite years of discussion about redevelopment, little progress has been made, sarcastically adding, "Only a fire will fix it." His comments underscored a broader concern that the town has not taken meaningful legal or financial action to address urban decay.

John Miller of Three Rivers broadened the conversation, urging the council to adopt ordinances that would enforce property maintenance and cleanliness. He also criticized the town's flat-fee sewer billing system, which he said unfairly penalizes

smaller households. "Why do I have to pay \$700 to flush my toilet when the neighbor's got six kids?" Miller asked. "It's really not rocket science. What comes out of the faucet goes into the drain." He also expressed concern about tractor-trailers parked in residential areas, describing them as safety hazards. While commending previous leadership for investments in flood control, he warned of the risks of modern-day inaction.

Wastewater loan reauthorization draws scrutiny

The evening also included a public hearing on a loan reauthorization for wastewater infrastructure. The \$2.28 million loan had been previously approved but required reauthorization for legal rea-

sons, specifically to support the installation of a new centrifuge to handle sludge dewatering at the wastewater treatment plant. While the project itself was not controversial, residents expressed concern about the long-term financial burden, with some projecting that household sewer bills could exceed \$1,500. Calls for a usage-based billing system echoed earlier comments, and town officials acknowledged the need for change. However, they cited complications arising from the town's multiple independent water districts and said efforts are underway to introduce integrated billing systems using shared data and improved software.

FY2026 Budget: Savings

today to avoid costs tomorrow

Budget matters continued with the opening of a public hearing on the fiscal year 2026 municipal budget. One resident questioned the town's decision to allocate \$120,000 annually to the track stabilization fund, asking whether that money might be better spent elsewhere. Town officials explained that the fund is a preventive measure meant to avoid a future \$1 million lump-sum resurfacing project, expected in approximately ten years. Concerns were also raised about high overtime costs at the sewer plant. Town officials said the issue is being addressed through a 10-year capital plan that includes upgrades to automation systems

like SCADA, which are intended to reduce the need for overtime.

Council President Barbara Barry defended the town's long-term fiscal planning, stating, "Would you rather wait ten years and borrow a million dollars, or put money aside now?" She added, "You may never call 911, but you pay for it in case you do. That's what taxes are." Councilor Matt Lemieux weighed in, noting that years of delayed rate increases have led to current cost pressures. Another councilor warned that the town is facing a convergence of critical infrastructure needs, including wastewater, roads, and bridges, and said the council is trying to get ahead of the curve.

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FRANCIS | from page 1

budget has been spent to date. She noted that transportation costs slightly exceeded the budget at 100.3%, though final figures are still pending. Old Mill Pond Elementary has used 77.3% of its \$5.8 million allocation, with salaries tracking at roughly 74.4%. Palmer High School, meanwhile, has spent approximately 81% of its \$6 million budget, with particular strain in substitute staffing, which reached 129.3% of the allotted amount. "We obviously spent more (on substitutes) than we had budgeted," Menard explained, adding that increased funding for substitutes has been requested for the FY26 cycle.

The district is working to finalize a series of net-zero budget transfers to balance accounts before the close of the fiscal year. The proposed adjustments primarily address overages in substitute coverage, utilities, and reclassified salaries. Superintendent Francis emphasized that utility bills, particularly for gas and

electricity, are being closely monitored and may be reallocated based on year-end usage.

The Kids Corner Program, which offers extended day services, reported approximately \$200,000 in revenue against \$209,000 in expenses. The program will continue with a summer session from July 8 through August 8. Sarah also addressed lagging revenue in the food services department, attributing the discrepancy to delays in state and federal postings, though spending levels, currently at 71.9%, are on track overall.

A long-overdue internal audit of student activity accounts revealed several areas of noncompliance. Menard informed the committee that this was the first internal review in more than five years and that an external audit is planned for FY26. Among the issues identified were a lack of proper committee reauthorization, outdated account structures, and the misuse of funds for purposes not directly supporting student-related activities. "Student activity

accounts must be self-sustaining," Menard reminded the committee. "They cannot offset general fund expenses. They can only be used to benefit the students." Corrective efforts are already underway, including staff training and alignment with Massachusetts General Law, and a vote to approve new policies and account limits is expected at a future meeting.

Superintendent Francis earns praise in annual evaluation

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of Superintendent Matthew Francis's summative evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year. The composite evaluation, based on input from all five school committee members, rated Francis as "Proficient" by two members and "Exemplary" by three. His strongest performance indicators were in Family and Community Engagement, where he received four "Exemplary" ratings, and in Management and Opera-

tions, where three members gave the highest rating.

Committee members delivered personal remarks highlighting Francis's transparent leadership, visible presence at school functions, and collaborative administration style. "You lead by example," said Erica Nadeau, a committee member. "You are selfless, kind, a good decision-maker, honest and truthful... someone to look up to." Anthony Braden added, "This is an awesome job, exemplary... You're not just some guy that sits in his office, you're not the man behind the curtain." Chair Bonnie Rathbone remarked, "Mister Francis, you are right where you belong as superintendent of Palmer Public Schools."

Francis, moved by the praise, responded with gratitude. "It is an honor and privilege to work for the Palmer School District, the faculty and staff of Palmer, and the entire community of Palmer as a whole," he said. The committee voted unanimously to accept the evaluation.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

HELP WANTED HOUSEKEEPING / CUSTODIAL POSITIONS

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our housekeeping team.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Window cleaning; Vacuuming; Dusting; Trash Removal; Restroom Cleaning; Floor cleaning with commercial machines

Required Qualifications & Skills

- Ability to work in a team environment; Proven ability to work independently with minimal supervision; Must be flexible regarding scheduling based on business demands; Successful completions of background check; Willingness to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and/or Holidays as needed

Physical requirements:

- Able to lift up to 50 lbs.; Able to push/pull up to 50 lbs.; Able to bend, stretch, and twist; Able to stand for long periods of time; Able to climb multiple flights of stairs on daily basis and walk frequently; Able to work with chemicals according to directions

Eagle Hill School is located in Hardwick, MA and is a private boarding school for high school students in grades 8 through 12. If interested, call Devon Jurczyk, 413-207-7021. Phone calls only.

HELP WANTED KITCHEN / DISHWASHING POSITIONS

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our kitchen staff.

Eagle Hill School is seeking full and part time kitchen staff for dishwasher positions as well as food preparation and serving.

- Ability to work in a team environment
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Must be flexible regarding scheduling, including nights, weekends, and/or holidays as needed
- Successful completion of background checks is required
- Physical Requirements and Work Environment
- Must be able to lift approximately 30-50 pounds
- Bend, kneel, push, pull, and other physical exertion
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- Work in a hot and damp environment with moderate to high noise volumes

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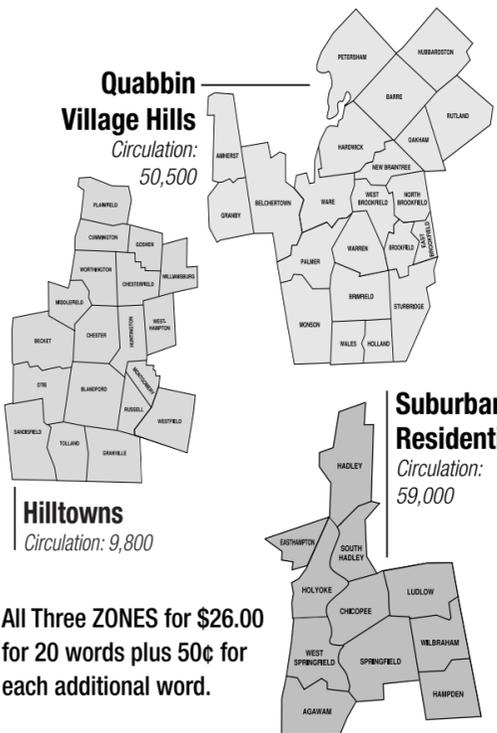
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Band Director Sydney Andrews conducted the beginning band in their last song Ode to Joy with the whole band.

CONCERT | from page 1

as full band pieces. The flutes and clarinets opened the show with a rendition of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm,” followed by a charming duet of “Frère Jacques” by fifth graders Julianna Koss and Aubrie Main. The trumpet section played “Merrily We Roll Along,” while clarinetists Aubrie and Charlotte Wystepek returned to the stage to perform a well-rehearsed duet of “Lightly Row.”

Perhaps the most energetic performance came from the percussion section, which played along to the rock classic “Eye of the Tiger” on snare drums, bringing cheers from the crowd.

The concert concluded with a full ensemble performance of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy,” showcasing the students’ hard work and growth over the school year.

The following students participated in the concert:

Flute: Gabriella Gasbarino, Julianna Koss, Lily



All of the Beginning Band students received a certificate of completion of their year in band as a memento.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

Menard, Lydia O’Keefe

Trumpet: Zachary Champagne, Forrest Farnum, Myles Godbout, Grace Lovell, Peyton Ortiz, Tristan Riel

Clarinet: Aubrie Main, Claire Tourville, Charlotte Wystepek

Percussion: Mason Bartlett, Liem Foster, Everly Ouellette, Jaxon Picard, Jayden Riopel, Lawrence Thompson

Following the final performance, each student was recognized by name and grade, with an opportunity for families to take photos. Principal Riopel noted that this beginner band marks an important investment in the future of the district’s music program.

“I hope that you choose to continue on next year with your music and your instruments,” Riopel said to the stu-

dents. “You’ve done an amazing job.”

In a brief interview after the performance, Riopel said she’s been with the district for over 25 years and is currently in her third year as principal at Old Mill Pond. While no additional concerts are planned for the remainder of the school year, she confirmed that the beginner band will return next year, with an invitation extended to all in-

terested students in grades 4 through 6. The school plans to host both a fall and spring concert in the 2025–2026 academic year.

Andrews, who also teaches general music to students in pre-K through sixth grade, expressed her excitement about the beginner band’s future.

“We’re trying to feed the program and rebuild the numbers at the high school,” she

said. “This group has been incredible. I’m really proud of them.”

The concert concluded with a round of applause, a few dropped drumsticks, and a sea of smiles. As students carefully carried their instruments from the stage, the joy and pride in the room was unmistakable; a strong start to what may become a lasting tradition in Palmer’s musical landscape.



Palmer Senior Center

Senior Center announces June activities

PALMER – Starting Monday, June 9 through June 25 all programs, breakfast, lunch and rides will be held at the Second Congregational Church on Pleasant St. in Palmer, while we have our back ramp replaced. The center will still be open for questions, rides, and Outreach. For questions please call (413) 283-2670.

June 19
Closed - Juneteenth

June 26

Sarah the Fiddler - Sarah takes her audience on a musical journey from old-time sing-along to lively polkas and rousing reels.

June 27

Movie - “The Unloved” - Is a powerful and personal look at the strength and resilience of youth. Morton tells the story of 11-year-old Lucy seeing refuge as a ward of the state from her abusive father.

June 30

Marathon Bingo: \$ 10.00 for four cards, Breakfast & Lunch provided.

UPCOMING

Cruise the Boston Harbor on October 9, 2025 for \$110 which includes transportation and tips, cruise w/ buffet lunch and three rounds of Bingo, onboard DJ. \$55 due at sign up.

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COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

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- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
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To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

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3:00pm-4:30pm
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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm 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 information to Editor at journalregister@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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