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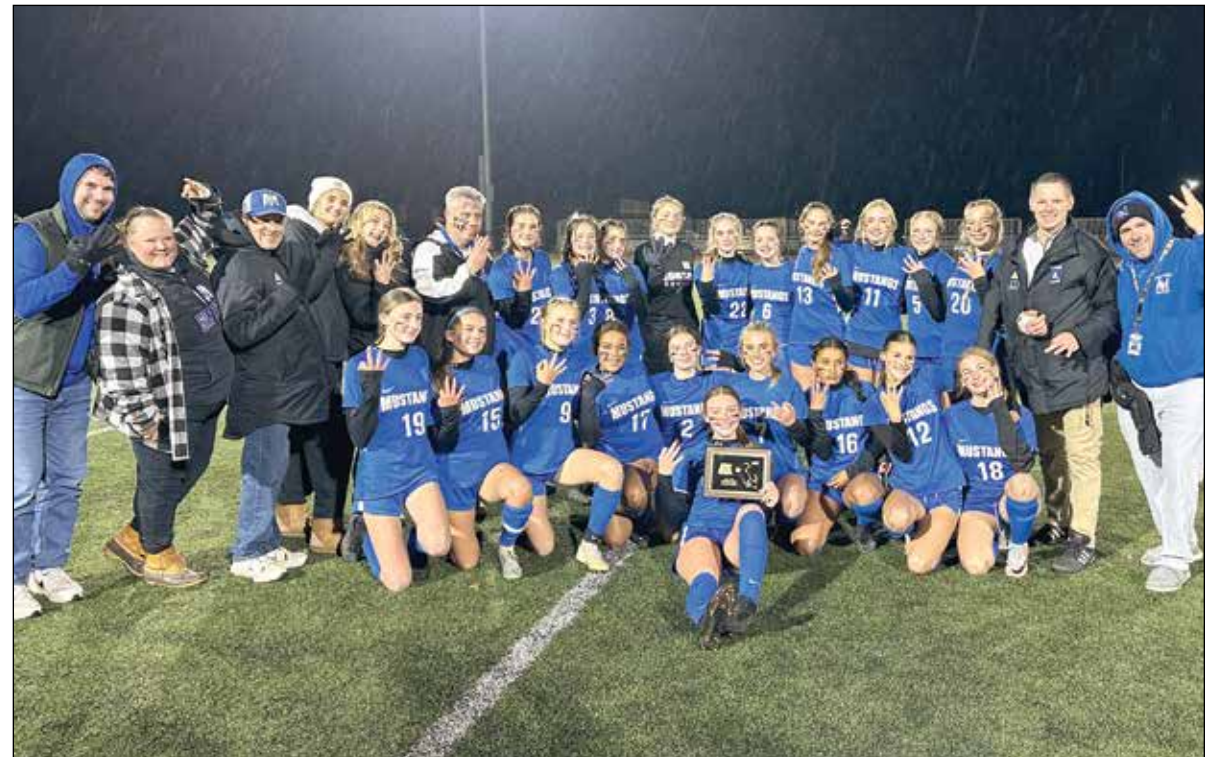
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SPORTS

WESTERN MASS. CHAMPS



Palmer Panthers girls soccer team holds up their Western Mass Class D trophy.



Monson Mustangs girls soccer team holds up their Western Mass Class C trophy.

Panthers capture Class C championship

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—The difference in the Western Mass. Class D championship soccer match between Granby and Palmer was postseason experience.

Six of the players listed on this year's Palmer varsity soccer roster were also members of the 2021

squad, which celebrated a 2-1 overtime victory against Mount Greylock in the Western Mass. Class C finals at Agawam High School.

Led by sophomore Charlotte Theriault, the top-seeded Lady Panthers captured the Western Mass. title for the second time in the past three years with a 3-1 victory over the second-seeded Lady Rams at Berte Field located on the

Springfield Central campus, last Tuesday night.

"This is the second time that we've won the Western Mass. since I've been playing for the varsity soccer team," Theriault said. "I won my first title with my older sister (Maddy) two years ago and I just don't know how to explain my

PANTHERS | page 11

Peterson scores pair for Mustangs in WMass. win

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**
gscibelli@turley.com

MONSON – Over the past decade, Monson High School girls soccer has overcome whatever turnover it has had to contend with, and has still been a perennial powerhouse to deal with each year.

Last Wednesday evening at Agawam High School, Coach Eric

Degnan was able to raise that championship arm in the air once again as Monson defeated Mt. Greylock 4-0 to capture the Western Mass. Class C Championship.

"These are a special group of girls," Degnan said. "These girls have a lot of fun, but they work hard and they practice hard."

While the score and possession throughout the game reflected

Monson was not in any real trouble throughout the game, things got chippy during the later stages of the game.

A frustrated Mt. Greylock squad committed a few fouls, not all of them caught by the referees, leading to some contention on the field during the final 20 minutes of

MUSTANGS | page 11

MONSON

STM approves \$1M for new water pollution roof

Moderator nixes article to fire town administrator

By **Jim Russell**
Correspondent

MONSON – Voters at Monday's Special Town Meeting approved borrowing \$1 million as the municipality's responsibility to replace the roof on a facility shared with Palmer, the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility. Monson's amount would be about 20% of the total. The town's approval is contingent on Palmer Town Council allocating its share. Voters also approved a number of other spending articles including \$62,370 to Veteran's Regional Services account, \$10,000 to the street light expense account, \$15,000 to the ambulance services expense account, \$13,000 to the sewer maintenance account, \$3,300 to preserve Select Board meeting minutes, \$28,173 to construct a pavilion at Flynt Park, \$18,400 for trail work at Flynt Park and

\$50,000 to build a basketball court and play area at Granite Valley School. Town meeting rejected an article sponsored and endorsed by the Finance Committee to add \$7,500 the animal inspector salary account.

Citizen's petition

A citizen's petition article that sought to fire the town administrator, was nixed by the moderator, who deemed it "out of order," and said it had no material relationship with town meeting authority, function and role; thus it was not even put on the table to discuss.

Prior to the moderator's ruling, however, long-serving Monson Finance Committee member James Pennington told the 252 registered voters attending that "this is a personnel matter." He said it is "not appropriate" for town meeting to insert itself into employment matters of a municipal employee, in this case, Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz.

The Select Board have the power to hire and fire department heads, including the town administrator. Resident Roxanne Gunther organized this petition that included signatures of 150 registered vot-



Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz

MONSON | page 3

Honoring those who served



Tony Silva replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery. More veterans coverage on page 5.

Submitted photo

ELECTIONS

2024-2025 Monson voting to take place at Quarry Hill

By **Dallas Gagnon**
Staff Writer
 dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON — The Monson School Committee voted in favor of moving the town and presidential voting location from Memorial Hall to Quarry Hill Elementary School for 2024 and 2025.

The committee approved the use of the school for voting during school hours on Sept. 3, 2024, Nov.

5, 2024 and June 10, 2025.

During the Nov. 2 meeting, Town Clerk Mary Watson asked the committee to consider the location request, bearing in mind that the Monson fire station renovations will be taking place during those election dates.

"We know parking has always been an issue at Memorial Hall but now, having the renovation, it's really an issue," said Watson.

VOTING | page 3

PALMER

Lake Thompson post treatment report shared with Conservation

By **Dallas Gagnon**
Staff Writer
 dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER — A representative from the Lake Thompson Civic Association went before the Conservation Commission to share an annual post treatment report.

"We're a private lake so we pretty much take care of ourselves... there is no public access," said the representative.

The Lake Thomas Civic Association is responsible for maintaining lake quality and cleanliness; "primarily in terms of weed and

algae control."

According to the representative, the post treatment report showed no signs of major changes in the lake regarding bacteria or indications of E. coli.

He said "the report we gave the Conservation Commissions was just kind of an overview of what we have in terms of length, depth."

He added the lake is fairly shallow and susceptible to weed growth as well as frequent warm water temperatures.

"Last summer, we were up to

LAKE THOMPSON | page 3

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LUCY LOU

Lucy Lou, who lives in Monson with Lisa Marie Joseph, supporting epilepsy awareness month! We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Pathfinder's Perso Restaurant releases upcoming hours

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER — Pathfinder Technical Vocational School has announced the schedule for their restaurant hours.

The Perso Restaurant is completely student-run, offering breakfast two days a week, and lunch depending on the schedule. The menu changes every two weeks, and the restaurant serves members of the public who want to come in and try Pathfinder's cuisine.

This week, the restaurant will be open on Nov. 14 and 16 from 9 a.m. to noon for brunch, and then on Nov. 17 from 10:30 a.m. to noon for lunch. The restaurant will be closed on Nov. 20 and 24 due to Thanksgiving.

"We have the chef in the back to manage the tickets with them, but the students do all the cooking," said Ed O'Connor, Pathfinder's hospitality instructor.

"We run the front of the house portion of the restaurant," O'Connor said. "Culinary does all cooking, menu planning, and making the food, and we market the restaurant, send out emails every week, and serve all the customers. We're the front of the house, so we deal with all the customer service aspects, like delivering food."

"In the restaurant, our hospitality students are serving and cashiering, and teachers are there to monitor and help when needed."

The culinary program was one of the first six pro-

perso
restaurant

Pathfinder Tech High School
240 Sykes St, Three Rivers, MA 01080

We are open:
Tuesday 11/14 - 9:00 - 12:00 Brunch
Thursday 11/16 - 9:00 - 12:00 Brunch
Friday 11/17 - 10:30 - 12:00 Lunch
Closed 11/20 - 11/24 due to Thanksgiving

Current menus can be found at
pathfindertech.org/perso/

grams that Pathfinder launched back in 1975. It wasn't until 2012 that O'Connor was hired as a teacher for the then-new hospitality program.

"When we first started no one knew what to make of it, most students thought it was to do with the hospital," O'Connor said.

Through years of eighth grade showcases and career nights, Pathfinder has made sure that students and parents alike are familiar with the hospitality department.

"We've had all kinds of different forms," O'Connor said. "Hospitality has always been a popular shop, it always fills up with a full complement of freshmen. The 12 spots that are available usually fill up."

O'Connor described the program as starting by training freshmen in the restaurant before going in depth into menu planning and budgeting, teaching students about expected restaurant expenses. In the junior and senior years, the students learn about things like hotel management, cruise ship management, and how to budget larger properties, so that seniors can focus on the managerial aspects of the industry.

Students at Pathfinder's hospitality program graduate with 11 certifications, which include CPR, first aid, allergens, and even alcohol certification, though the students still won't be eligible to sell alcohol until they are of age.

O'Connor shared that he has seen students graduate into lucrative positions at local restaurants and hotels.

"We have a student running the Sawdust Inn in Sturbridge, I have one as a catering manager at La Quinta, some have gone into social work," O'Connor said. "A lot of people use hospitality when they want to do something that we don't offer here, because they can get a job out of school to help them pay for college."

"They leave with 11 certifications, so their resume ends up at the top of the pile," O'Connor said.

To learn more about Pathfinder's Perso Restaurant, visit pathfindertech.org/perso.

Granite Valley launches overnight field trip opportunity

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON — After discontinuing overnight class trip opportunities following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Monson School Committee recently approved proceeding with the planning process to establish a new field trip opportunity for seventh and eighth graders.

Granite Valley Principal Arthur Murphy went before the committee requesting approval to plan an overnight field trip offered through the educational center "Nature's Classroom," during the Nov. 3 meeting.

"I've done some research, I've talked with the teachers and I really think Nature's Classroom is a great opportunity for our students," said Murphy. "Nature's Classroom is an outdoor education (program) that has a transformative impact on students, allowing them to gain knowledge of the great outdoors while

being immersed in it themselves."

Five major elements of the program include growing environmental awareness, unplugging from technology, building teamwork skills, enjoying fresh air and becoming more confident.

Murphy said the overnight field trip was offered at a district he formerly worked at and the "students love(d) it."

He said they went to several different locations including Freedom, NH. "There is a new facility in Great Barrington that looks fantastic," said Murphy.

Granite Valley students would be attending the newest facility in Great Barrington for four days and three nights.

"These days are right before MCAS testing," said Murphy. "We do feel like the value of the field trip does not interfere with the testing."

He said he believes the staff has enough time to prepare students for MCAS, as they spend the duration of the entire school year preparing.

According to Murphy, the trip would cost \$350 per student. The cost would include room and board in addition to a separate bussing fee.

"We do have time to do fundraising," said Murphy.

He said the program typically requires a cohort of approximately 150 students, adding between the seventh and eighth grade, GV would be right under that.

The seventh-grade students who participate in this year's trip would be given the opportunity to participate again next year.

Murphy said this would not only allow the school to satisfy the enrollment requirement but allow the students to mentor the younger students in next year's cohort.

"It's not something you do once and you're just over it," he said. "It's talking about family style eating, talking about the hikes (and) talking about bunking up with classmates."

He added there is a lot that goes into ensuring the safety of the students, which brings the stress down.

The chaperone to child ratio will be one adult to 10 students.

"Here we are in a controlled environment, there are other staff (and) our nurse will be there," said Murphy.

He said the model for Nature's Classroom is that the program staff is heavily involved with the students learning and the chaperones "are just involved with a little bit of free time."

While chaperones would be present for meals and sleeping quarters, "the staff at Nature's Classroom run everything else."

Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke said she was completely in favor of endorsing the trip.

"One common thread that I've heard since we've been back from COVID is, 'When are the kids going to be able to go on an overnight trip?'" said Clarke.

Craft fair to be hosted Nov. 25

MONSON — The Monson Arts Council's 44th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, which features hand crafted items, will open on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 26 from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The fair presents 65+ artisans, crafters and non-profit organizations who all offer a variety of items. The crafters are located in four buildings in downtown Monson, MA. (Mass Pike - Exit 63 - Route 32 South - 200 Main Street). Crafters are set up in Memorial Hall, the House of Art, and the Universalist and Methodist Churches.

All locations offer a wide variety of gifts and collectibles, including stained glass, bath products, books, candles, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand crafted greeting cards, pottery, and much more.

The annual fair is a major fundraiser for the Monson Arts Council as well as several other non-profit groups. Luncheon will be served in Memorial Hall, and the Methodist Church.

Holiday music precedes Santa's arrival on a fire truck at approximately 4:30 p.m. Once he arrives, all children may meet Santa Claus in person in the Town's Fire Station where refreshments will be served.

For information or directions please call: Chase Barnett - 413 - 218-0693.

Resident named RA at AIC

SPRINGFIELD — Monson resident Eve McCray has been named a Resident Adviser for the 2023-2024 academic year at American International College. McCray is working toward a Bachelor of Science.

Resident Advisers are students chosen for their leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, and dedication to fostering a positive impact on their fellow students. Among the RA's responsibilities are mentoring, community building, safety and security, policy enforcement, and communication.

As mentors, RAs at AIC provide guidance and support to students living in the residence halls, helping them adapt to college life, resolve conflicts, and make responsible choices. RAs also create a sense of community within the residence halls by organizing activities and social events and serving as a liaison between residents and the College. These leaders also ensure the safety and security of AIC students living on campus by monitoring the building, responding to emergencies, and enforcing College policies.

Hitchcock Academy schedule

BRIMMFIELD — Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, is a community center offering educational, recreational, and cultural experiences to all ages. Visit www.hitchcock-academy.org for more information.

NOVEMBER

Up Beat Barre, Nov. 6 - Dec. 11
Mindful Movement, Nov. 7 - Dec. 12
Intro to Papermaking, Nov. 14
Intro to Mosaics, Nov. 15
Stained Glass Suncatcher, Nov. 28
Let's Cake Decorate: Holiday Truck, Nov. 30
Martial Arts Club (Adults), Ongoing
Learn an Instrument with Tony, Offered Monthly
Violin/Viola, Offered Monthly

DECEMBER

Yoga with Sharon, Dec. 4 - Jan. 22
Buddies Dog Training, Dec. 6 - Jan. 17
Intro to Papermaking, Dec. 12

Intro to Mosaics, Dec. 14
Pilates, Dec. 16 - Feb. 3
Warrior Yoga Dec. 16 - Feb. 3
Stained Glass Suncatcher, Dec. 20
Martial Arts Club (Adults), Ongoing
Learn an Instrument with Tony, Offered Monthly
Violin/Viola, Offered Monthly

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, 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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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DEADLINE

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

Finance Committee releases funds for Basketball Court, discusses Energy Consultant

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

MONSON – The Finance Committee met last week to discuss and vote on several capital projects that will affect the town.

Basketball court
The meeting opened with Glenn Colburn of the Community Preservation Committee, who spoke about the plans for a basketball court at Granite Valley School.

“Currently that is where we have recess,” said Principal Joe Trivisonno, “it’s really just a small blacktop area with one basketball hoop. We’re just looking to extend that out, to have it be even with the current wood chip playground.”

“CPC did like this project, not only for what it’s doing, but [because] they’re proposing some fundraising for themselves, which is something we don’t see very often in CPC. Usually everybody wants it all,” said Colburn. “In this case, we’re looking at a significant amount of money to fundraise.”

Trivisonno said that a basketball

court is considered full sized at 94 by 50 feet, but that the school has no intentions to build the court that size.

“In the plans we had the three companies give us bids on, we’re doing 100 by 60 of blacktop, with the actual court looking to be 84 by 50, to leave some space,” Trivisonno said.

“The actual cost of the project is about \$70,000,” Trivisonno said, “To date, we’ve raised \$33,000, and they approved us for \$50,000.”

The Finance Committee voted to approve the release of the funds from the CPC.

Energy consultant

Much of the rest of the meeting was about appropriating \$44,218 from the free cash account for bills for the prior year’s accounts. The Finance Director, Jamie Farnum, made a presentation with energy consultant Beth Greenblatt, who contributed remotely.

“If you see the dates and the invoice dates,” Farnum said, “the first invoice date is for March 6, 2022, and the second invoice date is Jan. 21, 2023, so those happened in prior fiscal years, but we didn’t receive these invoices until July.

That’s why they were not paid out of Fiscal Year 2023, so we need to be able to appropriate the funds to pay for those two items.”

Farnum added that she was able to get a projection of when the next invoice date will be, so that funds can be appropriated in advance for next year.

“The one thing about these particular invoices is it’s part of the contract,” Farnum said. “This is how we see that the guaranteed savings Siemens provides the report for the escrow.”

“Escrow” refers to a financial agreement where money or assets are held by a third party on behalf of two other parties while they complete a transaction. These accounts are managed by an escrow agent, who releases the funds when certain predetermined contractual obligations have been fulfilled.

“It is part of our contract that we owe these funds, and that’s why it’s part of the prior year request,” Farnum said.

Farnum also mentioned that these contracts, which the town entered between 2013-16, last for 20 to 25 years, which means that it will be another few years for the town to change course.

“Our energy needs changed because we entered into these energy saving contracts,” Farnum said, “if we’re saving kilowatt hours and we’re promised to realize those savings, but we’ve already committed to prior financial obligations and we didn’t see ahead of time that those were going to be competing efforts, [...] that’s what’s changed.”

This isn’t to say that the program is without benefit, however, as it provides useful data for town departments looking to plan their budgets.

“From the school standpoint, these budget documents will be helpful,” Farnum said, “because I think the school is also looking to the town, [asking] what do we need to budget so that way we can properly plan and budget, too, going forward.”

“It is very time-consuming to look at this information and try to make the best decision for the town of Monson,” Farnum said, “so having the energy consultant to run all of those things by, and also working with our utility companies and the net metering companies, to try to get the best for Monson.”

LAKE THOMPSON | from page 1

80 degrees, which can invite all kinds of things,” said the representative.

He added the association completed a weed treatment this past year and have outsourced algae treatments provided by Pond and Lake Connection in the past.

“They do all the paperwork and do treatment; they’re all licensed and registered to deal with chemicals and treatment,” he said.

He added that the association is looking at other methods to combat weed and algae growth such as sterilized carp.

“What we’re trying to do with Thompson is keep it from becoming a nasty old swamp,” said the representative.

Commission member Peter Izyk questioned whether the lake was subject to any geese activity or hyper activity.

The representative said geese are not an issue at Lake Thompson however, the association doesn’t not encourage people to “feed or cajole the geese.”

He added they test for E Coli twice a year and have found no indication of a threat.

Regarding fish diversity within the lake, he said being a warm lake, the fish found within the water include perch, bass, pickerel, bullhead and giant pumpkin seed.

He raised concerns about the orders and conditions provided by the Conservation Commission as part of the post treatment report process.

“There are several aspects to it, for example, the thatospheric analysis; (measuring the depth of the water),” said the representative. “That’s a three of four thousand dollar bill that we would have to encore.”

He asked if there is anything the commission could do to help alleviate that cost so the association could gather the data to satisfy that requirement.

Conservation absent Heidi Mannarino said she believes when the agreement was drafted in 2017 when the requirements were put in place with the idea that the lake may be subjected to hydro raking.

“Since (hydro raking) can be a lot more invasive to the native flora and fauna, and also just the composition of the lake in general, I think is why it was conditioned to assess that once the lake was complet-

ed,” said Mannarino.

She added it was not a term and condition on the extension for the next three years.

The Lake Thompson Civic Association President came before the Commission to inquire about potential grants to help fund projects on Lake Thompson.

“Storm water runoff from Flynn Street, which is town owned, pours down paradigm and into the lake (and) fills up into the cove,” said LTCA President.

“There is also a retention climb off the Mass Pike that runs under Flynn Street into Lake Thompson so I don’t know if there is any mitigation that can be done.”

She said association members have tried to contact the Mass Pike in the past and “really never got anywhere with anything.”

Mannarino said she hopes to see some stormwater infrastructure improvements with the town as it is an issue and continues to become more and more of an issue.

“It’s like everything falls flat or we can’t do anything because we are a private lake (or) we’re a private road but not all of the roads are private,” said LTCA President. “The storm water is running off the town roads right into the lake also.”

Conservation member Lucas McDiarmid said he’s dealt with similar issues in his day-job, specifically referencing Cedar Lake in Sturbridge.

He suggested the LTCA President reach out to their association for guidance and troubleshooting.

He also suggested trying to meet with a legislature rather than meeting with Mass Pike authorities.

Mannarino said it has been a goal of the commission to “carve some space for a storm water coordinator into the town to directly handle these kinds of issues.”

She encouraged the association to voice their concerns at town council to notify them people care about these issues.

VOTING | from page 1

“In the past, we’ve had the election here.”

She added the town hosted polling at the school for the 2012 presidential election after Memorial Hall was damaged by a tornado.

She said the town is gearing up to switch locations nearly a year in advance because the state requires that they to notify every registered voter of polling location change.

“At this time, there are 6,400 registered voters, and in order for us to do that and to be fiscally responsible with doing that, we include an insert in our census,” said Watson.

The census will be sent out in January.

According to Watson, the September 2024 election date has not been determined by the state yet.

However, Watson said “historically, it’s the Tuesday after Labor Day.”

She added the fire station renovation project is not anticipated to begin until after the June 2024 election so the polling location change will not be in effect until after that.

Monson Public Schools Superintendent Cheryl Clarke said the three requested dates are all school days.

“In November, we usually have a professional development day. In November, we could just move it to that day, and it wouldn’t be a problem,” said Clarke.

She raised concerns regard-

ing the June 10, 2025 date as “that could very likely be the last day of school,” and students and staff usually celebrate. She added September is right at the beginning of the school year.

School Committee Chair Emily Graves-Harrison abstained from the vote and said she was not entirely comfortable with the idea.

Watson said voting would take place in the gym, blocking off the section of the school designated for voting, and a police officer would be in attendance.

“In the past, we had the day before to switch up the gym schedule with gym teachers, and they would do something not utilizing the gym,” said Watson.

She added the town had used the school for voting in 2020 during the COVID-19 pan-

denic for the sake of social distancing.

Committee Member Colleen Flynn said “we did it successfully in 2020... I feel like we’ve done it before we can pull it off again, it’s small price to pay for democracy.”

Watson said she would speak with the head of the town’s maintenance facility to arrange for the gymnasium to only be out of use for the students for one day.

Clarke said, “If you would like to have it happen - I would too. We will make it work.”

Watson said it will be “beneficial to have the parking available mitt for people (and) to get the word out early so everyone will be informed.”

MONSON | from page 1

ers. Her actions to place the article on the warrant were in accordance with state law, the town clerk’s office confirmed to the newspaper last week, but did not comment beyond that. Massachusetts General Laws says: “selectmen shall insert in the warrant for... every special town meeting all subjects the insertion of which shall be requested of them in writing by one hundred registered voters”. The Gunther motion stated, “To see if the town will vote for the immediate dismissal of Jennifer Wolowicz, town administrator, for just cause or to act on anything thereto.”

This article included a summary of the proposal, saying in

part: “The Select Board has been asked repeatedly to follow disciplinary procedures as it applies to all employees, of which Jennifer Wolowicz is one, and has consistently refused to do so.” The state’s open meeting law says a public employee hired by a public body must be informed in writing ahead of time when any accusations against them by a Board of Selectmen might commence.

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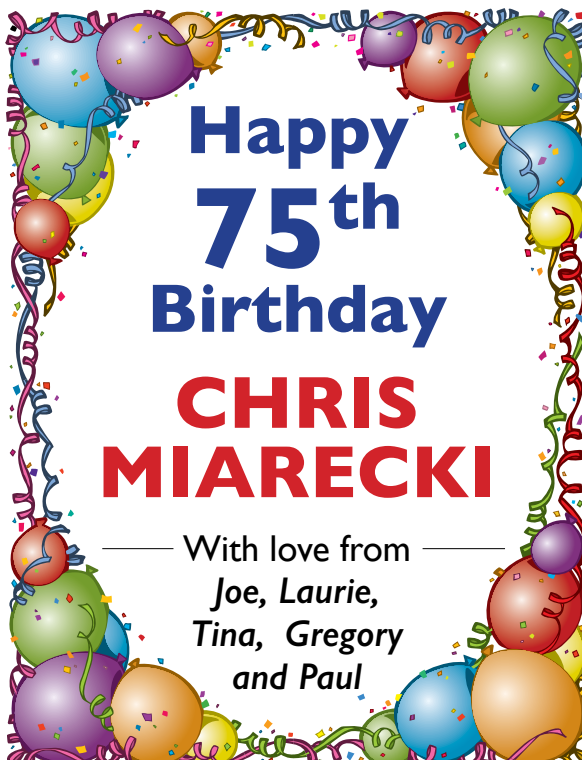
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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

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Viewpoints



When should I retire and claim my Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided

There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances. In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working.

If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less or you reach your FRA.

If you claim SS before your FRA your benefit amount will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claim SS to start at age 65 your monthly benefit will be about 89% of what it would be at your FRA. That reduced benefit would not change thereafter except for Cost of Living Adjustments usually granted annually.

If Social Security will be a major part of your retirement income, then waiting to get a higher monthly benefit may be a prudent strategy for you. The longer you wait to claim the more your benefit will be.

Your SS benefit will continue to grow until you are 70 years old and at 70 your monthly benefit will be about 27% more than it would be at your FRA. Your maximum SS benefit will be attained at age 70 but waiting until age 70 to claim is only prudent if you anticipate a long life expectancy.

Life expectancy is a very important factor in deciding when to claim SS. If you claim at age 70 instead of at your FRA, you will need to live until you are about 83 to breakeven money wise. If you live even longer than that, then waiting until 70 will yield the highest monthly amount and the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. But if your anticipated life expectancy is less, claiming earlier may be a better choice.

If you are married and expect your wife to survive you, consider that the benefit your wife can get as your widow will be based on your SS benefit when you die, thus the longer you wait to claim the more your wife's benefit as your widow may be.

If you predecease your wife, her benefit will be based on the amount you were receiving at your death if that is more than her personally earned SS benefit.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision to be made after carefully evaluating your personal circumstances as described above. I hope this provides what you need to make an informed decision, but if you have further questions, people may call 1-888-750-2622 or email SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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



Two ways to enjoy bulbs next spring

My spring bulbs are almost all in the ground. That is saying a lot, considering at work I plant over 2,000 of them! Daffodils, tulips and hyacinth will all welcome visitors to the museum in April and May.

Bulb planting is a ritual that I have come to love. I think in part because the process assists Mother Nature in her efforts to usher in springtime and all of its glorious color!

Did you ever wonder why certain bulbs bloom in the spring? Once you understand the life cycle of specific bulbs you can succeed with bulbs outdoors as well as inside.

Most spring flowering bulbs are native to areas of the world where the fall and winter is cool, and rainfall is abundant. Summers are typically hot and dry.

During the summer bulbs lie dormant, but when temperatures drop and rain moistens the soil each fall, they are awakened and begin to grow new roots and mature their flower buds. Roughly three months later, as soil temperatures rise, bulbs send up foliage and flowers.

When spring rains cease and the soil dries out, bulbs are cued into dormancy once again - their foliage yellows and disappears and the bulbs wait out the arrival of fall to start the cycle all over again.

What this tells us is that we should plant our bulbs before the mercury dips too low. This will give them a chance to root.

Soil temperatures of 50-55 degrees are ideal. If the fall is dry, providing supplemental watering is also a good idea to encourage the rooting process...this year we don't have to worry about that.

What do roots do exactly? You know that they provide food and water to the bulb, but in addition, they anchor it into the soil - very necessary during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter and early spring.

We also learned that there are two times when the bulb is in active growth - when it is rooting, and again in the spring when it sends up its leaves and flower stem. Feeding during these periods is most effective.

I generally broadcast a small amount of organic, well-balanced granular fertilizer into the garden, turn over the soil and plant my bulbs, usually in clumps of at least five bulbs, two-three times their width apart and the same for depth. If you are careful about marking where you've planted them, a top dressing of fertilizer can be added in early spring.

Likewise, you could also wait until you see the first stems poke through the ground and feed them.

I'm sure many gardeners never even thought about what flower bulbs did during the summer months. Now that we

understand that they are dormant, merely waiting, we can plant them accordingly, away from spots that pool water and that stay as dry as possible.

Now that we understand a bulb's life cycle, how can we use it to ensure some indoor cheer?

Bulbs need anywhere from 11-20 weeks of chilling and a few more thereafter to bloom. This guide can be used: Crocus require 15 weeks of cold; hyacinth 11-14 weeks, daffodils 15-17 weeks and tulips 14-20 weeks (depending upon season of bloom).

Pick a date which you'd like the bulb to bloom and count backwards. Hypothetically if I want hyacinths to bloom in time for Valentine's Day, planting them within the next week or two would be right on target.

Bulbs can be planted quite close to one another in regular potting soil and your choice of pot. Clay is not recommended because it will dry out readily.

Water lightly to settle the soil, then place the container in a cold, dark location where temps fall between 38 and 45 degrees. One year I used an old refrigerator; another year the crawl space under our office.

I even tried placing pots of bulbs under the bottom steps of my bulk head. Each worked at maintaining low temps, but did have its own idiosyncrasies.

Keep bulbs away from fruit in storage - especially apples, whereby ethylene gas could disfigure the bulbs, and also be on the lookout for rodents looking for lunch.

Daffodils and hyacinth are usually unappetizing.

Check bulbs often, especially as the chilling period draws to a close. You will know the bulbs are close to being ready to move to a new location when sprouting occurs and roots are visible through the drainage holes; soon after, the top will start to grow as well.

After the top has put on an inch of growth, move it to a cool, bright location, about 50-55 degrees. Stems will elongate and flower buds will form after a few weeks.

When in flower, keep the plants cool to prevent legginess - consider enjoying them in your living spaces during the day, but moving them to a cooler climate at night for increased longevity.

It's about now when the garden centers begin their mark-down of spring bulbs. Try your hand at forcing once and it will become your annual ritual!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

STATE AUDITOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Reforms sorely needed at the Sex Offender Registry Board

By Diana DiZoglio
Massachusetts State Auditor

Serving as Massachusetts State Auditor doesn't just mean reviewing finances.

A big part of my role, as I often speak about with folks across the state, is reviewing the performance and efficacy of the Commonwealth's agencies and entities. A great example of the responsibility to look beyond number crunching is our office's recently released audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board.

People are familiar with the concept that Massachusetts registers convicted

sex offenders, maintaining a database of where such people live and work in an effort to maintain public safety. This system of public safety is maintained by SORB, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor and staffed by more than 70 individuals.

Our recent audit looked at SORB's operations from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021. Covering that two-year period, my team honed in on whether SORB classified sex offenders at least 10 days before they were released from custody, thus en-

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In 1987 Jeanne Bailey returned to her hometown of Monson, MA after having lived in California for many years. Upon her return, she brought back with her a very successful business, JB Catering and JB's Mobile Cafe. She and her husband Ken had their businesses at the Brimfield Flea Market for 35 years. Never someone to sit still, she formed a new business in Palmer called Jean Bailey's Gourmet Shop.

Later on, she opened the very popular and charming Village Gift Shop in Monson, located both on Palmer Road and also Main Street in Monson. Realizing the need to stimulate the local economy in Monson, Jeanne formed the Monson Tourism Committee, and her accomplishments just took off. Along with tourism member Denise Morgan, also from Monson, they established the Town of Monson's first Town-Wide Tag Sale. Jeanne also introduced and formed the annual Monson Town Trash Pick-up program.

The many accomplishments of Jeanne's Tourism Committee include Entry Signs into Monson, located on the North, South, East and West entrances to Monson. The original Public Notice Board located outside the Monson Town Office Building. (All construction costs were donated by the Sanderson Family in memory of Ken Sanderson.) The Town Clock at Dave Grieve Park & Gazebo, as well as a new shingled roof on the Gazebo, Park Benches on Main Street along with Trash Receptacles, the painting of the of the House of Art.

On May 23, 2006, Jeanne along with her Monson the Tourism Committee held a Flag Memorial Service at the Soldier's Monument on North Main Street in Monson to honor troops who served and lost their lives in the Afghanistan War. The ceremony was attended by hundreds of people, with a flag display that was overwhelming and extremely impressive. Many dignitaries from across the State, as well as the Monson Police Department, Fire Department, American Legion Post 241, clergy, selectmen, and the Quaboag Highlanders Band were in attendance.

All these projects were funded through donations and fund-raising through her efforts. Jeanne also joined the Monson Rotary Club and assisted in their many civic projects such as the Annual Halloween Parade & Costume Party, the Tree of Lights, the Lucky Duck Race, Picnics and Christmas Luncheons served at Colonial Village, Rotary Scholarships, Citizen of the Year Awards, etc. Rotary's International Motto: "Service Above Self".

In 2004 Jeanne was named Citizen of the Year by the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce. Jeanne was also a member of the Summerfest Committee for many years. Probably one of Jeanne's most successful projects was the Monson Food Truck & Music Festival, which was created in 2019, with all proceeds donated in excess of \$80,000, to Dana Farber Cancer Research and other local Monson Charities. Jeanne Bailey's contributions to her hometown have been amazing. Thank you, Jeanne, you certainly have set an example for all current and future generations to follow.

Dot Jenkins
Monson Resident

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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

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

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

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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AMVets Post 74, front row left to right Richard Frisch, Finance officer, Marge Cavanaugh, Judge Advocate, Bill Rodgers, Past Commander. Back row left to right Bob Aruda, Adjutant, John Corcoran, Commander, Kris Roach, Third Vice, Ray Beaudette, 1st Vice Commander.



Sons of AMVets Post 74: Robert Sullivan, Secretary, Brian Benoit, George Robichaud, 1st Vice, Mike Matthieu, Wess Jarvis, Wayne Scholfield Jr, 3rd Vice, Tony Silva, Commander, Dave Rice, Treasurer, Fred Smith, Sargent at Arms, Mike Lees, 2nd Vice.

Local resident takes command of squadron



Submitted Photo

Civil Air Patrol Wing Commander Col. Tim Nelson administers the oath of command to 2nd Lt. Laurie Stewart of the Brigadier General Pierce Civil Air Patrol Squadron.

MONSON— Resident Civil Air Patrol 2nd Lt. Laurie Stewart took command of the Brigadier General Pierce Civil Air Patrol Squadron in a change of command ceremony in Amherst, on Monday, Nov. 6.

As squadron commander, Stewart is responsible for leading a team of 13 senior member volunteers and 15 cadets. The squadron is dedicated to aerospace education and building future leaders.

"I am honored to serve as squadron commander," said Stewart. "It is a privilege to serve our outstanding cadets and volunteers."

Stewart seeks to maintain the standards of excellence while growing the squadron.

"I am really excited about the future of the squadron," Stewart said. "Civil Air Patrol is a great opportunity for young people to develop leadership skills and teamwork. I plan to really focus on growing our membership in the next few years."

As the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, members of the Civil Air Patrol perform emergency services for state and local agencies as well as

the federal government as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization. Its 65,000 members devote time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities while also promoting aviation and related fields through aerospace education and helping shape future leaders through CAP's cadet program. CAP plays a leading role in STEM/aerospace education, and its members serve as mentors to more than 29,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.

The Brigadier General Arthur J. Pierce Cadet Squadron meets on Monday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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Ladies Auxiliary stand together to honor those who serve our country past and present

THREE RIVERS — Ladies Auxiliary of AMVets Post 74 in Three Rivers is a group of ladies who are a spouse, daughter, granddaughter, sister, mother, aunt to a Veteran, past or present.

Our mission is to uphold and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States.

We are always looking for new members to join and participate in supporting our Veterans in the Post, Holyoke Soldiers Home and Soldier On at Leeds as well as child welfare, community service and Americanism.

We also hold fundraisers for Scholarship to our local schools so that we can help students further their education as well as for much needed community services.

We assist the Veterans with replacing all of the American flags at our area cemeteries for Memorial Day, and the tattered ones on Veteran Day. We also proudly march in the parades to honor our Veterans.

We are trusted with the duties of the Annual Halloween parade as well as the Christmas party for kids.

Ladies with a Veteran connection are welcome to join and can reach the Auxiliary at auxiliary-post74@gmail.com or stop at the AMVets Post.



Ladies Auxiliary AMVets Post 74: Laurie Cole, Sargent at Arms, Jacqui Wahlers, Andrea Sullivan, President, Tammy Sears 2nd Vice, Carol Langimoniere, Ann Bechard. Not pictured Laurie Alves 1st Vice, Tammy Foster, 3rd Vice, Kristine Lefebvre Secretary and Charlann Griswold, Treasurer.



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Byrnes, William Bondsville US Army



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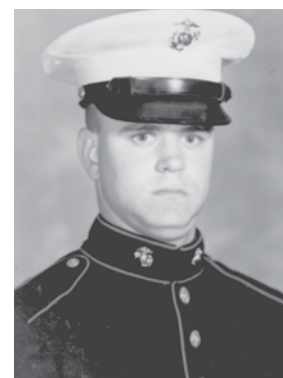
Christensen, Philip Palmer US Navy



Cole, Daniel Palmer US Army



Hull, Walter J. Monson US Navy



Jasnocha Jr., Alfred L. Palmer US Marines



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REPLACING THE FLAGS



Addy Wahlers replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Ray Beaudette and Sandy Olson replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Wayne Schofield replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Wes and Melissa Jarvis replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Laurie Cole replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Dave Coderre replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Ray Sullivan replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.



Mike Matthieu replacing flags at Four Corners Cemetery.

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Boy Scouts National Jamboree announcement

The Boy Scouts of America's National Jamboree provides Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts and Sea Scouts with a mountain top experience that they will cherish for a lifetime.

It is held at the newest BSA high adventure base the Summit Bechtel Family Reserve in West Virginia. The Summit was a former coal mine and is ten thousand acres abutting the National Park Service's newest park, New River Gorge.

This 10-day event offers many activities for Scouts to enjoy while meeting other Scouts from around the country and world. Some of the activities are a big zip line, climbing walls, Shooting Sports, mountain biking, skateboarding, aquatics, and patch trading.

There are many other activities as well including orienteering, geocaching, Buckskin Village, Brown Sea Island, Stem activities, The Conservation Trail and many merit badges that can be earned.

Brown Sea Island takes you back to the origin of Scouting and is always at the Jamboree. It is the reenactment of when Scouting started when Lord Baden Powell a campout on an island off the coast of England in 1907. Staff wear period costumes and lead Scouts in the history of the event and the games and activities that were held then on Brown Sea Island.

Buckskin Village has many pioneering activities for Scouts to try. Staff here are in costume as well.

On the Conservation Trail Scouts were given a passport. As they visited the tents and displays of the federal and state agencies, they receive 4 stamps in the passport. After they go to the 5 story Sustainability Tree House and get the 5th stamp in the passport, they would earn the Conservation Trail patch.

Most patch trading occurred at the Scott Visitor Center building at the Summit Center under supervision of volunteers from the International Scout Collectors Association. There were many girls trading patches this Jamboree as well as boys. A lot of staff patch trading was done at the Chat-N-Chew at the staff sub camp Alpha.

The National Park Service had a reproduction of an 1862 12 pound Napoleon cannon on display. During the day they would hold demonstrations on how to load and fire the cannon.

Both the Aquatic area and Boulder Cove Climbing Area were busy every day. The Trading Post at the Summit Center was popular with long lines every day. You could buy camping gear, Jamboree souvenirs, Jamboree shirts and hats, patches and anything you may have forgotten to bring.

The Summit is open summers holding activities for Scout troops including Shooting Sports, mountain biking, BMX Trax, COPE and Climbing, Aquatics, skate boarding and other activities that do not compete with the other 3 high adventure bases.

Two-day craft fair coming to St. Christopher Church

PALMER — On Saturday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 19, St. Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair. Located at 20 Sturbridge Road (route 20) it has easy access and plenty of parking. The hours of the fair are Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free.

The craft fair offers a wide variety to choose from including unique pieces of jewelry, primitives, Christmas ornaments, scenic wooden wall hangings, watercolors, stained glass slate, beautiful hand quilted items such as quilts and runners, candles, knitted & crocheted hats, mittens and sweaters, stone and shell art, rosaries, wood crafts and toys, organic lotions and soaps, tie dye shirts, all in addition to the clubs bargain tables that offer an array of goods especially for those on a tight budget.

The kitchen is open throughout the day and will offer a breakfast menu and a variety of sandwiches, soups, chili, and chowder as well as homemade

meat pies and turkey pot pie and deserts. Whole meat pies can be pre-ordered to take home. A cookie walk held on Saturday only starting at 9 a.m. Come early as it sells out quickly.

For those who like to take a chance and win something, there are raffles. The main raffle includes donations from local businesses with items such as ski passes, restaurant & other gift cards, hockey tickets, and gift baskets. There is also a raffle comprised of unique gifts from crafters and a favorite for scratch ticket fans, a tree filled with lottery tickets.

Masses are held on Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Week-day masses are Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Holy Day masses vary. For more information about the fair or St. Christopher's Church, contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchristbrimfield@gmail.com or check it out on the church's Facebook page.

Snow plow naming contest now happening

BOSTON—The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is announcing the second annual, "Name A Snowplow," contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season.

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season. Winning applicants will be announced by Dec. 22.

"This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the dedicated members of our crews who keep

our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather," said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks."

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade; and fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowwalker, Plower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmes, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

Officials issue home heating reminder

A three-alarm fire in Revere last week started with a furnace, prompting a reminder from fire officials to pay special attention to home heating safety. Heating equipment is the #1 source of carbon monoxide at home and the second-leading cause of residential fires in Massachusetts.

"As the nights and mornings get chillier, many of us are turning up the heat for the first time since the spring," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Be sure you're heating your home safely. That means having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the dwelling, having your appliances professionally checked, and keeping heat sources clear of anything that can burn."

"Last week, the Revere Fire Department responded to a three-alarm fire that started with an older furnace that hadn't been professionally serviced in years," said Revere Fire Chief Christopher Bright. "Working smoke alarms alerted residents to the danger, but the home is a total loss. No matter how you heat your home, please be sure your heating appliances are operating safely."

Fire officials said there have been more than 6,000 heating fires in Massachusetts over the last five years. These fires claimed eight lives, caused more than 140 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$39 million in damage. And in 2022 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at nearly 5,000 non-fire incidents.

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of the alarms to know when to replace them, smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after 5 to 10 years depending on the model. If the alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when changing your clocks. If it's time to replace your alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand. Select photoelectric smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

If residents have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save money and could save lives. Always keep a three-foot "circle of safety" around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans, or other flammable items near these appliances. If residents smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program. No matter what type of heating equipment in use, LIHEAP may be able to help pay winter heating bills or maintain the heating system. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

AUDITOR | from page 4

ensuring they were assigned an appropriate level.

Further, we looked at whether SORB used all the resources at their disposal to accurately identify sex offenders who were in violation of maintaining their registration.

I was disappointed to find that SORB underperformed in a way that could have a negative impact upon the public.

While incarcerated sex offenders are supposed to be assigned a classification at least 10 days prior to their release, per state law, SORB failed to do so with approximately 1/3 of those released during our two-year review window. More concerning, 77 offenders didn't receive their classification until after they were released.

This lax approach to the law meant those sex offenders' names, addresses, offenses, and registration statuses were not appropriately posted to SORB's website for level 2 and 3 sex offenders and were not otherwise available to the public.

Our audit team also identified other vulnerabilities regarding how SORB tracked offenders who have been released from incarceration. Namely, SORB's database was not kept up to

date in all situations, with approximately one out of five offenders showing incorrect addresses when compared against records maintained by other state departments (such as the addresses the Department of Transitional Assistance records).

Part of the benefit of SORB is that it tracks the location of high level offenders. By not ensuring that it has the current addresses of sex offenders considered in violation, SORB is not able to consistently communicate information about sex offenders' whereabouts, their offenses, and their classifications to local law enforcement agencies and the general public.

What's disturbing is that some of these issues were identified the last time my predecessor audited SORB. These issues must be immediately addressed.

Our office has recommended that SORB increase their collaboration with correctional facilities to establish more reliable procedures for providing anticipated release dates for incarcerated offenders. We've also recommended the implementation of a tracking process that identifies any delays or issues that may arise, to ensure that all sex offenders are assigned final classifications prior to each offender's release.

For ensuring residential address accuracy, SORB needs to not only work more closely with other state agencies to verify addresses — SORB must also make a point of updating those addresses in their system when they are found.

We will continue to work with SORB and encourage their adoption of practices that maximize public safety.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at any time for more information at auditor@sao.state.ma.us and 617-727-2075.

The Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio conducts audits, investigations, and studies to promote accountability and transparency, improve performance, and make government work better. DiZoglio is the 26th Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sworn into her first term on Jan. 18, 2023. She is committed to help move Massachusetts forward by working to increase transparency and accountability in state government.

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Local crafters attend Tantasqua's 11th annual fair



Submitted Photos
A "Plein Air Oil" by Bev Phaneuf, Plein Air Coordinator.

Quabbin Art Association opens annual Plein Air Exhibit in Palmer

BELCHERTOWN - The Quabbin Art Association opened its Annual Plein Air Exhibit at the Palmer Public Library on Nov. 1.

The exhibit runs through the end of the month and features artwork painted "en plein air" in various mediums including oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic, pencil, and pen & ink. The exhibit is located at the Meeting Room during regular business hours.

"Many of the pieces are for sale and can be purchased directly from the artists," the Quabbin Art Association (QAA) released.

An Artists' Reception was held on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the library. The QAA's Plein Air Coordinator is Beverly Phaneuf.

Now in its eighth year, the Belchertown-based Quabbin Art Association promotes "community interest and appreciation in the visual arts by providing education, support, and opportunity for local artists."

To learn more about the organization or to become a member, visit quabbinartassociation.com.



Caitlyn Siwek showed off her grandmother, Patricia Siwek's beautiful paintings and adorable gnomes.



Francis Bousquet is shown with her beautiful hand painted jars holding her homemade candles with all natural ingredients.



Grace and Jessica Kolb, a mother daughter team, ran Grace's grandmother's, Gail Modugno, booth selling her beautifully made reusable towels.



Rona T. Roy, owner of her small business, Twiddle T's Pottery, featured her beautiful hand-sculpted mugs and dishes.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Jean and Josh McCrillis displayed their homemade signs using retired fire hoses and wood.



Linda Brown is shown with her beautiful display of homemade holiday décor.

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE - The holiday season us quickly approaching, and the craft fair season has come on in full swing.

The many talented artists and vendors at the 11th annual Tantasqua Craft Fair at high school in Fiskdale, brought their all and their talents this past Saturday.

Linda Brown, who has been going to the craft fairs at Tantasqua for five years, had her beautifully made wreaths and other handmade décor for

Thanksgiving and Christmas. She loves craft fairs and has always enjoyed the ones held at Tantasqua.

One crafter had beautifully made textiles including baby blankets, kitchen towels, hats, scarves, and her popular washable dish "scrubbies" that can replace traditional sponges.

Sam Barrus, the creator of these hand-sewn and crocheted pieces, also makes doll clothes, jewelry, purses, and other accessories.

Steerage Rock Stitching is owned and operated by Gail Modugno, and her daughter,

Jessica Kold, and granddaughter Grace Kolb.

The family operates their business out of Brimfield and sells handmade rolls of reusable cloth towels that can replace full rolls of paper towels, making a positive impact on the environment.

A stay-at-home mom who followed her passions, Rona T. Roy opened her own business, featuring her beautifully sculpted pottery. Her business, located locally in Fiskdale, is called Twiddle T's Pottery, and can also be found on Facebook.

Francis Bousquet, own-

er and operator of Crows Feet Primitives Candle Company, creates her own candles with soy and other all natural ingredients like fresh herbs and coffee grounds. Her jars are all hand-painted and can be kept as a treasured keepsake when the candle is gone.

Artist Patricia Siwek's booth featured her beautiful paintings, and some adorable Christmas gnomes. Her granddaughter, Caitlyn Siwek, accompanies her to craft fairs and is the perfect partner for all of her grandmother's events.

Josh and Jean McCrill-

is, owners of No Way Hose J, use retired fire hoses to create screen-printed wall décor. They also have squeaky dog toys, key chains, and can cozies made from the recycled hose material.

The craft fair featured dozens more artists and vendors who had anything from tasty treats, to farm fresh honey, to jewelry. Make sure to get to next year's craft fair at Tantasqua to see more amazing artists like them.

Art Gallery presents new exhibit



Submitted Photo
"Things Aren't What They Seem," an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Holyoke artist Ryan Patience Rushing, Nov. 3 through Dec. 29.

HOLYOKE — The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is pleased to present "Things Aren't What They Seem," an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Holyoke artist Ryan Patience Rushing, Nov. 3 through Dec. 29.

An opening reception will be held in the gallery Nov. 3 from 6-8 p.m. as well as a broad line calligraphy workshop on Wed., Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Rushing is a multidisciplinary artist and designer. Engagement with letterforms is the bedrock of her practice, and a point from which Rushing examines physics, philosophy, and psychology. A philomath and amateur cosmologist, Rushing's interests span concepts such as simulation theory, string theory, optimistic nihilism, fallacies, and semiotics. The nature of our world and how we understand it are at the core of her work.

"I think a lot about things like simulation theory and the big universe that we live in and how there's a whole lot more to the world than what we can see," Rushing said. "I like the dichotomy of using lettering to directly communicate things that are nebulous concepts. And then, hopefully, while you're reading, your brain is doing work to question how things aren't what they seem."

Rushing's career spans 15 years of experience in graphic design, market-

ing, branding, UX design, and front-end website development. She received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Louisiana Tech University in 2009.

"I believe in accessible art, and how art should not be just for the rich and the elite," Rushing said. "Art should be for everyone. You can use Crayola broad tip markers to do calligraphy and drawing. You can use them to do watercolor. They're available everywhere, and they're relatively inexpensive, and you can make some really beautiful pieces of art."

The workshop is open to the public, but advance registration is requested. To register, please go to: hcc.edu/taber-things.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during regular school sessions.

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Country Bank unveils renovated flagship office

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Country Bank welcomed the community to its newly renovated West Street Banking Center for a grand reopening last week.

At the celebration on Oct. 26, Assistant Vice President of Retail Banking Blair Robidoux said the renovation shows how invested Country Bank is in serving the community.

“We’re really proud of it,” Robidoux said “We’re really invested in supporting the Ware community.”

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts. Its West Street location has been renovated to offer its customers a modernized banking experience.

Joining Country Bank staff were mascot Buck and WooSox mascot Smiley Ball. Both Buck and Smiley Ball welcomed customers to the branch and offered top-notch customer service.

DonutNV, a food truck offering specialized donuts, apple cider and lemonade, gave out complimentary refreshments. Giveaways and a drawing for tickets to Old Sturbridge Village’s Christmas by Candlelight event were also held.

Senior Vice President of Customer Experience and Retail Banking Russ Fontaine said Country Bank is excited to introduce the new and modern design within its full-service Banking Center,



Assistant Vice President of Retail Banking Blair Robidoux cuts the ribbon while Senior Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations Shelley Regin and WooSox mascot Smiley Ball help, during Country Bank's grand reopening of its West Street location last Thursday.



Inside Country Bank's West Street location, customers can enjoy a comfortable lounge while enjoying a hot drink of their choice from the self-serve beverage station.

These banking centers are designed to expand Country Bank's ability to consistently provide sales and service solutions for customers while supporting Country Bank's promise to make a difference in delivering a world-class customer experience.

“Investing in this location is very important to us, not just because it is our flagship office, but because it will provide an enhanced banking experience for our customers while also reinforcing our commitment locally within the Town of Ware and surrounding communities,” Fontaine said in a press release.



DonutNV offered free mini donuts and cool drinks from the parking lot.



WooSox mascot Smiley Ball held the door open for a customer.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

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Ware High School craft fair

WARE – The Ware High School craft fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the gymnasium.

The fair benefits the freshman through senior classes at Ware High School.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a lottery tree and a raffle table. A concession stand will be run by the Student Council.

Crafters will have an assortment of wood crafts, jewelry, holiday items, pottery, chocolate, paintings, ornaments, candles, maple products, signs, jams and jellies, crochet items and much more.

Historical Society hosts ‘Sturbridge: Then and Now’ on Nov. 16

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m., at the Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present “Sturbridge: Then and Now”, a pictorial history of Sturbridge showing the changes and evolution of the Town over the years.

The program will be presented by Bob Arnold, and Wally Hersee, both of Sturbridge.

Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian, and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, Arnold has been documenting life in our community since he and his family

moved here in 1970.

His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in our community. Arnold still lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse, and thousands of images.

Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history.

A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, “Follow the Light”, tells of his photograph-

ic journey. Hersee retired as a registered nurse in 2019.

Today, he lives in town with his wife, Mary, and is active on town boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society on their Facebook page.

Arnold and Hersee will be sharing a delightful portion of their collected photos and knowledge, which are guaranteed to enlighten, and to generate reminiscences and discussions.

The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

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SOCCER MOVING ON TO STATES



Vanessa Baer heads the ball away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ava Przybycien calls out a play as she heads up the field.



Ava Swist winds up for a clearing kick.



Charlotte Theriault sprints for the goal.



Aniah Myrie steals the ball.



Ciara Monaghan stops the ball to keep it from the Mt. Greylock defender.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Hannah Murphy gets the touch ahead of pressure.



Emma Murphy sends a pass away.



A scrum ensues in front of the Monson goal, but the Mustangs were able to clear it away, coming away with a shutout in the Western Mass. Class C finals.

PANTHERS | from page 1

feelings right now."

The other Palmer players, who won their second Western Mass. title, are senior Vanessa Baer, senior Jordan Bigda, senior Grace Burke, junior Loretta Petraszewicz, and junior Ava Przybycien.

A year ago, the Lady Panthers (11-7-1) lost to rival Monson in the Class D semifinals.

The last time that the Lady Rams (9-10) made an appearance in the Western Mass. finals was in 2019. They lost to Lenox, 3-0, in that contest, which was also played at Berte Field. It was the final year of the old playoff format.

"This is the first time that any of my players have played in the Western Mass. finals. We have six or seven freshmen who played a ton of minutes this season. They got a taste of it tonight," said Granby head coach Bob Weaver. "We lost to Lenox here in 2019, but we won three straight Western Mass. titles before that."

Both girls' soccer teams are members of the Central Division.

"We joined the Central Division this season and we faced some pretty tough competition during the regular season," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "Winning our second Western Mass title in the past three

years is a very good thing for our program."

Palmer won the first meeting of the regular season, 7-3, at Legion Field on September 12.

Granby evened the season series at 1-1 with a 5-1 home win on October 4.

"It's very difficult playing the same team three times in the same season," Sandoval added. "Both teams scored eight goals against each other during the regular season. The margin of victory was four goals. Granby is a very young squad, and this probably won't be the last time we play them in the tournament."

Both teams also entered the championship having won their previous four matches.

The Lady Panthers took a 1-0 lead during the third minute of the opening half.

Junior Gianna Perry began the scoring play by delivering a pass towards the goal between a couple of defenders. Theriault completed the play with a low shot that deflected into the net after hitting off the right post.

"It was a beautiful pass by Gianna," Theriault said. "I was feeling very good after I watched the ball bounce into the net. It's always very important to take the lead in every game."

In the middle of the first half, a free kick taken from about 35 yards out by Granby junior Molly Zumbuski was saved by Palmer junior goalie Aubrey Boucher.

With five minutes remaining in the opening half, Theriault, who's closing in on her 100th career goal, scored her second goal on a corner kick. Petraszewicz was credited with the assist.

Just like in the first half, the Lady Panthers scored their third goal three minutes into the second half on a breakaway shot into the upper right corner by senior Fallon Lynch.

Then Boucher made a couple of outstanding saves on free kicks by junior Lydia Kicza.

The Lady Rams ended Boucher's shutout bid in the 78th minute when freshman Brenna Moreno blasted a shot into the back of the net.

Granby junior Maggie Crawford also had a shot on goal in the final minute, but Boucher made the save.

Both soccer teams also qualified for the Division 5 state

Granby, who's the 20th-seeded, was scheduled to play at 13th-seeded David Prouty in the round of 32 on Sunday night.

Palmer is the 12th-seed hosted 21st-seeded Hopkins Academy in the round of 32 at Legion Field on Monday night.

MUSTANGS | from page 1

the game. With the state tournament looming, Degan expressed how well-composed his team was in handling some of the missed calls, and continuing to play their game, including a late goal to make the final 4-0.

"Many of these girls have played in a number of big games in the past few years," said Degan. "They know what they're doing and they know how to handle themselves."

Addie Peterson had a big game for the Mustangs with two of the Monson goals while Ciara Monaghan had a goal as well.

Goalie Emily Provost, who has been brilliant since moving into the position at the beginning of this season, picked up another shutout.

With the championship win, Monson is now 18-0-1 on the season and has yet to be defeated as it enters the state tournament once again with a high seed.

Monson is No. 2 in the state, with Central Mass.' Whitinsville Christian holding the top spot. The high seed once again guarantees the Mustangs will play at

home in the entirety of the playoffs until the semifinals and finals, when all games go to a neutral site.

Monson is looking for another good run. In 2021, the Mustangs made it to the semifinals and last year, were defeated by one goal in the state finals. This year, the Mustangs hope to once again win another state title.

Monson took on Bromfield in the Round of 16 on Wednesday, Nov. 8. If the Mustangs are victorious, they would likely play in the quarterfinals sometime over the weekend. Please go to www.miaa.net for updated brackets.

FOOTBALL

Panthers fall to Chicopee



Quarterback Matthew Santos drops back for a pass attempt. More photos on page 12.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dylan Doherty gets the handoff.

PALMER – With no playoff games, Palmer went into nonplayoff action for Week 9, hosting Chicopee

High School. The Panthers fell 20-6 and fell to 1-8 on the season. The Panthers drew an extra home game

for their Week 10 matchup, and are scheduled to face Commerce on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m.

SOCCER

Costa scores pair in playoff win



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ethan DeBettencourt catches up to the ball.



Owen Pear sends a shot away. More photos on page 12.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Monday Night Men's League

PALMER – In one match, the Pin Heads bowled against Tag Team. In game one, Pin Heads defeated Tag Team by a score of 370-353.

Dave Dutton of Pin Heads led the team by scoring 107. In game two, it was close but Pin Heads managed to win by one pin by a score of 368-367.

In game three, Pin Heads won by a score of 370-356. For total pinfall, Pin Heads were the winners by a final score of 1108-1076.

Team Yahtzee faced off against Team Boom. In game one, Boom was victorious over Yahtzee by a score of 374-358.

John Carmichael of Boom was well over average by score a 112 game against Yahtzee. In game two, Yahtzee countered with a good game of their own winning 371-331. Rick Clark of Yahtzee scored 102.

In game three, Yahtzee won by a score of 401-371. Mike Wadas of Yahtzee finished strong by scoring 103. For total pinfall, Yahtzee won by a final score of 1130-1076.

The Juicers took on Pin Pigs for a three-game match. In game one, Juicers won by a score of 314-309.

In game two, Pin Pigs won by a score of 330-301. Mike Forgue of Pin Pigs scored 101. In game three, Pin Pigs took the last game of the night by a score of 380-311.

Forgue stayed strong finishing with a 108 final game. His teammate, Bill Kerr finished with a 110 game.

Pin Pigs won total pinfall by a final score 1019-926.

The Four Stooges bowled against the Mugwumps. In game one, the Four Stooges won by a score 358-324.

Marc Pelissier of the Stooges began with a 105 game. In game two, The Four Stooges defeated Mugwumps by a score of 331-307. Pelissier continued staying about his league average by score

102 in game two.

In game three, Four Stooges won the third and final game by a score of 352-322. Pelissier finished with his high game of the night with a 107. Pelissier's series for the night was 314.

For total pinfall, Four Stooges won with a final score of 1041-953.

Thursday Night Mixed League

As of Oct. 26, there is a tie for first place between Team One and Team Three with 18.5 wins through round 1 of the season.

In one match, Team Two bowled against Team Four for league night. In game one, Team Four defeated Team Two by a score of 399-385.

In game two, Team Four won by a score of 404-394. Danny Fennyery of Team Two scored 103 in game two.

In game three, Team Four took all three games by winning the last one 416-407.

Team Four took total pinfall for a final score of 1219-1186.

Team Three bowled against Team Six as Team Three hopes to take over 1st place before round one ends. In game one, Team Six was victorious by a score of 401-389. In game two, Team Six stayed strong and won again by a score of 392-372. In game three, Team Six won the third and final game 418-384.

Team Six took total pinfall by a final score of 1211-1145.

The other top seed Team One bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team One was victorious over Team Five by a score of 437-420.

In game two, Team One had another good game and won by a score of 428-392. In game three, Team One took all the points by winning the final game 444-421.

Kris Rickson of Team One had a good night with all three games over 100. His scores consisted of 107, 104, and 125 for a three-game series of 336.

Total pinfall was in favor of Team One by a final score of 1309-1233.

T-Birds fall to Islanders in weekend finale

BRIDGEPORT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-5-0-0) could not withstand a late rally by the Bridgeport Islanders (3-5-1-0) in a 3-2 defeat on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

For the first time in three games this weekend, it would be the T-Birds to get the 1-0 lead in the opening period. Operating a man down at the 8:40 mark, Nathan Walker picked up a feed from Calle Rosen and raced into the Islanders zone on a 2-on-1 with Matthew Peca. The captain served as a decoy and Walker wristed a try through the stick side of Ken Appleby, giving Springfield the 1-0 edge. The goal was Walker's seventh of the season and an AHL-best third shorthanded tally.

Walker's goal gave Springfield the lead, but the T-Birds had

a difficult time generating much else in the opening 20 minutes, getting outshot 13-5 by Bridgeport in the first frame. While Springfield did successfully kill off nearly a minute of 5-on-3 Bridgeport power play time, the Islanders were able to parlay that offensive momentum into a tying strike by ex-Providence Bruin Sam Asselin at 16:44, when he grabbed a puck neatly off the right-wing wall, spun toward the faceoff dot, and snapped a shot through Vadim Zherenko to dead-lock the game, 1-1, heading into the intermission. Asselin's goal marked the third straight Islanders goal scored by the top-line winger dating back over a four-game span.

The T-Birds' power play did not get a chance until the 4:52 mark of the second period, and

Springfield did not wait even 10 seconds to get a man-advantage marker for the sixth time in seven games. After Peca won a faceoff, he moved the puck to Joey Duszak at the line, and the veteran defender lifted a wrist shot toward the net. Walker found himself in the middle of the action again, as he deflected it through Appleby's equipment to restore Springfield's lead, 2-1, at the 5:00 mark of the second.

The T-Birds kept on dealing with a relentless flurry of pressure from the Islanders, but Zherenko and the Springfield defense held the fort to take the 2-1 advantage into the third. Zherenko made 27 saves through the first two periods alone.

After a quiet first half of the third period, the T-Birds' defensive levee finally came apart at

the 12:02 mark when Matthew Maggio cleaned up a rebound from a Robin Salo shot that had glanced off a T-Birds defender. Maggio tied the score at one apiece, and not even three minutes later, Salo joined the scoring fun, pumping home a rebound off a Karson Kuhlman net drive at 14:25 to give the Islanders their first lead, 3-2.

The T-Birds' offense could not find another tally before time ran out, and thus brought an end to the club's five-game win streak. Zherenko finished his night with 32 stops, while Appleby got his first win despite only needing to block 17 Springfield offerings.

Springfield returned home for the annual T-Birds School Day Game on Wednesday.

Panthers fall to Chicopee



Andrew Menard attempts a tackle.



Jared Perry goes for a tackle in the pack.



Osvaldo Nieves heads for the sideline on a carry.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Athlete of the Week

Vanessa Baer
Palmer High School

Baer is a senior member of the Palmer girls soccer team, which captured the Western Mass. Class D championship last Tuesday evening.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Costa scores pair in playoff win



Evan Costa plays the ball off his side.



Jaleel Nevue-Roman separates from his opponent.



Talon Clark goes after a loose ball.

PALMER – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder defeated Hoosac Valley, another Western Mass. team, in the opening round of the Division 5 State Tournament. Evan Costa scored twice while

Riley Sanderson and Jaleel Nevue-Roman scored single goals. Richie Gula had eight saves while getting the win in goal. The Pioneers moved on to play Douglas in the next round.

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Railers drop OT thriller to Adirondack

WORCESTER – Worcester dropped a 5-4 overtime decision to Adirondack, allowing four power play goals along the way. The overtime goal, scored by Matt Stief, was a 4-on-3 goal with Railers forward Zach White in the penalty box for tripping.

From close up, and on replay, it did not look much like a trip and the Railers were careful not to be critical of the call. That could cost them money. They were not happy, but White stood up and took the blame.

“It wasn’t a good play,” he said. “I was trying for the puck and then he fell...that was terrible by me.”

Coach Jordan Smotherman discreetly not critical of the officiating. Neither was he critical of his player. “That’s just the kind of guy he is,” Smotherman said of White taking the blame.

There was plenty of blame, but plenty of credit in what turned out to be a terrific game after a sluggish first period. After scoring two goals in the game’s first 40 minutes the teams combined for seven in the last 23:16.

The overtime loss earned the Railers one point and after the last two seasons when they missed the playoffs by a point, they can understand the value of that. The problem is that in the third period they blew a 3-1 lead and 4-3 lead before the game went into overtime.

“That can’t happen,” Smotherman said of the late lapses, “especially their fourth goal. We completely lose our heads and five guys wind up in the corner. That can’t happen in small margin games.”

The fourth Adirondack goal was scored by Riley Smith with just 2:34 left in the third period. He drilled a 25-foot shot past Tristan Lennox’ blocker. What made it worse was that while it was not officially a shorthanded goal, Thunder defenseman Tristan Thompson had been injured near his own net and was still in the defensive zone trying to get off the ice when Adirondack scored.

The Railers goals were scored by Andrei Bakanov, Ashton Calder and Brendan Robbins. Bakanov had two goals to register the first multi-goal game of his Railers career. Anthony Callin, once again a key offensive player for Worcester, had three assists.

The score after the first 20 minutes would have been about 7-6 if icings had counted as goals. As has been traditional in hockey, they did not. Thus it was a 0-0 game going into the second period.

About seven minutes into the period the Railers were whistled for icing three times in the span of a minute but as things progressed the teams began to generate more offense but could not score.

The Railers and the Thunder traded power play goals in the second period with Adirondack scoring first. Thompson gave his team a 1-0 lead at 9:32 by drilling a 55-foot slapshot home from the right point.

Bakanov tied it at 1-1 at 17:59 with his first goal of the season. It was on the power play as he converted a nice goalmouth pass from Callin. Bakanov gave Worcester the lead at 1:55 of the third period, again on the power play, with a sizzling high wrist shot from between the circles.

Calder scored a marvelous shorthanded goal at 5:45 to make it 3-1. He was sent free on a breakout when Jake Pivonka batted the puck out of mid-air and sent it directly to his streaking teammate. Calder beat Jeremy Brodeur with a backhand in close.

Erik Middendorf tied it for Adirondack with goals at 7:29 and 8:57, both on power plays, the first with the Railers two men short. Robbins banged in a rebound off the back wall at 14:26, Callin having taken the original shot, but Smith scored that crucial tying goal exactly three minutes.

From there it was on to overtime and the 5-4 final.

Owls reach conference finals

WESTFIELD – The Westfield State University men’s soccer team appeared in their first conference title game since 2017, falling to top-seeded Bridgewater State 5-0 in the 2023 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship game from Mazzaferro Field in Bridgewater, Mass. on Sunday.

The Owls conclude a successful season campaign as Westfield (7-8-2) increased their season win total by four games from last year, securing the second overall seed in the MASCAC Tournament.

The Owls run to the title game included a memorable penalty-kick shootout victory over Salem State in the league semifinals to advance to today’s conference title game with a relatively short turnaround given the effort and intensity of Friday night’s match.

In just his second season as Westfield’s head men’s soccer coach, Dr. Christopher Streeter led the Owls back to the conference championship match for the first time in six years, coaching a group that was comprised of experienced upper-classmen and impact rookies.

Bridgewater quickly opened the scoring 4:28 into the match with Nicholas Ribeiro (Bellingham, Mass.) potting his sixth goal of the season to put the Bears ahead 1-0. From that point forward, senior David Nelson (East Bridgewater, Mass.) took control of the contest, scoring the next three goals to complete the hat-trick, ultimately securing the conference title for a Bears team that suffered just two regulation losses all season.

The Bears outshot the Owls 20-9 in the game as Westfield rotated all four goalkeepers into the match. Luke Theroux (Chicopee, Mass.) wrapped up an impressive first season with the Owls, starting the match and picking up one save.

Senior Drew Adams (North Attleboro, Mass.) stopped all four shots faced while first-year Berto Truoiolo (Springfield, Mass.) got his first taste of postseason play, securing two saves. Senior Collin O’Brien (Windsor Lock, Conn.) also saw playing time in net for Westfield. Coleby Andrade (Falmouth, Mass.) led the Owls with two shots.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

Police Department

The Palmer Police Department reported 444 incidents on its logs for Oct. 24- Oct. 30.

Oct. 24

At 12:19 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on River Street.

At 3 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 4:32 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:46 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:54 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Oct. 25

At 1:58 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 4:51 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 7:42 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Eric Paul Atwell, 34, of 34 Rockview St., Palmer on charges of possession/consumption of alcoholic beverage in open container and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Oct. 26

At 6:03 a.m. police arrested Adam E. Atwell, 31, of 1026 Chestnut St., Palmer on 2 warrants.

At 12:03 p.m. police received sex offender

registration.

At 8:49 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Oct. 28

At 12:25 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Michael J. Lawson II, 23, of 370 Springfield St., Three Rivers on charges of OUI liquor and possession of open container alcohol in motor vehicle.

At 12:41 p.m. police responded to an accident involving property damage on N. Main Street.

At 3:20 p.m. police responded to an accident involving personal injury on the corner of S. Main Street and Stone Street.

At 5:04 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 7:44 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Laron T. Wallace, 36, of 39 Westford Ave., Springfield on charges of no inspection sticker, number plate violation, OUI drugs and possession with intent to distribute a class B substance.

Oct. 29

At 3:22 a.m. police investigated a suspicious vehicle resulting in the arrest of Mikayla Maia, 23, of 1014 Church St., Palmer and Jeremy Wayne Keese, 36, of 185 Fletcher Circle, Chicopee on charges of possession of a class A substance.

At 11:51 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:19 p.m. police responded to an accident on the corner of Baptist Hill Street and Willoughby Lane involving property damage.

Daylight Savings Time

Professor Johnson wants to set the right standard

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

The changeover from Daylight Savings Time is done, sort of.

As this is being written, one still sees the odd clock at the wrong hour, but we are back to Standard Time.

Except our bodies and minds are not yet perfectly aligned to it due to something called circadian rhythm. Circadian rhythm regulates daily body cycles.

The changeover to standard time from daylight savings time and vice versa will put our circadian rhythm out of sync.

Over a short time, most of us will adjust to whatever our clocks say. That does not mean it is a great idea.

Daylight Saving Time was and is a wrong idea and an example of one of humanity’s worst afflictions, overthinking.

It has some bad aspects according to Karin Johnson.

Johnson is a professor of neurology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School-Baystate and medical director of the Baystate Health Regional Sleep Program.

She is co-chair of the Coalition for Permanent Standard Time, and also vice-president of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Save Standard Time. Johnson is creator and host of its educational video series The Science of Clock Change.

In an Oct. 25 news article Johnson made the point that not just the changeover, but Daylight Savings Time itself is more than just a few restless nights:

“Every year more scientific data is uncovering the hidden harms of Daylight Saving Time. Most people think it is just the clock change that is harmful (it is), but they do not realize the greater harms of living with delayed clocks throughout Daylight Saving Time, which increase the risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, depression, suicide, fatal motor vehicle crashes, and

decreased workplace productivity and academic achievement. These impacts are disproportionately felt by teenagers, night owls, and workers and parents who have to wake up by 8 a.m. (worse for those with earlier start times), more often minorities and those with lower socio-economic status.”

Proposals for taking up Daylight Savings Time go back well over a hundred years. Mostly they were associated with an economic benefit, Germany and Austria took it on for a military advantage during World War I.

It certainly caught on here and is almost universally observed.

Will that change now that it is known that health can be impacted by the practice?

Johnson seems to hope so from her article. She mentions a bill submitted by State Rep. Angelo Puppolo of Springfield and State Senator Patrick O’Connor of Weymouth.

The bill, submitted by Puppolo, and O’Connor, would allow Massachusetts to adopt permanent Standard Time.

It seems a worthy idea, but even if it passes, unless bordering states take it up, it will have to wait for implementation according to the professor, “Wary of economic and transportation impacts due to misalignment with border states, many time bills, including the Massachusetts bill, link implementation to similar bills in other states.”

Still, it’s a start, and should you wish to see it pass, contacting your rep or senator may be in order.

Going in a completely opposite direction, however, are Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey.

Rubio and Markey support the Sunshine Protection Act that proposes permanent daylight savings time.

One is tempted to say the two are trying to give bipartisanship a bad name, but of course, they claim all kinds of improvements as well. The Rubio bill’s benefits would be mostly economic.

Evidence seems more on Johnson’s side.

Senator advocates to make daylight savings permanent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) released a statement recently on making daylight saving time permanent and ending the antiquated practice of changing the clocks twice a year.

Markey, along with Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida), is an original sponsor of the Sunshine Protection Act, which unanimously passed the Senate in March 2022 but was never brought up for a vote in the House.

“When we ‘fall back’ and lose the extra hour of daylight saving time on Sunday, we are sacrificing energy savings, crime reduction and economic benefits for darkness,” Markey said. “Over the years, I’ve fought and won to extend daylight saving time-adding two months’ worth of sun to the American people’s calendar, which saves the same amount of electricity as used by over 100,000 households for an entire year. It’s past time for Congress to take

up the Sunshine Protection Act and make daylight saving time permanent to keep the sun shining.”

Studies show that making DST permanent would have positive impacts on public health, the economy, and climate change. Representative Vern Buchanan (Florida-16) introduced companion legislation in the House.

As part of the Energy Policy Act in 2005, then-Representatives Markey and Fred Upton (Michigan-06) amended the Uniform Time Act of 1966, extending the duration of DST in the spring by changing its start date from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in March, and in the fall by changing its end date from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in November.

In 1985, then-Representative Markey also partnered with Representative Carlos Moorhead (California-27) to extend DST by three weeks.

Fire Logs

Bondsville Fire Log

For the period Oct 24 to Oct. 30, Bondsville fire responded to 2 calls.

On Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6:39 p.m., the department responded to Jim Ash Road for the smell of something burning. Burnt electrical wires were found and the department returned to service at 7:07 p.m.

On Monday, Oct. 30 at 2:45 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to High Street in Thorndike for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 4:02 p.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to six calls for the week of Oct. 29-Nov. 4.

On Sunday, Oct. 29, the Department responded to a CO detector activation due to a malfunction on Homestead Street in Palmer.

The same day, the Department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Baptist Hill Road in Three Rivers.

On Monday, Oct. 30, the Department responded to a building fire on High Street in Thorndike.

They also responded to an unintentional smoke detector activation on High Street in Three Rivers.

On Friday, Nov. 3, the Department responded to an EMS call for a motor vehicle accident on Main Street in Three Rivers.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the Department responded to an EMS call for a motor vehicle accident on Skyline Terrace in Three Rivers.

Firefighter safety equipment grant opportunity

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced today that \$5 million in grant funding is available to support the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, fire suppression equipment, and related items through the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

The competitive grant program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security and the Department of Fire Services, reimburses local fire departments for the purchase of qualifying safety equipment. Departments of every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority may apply for a grant. Maximum funding amounts are based on the size of the population the department serves.

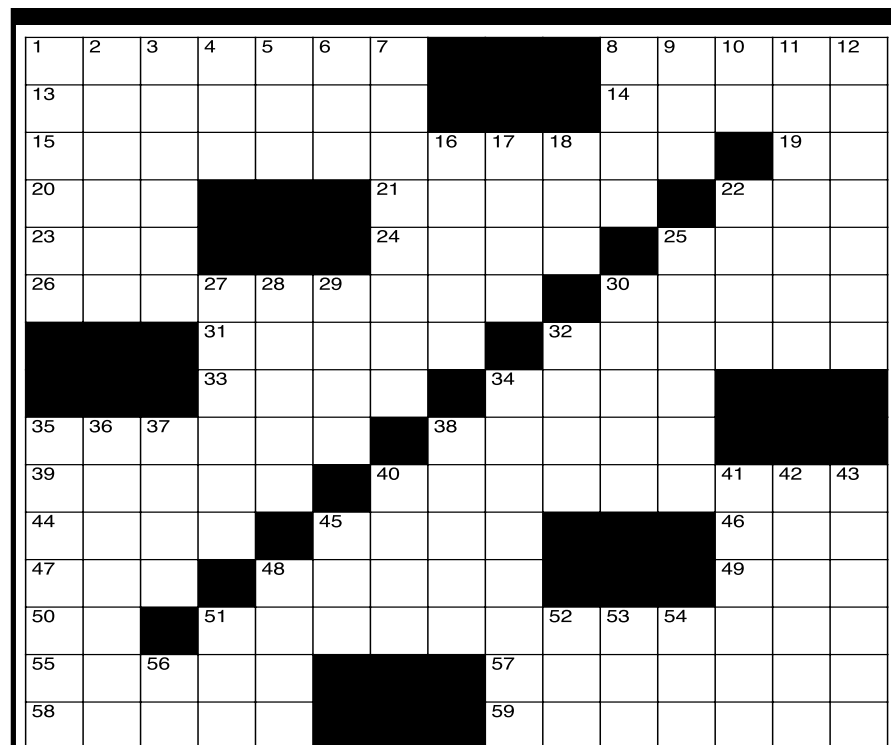
“The equipment funded through these grants will make firefighters and their communities safer,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence M. Reidy. “Whether it’s a complete set of turnout gear or ballistic protection for use on a rescue task

force, every dollar goes toward protecting the people who protect us.”

More than 130 different categories of tools, meters, personal protective equipment, communications devices, and other items are eligible for reimbursement through the program.

“The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of Massachusetts firefighters,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources.”

For more information on the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, including eligibility requirements and conditions, fire chiefs and/or department grant managers should read the Notice of Funding Opportunity posted on the Department of Fire Services’ website.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Happen again
8. Large flightless birds
13. A type of account
14. Beyond what is natural
15. Beloved comfort food
19. Rural delivery
20. Belonging to us
21. Typing to us
22. Pie ___ mode
23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
24. Not us
25. Discharge
26. Made empty
30. Fishing net
31. Fast-moving, harmless snake
32. Analyzed into its parts
33. In a way, chilled
34. Hindu queen

CLUES DOWN

1. Vital public document
2. Disinter
3. Musical performances
4. After B
5. Every body has one (abbr.)
6. Utilize
7. In a way, disproved
8. Fisherman’s tool
9. Of she
10. Commercial flyer
12. Administered medicine to calm
16. Popular R&B performer
17. Regretted
18. Leg (slang)
22. “Night Train” author
25. More supernatural
27. Baltimore ball-player

CLUES DOWN

28. Shoe parts
29. Scores perfectly
30. More lucid
32. Trim by cutting
34. Disreputable people
35. Dramatic behaviors
36. Disorder
37. Private box in a theater
38. More dried-up
40. Raw
41. In operation
42. Pillager
43. Butterflies with brown wings
45. Disallow
48. Own up
51. Hungarian city
52. A way to condemn
53. Tax collector
54. Lease
56. Not out

DEATH NOTICES

Szanderowski, Candi (Santos)
Died Nov. 16, 2019
Services will be private
Beers & Story
Palmer Funeral Home Palmer

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 \$225, 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.

O B I T U A R I E S

Teresa A. (Farquhar) Carrigan, 1963-2023

WALES—Teresa A. (Farquhar) Carrigan, 60, passed away Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. Teresa was born in Palmer, September 8, 1963 to the late Douglas A. and Genevieve A. (Parrow) Farquhar. She was a graduate of Monson High School and continued her education receiving a certificate as a CNA. Teresa worked in area nursing homes and extended her career to by networking with home health care agencies to provide caring independent care for over 20 years.

Teresa enjoyed gardening, crafting, animals and adventures to the coast of Maine. She played

in adult softball leagues for many years, loved being a “Jeep Girl” and her greatest joy was her grandchildren.

Teresa leaves her children, John Croke and his wife Kelly of Wales, Corie Buelow and her husband Gary of Ware, and Nate Croke of Holland, her husband Scott M. Carrigan of Monson, grandchildren, Ava Ostrout, Mason Ostrout, Nate Croke Jr., Evelyn Croke, Layla Buelow and Isabella Croke; brothers, Clifford Farquhar of Hampden, Gary



Farquhar and his wife Kim of Maine, and Wayne Farquhar of Monson. Teresa was predeceased by her parents and her brother Mark Farquhar.

Lombard funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visitation will be held Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023 from 5-7pm at the funeral home. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Charles H. Jasak

THREE RIVERS—Charles H. Jasak, 89, passed away Oct. 31, 2023. Born in Belchertown on Oct. 15, 1934, he was the son of Stanley and Mary (Kusza) Jasak. He was a lifelong resident of Palmer and honorably served his country in the US Army from 1956-1958. While his children were growing up, Charles loved to coach both baseball and softball. Traveling and Polka dancing with his late wife, Eleanor, was cherished times for both.

His greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren and following his favorite sports teams, the Red Sox and Patriots. In 2018, he was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor (Jackoski),

and his memory will be long remembered by his three children, Michael and his wife Lynne Jasak of Palmer, Daniel and his wife Regina Jasak of Ludlow, and Donna Jasak of Palmer. Charles also leaves his siblings, Constance Wlodzka (Leon) of Three Rivers, Cecilia Masterlerz of Palmer, Ann Genero of Belchertown and Carolyn Dulude (Edward) of CA along being beloved Dziadz to Charlie (Ashlee) Jasak, PJ Jasak, and Krista (Lane) Rice and “big” Dziadziu to Charlee Rose and soon-to-be, Michael Lane Rice,



Jr. Besides his wife, he was predeceased by his siblings, Edward and Stanley Jasak.

Visitation will be Friday, Nov. 10 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a funeral mass at 10:00 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, Grand Central Station, PO Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777. Please visit www.beersandstory.com

Leonard A. Marcoux “Lenny”

Leonard A. Marcoux “Lenny”, 84, was called safely home on Oct. 25, 2023, after a prolonged illness. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his devoted wife and stepdaughter. Lenny was born in Springfield, Massachusetts to Joseph and Phyllis (Smith) Marcoux on Jan. 7, 1939. He enlisted in the army at the young age of seventeen and served in the Korean War before being honorably discharged in 1958. Lenny worked at the Monson Developmental Center for over nineteen years, retiring in 2000.

Lenny met the love of his life, Diane, after being introduced by friends in 1986. They married on Aug. 12, 1989. They lived in Ware, MA until 2005 when they moved to the Southern Tier area of New York.

Lenny enjoyed many past times including hunting, fishing, gardening, but nothing more than

game nights with his family. He loved playing any card game that got everyone around the table for some laughs and friendly competition. Lenny loved any trip that did not require an airplane or boat. He most loved going to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the coast of Maine.

Those who knew Lenny, knew he had one of the kindest hearts, an amazing sense of humor, and was a great storyteller. Lenny was quick with a joke or a ditty and always the first to lend a helping hand, whether it be building a deck or snow blowing a driveway. Lenny had a soft spot for all animals, he brought home many a stray animal in need that ended up becoming a permanent part of the family.

Lenny is survived by his



wife Diane; they were blessed with 34 years of marriage. He also leaves his daughter Andrea Wheeler and son Richard Marcoux. He leaves his much-loved stepdaughter Amanda Watson and her husband Sanders, of Wappingers Falls, NY and his much-loved stepson Jeffrey McGann and his wife Anny of Snoqualmie, WA. Lenny leaves his four cherished grandchildren Ashling and Marlie Watson and Gabriel and Brennan McGann.

Thank you, Lenny, for adding love, laughter, and excitement to all our lives. You will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Lenny’s name to your local animal shelter.

O B I T U A R I E S

Leonard J. Moore

Leonard J. Moore, 67, of Colebrook, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his home early on Thursday morning, Oct. 26, 2023.

Lenny was born on June 19, 1956, in Boston, Mass., a son to the late James E. and Marjorie (Bridges) Moore. Along with his siblings, he was raised in Brimfield, Mass., and was a graduate of Tantasqua High School.

Lenny was very mechanically inclined and worked for many years in the machining industry.

When he lived in Wisconsin, he worked for John Deere and Mercury Marine, all the time working on engines. He later was a quality control inspector for C & G Machine Tool, from which he retired. He could always be found tinkering on

some type of engine or machinery, especially snowmobiles or motorcycles. Leonard was the founder of the Arctic Cat “Kitty Kat” Snowmobile League in Wisconsin and was at one time a nominee for the Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

He was a lover of the outdoors, who appreciated nature and all that it had to offer. He loved to hunt and fish, and he was a talented photographer. His other passions included food and music, both of which he loved to partake.

Lenny leaves behind his partner of the past eight years, Catalina Badana; his son, Christopher F. Moore of Fondu Lac,



Wis.; his siblings, Lloyd (Shala) Moore of Palmer, Mass., Lester (Rose) Moore of Madison, Wisc., Linda (Kevin) Reim of Three Rivers, Mass., and Pamela (Arthur) Holbrook of Union, Conn.; five nephews, Derek, Ryan, Dwight,

Tyler and Roman; and a lot of wonderful friends.

A celebration of Leonard’s life will be held by the family at a later date.

Condolences may be offered on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook.

Mary Ann Motyka, 1926 - 2023

PALMER — Mary Ann (Kusek) Motyka passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on November 1st, 2023 at the JGS Life-care Center in Longmeadow, MA. Mary was the daughter of the late John and Katherine (Januszek) Kusek of Thorndike, MA. She spent her early years in Thorndike, then moved to Palmer for the remainder of her life. Her greatest joy in life was her family. Mary was predeceased by her loving husband Joseph Francis Motyka, her sisters Helen, Joanne, Irene and Emily, brothers Stanley and

Rudy. Mary leaves behind her loving son and daughter-in-law James and Sandra Motyka (Berestka) of Easthampton, MA., her three grandchildren, Thomas Motyka and his wife Stephanie of Manchester, NH, Joseph Motyka and Matthew Motyka, both of Phoenix AZ., and great-grandson Liam of Manchester, NH. There was a private Funeral Mass offered in Divine Mercy Parish,



Three Rivers. Burial followed in St. Thomas Cemetery in Palmer. Mary’s family would like to thank JGS Life-care for the wonderful and loving care they provided during her stay. Funeral Services were under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. There were no calling hours. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com

Ronald G. Rehor, 1957-2023

GOSHEN — Ronald “Ronnie” G. Rehor, 66, passed away November 2, 2023, with his lifelong partner Debbie and sister Cheryl by his side at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. Ronnie was born in Springfield, January 5, 1957 to the late Edwin J. Rehor, Sr. and L. Edna (Devlin) Rehor.

Ronnie was a 1975 graduate of Palmer High School, where he was an accomplished athlete on the football team and was awarded the most valuable player on the track and field team his senior year.

He was a skilled Plumber and Pipefitter of 40 years working for Local 104 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union. In his spare time, he worked for Hammond Acres Water Company in Goshen.

Ronnie, along with his brother-in-law, Bruce built his forever home - one of his proudest accomplishments. He loved the outdoors enjoying hunting,

fishing, and boating. He was known to many for his cooking and grilling skills. During football season Ronnie could be found cheering on the New England Patriots or the Dallas Cowboys. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, especially his Godson Jesse Dorman, his nephews Scott and Michael Dorman and his niece, Ashley Goddu. Ronnie was patient, kind, generous, humble and had a great sense of humor. He will be missed beyond words and will live in our hearts and memories forever.

Ronnie is survived by his loving partner, Deborah Zebrowski; a brother, Edwin J. Rehor, Jr. and his wife Carol of New Hampshire; sisters, Cheryl Woods and her husband Bill of South Carolina, Donna Medlock



and her husband, Tom of Wales, Terri Romanik and her husband Ronny of Washington; and several nieces and nephews - Jason, Damien, Nick Romanik, Zachary, Kristyn, Nathan Medlock, Jill, Rebecca, Willio, and Rudy Rehor; extended family, Lisa Dorman-Beauregard and her husband, Dennis, Francis Zebrowski and his wife, Cynthia of Palmer and Bruce Zebrowski and his partner, Debbi Strauss of Palmer and countless family members.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. A Funeral Mass was held Thurs., Nov. 9, 2023 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Marshall D. Usher, 1972-2023

PALMER — Marshal D. Usher, 51, passed away at home Nov. 5, 2023. Marshall was born Oct. 3, 1972 in Ware to the late Marshall B. and Nancy A. (Kibbe) Usher. He grew up in Monson and has lived in Palmer for many years. Marshall worked at Dan Wesson Arms in Monson and later Ceric Fabrications in Ayer, MA.

Marshall was a race car enthusiast and for many years ran at Monadnock Speedway in New Hampshire. In 2014 he was the Thunderstock State Champion with his #11 car. He

could often be found working on his race car or building race cars. He also enjoyed hunting and being outdoors.

Marshall leaves his lifelong partner, Kimberly A. Gula and their children; Neka J. Usher of Monson and Jacob M. Usher of Palmer; sisters, Amanda Picco and her husband John and Cindy Buckland, as well as many nieces and nephews. Marshall was predeceased by his parents;



a brother, Robert Usher Sr; sisters, Shelly Ellsworth and Brenda Delabruere.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. Visiting hours will be Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 from 5-7 pm at the funeral home. For online condolences/directions please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful “friends,” volunteers and patrons.

Hours:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



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Public Notices

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

In accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 40A the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:10 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Francis Fijal for a Special Permit to construct a 2 story single-family home with a garage in the basement level on a pre-existing non-conforming lot. The property is located at Hilltop Drive Map 75 and Parcel 71 and is zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and can be viewed during office hours by appointment. Advertised in Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertised Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023. Case No: ZBA2023-09

Ronald Fussell,
Vice Chairman
11/02, 11/09/2023

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

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Bradford Medeiros 149 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Industrial and located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours. Advertised in Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertised Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023. Case No: ZBA2023-09

Ronald Fussell,
Vice Chairman
11/02, 11/09/2023

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

In accordance M.G. L. Chapter 40A the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:20 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Jesse Griswold for a Special Permit as required by § 4.1 and §4.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to install a 12ft x 24 ft storage shed that is located within the Floodplain District and Water Supply Protection District. The property is zoned Rural Village and located at 19 Chestnut Street, Map 113 and Parcel 55. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours. Advertised in Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertised Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023. Case No: ZBA2023-10

Ronald Fussell,
Vice Chairman
11/02, 11/09/2023

**Town of Wales
Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A Section 11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Wales Senior Center, 85 Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA 01081. This application was submitted by WSP USA Associates Massachusetts, Inc. on behalf of Sunpin Energy Services, LLC, for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit Application for a proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic development located at 40 Sizer Dr. in Wales, MA 01081. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should appear at the said date and time. Copies of the application and plans are available to view at the Town

Clerk's Office and will be made available on the Town of Wales website. (www.townofwales.net) 11/02, 11/09/2023

**TOWN OF PALMER
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE
ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Section 15 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 5:00PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, James McMahon is requesting an administrative appeal from a decision of the Building Inspector dated September 7th, 2023 to deny a building permit in accordance with §171-124(E), which limits the number of Marijuana Retailers in the Town of Palmer to three (3) at any one time. The property is located at 1140 Thordike St. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 65, Lot 8.

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

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

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

Dennis Fountain, Chairman
Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals
11/09, 11/16/2023

**(SEAL)
THE
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number:
23 SM 004055**

ORDER OF NOTICE
To: **Laurie A. Bessette**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 1026 Chestnut Street, given by Laurie A. Bessette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated September 26, 2019, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22874, Page 307, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **December 11, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **Gordon H. Piper**, Chief Justice of this Court on October 30, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
24512
11/09/2023

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 90 Wales Road, Monson, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by James W. Brandt to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of Indymac Bank,

F.S.B. and now held by Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as

Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust, said mortgage dated July 25, 2007, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16841, Page 279, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 29, 2009, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 18007, Page 45, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 27, 2021, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 24341, Page 579, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 13, 2023, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 24981, Page 315, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **November 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, containing 22,480 square feet of land as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Monson, Mass., surveyed for John S. Kilrain, et ux.", dated June 19, 1979 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 185, Page 1, said parcel being more particularly bounded and described as follows: SOUTHWESTERLY by Wales Road as shown on said plan, One Hundred Forty-nine and 49/100 (149.49) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly supposed to be of Donald T. and Marcia t. Degnan as shown on said plan, One Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (150.00) feet; NORTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly supposed to be of Howard L. & Pauline J. Hatch as shown on said plan, One Hundred Fifty and 18/100 (150.18) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly supposed to be of Ralph K. & Margaret T. Shuemaker, One Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (150.00) feet; all of the corner of said parcel being marked by iron pins.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see Massachusetts Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD03P2511EP1.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886

Attorney for Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 22-01785
10/26, 11/02, 11/09/2023

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: **87 Lyman Barnes Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul L. Dirosario, Sr. to Bank of America, N.A. and now held by Bank of America, N.A., said mortgage dated February 21, 2013, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19798, Page 499, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **November 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

to wit:

SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF BRIMFIELD, COUNTY OF HAMPDEN, AND STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS: BOUNDED A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF LYMAN BARNES ROAD, BRIMFIELD, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 1A ON A PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND IN BRIMFIELD, MASS., SURVEYED FOR DAVID G. & BOGUSIA B. KINDBERG, NOVEMBER 8, 1987, LEWIS & COOK SURVEYORS, INC. WHICH PLAN IS RECORDED IN HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK OF PLANS 254, PAGE 117, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN FOUND IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF LYMAN BARNES ROAD IN THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SAID PARCEL AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE CHAMBERLAND CORPORATION BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 6409, PAGE 199; THENCE, S. 74 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 55 SECONDS W. ALONG LAST NAMED LAND 765.27 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 11 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 49 SECONDS E. ALONG LAST NAMED LAND AND LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF BRIMFIELD REALTY CORP. 160.39 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF CHARLES J. LUSZCZ AND STATIA J. LUSZCZ; THENCE

N. 74 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 55 SECONDS E. ALONG LAST NAMED LAND 654.03 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LYMAN BARNES ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY IN A CURVE TO THE RIGHT ALONG SAID ROAD 109.02 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S. 25 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 30 SECONDS E. ALONG SAID ROAD 41.08 FEET TO THE IRON PIN AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING ALL AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, CONTAINING 2.357 ACRES ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN. PARCEL 2 ALSO INCLUDING THE LAND IN SAID BRIMFIELD ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF LYMAN BARNES ROAD AND SHOWN AS LOT 1C ON PLAN OF LAND IN BRIMFIELD SURVEYED FOR RODERICK J. AND SHARON M. CROCHIERE BY LEWIS & COOK SURVEYORS, INC. DATED JULY 26, 1995, RECORDED IN HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOKS OF PLANS 295 PAGE 62, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE IN THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF LYMAN BARNES ROAD AT A POINT 860 FEET, MORE OR LESS, SOUTHERLY OF THE TOWN LINE BETWEEN BRIMFIELD AND WARREN, AND AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF REMAINING LAND OF SAID CHARLES J. LUSZCZ AND STATIA J. LUSZCZ; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE LINE OF SAID ROAD ON AN ARC OF 129.11 FEET ON A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 325 FEET TO AN ANGLE POINT; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE LINE OF SAID ROAD ON AN ARC OF 32.46 FEET ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 400 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AT THE NORTHERNMOST CORNER OF LAND OF SAID RODERICK J. CROCHIERE AND SHARON M. CROCHIERE; THENCE SOUTH 74 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST 654.03

FEET ALONG LAND OF SAID CROCHIERE TO AN IRON PIN AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF BRIMFIELD REALTY CORP.; THENCE NORTH 11 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 49 SECONDS EAST 167.17 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AT REMAINING LAND OF SAID LUSZCZ; THENCE NORTH 74 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 523.45 FEET, CONTAINING 2.0074 ACRES.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 12, 2013, and recorded in Book 19798, Page 495 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Bank of America, N.A.
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 22-07271
10/26, 11/02, 11/09/2023

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 3144 Main Street, Unit 3144, a/k/a 3144 Main Street, Unit 23, Palmer a/k/a Bondsville, Massachusetts

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Theresa Mackiewicz to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns and now held by Movement Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated December 8, 2021, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24290, Page 436, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 2, 2023, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 24992, Page 225, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **November 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The unit ("Unit") known as No. 23 in the Riverbend at Bondsville Condominium, Main Street, Bondsville, Hampden County, Massachusetts. The Unit is part of a condominium established by Bondsville Partners, Inc. pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated March 10, 1989 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds on March 10, 1989 in Book 7115, Page 14, as amended by a First Amended and Restated Master Deed dated and recorded April 17, 1990 in Book 7433 Page 227, said Master Deed as amended being hereinafter referred to as the "Master Deed". The Unit is shown on the floor plans of the Building filed simultaneously with said Master Deed in Hampden County Registry of Deeds and on the copy of the portion of said plans showing the Unit is attached hereto and made a part hereof, to which is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A. Said Unit is conveyed with: An undivided 2.8 percent interest in the common areas and facilities of the Property described in said Master Deed ("Common

Elements") attributable to the Unit; The non-exclusive right to use parking spaces, lawn areas and walkways in the lots owned as part of the Common Elements; An easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Unit on any adjoining units or Common Elements existing as a result of construction of the building in which the Unit is located, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the building, or as a result of repair or restoration of the building or of the Unit, after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after taking in eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Board of Trustees; An easement in common with the owners of other Units to use any pipes, wires, ducts, chimneys, flues conduits, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in any of the other units or elsewhere on the Property, and serving the Unit; and Any easement to use any deck or patio to which access may be had only through Unit conveyed. Said Unit is conveyed subject to: Easements in favor of adjoining units and in favor of the Common Elements for the continuance of all encroachments of such adjoining units or Common Elements on the Unit, now existing as a result of construction of the buildings, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the building in which the Unit is located, or as a result of repair or restoration of the Building or of any adjoining unit or of the Common Elements after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after taking in eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of and alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Board of Trustees. An easement in favor of any adjoining Units as a common user of any common steps, entranceways, and hallways (if said steps, entranceway and hallways serve more than one Unit). An easement in favor of the other units to use the pipes, wires, chimneys, ducts, flues, conduits, cables, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in the Unit and serving such other units. The rights in favor of owners of other Units to use the parking lots, lawn areas and walkways owned as party of the Common Elements. The provisions of the Master Deed, Condominium Trust, By-Laws and floor plans of the condominium recorded simultaneously with and as part of the Master Deed, as the same may be amended from time to time by instruments recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, which provisions, together with any amendments thereto, shall constitute covenants running with the land and shall bind any person having at any time any interest or estate in the Unit, his family, servants, and visitors, as though such provisions were recited and stipulated at length herein. The provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 183A. Such taxes attributable to the Unit and Common Elements for the current fiscal year which are not yet due and payable. Provisions of existing building zoning laws. The Unit is intended only for residential purposes. No use may be made of the Unit except as a residence for the Owner thereof or members of his or her immediate family or such lessees as may be permitted under the By-Laws, or for no more than two person unrelated by blood or marriage, and no portion thereof may be used as an office or any business whatsoever, whether or not accessory to a residential use.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 6, 2021, and recorded in Book 24290, Page 432 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Movement Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-02184
11/02, 11/09, 11/16/2023

mortgage above described. **TEN THOUSAND** (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Movement Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-02184
11/02, 11/09, 11/16/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Erin Przybycien, Trustee of the 33-35 Ruggles Street Realty Trust to Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC, dated July 12, 2013 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19918, Page 565 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 33-35 Ruggles Street, Palmer (Three Rivers), MA 01080 will be sold at a Public Auction at **12:00 PM on November 27, 2023**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land, with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Ruggles Street, in the village of Three Rivers, Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stone bound in the easterly side of said Ruggles Street, at the southwest corner of the land to be conveyed and at the northwest corner of a private way, sometimes called Wilson Street, running easterly from said Ruggles Street, said stone bound being also forty (40) feet northerly, measured along the easterly side of Ruggles Street, from the northwest corner of land of Michael and Agnes Godak, formerly of James Wilson;

thence northerly along the easterly side of said Ruggles

Street, one hundred (100) feet to a stone bound in line of land formerly of Charles S. Ruggles, now of John and Julia Jajuga;

thence easterly along last named land one hundred sixty-five (165) feet to a stone bound in line of land formerly of said Ruggles, now of Karol Khohowski;

thence southerly along last named land and land of Frank and Anna Lesnewski, one hundred (100) feet to a stone bound in the northerly line of said private way;

thence westerly along the northerly line of said private way; one hundred sixty-five (165) feet to the place of beginning.

Deed from NSP Residential, LLC, to Erin Przybycien, as Trustee of the 33-35 Ruggles Street Realty Trust, to be recorded herewith.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19918, Page 563.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Przybycien, Edward J.
and Lorrie J. Przybycien,
23-042415
11/02, 11/09, 11/16/2023

Community Newspaper
EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jean R. Rodich to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated December 6, 2006 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16382, Page 545 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust HB4 is the present holder by Assignment from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company dated October 16, 2017 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21902, Page 47, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC dated February 7, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 24583, Page 219, and Assignment

from Mortgage Assets Management, LLC to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust HB4 dated June 5, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 25136, Page 572, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 37 Bridge Street, Monson, MA 01057 will be sold at a Public Auction at **1:00 PM on November 27, 2023**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain real estate situated in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin in the westerly side of Bridge Street, in said Monson, at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Wiktorya Holda, and running thence S. 13 degrees 42' 00" W., along said Bridge Street, one hun-

dred thirty-six and 75/100 (136.75) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Horace D. Moulton;

thence running N. 87 degrees 30' 30" W. along said last named land, ninety-five and 57/100 (95.57) feet to an iron pin; thence running S. 89 degrees 17' 30" W. along said last named land, twenty-two and 90/100 (22.90) feet to an iron pin at land of Lawrence and Theresa cooling;

thence running N. 6 degrees 25' 00" W. along said Cooling land, one hundred seventy-three and 90/100 (173.90) feet to an iron pin at the corner of land of said Holda; thence running S. 49 degrees 39' 00" E. along said Holda land, one hundred forty-five and 18/100 (145.18) feet to an iron pin;

thence running N. 40 degrees 16' 00" E. along said Holda land, seventy and 30/100 (70.30) feet to an iron pin; thence running S. 76 degrees 18' 00" E. along said Holda land, fourteen and 67/100 (14.67) feet to Bridge Street at the place of **BEGINNING**.

Subject to any conditions,

covenants, easements and restrictions of record insofar as the same are in force and applicable.

For title reference, see Book 3656 and Page 82. For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 3656, Page 82.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price

payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Owner Trustee for Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust HB4 Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Rodich, Jean R. 23-041931 11/02, 11/09, 11/16/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P0556EA Estate of: Frank Walter Spelko Also known as: Frank Spelko, Frank W Spelko Date of Death: 01/16/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lorraine D Spelko of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lorraine D Spelko of Palmer, MA** 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 proceed-

ing. 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 11/30/2023.**

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return 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: November 01, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 11/09/2023

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.

Classifieds

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COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

ESTATE SALE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 10 & 11, 113 BOGAN RD., MONSON, 8am-4pm. Furniture, garden tools, household items, costume jewelry, sterling & gold jewelry, antiques.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

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

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

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H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave (413)668-6560 day/night.

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

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED ROOFER wanted. Part-time, must have own transportation. Call 413-967-6679.

GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR Town of Monson is accepting applications for PT opening, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday w/some flexibility. Must be in good standing with MA Gas and Plumbing Licensing Board. \$45/per inspection For job description and requirements visit the Employment Opportunities page at https://www.monson-ma.gov/humanresources/news/employment-opportunities for and application. Interested candidates must submit an application to gbingle@monson-ma.gov.

PAID ON-THE-JOB HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.

Earn \$2000 once you complete our Certified Home Health Aide 115-hour Training Program. \$300 Sign on Bonus also available! Call **Excel Nursing Services 413-583-8900, EOE. www.excelnursing.com**

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Brookfield is seeking a full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description and application details at brookfieldma.us. Deadline to apply is November 20th or when position is filled, whichever is longer.

Substitute Teacher (Ware)

Experience preferred but not required! Join a dynamic team of educators to bring fun and nurturing to a great group of preschoolers! Per Diem, Salary Range \$16.50-\$17.50, additional \$0-\$1.00/hour bilingual differential, if applicable. Employment contingent upon satisfactory completion of a background investigation, including CORI, DCF, SCRI, and fingerprint-based national CORI, NCOB, and out of state checks if applicable, and driving record check if applicable. To apply please go to <https://www.communityaction.us/job-openings> for full job description and information regarding benefits.

Community Action is committed to a diverse workforce. AA/EOE/ADA

HELP WANTED

WINTER PLOW DRIVERS - LABORER.

The town of New Braintree is seeking non CDL and CDL drivers to plow & treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience. Further details & applications are available at Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Dr., New Braintree or contact Highway Superintendent, 508-847-2628.



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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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

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REAL ESTATE

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Mill Hollow Apartments is located in a quiet country setting with bright, clean one bedroom units. Heat, hot water, carpet and appliances are included. Patios and balconies. Near transportation and shopping. Pets allowed. Pet rules apply. To qualify applicants must be 62 years of age or older, handicapped, disabled regardless of age and meet income guidelines. Apply at the Rental Office, 121 N. Main St., Belchertown or call (413) 323-5535 or TTY 711.



FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call the Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
25	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
29	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
33	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
37	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
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First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
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Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

COMING SOON

A Christmas Dinner and Concert featuring David Neill's Fanfare Brass will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the First Church of Monson, 5 High St. The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with the concert following at 7 p.m. The cost of the dinner and concert is \$20; concert only, \$5. The menu is: Meat or Vegetarian Chili; cornbread; salad; and dessert. For reservations, call Gail at 413-267-4818. The deadline for reservations is Nov. 29. Proceeds will support the First Church music program as well as the Eva Farr Organ fund.

JIMMY FUND WALK: Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. Proceeds from the event support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. All four routes will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line in the Fenway neighborhood. If walkers want to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities, including virtually. Register as an individual walker, team member or start a team at JimmyFundWalk.org or by calling 866-531-9255.

INTERESTS

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.

ONGOING

BINGO IS BACK at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

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

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

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

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

Senators introduce Bill of Rights for paraprofessionals and support staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, introduced the Paraprofessionals and Education Support Staff Bill of Rights, a resolution that would call for living wages, good benefits, and fair working conditions for the paraprofessionals, classroom assistants, bus drivers, custodial workers, and others who serve as the backbone of our education system by providing essential services which keep schools running and students thriving.

Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) are cosponsors of the resolution.

Paraprofessionals and education support staff far too often work for low wages, few benefits, and without job security. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 331,000 school staff have left their jobs.

A 2022 survey found that one in five paraprofessionals recently visited a food pantry, while 25 percent said they could not afford to live in the communities where they worked. Yet, families rely on paraprofessionals as often the only heritage language speakers in schools; on bus drivers to safely transport their children; on food service workers to provide healthy meals; and on instruction assistants to ensure all students access high quality education.

"For too long, we have asked paraprofessionals and education support staff to do too much with too little," said Markey in a press release. "We have asked them to educate, feed, transport, and support students in their path to grow, learn, and thrive - all without the pay, benefits, and job security they deserve. My Paraprofessionals and Education Support Staff Bill of Rights is a call for action to provide these workers with the dignity, respect, and recognition that they have long deserved. Well-paid, well-treated, union staff make stronger schools and stronger communities."

Markey's resolution would call for paraprofessionals and education support staff to have:

Livable, competitive wages, and access to benefits, including health care and paid leave;

The supplies, resources, and training they need to do their jobs;

Meaningful voice in workplace policies and the right to negotiate for better working conditions;

The dignity of safe, healthy, and adequate staffed workplaces; and

Year-round job security and opportunities for growth.

The resolution is endorsed by National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Latinos for Education, National Rural Education Association, NREA Coalition, Autism Society of America, Citizens for Public Schools, Council of Administrators of Special Education, Network for Public Education, Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, First Focus on Children, National Urban League and Arc of the United States.

Baystate Auxiliary selling lotto calendars

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2024 Lotto Calendars.

The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or three for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31.

The calendars will be on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare

through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

Whether people are looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items.

For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or by calling 413-370-8169.

Support group offered for LGBTQ+ youth

WARE – Pride in You, a space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and free to be themselves, offers a support group for LGBTQ+ youth ages 11-18 on Thursdays from 3:45-5 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Networks' Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Activities will vary between guest speakers, games, LGBTQ+ culture, community resources/services and more.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhnc@bhncinc.org.

Military appreciation breakfast at Senior Center Nov. 11

WARE – HomeFront Strong will host a military appreciation breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9-11 a.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

All servicemembers, veterans and their families are invited to attend this free breakfast.

This year, HomeFront Strong will be recognizing veterans in the community with a Quilts of Valor ceremony.

Please RSVP by calling 508-499-9589.

Author presents Quabbin history talk at Grange

WARE –Join author Elena Paladino in a discussion of her book "Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin" and learn about the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir, and along with it, the destruction of four towns.

The discussion will take place on Monday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at Ware Grange, 297 Belchertown Road. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome.

Copies of the book will be available for sale after the program.

Job Connection

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CONSERVATION AGENT TOWN OF PALMER

Advises the Conservation Commission on administering the Wetlands Protection Act and other pertinent bylaws and regulations. Assists the Conservation Commission in its mission to protect the community's natural resources, including its biodiversity, wetlands, and other water resources. Issues needed permits and monitors projects for compliance with above mentioned laws and regulations. Assists the Commission in planning, acquisition, administration, and management of municipal conservation land, and oversees tasks such as trail building and maintenance, signage and clean-up. Works independently with minimal supervision.

Work schedule is largely during business hours, but also includes regular evening meetings and occasional evening/weekend field work. Physical agility needed to access areas of conservation lands and project sites.

To submit resume/cover letter, or for a complete job description, contact: hmannerino@townofpalmer.com.

Position open until filled.



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Singles tournament begins at Diamond Junction

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – The singles tournament began this past Saturday at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The event is the second tour stop of the 2023-2024 Western New England Candlepin Association tour season. Over 30 bowlers signed up to bowl on Nov. 4 for three games of candlepin bowling and an attempt to earn points to compete in the playoffs at the end of the season.

John Havens Sr. of Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes was thrilled to witness a great turnout to start off tournament weekend.

“It’s good to see the bowlers come all around,” said Havens.

Many of the bowlers came from as far as Adams, and even out-of-state from Vermont, as well as central Massachusetts and various towns of western Massachusetts to try out Diamond Junction for the first time.

This is the first year that the WNECA has hosted a tournament in Palmer.

Paul and Elaine Barnard of Montague currently run the tournaments for the Western New England candlepin tour. The turnout has already been successful as 32 bowlers showed up in two shifts on Saturday.

Elaine Barnard, looking through the statistics, has another 30 bowlers signed up for the shifts to be held the following day on Nov. 5.

Each bowler was competing individually and bowled a total of three games. Their scores plus their handicap will determine their final score.

Every WNECA tournament is 90% handicap based off an average of 130.

On the lanes, the pin action did not come easy, but several bowlers encountered some big scores. Tim Soucy out of Vermont bowled the first shift and scored a 143 game in the first. Later, TJ Vareschi of Adams finished strong by bowling 137 in the third game.

The following shift was at 2 p.m. and featured league bowlers of Diamond Junction. The results of the tournament will be posted on the WNECA Facebook page.

The next WNECA tour stop will be in December at Bogey



Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes hosted their first tournament in nearly a decade for the WNECA candlepin tour.



Over 30 bowlers signed up for day one of the tournament on Saturday, Nov. 4.



Candlepin bowlers from all over western Massachusetts participating in the singles tour stop at Diamond Junction.

Lanes in East Brookfield, and it will be a doubles tournament.

The playoffs will take place on April 13, 2024, at French King Bowling Center in Erving.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Keep Homestead Museum hosts annual button appraisal

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

MONSON – Button collectors from near and far attended the annual Button Appraisal Day at the Keep Homestead Museum with button experts Lorna Slysz and Betty Korostynski.

Bob and Sue Kelley traveled from West Springfield to learn about the history and value of Bob’s great-grandfather’s prized button collection, which Bob had recently inherited from his mother’s estate.

Bob’s great-grandfather Edward Haines lived in Skowhegan, Maine and had spent many years in a nursing home. Bob said he was a young child at the time, but he speculates that his great-grandfather spent those years carefully sewing button after button onto pieces of cardboard to display.

“We’re collectors,” Bob said. “So, we want to do something to make sure it was appreciated.”

Bob and Sue collect insulators, which were used to protect wooden poles from electricity traveling through wires of telegraph, phone and power lines. Insulators can be found in a rainbow of glass colors, as well as white porcelain.

Bob said they decided to attend Button Appraisal Day to learn more about Haines’ collection to ensure that the buttons went to a fellow collector who would appreciate their value.

“We’re trying to learn what we have,” Bob said.

Button collecting has been hobby for generations, and continues to be even now, despite buttons being largely replaced for the fastening of modern clothing.

Korostynski said that button collecting was the third largest hobby in the country, and that people would listen to radio shows about buttons, while they added their own pieces to fabric or boards. They would listen as the radio host would describe what each button looked like.

It’s likely that Haines would have listened to these radio shows himself, as he cataloged his ample collection.

The Kelleys brought one of the smaller boxes containing Haines’ collection and inside of it were dozens of boards covered with buttons of all shapes and sizes.

As Korostynski went through each board, she explained where the buttons came from, the materials used, as well as their collectible value.

Some of the first buttons she examined had ties to the U.S. Postal Service and the police force. Another button had a German back, placing it from overseas.

Korostynski also found a button in Haines’ collection, that was identical to another button that a collector had brought in earlier that day.

Haines’ collection contained a lot of “vegetable ivory,” which is made from tagua nuts and hails from South America. The nuts were used as ballast for sailing ships before landing in North America.

Vegetable ivory buttons were made in Springfield and Northampton, and they were made by the thousands to be worn on men’s suits.

Haines also had several service buttons from the U.S. Army used during World War II. While he didn’t serve in the military, Haines clearly enjoyed collecting the uniform buttons.

Korostynski said the time period of military buttons can be determined by the size of its dome; the higher the dome, the earlier the button. One of Haines’ earliest military buttons came from a Civil War-era infantry uniform, marked with an “A” for artillery.

Another way to determine if a uniform button is from the Civil War, is if the edge of the anchor went behind the eagle instead of in front of it.

The collection also featured a number of shell buttons, as well as mother of pearl. Shell buttons were mainly utilitarian and used to fasten shirts.

“These are all gorgeous,” Korostynski said of the buttons, highlighting the luster of the mother of pearl buttons.

She noted the difference between shell and mother of pearl buttons beyond the luster, with the shell buttons coming from freshwater animals (such as mussels and snails) and the mother of pearl from ocean (mollusk, pearl oysters or abalone).

Haines also had some Good-year buttons, which were made from hard black rubber in Naugatuck, Connecticut.

“This is a good starter set for

somebody that wants to collect rubber buttons,” Korostynski said of Haines’ rubber button board.

The Kelleys also brought several boards of celluloid wafers, large, colorful buttons that were made from the late 19th century into the 20th. Celluloid was the first plastic on the market, invented in 1869.

Included in the collection were celluloid bubbles, which were made at the United Button Company in Easthampton.

Haines collected many desirable buttons, including black glass and even a black lacy glass button. One black glass looked similar to a cameo, and Korostynski said many people choose to wear their favorite buttons as jewelry.

Black glass buttons were popular in women’s fashion.

A highlight of Haines’ collection for Korostynski, was a Scarlet Pimpernel button. He also had a “perfume” button, which was covered in velvet and used to mask the odors of the streets of the 1800s.

Perfume or essential oils would be dabbed on the velvet, and button wearers could inhale the pleasant scents whenever they caught whiff of something foul.

In addition to being one of the top hobbies in the U.S., buttons are also one of the first recycled materials, Korostynski said. Many people locally began collecting buttons that were discarded from old shirts used to make paper at the Strathmore Paper Company in West Springfield.

Korostynski’s own interest in buttons was piqued when she explored her grandmother’s button collection. She heard the stories of how her grandfather would bring home buttons to her grandmother from his job at the paper mill.

Being from West Springfield, the Kelleys also have ties to the Strathmore Paper Company. Bob said that their fence was constructed using old metal rollers from the mill.

Bob and Sue said they plan to visit some button shows in the spring, and they hope to return for next year’s Button Appraisal Day with more from Haines’ collection.

About Keep Homestead Museum

Located at 35 Ely Road, the Keep Homestead Museum is the former home of avid button collector Myra Keep Lovell Moulton. The property, its contents and an endowment were left to the town to use as a museum.

The Keep Homestead Museum is entirely run by about a dozen volunteers, and features regular programs and events throughout the years. It is also home to the most unique button collection in New England.

Located on 75 acres of land, the Keep Homestead Museum has hiking trails, gardens and a museum which contains rocks, minerals and seashells from around the world, and of course, buttons.

For more information about the Keep Homestead Museum, find them on Facebook, visit keephomesteadmuseum.org or call 413-267-4137.

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Walter Wegiel
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Marcy Bibbo, 4 Gates Street, Monson

Halloween Scenes around town



Sheila Andre and Gary Szczepanek
26 South High St.

Submitted photos by Joy Trombly

Very creative



Submitted photo
This is Jacob Rioux, 4, from Monson. He is Lego Batman made from recycled cardboard and paint.

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