



COMMUNITY Night out for Special Olympics



SPORTS Panthers fall to Ware

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The Journal Register

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FINANCE

Capital requests for Fiscal **Year 2025** presented

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At their April 22 meeting, the Finance Committee went over capital requests for fiscal year 2025.

Finance Director and Town Accountant Jamie Farnum read each of the requests to the committee, with comments made afterwards.

Mini-Splits

Town Facilities put in a request to replace the Town Hall mini-

"It's important to address the mini-split repairs to avoid catastrophic failure due to their end of useful life," Farnum said. "Not addressing this concern would leave the town open for emergency repairs resulting in issues regulating temperature in our server room, which is for our police servers, and the air quality in the temperature controls in the Town Clerk's vault, which stores the vital records."

The committee also noted that these repairs were likely to exceed the requested \$100,000.

"We're waiting to hear back from a company for a final quote, so the \$100,000 is a placeholder," Farnum said. "That way we have funds appropriated, because it is something that will need to be addressed prior to our next scheduled town meeting in the fall."

CAPITAL | page 5



The former firefighters from Three Rivers Fire Department described their relationship as a brotherhood, and see this dinner as a family reunion.

Annual Brotherhood of the Three Rivers Fire Department Dinner at Villa Rose

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS - Last Saturday was the second annual Brotherhood of the Three Rivers Fire Department dinner, where former and retired firefighters got together to eat, share stories, and socialize with their long-time friends and colleagues.

The dinner was held April 27 at 6 p.m. at Villa Rose Restaurant, where a delicious meal of fish, chicken, and beef was served to the gathered room. Conversation was lively as past firefighters reminisced about old times, about accidents and mishaps in the work-

place and at get-togethers, and of Matthews said. "Three of us, ten affected by their work, too. He the many faces that have come through the department over the

"We're a family, we get together, we talk about old times. remember the good and remember the bad," said coordinator Mike Matthews. "It's just a get-together, like a family reunion."

Matthews started the tradition last year, when he sent out over 50 letters to past firefighters. He emphasized that the dinner is about promoting brotherhood among the firefighters, and that it is limited to people who have served at the Three Rivers station.

"A couple of guys said we should be getting together again,"

myself, Matt Lemieux, and Ben Dube, got together and decided we'll start it."

The dinner is paid for entirely out of pocket by the attendees, and Matthews said there are no plans to seek alternative funding, in order to preserve the more intimate setting, which he described many times as a "family reunion."

We used to have family picnics," Matthews said. "When I first started, the three chiefs got together and put together a picnic for all the guys. As our families got bigger, we opened it up to the

Matthews talked about how the families of firefighters are of-

told of the common occurrence of a firefighter loading up the car for a family trip, only for their pager to go off and have to leave their family on the curb in order to help out at a fire.

During the dinner, firefighters stood up and shared stories to the room at large. This was at the suggestion of John Sasur, and Matthews said it was a great improvement over keeping conversation to the tables, as they did last year.

"They told you all the stories about us playing hard, but we work hard," Matthews said. "We

FIRE DEPT. | page 7

MONSON

New assessor introduced to town

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza @turley.com

MONSON - Drew Pehoviak was introduced as the town's Assessor's Clerk at last Tuesday evening Select Board meeting. Pehoviak, who started the position just last week, has years of experience in the assessing field. He has dealt with evaluations for an outside vendor as well as worked alongside other communities in the area.

The Board was quick to mention the amount of letters of recommendations his prior employers had sent in regarding Pehoviak's work

Pehoviak addressed the board after he was introduced, saying he was looking forward to the opportunity to work in Monson.

"I am super excited to be working for the town of Monson," Pehoviak said. "I graduated college 10 or so years ago and I was down in Rhode Island for six or seven years after that and moved back to Monson three years ago where I've been working for an Assessing Support Company. It has been six days since I started working here and it is going to be a big learning curve, the administrative side of the assessing role for myself, but everyone's been absolutely great to me this first week and I'm really excited to be working in Monson.'

He said making his way back to Monson was part of his plan.

"It has always been my plan to move back here and I'm pumped to be working for this town," he said. "I'm really excited."

In other news from the meet-

ASSESSOR | page 5

RECREATION

Grand slam opening day for baseball and softball



Coach K was hit with a Pig Pile on the sidelines of the inter-league match.

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

HOLLAND - The weather was perfect at Hitchcock Field over the weekend as the Holland Wales Baseball & Softball League kicked off their Opening Day cel-

The Holland Wales Baseball & Softball League (HWBSL) provides coaching and guidance through the baseball and softball programs consisting of T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minors and Majors. Their program serves youth ages 4 to 12 in the Holland and Wales



Communities.

Michael Breor, President of The Holland Wales Baseball & Softball League, was all smiles once the sun came out, sipping a cold soda with other members of the HWBSL.

"It has been great pretty much all day," said Breor. "We start in the morning by doing pictures by team, t-ball plays out at 9 a.m. with four different teams, then our three Coach Pitch Baseball teams play, and then our two AU Softball teams

A couple of interleague scrimmages between older baseball and softball teams were also a part of the event.

The crowd appeared to be very enthusiastic as they watched

COMMUNITY



Turley Photos by Harrison Giza Doug Kelley with his wife Suzanne, smiling alongside their trash pickup route.

Townwide clean-up persists through shaky weather in Monson

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

MONSON - The Monson Town Wide Clean-up event was held last Saturday morning, April 27, starting at the The Gazebo at Dave Grieve Park.

Sponsored by the Board of Health, the clean-up took place for five hours. Bags, gloves, and safety vests were provided for all volunteers, as well as some free hand sanitizer in case anyone got a little too dirty.

Alongside town official, Kathy Nothe, Board of Health member Joan Simmons was a

huge part of making the clean up the success that it was.

"The weather earlier this morning was a little rough," said

Simmons. "We were hoping for more people but I think we ended up with a great team of support from our volunteers."

Simmons worked the main tent, organizing volunteers to their respective areas for clean-up.

When not helping to make Monson a better place to live, Simmons is a Professor of Occupational Therapy & Professor Emeritus at Springfield college. She specializes in work involving

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EDUCATION

TWIST Program teaches kids to make steampunk art



Bruce Rosenbaum (left) opened his workshop to Pathfinder students (from left) Evelyn Shilosky, Tyler Rondeau, Riley Olden, and Zander Offrey.

Pathfinder, Sanderson MacLeod, and ModVic partner to teach students essential skills to succeed in the fields of art and engineering.

> By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - Pathfinder Technical Vocational School and Sanderson MacLeod, Inc. have partnered with local artist Bruce Rosenbaum to create a program to teach students essential skills in order to further their careers.

Caitlin Phelps, Co-Op Coordinator and Grants Writer at Pathfinder, stopped by ModVic, where Rosenbaum displays and creates a series of steampunk sculptures, to drop off the group of students who are participating in the program.

'The TWIST program is a collaboration between Sanderson Macleod and Pathfinder Tech, spearheaded by the forward-thinking CEO of Sanderson MacLeod, Mark Borsari," Phelps said. "It is a unique program tailored to nurture bright, young minds in our community and empower them to become the inno-

vative leaders of tomorrow." Rosenbaum was described by Borsari as one of the premier artists in the steampunk movement. Rosenbaum described "steampunk"

TWIST | page 15



TALLULAH

This is Jeanette Taylor's dog Tallulah. Over the years she has been making videos of her and posting them on Facebook under Tallulah The Talking Dog. It started just for her friends as a silly joke but it has become more than that. She has become more and more famous across America and even overseas. She makes talking videos of silly stories and more from life around our crazy little farm bringing humor to people's home. She's become a favorite of children and elderly. Jeanette and her daughter Autumn would love to be a part of our town newspaper!

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.

Night Out event raises funds for Special Olympics



Aurora Maiorano, Taryn Dickson and Sophia Mercieri enjoying a plate of fries alongside one of the scheduled athletes this Friday, Matteo Teixeira.

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

MONSON - With the Special Olympics event happening this Friday, May 3, there is a quite lot for Monson students to be excited about. This past Thursday, a small fundraiser for the events took place at Main St Tavern, Maria's Pizza and Beth's Family Dining.

"Eat in or take out to support our athletes and local businesses!" stated

Colette A. Bidus, the Director of



the camera.



for Monson Night Out.



Colleen Williams, Alina Lillis, and Colette Bidus posing

Special Education for Monson Public Schools, is a giant helping hand for the program and anticipates their best year yet.

'We are looking for the whole community to come together," Bidus said. "We want to get everybody involved and really supporting the Special

Olympics as well as our event here in

Monson Public Schools currently has six Districts and Collaborative Programs attending, with 275 students total set to participate in their Special Olympics spectacular. Huge hanks to Main St Tavern who has always welcomed us to do a fundraiser and it has such a great response from all of our staff and our community, that we wanted to expand it a little bit wider to other restaurants and so Maria's Pizza and Beth's Family Dining have agreed to come on as well."

er through a partnership of three different local restaurants in town, all whom agreed to share a portion of their proceeds from Night Out sales in support our Special Olympics event. There was also a raffle drawing for those that ordered food during the event.

"We kind of figured that this would give everyone a chance to go to different types of venues," Bidus said. "If they wanted take out for or an early dinner and just be able to give people new types of experiences. We are really excited about it."

Bidus said there was a good range of raffle prizes thanks to some great do-

"We had a nice wide range of raffle prizes," Bidus said. "From the Springfield Thunderbirds to Best Fitness as well as some of our local communities and restaurants without certificates - it is great to be able to do this at the same time."

Bidus said funds raised help with Monson Night Out was put togeth- the event as well as the Special Olym-

pics. She said the community looks forward to the event each year.

"It is a fantastic event for our whole school community and has something that everyone can look forward to each year" Bidus said. "It is a great day of inclusion for students and we really partner with Special Olympics throughout the year to offer more school engagements and youth leadership inclusion, so this is just a terrific event that celebrates all of our students in the district and many things that people can share together and feel that we can succeed as a group.'

Bidus has been a supporter of the Special Olympics for a number of years

"We have an initiative that includes kids from the preschool level to up to 22," she said. "Aand we are really fostering that inclusion through working together and just being able to celebrate everyone and their own differences. We want to let people know that we can all learn from each other.'

Amvets honors Memorial Day with field of flags

The field of Flags is a magnificent way to honor and remember those that loved our country.

Veterans, Non-Veterans, resident of Palmer and non-resident of Palmer.

Flags are 12 inches by 18 inches is size on a pole. The cost of one flag is \$5. Flags purchased in memory of a Veteran will be adorned with a satin black ribbon with the word "Veteran". Flags will be displayed o the front lawn of the Amvets Post 74 Main St., Three Rivers, Mass. from May 25-31.

The list of those who are remembered and honored in this field of flags will be read by Amvets members on Sunday, May 26, 2024 starting at 12

The flags will be available for pick up from May 31 - June 2, 2024 at the Amyets Post 74

If the flag is not picked up prior to June 2, then it will be reused for the following year.

Always remember, never forget. For more information reach out to Amvets at 413-283-4518.

Door

Prize

Queen Elizabeth comes to Monson

MONSON- The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road, is excited to welcome back talented actress Sheryl Faye as she portrays Queen Elizabeth II, on Sunday, May 5, at 1:30 p.m. during the open

This immersive one-woman performance will be engaging, educational, and entertaining as Queen Elizabeth comes to life. Using numerous costume changes and high-tech multi-media, Faye tells Elizabeth's story as British monarch for over 70 years starting February 6, 1952. In a world of constant change, she was a steadying presence and a source of pride.

Faye, who has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from Emerson College in Boston, presents live historical performances that help audiences understand the positive impact women have made in history. She portrays women whom she admires because of their courage, determination, strength, and caring.

This event is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council. There is no admission fee; donations are always welcome. The museum will be open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information about the museum visit www.keephomesteadmu-

The

MAC Spring Art exhibition

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council 30th Annual Juried Spring Art Exhibition and sale will open at the House of Art, 200 Main St., and in Monson's Memorial Hall at 198 Main St., on three weekends from April 20 through May 5, from Noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition will be open to the public at no charge. A sales shop featuring work by the artists will be open in House of Art at all times during the show.

Awards will be announced on April 20, at 2 p.m. The Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold a reception on Thursday, April 25, at 5

The Monson Arts Council will award \$4500 in Prizes in 4 Categories including a \$1000 Best of Show plus a \$500 1st Prize & \$100 2nd Prize in each category of art submitted: paintings in all media, sculpture, photography, and the graphic arts... Three jurors selected the 139 pieces by 77 area artists from more than 270 works of art submitted. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in both buildings. Prizes will be announced at 2 p.m.

Prize money for the exhibition is supported by donations from a broad selection of business sponsors in the region, including: Monson Savings Bank, Turley Publications, WARE Radio, Steer Rite Tire & Alignment, Dazed Cannabis, Squier Lumber & Hardware, Re/Max, Richard R. Green Insurance Agency, Inc., Monson Family Dental, Architectural Insights and more.

Jurors for the show are Kara Bigda, a freelance

painter working in watercolor. Cathy Liontas of Milford, CT, who has an SCSU, Masters Degree in Art Education. For more information, check the MAC website: www.monsonartscouncil.org.

Palmer Town election on June 11

PALMER— Palmer Annual Town Election Tuesday, June 11. Term to start on July 1. Nomination papers available at the Clerk's office for the available seats:

Councilor At Large, 1 seat, 3 year term Councilor At Large, 1 seat, 2 year term District Council Prct. #2, 1 seat, 3 year term District Council Prct. #3,1seat, 3 year term Planning Board, 1 seat, 3 year term School Committee,1 seat, 3 year term

All nomination papers must be returned to the Clerk by April 23, or further information please contact the Town Clerk at 413-283-2608.

Monson Town Elections on June 11

Nomination papers are now available in the Monson Town Clerk's office for the Annual Town Election to be held on June 11 for following slate of offices:

Select Board -3 years Board of Assessors-3 years School Committee-3 years (2 seats available) Highway Surveyor- 3 years. Water/Sewer Commission-3 years Cemetery Commission-3 years Parks and Recreation Commission-3 years Housing Authority- 1 year

The deadline to pick up papers is April 19. For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk's office 413-267-4115 or email us: townclerk@ monson-ma.gov.

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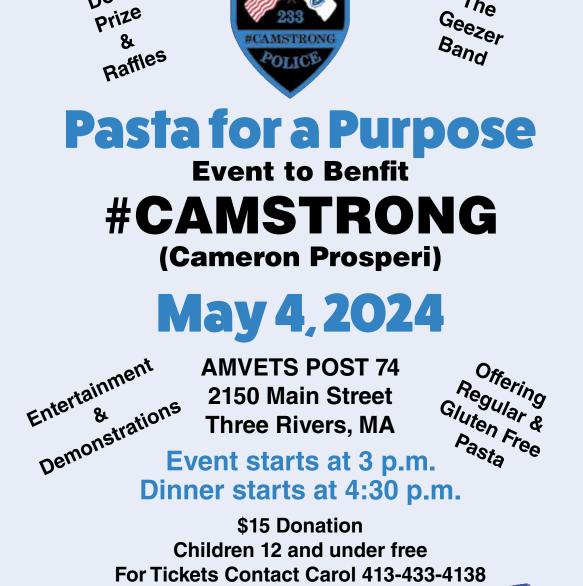


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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, 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.

Cam Strong benefit at Pulaski Park May 11

PALMER - An event will be held at Pulaski Park to benefit Officer Cameron Prosperi on May 11, with live music, food trucks, and activities for

On Jan. 20, Cameron Prosperi, a police officer from the Wilbraham Police Department, was shot and critically injured in the line of duty. Prosperi is a lifelong resident of Three Rivers.

The benefit event is scheduled for May 11 from 2 - 9 p.m. at Pulaski Park, rain or shine.

Live music will be provided by GeezerBand, The Allen Brothers and special guests.

Food trucks from Tony Valley Pizza, Glenn's Kettle Corn, Sally's Catering, and others will provide food for the event.

There will be crafts and activities for all ages, including The Happy Face Painter, a Bounce House by Party Patrol, raffles, a cash bar, and an ATM on-

Tickets are \$20 per person, except for children 12 and under, who can enter for free.

Tickets are available for purchase in advance at the Guardian Uniform at 1801 Page Blvd in Springfield, the St. Stanislaus Polish Club at 2114 Main St. in Three Rivers, and at Pulaski Park on the day

Please provide your ticket at the gate for entry.

Monson Garden Club Plant sale

MONSON-Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 11, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo on Main St. in Monson starting at 9 a.m. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Prices range from \$3 and up. There will also be an assortment of special gift planters for Mother's Day gifts.

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

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

NOTICE

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

Monson

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confidence

report

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Anyone who did not

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cess it on the town's

website at www.mon-

son-ma.gov, or pick

one up at the Water

& Sewer Department

198 Main Street, the

Town Office Building,

110 Main Street or the

Monson Free Library,

2 High Street.

Monson

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The

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at journalregister@turley. com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



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Marcal Register

Monson Board of Health to host Wellness Fair

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

MONSON - The Board of Health will host a Wellness Fair on Saturday, May 18, an event that has been growing in recent

While past events have been delayed or even canceled due to the pandemic, this year is looking like the biggest Wellness Fair on record, with support from both the Fire Department (showing up to educate residents on proper fire protocol) and the Police Department, who are currently scheduled to showcase the ways for drivers and fellow passengers to do a "car seat safety check" with ex-

The checks do not stop there for the Monson community, as the Wellness Fair will have many medical tests and attentive wellbeing devices onhand for residents and Western Mass locals to get their heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen and vital signs checked free of

"We will be at this year's Monson Wellness Fair," said Rachel McRobbie, the Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator at Monson Public Schools. "We will be collecting wellness related items for our free store at Monson High

"We have high hopes for the Wellness Fair this year,"

McRobbie said. "Our central expectation is to create a vibrant community gathering that promotes health and wellness and strengthens the bonds within our community. By providing valuable health screenings, educational workshops, and fitness demonstrations, we aim to empower our residents with knowledge and resources to lead healthier lives. We're also looking forward to the various local organizations participating, as they play a critical role in supporting our community's health and well-being. The Wellness Fair results from community collaboration and a shared commitment to enhancing public health in Monson."

McRobbie said local health

professional and community leaders worked together to make the event a reality.

From AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) to the Parks and Recreation Department, those helping out at the event encourage attendees to be open and honest about their emotional, physical and overall mental

Other groups and services that will have a presence at the fair include: the Monson Substance Use Community Partnership, the Medical Reserve Corp, Monson Community Garden, Monson Free Library, general Pool Safety education, Blood Pressure Screening, Grip & Pinch Strength tests, Fall Risk Balance Tests and Fall Risk

Education, a Disc golf demonstration (weather permitting), crafts for kids, and adaptive equipment for those with CVA

As of right now, the Board of Health is still actively looking for volunteers for the event who have skills in reiki, chair massage, meditation, music, art, animal assisted therapy and of

course, face painting. The event is set to kick off on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Memorial Hall at 198 Main St in Monson. For further information on the Wellness Fair, contact jsimmons@ springfieldcollege.edu or MFarrin@gmail.com.



Palmer Senior Center

The Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., has many activities for seniors Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to reserve a meal please call 413-283-2670.

May events always on Mondays-Zumba at 8:30 a.m., Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Lunch 11:30 and Pool table at 12:15 p.m. Always on Tuesdays- Knit/ crochet group at 9 a.m., walking group at 9 a.m., Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Arthritis/ ROM at 10 a.m. and painting group at 1 p.m. Always on Wednesdays- Strength training at 10 a.m., Reiki by appt. is canceled and 11:30 a.m. Lunch. Always on Thursdays- Walking group at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi at 10 a.m., pool table at 12:15 p.m. and Big Y at 1 p.m. Always on Fridays - Gentle stretch at 10 a.m., Dancing mind body and soul at 10 a.m. and Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Special events for May:

Thursday, May 2- 10 a.m. Massage by appointment.

Friday, May 3- 9 a.m. Yoga rescheduled, 1 p.m. showing movie "Boys in the Boat"

Monday, May 6- Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. take and bake PB bars for two.

Thursday, May 9 – Sunshine Craft Friday, May 10- 1-3 p.m. Brown

bag pick up. Monday, May 13- 1 p.m. Mother's

Day tea and pastries. Tuesday, May 14- 1 p.m. Trip to McKinstry Market Garden, they accept

snap benefits. Wednesday, May 15- GSSSI options councilor.

Thursday, May 16 - 10 a.m. Massage by appointment, Memory Café from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Entertain-

ment Kevin Driscoll. **Friday, May 17**- 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Footcare by appt.

Monday, May 20- 10 a.m. Mara-

Wednesday, May 22- Wii bowling at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 23- Sunshine Vil-

lage Paint at 1 p.m. Monday, May 27- Closed for Memorial Day.

Thursday, May 30- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Massage by appointment. Friday, May 31-1 p.m. showing the

movie "My All American".

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednes-

day and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670. Individuals must sign up for breakfast, otherwise a meal will not be ordered for them.

MENU

Thursday, May 2- Ham and cheese

Friday, May 3- Braised pork, California blend veggies, yellow rice and beans, multigrain bread and chilled ap-

Monday, May 6- Cheese lasagna with meat sauce, Italian blend veggies, oaknut bread and chilled pineapples.

Tuesday, May 7- Assorted pastries. Wednesday, May 8- Indian style butter chicken, steamed spinach, white rice, buttermilk biscuit, and mandarin oranges.

Thursday, May 9- Blueberry French Toast.

Friday, May 10- Pot roast with gravy, tossed salad with Italian, garlic mashed potatoes, ww bread and brownie.

Monday, May 13- Chicken pot pie, California blend veggies, biscuit topping and pear crisp.

Tuesday, May 14- Cinnamon buns. Wednesday, May 15-Turkey taco plate, tossed salad with ranch, yellow rice, sour cream, tortilla chips, and chilled pineapple.

Thursday, May 16- Ham and cheese roll.

Friday, May 17- Chicken Marsala, steamed broccoli, parslied penne, ww roll and raisins.

Monday, May 20- Lazy stuffed cabbage, peas and onions, ww bread and Jello with topping.

Tuesday, May 21- Waffle and sau-

Wednesday, May 22- Chef salad with Italian, ham and turkey, celery salad, ww bun and chilled peaches.

Thursday, May 23- Egg, bacon, cheese croissant.

Friday, May 24- Lemon chicken, parslied carrots, roasted red bliss potatoes, ww bread and cookie. Monday, May 27- Closed for Me-

morial Day. Tuesday, May 28- French toast and sausage.

Wednesday, May 29- Hamburger with cheese, coleslaw, onions and mush-

rooms, wheat burger bun and cookies. Thursday, May 30- Ham, egg and cheese croissant.

Friday, May 31- Turkey with gravy, parslied carrots, mashed potatoes, ww bread and cupcake.

Registration open for 36th Annual Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2024 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyun-

Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Due to ongoing construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Boston Common for 2024.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon®course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

• 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus)

10K Walk (from Newton) • Half Marathon Walk (from

Wellesley) · Marathon Walk (from Hopkin-

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients – Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes - are displayed along the course as in-

Walkers can participate virtually,

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. The finish line will include a celebration with food, entertainment,

Public transportation is encour-

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of your family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line.

The Jimmy Fund can help you start a team, grow your fundraising, and defy cancer, together.

Volunteers are needed to cheer on participants, serve snacks, distribute T-shirts, and more, at the four start locations, along the course, and at the 2024 Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric, located in the Boston Common. The Jimmy Fund Walk would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and

Register to volunteer today.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.

All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.





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Viewpoints



Minister wants to maximize **Social Security** benefit

Dear Rusty

I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to "help" us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation?

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking

Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation - there is never a fee for the services we provide as we are non-profit. And I want to thank you for your military service, you may find the "For Veterans" section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting at www.amacfoundation.org.

To your question

Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits since you reached your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow by 8% per additional year you delay,, up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

You can call Social Security at 1-800-77-1213 or your local SS office to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone, they discourage office visits

Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.

You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: www.ssa.gov/hlp/ video/iclaim_r01.htm. However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www. ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim.

Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied. In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision. a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld and your age when your

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.



What to do when and how to do it

The last few gorgeous days got us all outside and into our home land-

Maybe you looked at this or that and said "Now what do I do?" Here is a column straight from the archives to best guide you through the next oh so fun (and busy) weeks in the garden.

DO remove spent blooms from spring flowering bulbs. Once "deadheaded" the bulb won't expend energy making seeds, instead, it will store it and delight you with an even healthier stand of flowers next year.

DO NOT cut, braid or otherwise

alter bulb foliage. It may not be the prettiest, but as long as it is green, (and to some degree even when it is yellowish) it is photosynthesizing, making a storehouse for spring's next blooms.



DO turn un-

der your covercrop of winter rye now, a few weeks prior to planting your vegetable garden. Plant residues will have a chance to break down without stealing valuable nutrients from newly transplanted seedings

DO NOT add fresh manure to garden plots as it will burn plants. Be sure to compost it for at least six months prior to use. Make your compost pile "hot" by balancing the amount of green and brown ingredients and by turning it regularly. The result is a near neutral weedfree source of organic matter.

DO prune spring flowering shrubs soon after blooming. Forsythia and lilac for example, bloom on the previous season's wood. By pruning once their blooming period is complete you will allow enough time for regrowth without sacrificing next year's blooms.

DO NOT prune fruit trees now. Better to wait until the trees are dormant. You can, however, rid apple trees of pencil sized or smaller water sprouts in mid summer. Simply grab one with your hand and give it a quick jerk. Removing a small portion of the branch from which it grows will likely prevent future sprouts in this area.

DO begin to harden off homegrown seedlings and garden-bound indoor plants over the course of the next few weeks. By gradually acclimatizing plants to the outdoors you will likely prevent transplant shock and other maladies such as sunscald and windburn. Start off with a few hours outside each day, work-

ing up to all day and overnight. Then, as long as the threat of frost has passed the plants can successfully be planted in the

DO NOT plant pepper seedlings until the soil has sufficiently warmed (usually by the first week in June). Research indicates that planting peppers in cold soil will stunt plants and reduce yields. You can warm the soil where peppers (and other heat lovers) are to grow by laying down sheets of IRT mulch a couple of weeks prior to planting. Then simply cut holes in the plastic and plant as normal.

> DO cut asparagus with a knife just under the surface of the soil. In established plantings you can harvest spears for about six weeks. Leave those that are thinner than a pencil. Although we wish the season could go on

forever, allowing foliage to form will only return energy to the roots, making for tasty shoots next spring!

DO NOT allow weeds to take over the strawberry patch! Applying a mulch of shredded leaves, composted sawdust or pine needles will not only keep the weeds at bay, but it will feed the plants and keep developing berries clean at the

DO sow grass seed soon, before crabgrass has a chance to take hold. Or better yet, sow seed in late August, or early September, when this dreaded weed is near done its life cycle. Water sown areas daily to promote timely germination.

DO NOT rototill patches of perennial weeds; you are merely spreading them about the garden! Better to hand weed, digging out the roots completely. After planting is complete mulch around plants to cut down on future weeds, conserve moisture, and add organic matter to the soil. When applying mulch around trees and shrubs remember to pull it back, away from the trunk to prevent girdling.

DO have fun in the garden this

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.





Health care from a nurse-advocate's point of view

By Teri Dreher Frykenberg, RN Guest Columnist

Hello, readers!

Teri Dreher

Having spent my growing-up years and graduating from nursing school here in western Mass, I am delighted to be able to share my perspective on today's health care with you in this new weekly

Health care has changed in a million ways since I earned my RN at Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Worcester in 1976. I went on to become a critical care nurse and worked for decades in hospitals. I am now a board-certified patient advocate, owner of NShore Patient Advocates, and considered a national authority in the field of patient advocacy.

Frykenberg, RN My columns and two Amazon best-selling books arise from my philosophy of health care: That knowledge is power and that we are empowered to take charge of our health.

As a private patient advocate, I help people do just that: Take charge. I leverage my knowledge of the health care system to help them navigate complex issues, whether it's caring for a loved one with dementia or getting a

While I believe everyone needs a health-care advocate, I also believe that we can learn to advocate for ourselves and our loved ones. It just takes a bit of common sense and preparation.

Here are a few of the basics:

Be a good patient.

You are a good patient if you are on time for your appointments, have your questions written down in advance, are succinct in your questions and comments, take your medications as prescribed and follow all health-care instructions. Sometimes, it's also helpful to bring someone with you – spouse, partner, child, friend – who can listen, fill in information gaps and help you remember

Good patients are also respectful. You want to be the patient who doctors, nurses and health-care providers enjoy serving.

Be prepared.

A medical emergency can happen at any time, and when it does, our minds seem to go blank because of fear and worry. Here's where a little bit of preparation comes

Compile the following and keep it where you or first responders can find it:

- Health conditions (i.e. heart disease, hypertension,
- cancer, diabetes, etc.) • Copies of insurance cards
 - All surgeries
- · All medications, with dosages and when they're taken

Allergies

- · Name and contact information for the primary care doctor
- Name and contact information for the patient's representative, if that person isn't on hand
 - A signed HIPAA release form

Be knowledgeable.

In this era of internet scams, bogus information and deep-fake videos, we must take care to get our healthcare information from reputable sources - and it's not some random Facebook account or website.

When you're searching for information about healthy lifestyles or medical conditions, stick with tried-and-true resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), WebMD (webmd.com) or Harvard Health (health.harvard.edu).

Know your rights.

Who owns your health-care information? You do! Not the doctor or the hospital. You have the right to see and review your medical records, doctor's notes after an appointment and what medications you might be receiving in the hospital.

You also have the right to appoint a patient representative, also known as an advocate. This is someone who is authorized to communicate on your behalf with healthcare providers – they are your stand-in. In most states, the default patient representative is a spouse or a parent, if a child is under 18.

But if you can designate anyone by completing a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) release form, which is available on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website. Make sure it's on file with your doctor and the hospital.

My first experience advocating for a patient was during a family cruise in the Caribbean when my thenfather-in-law developed a life-threatening health emergency. I stayed with him in order to communicate with doctors and make sure he was well-attended.

Back at work in the hospital ICU, I advocated for a patient who was experiencing complications from surgery. The doctor didn't like my questioning the patient's treatment, so I was placed on leave - and during my downtime, I realized the good I could do by helping other patients in similar situations. A patient advocate was born.

I hope you'll join me every week as I discuss current issues in health care and provide the tips you need to advocate for yourself and loved ones.

YOUR HEALTH | page 2



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Letters to the editor policy

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

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news As part of its election coverage the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election 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

CAPITOL I from page 1

Farnum said that the actual cost could be more or less than, but would likely be higher, dependent on various factors such as access to the lines that run through Town Hall.

Quarry Hill gym floor

Submitted by Parks and Recreation was a request for the Quarry Hill Gym floor to be refinished at \$22,750.

This would involve sanding and refinishing the gym floor at Quarry Hill with a four coat system of water-based sports floor finish, including game lines and the logo. The floors are reportedly from 1991.

During discussion of the Quarry Hill Gym, the committee asked about the track. Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke was present for the meeting, and said that the job would cost \$2 million, with a member of the audience adding that lighting would likely cost another \$700,000.

Storage Shed

The Parks and Recreation Department put in a request for a 10 by 20 square foot storage shed at Flynt Park in the total amount of \$15,000.

The storage shed would store the tractor and other equipment that is used frequently at the park, presenting a more efficient location and preserving the machinery's longevity.

We keep trailing it up every morning, it's just used there all the time, so it would be much better if we could just house it there, and that would give us more room in our garage that we have to almost unload to get our stuff out to get it in."

Cemetery tractor

The Cemetery Department put in a request for a tractor at \$36,600. The tractor will be used for maintenance and burials, and would replace the 1986 tractor, which was recently sold for about \$7,500.

Cell towers

The town's facilities made a request for the cell towers' heating and cooling system to the tune of \$10,000. The heating and cooling units are said to have reached their end of useful life and are need replacement, as wear and tear reduce their efficiency and effectiveness over time.

Town Hall server

For town technology, we're scheduled to – we replaced the police server in fiscal year 24 and so the next scheduled replacement is the town hall server, which is 10 years old and due for the replacement. The old server will be refurbished and reserved as a backup server.

Council on Aging van

Council on Aging submitted a request for van replacement. This request is 20% of the cost of the van replacement, as 80% is paid through a state grant.

School computers

The school desktop computer replacement for the school technology side; this request is a quote for a replacement of 100 desktop computers and 200 monitors, and that total is \$97,000.

Granite Valley boiler

The last item was the school's request to repair boilers at Granite Valley.

"This capital request repairs one of the 30-yearold boilers that is currently leaking in need of repair," Farnum read. "If the boilers continue to leak without repair, they will be damaged beyond further repair."

Of the three boilers at Granite Valley, the other two boilers were repaired through Fiscal Year '23 and '24 capital requests.

ASSESSOR I from page 1

ing, the Board heard from Bob Scalbite, the chair of the Agricultural Commission, to speak about the one-time Farmer's Market scheduled for later this year.

"We'd like your input on that and the planning process for that,' Scalbite said. "Maybe you are thinking about being a vendor or might want to look to volunteer. We invite you to attend."

The meeting was held earlier this week.

The Board also agreed to donate funds for the annual fireworks display.

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin, clerk of Summerfest, made the request to the board.

"We are asking for our annual request for gifts to the town for both the use for the fireworks and for the Fourth of July. What has happened in the past is the grifts ti the town have gone to defray the cost of the Police for the two events that we have."

Select Board member John R. Morrell asked how much money the town had in its gift fund.

"What is the balance in the gifts the town will give?" Morrell asked.

Morrell was then informed that the balance is

"This is an easy one," Select Board Chair Patric Oney proposed giving \$4,000 toward this year's

All members voted unanimously to approve Bogacz-Beaudoin's request.

YOUR HEALTH I from page 4

(Dreher) Teri Frykenberg, RN, is a patient board-certified advocate and Monson resident. A critical care nurse for 30+ years, she is founder of NShore Patient Advocates, (www. North shore RN. com).Her book, "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones is available on Amazon. She is offering a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers. Contact her at Teri@ northshorern.com to set it



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Route 20 billboard unveiling honors Wilbraham, Longmeadow residents



A photo of the billboard unveiled along Route 20 in Wilbraham featuring Jackson Connors and Sadie Slattery to promote the Aug. 9 Golf Tournament supporting Shriners Children's of New England.

By Kristin Rivers krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Family and friends gathered along Route 20 on April 19 for the unveiling of a billboard honoring two residents from Wilbraham and Longmeadow.

The residents, Jackson Connors of Wilbraham and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow, are also patients at Shriners Children's of New England and will be recognized as honorees at the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament supporting the organization on Aug. 9.

The event, taking place at Franconia Golf Course, is still looking for foursome teams to join, with tee off at 10 a.m. followed by dinner, raffles and performances by Project 267 at the Elks on Tiffany Street in Springfield.

The dinner event is open to the public and for anyone who wants to check out the band and not do dinner, it's \$10 at the gate.

To sign up, visit ma-cthomes.com and click the 'Golf Event' tab.

As the billboard was unveiled, the children reacted with shock and excitement to see their faces on the billboard for everyone driving along Route 20 to

"It was really cool. It's an honor," Connors said.

"I think it's pretty cool because everybody can see it and then, hopefully, we can get more people to raise awareness," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery were happy to have the community support at the unveiling.

'It means a lot because family and friends are important," Connors said.

"Mainly because everyone can see it and I think it's good," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery hope the billboard helps raise awareness for Shriners that even further." and for the upcoming golf tournament, stressing the importance of their work with children.

'Shriners is important because I had a clubbed foot and I couldn't play with my friends, then Shriners helped me a lot and helped me play with my friends and just have fun," Connors said.

"I think it's important because I also go to Shriners and the whole Shriners made me feel a lot more confident and made me feel better about the whole situation, so I'm very thankful for it and I'm glad to be doing this," Slattery said. Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at

Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, was ecstatic about the unveiling, wanting to give back to the kids and raise awareness for the organization and the upcoming event.

Cuoco said she loves teaming up with Shriners and supporting them, adding giving back to the community brings her great joy.

'I absolutely love it. There's nothing better than being able to support someone like Shriners. Any of the businesses around that we can support locally. Like I said, we just love giving back," Cuoco

The community support also means a lot to Cuoco.

We just want to keep changing people's lives and make a difference and leaving a legacy most of all is what we love to do," Cuoco said.

Keri Tichy, associate director of philanthropy at Shriners Children's of New England, explained last year's golf tournament raised \$27,000 for Shriner's Children of New England and she is looking forward to this year's event.

Tichy expressed gratitude to Cuoco and her team for their support, adding how Shriners Children's of New England treats everyone regardless of ability to pay and 85 cents to every dollar goes towards patient care.

'Their efforts help to transform the lives of so many children across New England and upstate New York. We can't do it without them and our community and strengthening strong partnerships," Tichy said. "To be able to see our amazing patient ambassadors on a billboard this year out in the community just strengthens

Connors and Slattery encourage community to support Shriner's and give back to the community.

"Sign up for an event for a great cause," Connors said.

"Help donate to Shriners," Slattery

To learn more about the organization, visit shrinerschildrensnewengland.



A group photo with Jackson Connors, Alyssa Stout, office & finance administrator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Madison Degnan, marketing & listing coordinator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Sadie Slattery and Brenda Cuoco, broker/ owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, after the billboard unveiling on Route 20 in Wilbraham on April 19.



A family photo of Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow with her parents Stella and Derek after the billboard unveiling honoring Slattery and Jackson Connors of Wilbraham.



A family photo of Jackson Connors of Wilbraham with his parents Jill and Nick after the billboard unveiling honoring Connors and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow.

Celebrate Mother's Day with pancake breakfast

MONSON—Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at

Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church. 6:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.

Reservations are preferred, deadline for ordering is May 10th . Walk-ins are welcome Call 413-267-5207 to place your order. Meal includes fluffy & delicious pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee, tea. Our specialty pancakes include: blueberry and chocolate chip. Toppings include whipped cream, butter, and we are featuring Monson's own: Bryson's 100% Pure Maple Syrup.

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

Come enjoy a mouth-watering special breakfast.

FRIGIDAIRE

SIDE-BY-SIDE

Theatre Guild of Hampden seeking directors For more information, call Mark

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is looking for directors for Giza at 413-204-5333. our 2024-2025 season.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE -Saturday, April 27, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Hyrniewicz Park sponsored by the Three Rivers Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary. All proceeds will benefit the local Firefighters Association.

THE PIONEER VALLEY QUILT GUILD will be presenting their "Up, Up and Away" quilt show Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will be held at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield, MA and is handicapped accessible. In addition to beautiful quilts and an 8' quilted balloon on display, there will be vendors, an appraiser, raffle baskets, a raffle quilt, and a food vendor. We will also be selling handmade items from our members at our PVQG Boutique. Admission is \$10. Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount by asking for Janet Foy upon arrival. Please come and join for a day or two of fun.

ARTISAN EMPORIUM presented by the Lamothe Block. At Olmsted Park, Steaming Tender Restaurant at 28 Depot Road, Palmer. Sunday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore one of a kind finds from local independent creators with live music and food. All vendor fees go to the preservation of the Historic Olmstead Park. Interested vendors can email scarletlamother@ gmail.com.

HOPS & FLOW YOGA at Seven Railroads Brewing Company on Sunday MAY 5: Class one is 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.; Class Two is from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. The class is \$ 20 per person and a beer token is included. Sign up with me to be placed on the reservations list. Pay Venmo or cash the day of class. Contact 413-221-8664 or Ashley@ BeyondYogaAndWellness.com This class will be truly an all levels class tailored to the needs of the first timer to the seasoned Yogi. Be prepared to be welcomed and comfortable. Don't have a Mat? no problem. Let me know, and you can borrow one for no charge. Any questions feel free to reach out. Reserve a spot today.

ONGOING

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. The market starts on April 13, and runs from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WALES FARMER'S MARKET -Baked goods, honey, antiques, plants, tag sale and craft items, every Saturday at 9 a.m. until noon from May 25, 2024, until Labor Day weekend at the Wales Baptist Church pavilion on Route 19. There will be fresh vegetables when in season. Vendor spots are available.

INTERESTS

PIONEER VALLEY QUILTERS Guild meets at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome. The mission of the guild is two-fold: to share the joy of quilting with others and to work for the betterment of the community. Monies raised (as in the biannual quilt show) support various workshops and speakers for the meetings, as well as allow the guild to buy materials that are then used to create donated items. The guild has donated quilts, baby bibs, cardiac pillows, and Christmas stockings for veterans to a variety of community agencies, including but not limited to the Springfield Rescue Mission and the Gray House.

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-

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Elv 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 yearround (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 Amyets 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.

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.

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,

when charging their electric vehi-

and consumers, including a safety

tip sheet and social media cards.

are all free and downloadable. A

free training course is also avail-

able to the public that helps address

some of the common concerns and

myths about owning an electrical

vehicle, including safety features,

NFPA recommends these tips

Before charging an electric ve-

Install charging equipment in

Use devices that are listed by a

Read and follow all manufac-

Check chargers and cords for

Do not use more than one plug

Keep charging items out of

Cover charging station outlet

Learn more about electric ve-

safety tip sheet at nfpa.org/

safe use of smaller devices

that use lithium-ion bat-

teries such as computers,

smart phones, e-bikes and

e-scooters, can be found at nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety

About the NFPA

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and related hazards. The

association delivers in-

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through more than 300

Founded in 1896,

and nfpa.org/ebikes.

Information on the

damage before using. Never use if

or extension cords with the charger.

reach of children and animals when

hicle fire safety, find training in-

formation, and download the free

evsafetyinfo.

hicle at home, have a qualified elec-

trician check your electrical system

safe locations. Keep away from

busy areas and things that could

to see if it can handle charging.

qualified testing laboratory.

charge types, and battery life.

home to help prevent fires:

Resources for safety educators

Tips offered for safe

electrical vehicle

charging at home

about the fire safety risk of EVs are when charging electric vehicles at

catch fire.

damaged.

not in use.

to keep water out.

cle at home.

As electric vehicles enter our

roadways, the National Fire Protec-

tion Association® has introduced

a series of free resources, guide-

lines, and information to help raise

awareness about EV fires and safe

al Energy Agency, global sales of

electric vehicles exceeded 10 mil-

lion in 2022 and are expected to

grow in the coming years. At the

same time, consumer concerns

increasing. Lithium-ion batteries.

the most widely used and reliable

source of energy for electric vehi-

cles, are central to questions about

tric vehicles provide environmental

and cost-effective benefits," said

Lorraine Carli, vice president of

Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA

in a press release. "However, as

fires involving EVs are reported in

the news, concerns about the risks

they pose persist. Through advo-

cacy efforts that highlight our new

online resources and information,

NFPA is working to better educate

the public about the risks associ-

ated with EVs and other devices

that use lithium-ion batteries, along

NFPA feature more detailed infor-

mation about lithium-ion batteries,

EV maintenance, and what tips

consumers can follow to stay safe

The new online resources from

with ways to use them safely."

"It is widely known that elec-

According to the Internation-

EV charging practices at home.

Free performance of John Morello's 'Dirt' is May 8

NORTH BROOKFIELD - North Brookfield Public Schools, District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance are presenting John Morello's free one-man show, "Dirt" at North Brookfield Elementary School on Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.

Through the portrayal of relatable and memorable characters, Morello gives voice and reassurance to those who sometimes feel as though they are not heard or understood. He explores the challenges and decisions that young people face every day through the lens of mental health, substance use, bullying and

Informational resources will be shared prior to the performance, starting at 5 p.m. Light refresh-

ments will be served. A meet and greet with Morello will be held in the North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School at 7 p.m.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this free community event.

Plant sale in May on **Hardwick Common**

HARDWICK— The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 18th annual plant and bake sale, on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and June 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick, and private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcrevier1.mc@gmail. com or 413-477-6942.

250th Golf Tournament Westover Municipal Golf Course

vites you to play golf with us on Saturday, May 18 at the Westover Municipal Golf Course at 181 South St. in Granby.

Registration starts at 11 a.m., with the shotgun start at 12:15 p.m.

The fee is \$500 per foursome and \$125 per person. The entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, a goodie bag and a buffet-style dinner.

Special events are for low score, closest to the pin and a Hole-in-One sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Springfield.

The 250th Committee is proud to have Mercedes-Benz as a sponsor. There will be

LUDLOW -- The 250th Committee in- a basket raffle and much more.

Space is limited, so please register soon as the deadline is Friday, May 10. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and with a shotgun start at 12:15 p.m.

Golf registration forms are available on the committee's website at www.ludlowma250.org. If you would like to sponsor a hole at the golf tournament, the sponsorship

For more information on sponsoring a hole, please contact Linda Collette by phone at 413-427-3072, or by email at ludlowma250@gmail.com.

Great Songs from Great Movies at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM- Instrumentalist and vocalist David Polansky will perform "Great Songs From Great Movies" at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. In addition to taking audience requests, his concert will span several decades of film history, from Singin' in the Rain to Star Wars. An accomplished musician, David is in constant demand throughout the New England area. Loved by everyone from

preschoolers to grandparents, his songs have been compared to those of Stephen Sondheim and Tom Lehrer. He has performed at the Wilbraham Library since 1997.

Registration for this free event is encouraged and space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Relay for Life craft/vendor fair is June 8

80 crafters and vendors at the Quaboag Relay for Life's 3rd Annual Spring Craft/Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, June 8 from fit the American Cancer Society, Relay for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Common, Routes 9

There will be face painting all day,

BELCHERTOWN – There will be over balloon sculpting by Ed Popielarczyk from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and raffles.

All proceeds from the fair will bene-

with your partner, struggling with

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

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Are you having difficulty communicating boundaries, and healthy relationships?

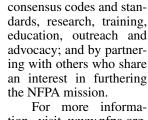
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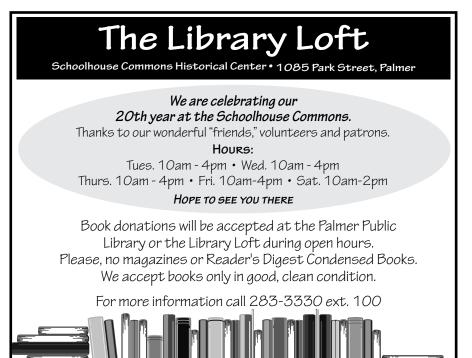
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For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa. org/freeaccess.





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Pubsy Diego (left), pictured with Pete and Deb Chabot at Villa Rose restaurant.



Former firefighters of Three Rivers, (from left) Mike Matthews, Pat O'Connor, and Phil Delessio, took the opportunity to reminisce about the department.



Mike Matthews signs the cards for firefighters who were unable to make it to the dinner.



John Sasur animatedly shared stories from the history of the Three Rivers Fire Department.

BEEF SHIN MEAT

FIRE DEPT. I from page 1

worked hard for every fire we went to, and when we came home that's what we did; we took it easy, talked about it at the station, and then everything was left at the station when we went home."

Matthews emphasized that these social gatherings among the firefighters helped to instill a close bond among them and their families, and talked about the many ways that they would get together and enjoy each other's company while they were still working for the fire department, such as regular softball games and picnics.

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

"That stuff all ended," Matthews lamented. "One of the reasons I started doing this is one of my buddies, just before I got off the department, said, 'Once you're gone, all this is going to stop.' And he was right; I understand that they tried doing it last year,

but they had no idea what to do."

Though not everyone that Matthews reached out to was able to attend, he is committed to continuing this tradition. He said that if anyone knows a former Three Rivers firefighter who he forgot to invite, to let him know and he'll be sure to send them an invitation next year.

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



The firefighters' dinner was not only for former firefighters, but also their wives, such as (from left) Allison LaChance, Heather Sasur, and Holly Daigle.



Long-time friends Carol Delessio and Patricia Matthieu said that they "go way back."

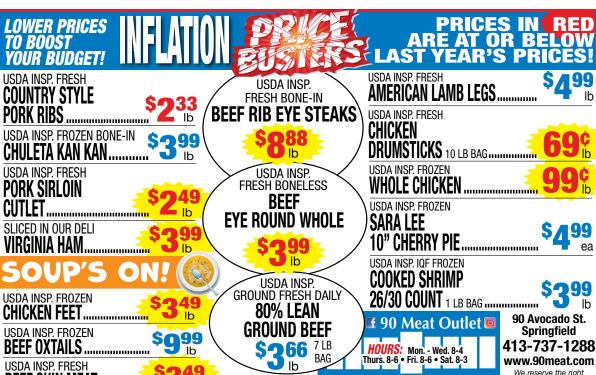


Firefighters laughed at former Chief Pat's stories.

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Journal Register



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Members of the Women's Auxiliary Fire Department of Three Rivers, (from left) Tracey Bergeron, Sharon Lemieux, and Emily Skoczylas.



Some of the speakers at Saturday's dinner (from left) John Sasur, Tracey and Jody Santos, Ben Dube, and Theresa Beynor.



Matt Lemieux stood up to tell stories about the fire department to the whole room.



Jody Santos shared personal anecdotes about the department from his table.



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The Kelleys were looking cozy in their sweatshirts while posing for the camera in front of their trash-ladder truck.

MONSON I from page 1

older adults, as well as oversees

the undergraduate occupational therapy major program, teaching

courses in theoretical foundations,

adult physical function and gerontology.
"We have about 75% of what
"Simmons said. "I

think we are still making a terrific impact and I'm proud of what

have been able to accomplish I also want to thank Kathy Nothe

for being so unbelievably helpful."

Board of Health member, Joan Simmons, showing the Kelleys where to go for cleanup. Red lines were drawn on the map to detail where volunteers were sent.



Simmons was dedicated throughout the morning and afternoon, making sure no piece of trash was left behind.



Turley Photos by Harrison Giza The Gazebo at Dave Grieve Park just as the weather started to clear.



Though there were many volunteers, few of them had a 1978 Ford F100 filled to the brim with trash bags like this proud volunteer did.

A pair of volunteers, Suzanne able to get going again. and Doug Kelley took part in the

The swagged out "Brush 1" courtesy of the Wales Fire Department.

HOLLAND I from page 1

the action in the games.

Another highlight happened off field, with one of the Board Members pulling a practical joke "pig pile" on player-favorite Coach K. Her team of young athletes charged at her like a and local Police departments. The Holsteroid-free rhino stampede, smiling and land Fire Department was also in atten-

laughing all the while.

event. They said they were happy

they could assist in the clean-up

ley said. "I'm glad my husband

for the town almost a decade ago, a recent flyer made for the event

said that it was "the first time in several years" the Clean-up was

"It is nice to see events and things like this in our town," Kel-

While the Monson Town Wide Clean-Up was once a staple

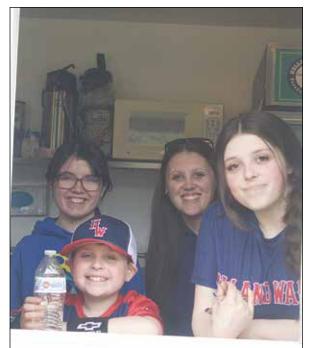
throughout the community.

and I could be a part of it."

Sponsorship for the event ranged from Bertera Chevrolet, Angry Panda, Jake the lion alongside the entire Worcester Bravehearts Organization,



Benny "The Jet" Rodriguez sipping soda alongside League President Mike Breor.





Wales Softball members getting ready to swing their hearts out, despite already being up 5 - 0.



The players were happy to be back on the field with the other coaches and players.



dance, making sure the event was safe

for all... and to show off their newly-polished vehicle near the left field foul line.

What makes the program truly

unique is that

it is 100%

supported by

parents. Var-

ious sports

fans and val-

ued members

of the com-

munity, who

give their all

volunteering

their time to

make sure

player has

fun during

the start of

lowing the

event, Breor

F o 1 -

the season.

each

that

The field was tense as coaches offered base-stealing advice to players.



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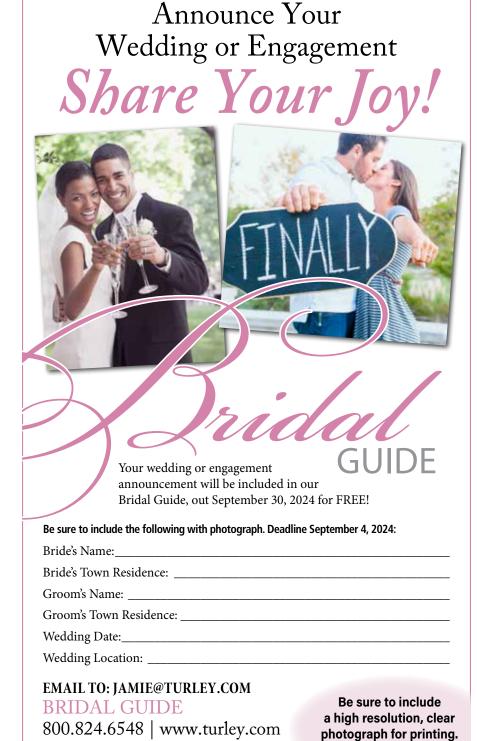
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thanked those who made the event a suc-

"We appreciate the support everyone displayed yesterday by attending our Opening Day Festivities," said Breor. "The event was a true success thanks to the collaboration and teamwork of our community... I said it yesterday and I will say it again today, Holland Wales Baseball Softball League is stronger than ever. We are building the best program we can to serve our current players, but also our future players who have yet to step onto a ball field. We are just getting started."

Breor also thanked Adam Hussey, who volunteered to photograph the event.

The HWBSL mission as a league is to provide opportunities for children to learn about the game they love, understand the value of being part of a team while working together to establish and create childhood memories that will last them a lifetime.



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SOFTBALL

Panthers fall at Ware in extra innings



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

WARE-With the sun setting in the west and a full moon rising in the east, Ware sophomore second baseman Olivia DiRienzo promptly ended the rivalry softball game versus Palmer with one swing of the

DiRienzo hit a bloop single into shallow left field with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning scoring sophomore catcher Madisyn Slattery from third base. It gave the Lady Indians a wild 13-12 walkoff victory, which took more than three hours to complete, last Monday (April 22).

"I haven't been hitting the ball very well so far this season," said DiRienzo, who also beat out an infield hit during the fourth inning. "I was just hoping to get a base hit in that at-bat. Getting the game winning base hit really means a lot to

While Olivia DiRienzo will be playing several more softball games against the Lady Panthers before she graduates in 2026, her older sister, Mia, faced the Lady Panthers for the final time at home during the regular season.

"I'm very happy that my younger sister had the game winning hit in today's game" said Mia DiRienzo, who had a bases clearing

PALMER | page 11

BASEBALL



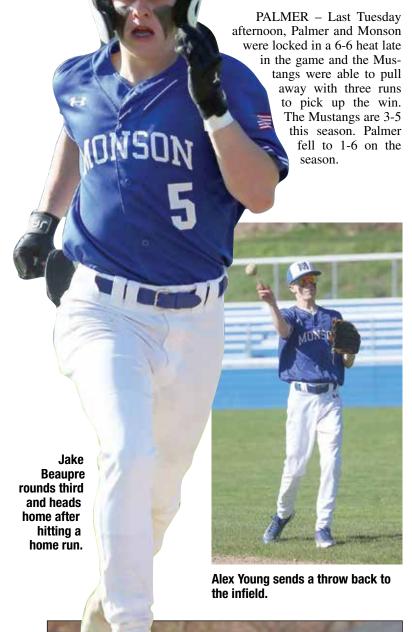
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Zander Auffrey heads for second.

Pioneers walk off in wild matchup

three weeks for Commerce and Pathfinder to finally matchup last Saturday afternoon at St. Joe's Field. Pathfinder scored a run in the bottom of the eighth for a 17-16 win. In the win, Brayden

PALMER – It took almost Mega had three hits and three runs scored. Hunter Griswold and Miguel Velasquez had two hits and three RBI each. The Pioneers are now 5-1 on the season despite limited action due to several rainouts this month.

Mustangs escape Palmer with win

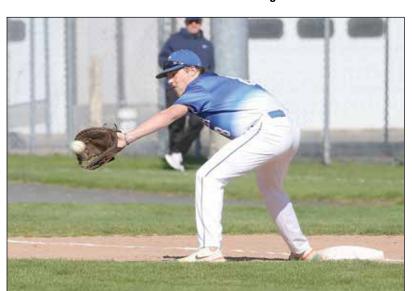


Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Sebastian Mayberry pitches for the Panthers.



Brendan Hess is safe as he slides in ahead of a tag.



Dylan Holbrook catches an out at first.



Austin Meacham slides safely into third.



Sebastian Mayberry tries to avoid a tag at third base.



Nikolas Matthieu tries to make a tag out on Palmer's Theo Haley.

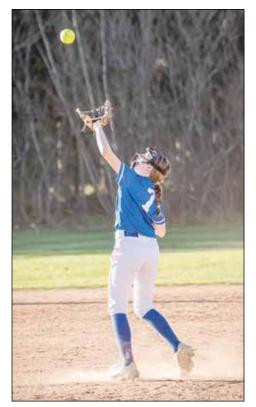
Mustangs fall at Minnechaug



Carlee Meacham rounds second and heads for third base.



Molly Szado delivers a pitch for the Mus-



Emma Bannon makes a tough catch on a Cali Zielinski tries to avoid a tag. pop-up.

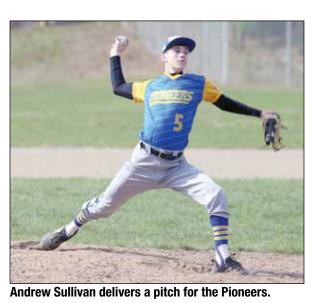
WILBRAHAM - Last Friday afternoon, Monson softball had a rare regular season matchup with Minnechaug Regional. The Mustangs worked hard to stay in the game, but fell by a score of 10-4. Chelsea Hull had two hits for the Mustangs and Molly Szado pitched a complete game, allowing 10 runs, 12 hits, and five walks, while striking out six. The Mustangs are just 2-6 so far in 2024.





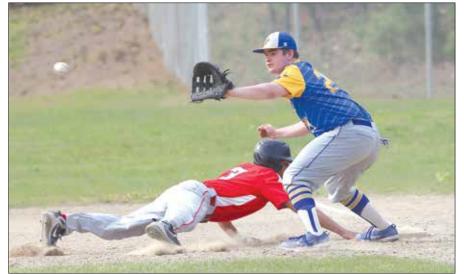
Madelynn Caron gets ready to swing.

Pioneers walk off in wild matchup





Branden Hnitecki slides into an opposing player.



Camron MacDonald catches a pickoff throw to first.



Hunter Griswold gets dirty as he slides safely into

Panthers enjoying perfect season so far



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Adriana Roberts goes high for the return hit.

PALMER -Last Monday afternoon, Palmer girls tennis kept its momentum going with a 5-0 win over visiting Chicopee. The Panthers scored wins in all of their matches, including the doubles tandems of Adriana Roberts and Sophia Braskie and Marila Kompaniiets and Arianna Messier. The Panthers are now a perfect 6-0 on the season.



in doubles action.

Gianna Perry squares up a hit.



Turleysports



Athlete of the Week

Miguel Velasquez

Pathfinder Regional

Velasquez had two hits and three RBI in a wild game for Pathfinder against Commerce

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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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER - The Commercial Elks made it to their final regular week of league candle-

pin bowling. These series of matches will conclude the final round and will determine the third

qualifier for the playoffs. As of April 16, The Champs R Here are in first place at 27-9. In the running Acres is in second place at 25-11. Team BK is in third place at 24-12. The remaining teams are mathematically eliminated from playoff con-

Compression and Life is Good have already qualified for the playoffs.

One match took place between #1 seed Champs R Here against #2 seed Acres. In game one, Acres defeated Champs R Here by a score of 398-382. Matt Bertelli and Paul Tereso of Acres each broke 100 in the opening game (Tereso 101, Bertelli 106). Stephen Manolakis of Champs R Here began with a

In game two, Champs R Here defeated Acres 375-362. Manolakis led the team with

In game three, Champs R Here defeated Acres 385-367 to win a total of three points and secure the last playoff spot. Manolakis finished with a 109 and a series of 336.

The final score is Champs R Here at

1142 and Acres at 1127. #3 seed Team BK bowled against Last in Line. Team BK won the first game 353-345. In game two, Last in Line won 367-354. Vinny Navarro bowled a 112 to lead Last in Line to a victory. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK

bowled 118.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 378-361. The final score was Team BK at 1085 and Last in Line at

The two playoff teams, Compression and Life is Good, bowled each other in the last week of round three. In game one, Compression took the first game from one of their playoff opponents 361-345.

In game two, Compression won again by a score of 352-341. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team in the second game with

In game three. Compression won for a three-game sweep over Life is Good. The score in game three was Compression at 364 and Life is Good at 357. The final score was Compression at 1077 and Life is Good at

As a result of winning three points against Acres, Champs R Here are the winners of round three and will be in the playoffs. Compression, Life is Good and Champs R Here will compete against each other in the final week of the season for the league cham-

The remaining four teams who didn't receive a playoff berth will compete in a consolation roll off.

Monday Night League Playoffs

The final two teams who made it to the final week of the season are Tag Team and the Four Stooges. After three competitive games, Tag Team prevails and are the 2023-2024 candlepin league season champions for Monday

Tag Team consists of John Havens Sr, John Eckart, John "JT" Terault and Nick Maslon. The runner ups of the season, The Four Stooges, consist of Dave Chambers, Rich Chambers, Joe Grant and Marc Pelissier.



T-Birds put bow on successful season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds completed a historic season in style on Saturday, hosting a 14th consecutive sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center. The capacity crowd for the finale also marked the 20th time during the 2023-24 season that "the Thunderdome" hit its maximum occupancy.

Both the 14-game sellout streak and the 20 total sellout crowds set Springfield AHL hockey records, and those were merely two statistics from a year full of shattered records and overwhelming support from the fanbase. The Thunderbirds' ticket sales department saw distinct growth in numerous categories, including group ticket revenue (up 30% from 2022-23), season ticket revenue (up 15%), and total full-season tickets sold (up 5%).

"The support this franchise has received from day one has been indescribable," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "It takes so many factors for an American Hockey League franchise to succeed, and our front office staff is right up there with the best in the business. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the passion and energy of the Thunderdome

The crowd, made this historic season a reality. We have no intention of slowing down either, which should make our fans so excited for what will come."

Of the 6,321 fans who attended Thunderbirds games on average last season, about 25% were members of various groups participating in a wide variety of in-game experiences, from Premium Suite and Executive Perch parties to on-ice activities like national anthem performances and high-five tunnel teams. Springfield's front office staff efforts helped the club generate the eighth most group tickets sold in the league.

"We have long worked at making Thunderbirds games a lifelong memory for fans of all ages," said Costa. "In the process of doing that, we have been able to showcase members of our community, which has led to amazing opportunities for these groups to have a huge audience and grow their followings. Performing at Thunderbirds games has become a checklist item for thousands in this area, and we take great pride in that."

This season, the T-Birds saw an average of 93.1% of all seats

filled inside the MassMutual Center, the highest average attendance to capacity in the AHL's Eastern Conference and second-highest in the league. Such successes in filling the arena directly led to the Thunderbirds' corporate sales department reaching new heights.

In the 2023-24 season, the T-Birds saw a 15% growth in corporate revenue while sitting atop the league rankings in total sponsorship deals. Integrations with sponsors have continued to be showcased across various mediums, from in-arena and inice signage to social media post sponsorships and elements of the in-game broadcast production.

"Having widespread support from our business partners is also paramount to success in the American Hockey League," Costa added. "Our corporate team has fostered meaningful relationships beyond return on investment and emphasized Springfield's pride for the city. Their accomplishments are remarkable when compared to markets of exponentially greater size."

Supplementing the Thunderbirds' success in tickets and corporate business, the franchise experienced a seventh consecutive season of brand development and merchandise growth as the club rose to the top 10 in the AHL in-game night merchandise sales, with an emphasis on creating high-quality product lines across not just the T-Birds brand, but specialty nights as well.

"We are aware of how impactful merchandise can be from a grassroots marketing perspective," said Costa. "Giving our fans the ability to show their pride for specialty evenings like Pink in the Rink, Ice-O-Topes, and Military Appreciation further bolsters our connection between our team and the community."

The Thunderbirds will look to build upon their record-breaking success when the 2024-25 season, the eighth Thunderbirds hockey campaign, gets underway this October. Schedules and single-game tickets will go on sale later this summer. Fans can reserve their seats for Thunderbirds' hockey action in the 2024-25 season with a ticket membership by calling (413)-739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN - Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check

each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.



Jayda Pardo fires this pitch to her catcher.



Lily White cracks this shot down the third base line.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

s shot down the third base line.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio N
Panther third baseman Avigail Lee is focused on this shot to third.

PALMER I from page 9

double in the fourth inning. "It was a crazy game, but this is a very big win for us."

Mia DiRienzo, who started at first baseman, is the only senior listed on the Lady Indians varsity softball roster. She's also one of the captains, along with junior starting pitcher Abigale McQuaid, junior centerfielder Shelby Hogan, and Slattery.

"It's so weird being the only senior on the softball team," she said. "The other three captains always help me make decisions. They help me out a lot."

The Lady Indians had a 4-2 overall record, which was also their record against their Suburban West League opponents

League opponents.

"We're a very young team, and we're starting to play well," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "We

held a five run lead in our last game, but we wound up losing. We played a lot better in today's game."

Palmer, who squeaked out a 16-15 a win in the first meeting against Ware a year ago, had a 2-3 overall re-

cord and a 1-2 league record.

"This was a back and forth game. Neither team gave up," said Palmer head coach Heather Korzec. "It's

a bummer that we wound up losing the game in extra innings, especially after having a two run lead."

In their previous two games, Palmer scored 38 and

13 runs.

"One of the things that we did during our preseason practices was to have each player take at least 50 swings each day in the batting cage," Korzec said. "I think it's

paying off for us now."

The Lady Panthers reached double digits in runs for the third time against Ware despite only having six base hits. They walked twelve times, and another batter was hit by a pitch.

The Lady Indians banged out a total of eleven hits and drew ten walks.

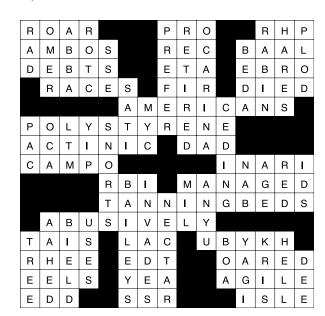
The score was tied 10-10 entering the seventh inning.

Both teams were set in order during that frame for the only time in the game. Palmer senior catcher Lily White, who had hit a

home run leading off the sixth inning, and junior second baseman Ava Swist drew back-to-back walks leading off the top of the eighth inning. Both base runners crossed the plate following wild pitches.

In bottom half of the inning Palmer junior righty.

In bottom half of the inning, Palmer junior righty Jayda Prado retired the first batter that she faced on a



comebacker. Then Hogan singled to right field, but she was thrown out trying to steal second base by White.

Prado and her teammates couldn't record the third

McQuaid, who blasted a home run to center with one out in the third inning, kept the game going a little bit longer with a walk. She advanced to third base following a throwing error by the catcher. Then Mia DiRienzo grounded a single up the middle into cen-

terfield scoring McQuaid. After going to second base on a passed ball, DiRienzo crossed the plate with the tying run when Slattery hit a flyball double to left field. "We were able to put-together a couple of hits in the eighth inning," said Mia DiRienzo, who was also teammates with her younger sister on the soccer pitch. "My sister never had a game winning hit in a softball game before today. It was great."

Then Olivia DiRienzo stepped into the righthanded

batter's box and became the hero of the game.

"Today's game was a lot of fun," Valle said. "Even though we were trailing by two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, I still had a lot of confidence in my players. We had the top of the order coming up. Olivia had the key hit, and this was our first walk-off win of the season. We're looking forward to playing Palmer again at their field in a couple of weeks."

How is your retirement income taxed?

Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement

• Social Security – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.

• Retirement accounts – During your working years, you may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

• Annuities — Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a contract between you and an insurance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with aftertax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources of income, but you should consult your tax professional about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

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DEATH NOTICES

Arabella M. Olander, 77

Died April 23, 2024 Services were April 29, 2024 Lombard Funeral Home

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

Arabella M, Olander, 1946-2024

MONSON—Arabella M. Olander, 77, passed away peacefully at home on April 23, 2024, after a year-long battle with lung cancer. 50 years ago, upon unpacking in her new home, she declared "I want to die in this house" and so it was.

Born in Dorchester, she attended local public schools, graduating from Hyde Park High school where she wrote her class song. She majored in zoology and obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She then studied education and obtained a Master's degree from Suffolk University. Her first career was that of a mother. When asked what she did for work, she would reply "I'm a mother. That's work." Upon her youngest child entering school, she started her second career as a para educator in the Monson Public

Schools. She supported students in math and reading for over 20 years and delighted in the connections she made with them. Upon retirement, she dove into volunteering at the Warren SDA School and her family wondered if she had actually retired.

She leaves behind her devoted husband of 53 years, Raymond Olander of Monson, her children, William of Monson, Mary and her husband Richard Schilk of Fullerton, California, Timothy and his wife Jamie of Sturbridge, and Joseph and his wife Maria of Jacksonville, North Carolina as well as 5 grandchildren. She is survived by her brothers and sister-in-law, Donald and his wife Mai Severy and Robert Bayard Severy as



well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Lombard Funeral Home. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at the First Church of Monson, 5

High St., Monson MA. Burial will immediately follow at Hill-crest Cemetery, 32 Wilbraham Road in Monson. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Warren Seventh-Day Adventist Elementary School (www.warrensdaschool.com) or the Monson Fire Department, Ambulance Fund (PO Box 335, Monson, MA 01057). For online condolences/directions please visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

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Olympics lead to change in HoopHall induction this summer

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced it will move its Enshrinement Ceremonies from Aug. 16-17 to Oct. 12-13 to accommodate requests of the vast global basketball community amid an extensive and expanding summer schedule, highlighted by the 2024 Summer Olympics. The date change will continue to position the Hall of Fame event as a successful, well-produced standalone event not compromised by potential production conflicts.

"The Hall of Fame appreciates the input from friends across the basketball community and the recommendations of our production partners regarding a schedule adjustment for our Enshrinement Ceremonies," said John L. Doleva,

President & CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We understand the importance of the burgeoning Olympic basketball events to our broader constituencies and regret any inconvenience caused by the change. This one-time move to October assures that we are best positioned to once again create a great experience for our guests and deliver viewers a first-class presentation to celebrate our esteemed Class."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Saturday, Oct. 12, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2024 and returning Hall of Famers will then assemble in Springfield, for the annual events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony

Hall on Sunday, Oct. 13.

The updated schedule of events for Enshrinement 2024:

Saturday, Oct. 12, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

Enshrinement 2024 Autograph

Enshrinement 2024 Press Conference

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala

Sunday, Oct. 13, in Springfield Enshrinement Ceremony VIP

Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott Enshrinement Ceremony Red

Carpet Show at Symphony Hall
Enshrinement Ceremony at
Symphony Hall

League wants to fill remaining roster spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun it season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league.

The league plays most Sunday

from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team. The league can also pro-rate registration at this point. Simply contact a league board member. Contact information is located at the registration link.

Blood drive scheduled for May 14

NORTHAMPTON – Adults interested in donating blood will have an opportunity to do so at a community blood drive at Cooley Dickinson Hospital on Tuesday, May 14.

Cooley Dickinson is partnering with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center to bring their blood mobile to Northampton. The blood mobile will be set up in the parking lot in front of the hospital's North Building from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Blood donation is a vital act of generosity that saves lives," said Catherine Reed, administrative director for clinical Services at Cooley Dickinson in a press release. "We deeply appreciate the ongoing support of our community in ensuring that our patients have access to the vital blood supply they need."

All blood donors will receive a \$10 gift card for Panera Bread. A photo ID is required for blood donation.

Donors are also advised to

drink extra water and eat before donating blood. All donor types are welcome.

To make an appointment, please visit the online donor portal at: tinyurl.com/CooleyM2024. For donation eligibility questions, email BloodDonor@partners.org or call 617-632-3206.

Blood products collected during this drive will be used to care for patients in the Pioneer Valley and within the Mass General Brigham system.

The benefits of local newspapers

ocal newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe.

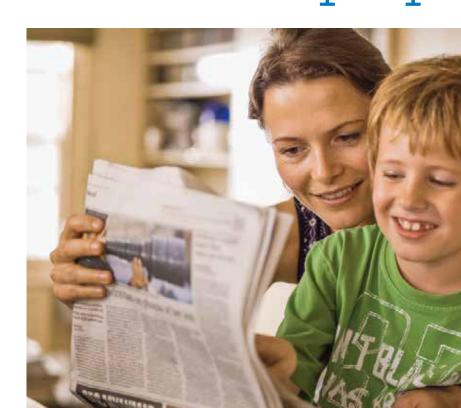
The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

• Local newspapers benefit near businesses. Small business own ers often connect with commun members via local newspapers. strong, locally based small business own ers often connect with community and contributing taxonic members via local newspapers own ers often connect with community members via local newspapers.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

 Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own commu**nities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses. Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.
- Local newspapers can strengthen communities. Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.
- Local newspapers can benefit children. National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Journal Register

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 379 incidents on its logs for April 16 - April 22.

April 16

At 3:57 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Mark Alexander Rumyantsev, 28, of 31 Elm St., Springfield, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and tire tread depth violation.

At 8:47 a.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on North Main Street.

At 7:19 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Deivy Andres Polo Arzuza, 30, of 6004 Oakland Knoll Dr., Fort Worth, TX, for speeding, unregistered motor vehicle and number plate violation.

April 17

At 7:01 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 10:59 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 3:39 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 4:55 p.m. police gave summons to Rachel Anne Smus, 22, of 156 Bourne St., Three Rivers, for breaking and entering during daylight and larceny from building.

At 9:41 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Scott P. Henley, 42, of 279 Morton St., Springfield, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding.

April 18

At 6:59 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage and arrested Caitlyn Barbara McGuire, 30, of 42 S. Liberty St., Belchertown, for negligent operation of motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

April 19

At 12:44 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

April 20

At 9:33 a.m. police pulled over and arrested Arnold Dean Cox Jr., 33, of 177 Flint St., Springfield, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, no inspection sticker and a warrant.

At 1:25 p.m. police responded to an

accident with property damage on High

At 5:52 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

April 21

At 10:33 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Wright Street.

At 5:01 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Luis Mario Lema Garcia, 38, of 50 Holy Family Road, Holyoke, for unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration.

At 10:41 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Maykon De Oliveria Lucena, 31, of 27 Linda Ave., Chicopee, for speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Fire Logs

BONDSVILLE

For the period April 16 to April 22, Bondsville Fire responded to 2 calls.

On Tuesday, April 16 at 8:15 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for public assistance. The department returned to service at 8:35

On Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m., the department responded to Hillside Drive for a service call and then returned to service at 9:05 a.m.

Classifieds

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CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHAN-Construction equipment and RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.

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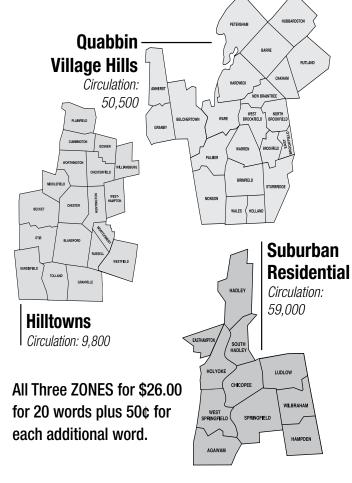
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Address Town: X per week rate = \$ Number of Weeks: Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash ☐ Check# Exp. Date CVV Amount of charge: __



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Scammers impersonate toll collection services in scam

If you have been on a road trip, the website, scammers could now have then you're probably familiar with modern tolling systems allowing you to pay your toll fees online.

outstanding tolls, watch out for this text message phishing scam where fraudsters impersonate toll collection services, trying to trick consumers into paying for fake outstanding tolls.

How this scam works

You receive a text message from what appears to be a state tollway collection service, like the Illinois Tollway or the Florida Turnpike. The text message says you owe a road toll fee of around \$12, but you need to pay it immediately to avoid a late fee of \$50.

The message includes a link to settle your balance, which appears to be from the state's toll service, making the message look legitimate. However, if you click the link and provide your personal and payment information on

access to that information, and you may have lost some money.

The Better Business Bureau Scam If you anticipate paying for any Tracker has received reports of text messages that appear to be from toll collection services. One consumer recently shared, "I received a text message that stated I owed funds from using a tollway. It was not specific and since I do not use a tollway I knew it was a fraud. I deleted the message right away and blocked the number, but I believe it had included a web link."

Another consumer shared, "I was sent a text message that I owe the Florida Turnpike fee of \$12.51 or face a late fee of \$50. I nor my husband have been anywhere near the Florida Turnpike."

How to avoid similar scams Verify your outstanding toll balance with the legitimate agency. Instead

SCAM | page 16

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Description: The Ware Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced housing administrator for the position of Executive Director. The Authority's portfolio includes 86 units of Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, 23 units of Ch. 705 Family and 61 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

Minimum Requirements: A minimum of 2 years' experience in public or private housing management, community development, public administration, non-profit administration, or a related field that demonstrates strong management and organization skills. Knowledge of the principles, practices of state and federal public housing management programs, capital improvement planning, technology systems, maintenance, and finances desired. Strong organizational and personnel management skills desired. One year of experience overseeing at least three staff persons or as a significant project team leader or program administrator strongly

Possess excellent written and verbal skills for an ability to communicate effectively with local officials, boards, residents, service providers and funding agencies. Experience working with the public, as well as individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator (MPHA) desired or obtained within one year.

Must be proficient in Word, Excel and Outlook. Familiarity with centralized public housing wait lists (CHAMP), housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases and reporting systems desired. Other preferred credentials include graduation from an accredited two to four-year college or university and a passion for the mission of affordable housing

The maximum salary is \$94,975 and is dependent upon experience, education, and certifications in accordance with EOHLC Executive Director Salary Schedule. The required work hours are 37 ½ hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Kenneth R. Martin, Consultant, at kenmartin1208@gmail.com with "Ware ED position" in the subject line.

The deadline is no later than the close of business on May 24, 2024. Late applications shall not be considered. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to the next level of consideration.

> Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. The Ware Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Publications, Inc. www.turley.com

BBB Tip: Choosing a mortgage lender

By Paula Fleming pfleming@boston.bbb.org

The housing market is constantly changing. Whether it's competitive or slow, if you want to buy a home, you need to be prepared.

As a prospective buyer, you can make your offers on homes more competitive by getting pre-approved for financing from a mortgage lender before even bidding on a house. This lets the seller know you>re a serious buyer and provides reassurance that the sale will close without issues.

Fortunately, shopping around, comparing prices, and negotiating deals can save you thousands of dollars on a mortgage. To get the best deal, compare all the costs, and understand how mortgages work.

If you are buying a home, refinancing your home, or taking out a home equity loan, follow these tips to help make your search for a mortgage lender a success.

How to shop for a mortgage lender

Know how much you can spend upfront. Before you ask for information from a lender, it's a good idea to know how much you can spend on a loan and the maximum monthly payment you can afford. This information will be crucial to your home search and negotiations, so review your budget beforehand. Get familiar with interest rates, too. Depending on the economy and if mortgage loan interest rates are high or low, this may impact how much you can spend on a home.

Get to know your loan options. Loan options include loan terms, interest rates, and the loan type. The loan term refers to the length of the loan, which may be 15 or 30 years. Shorter loans usually have higher monthly payments with lower interest rates. Interest rate types may be fixed or adjustable. Fixed-rate loans are lower risk but carry higher interest rates. Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) have lower interest rates, but the rates can change over time. Loan types may be conventional or part of a government program. A trustworthy mortgage lender can help you understand your options and choose the best loan for

Understand the difference between a broker and a lender. According to ConsumerFinance.gov, a lender is a bank or other financial institution that loans money directly to you. A broker acts as a middleman, comparing loan options on your behalf. The Federal Trade Commission adds, "It might not always be clear if you're dealing with a lender or a broker, so if you're not sure, ask." You'll want to know who you're working with since brokers usually pay a service fee separate from the lender's

fees. There are brokers and lenders, so evaluate those differences and see what works best for you.

Get information from multiple lenders and brokers before making a decision. The FTC advises getting as much information from each lender as possible. Keep your options open since different lenders may offer different rates. Ask about interest rates, loan types, annual percentage rates, points, down payments, mortgage insurance, and all other fees. This will help you get a clear view of the actual cost of the

Understand whether you should pay points. Your mortgage lender will likely give you the option of paying for discount points. Mortgage points are fees you pay a lender to reduce the interest rate on a mortgage. Typically, one discount point equals 1% of the mortgage amount and will reduce your interest rate by .25%. Depending on how long you plan to keep your home and your mortgage, this extra cost may or may not make sense. This calculator will help you figure that out.

Working with a broker? Make sure they find you the best deal. If you prefer to hire a broker to shop for loans for you, know that while brokers can access several lenders, they aren't obligated to find the best deal for you unless they sign a contract to act as your agent. Always ask questions and be sure you're comfortable with the loan you choose.

Be prepared to negotiate the best deal. Loan officers and brokers can keep some or all of the overages (the difference between the lowest available price and any higher price you agree to) of a loan as extra compensation. This means you can negotiate a price lower than what they initially offered. The best way to negotiate is to have the broker or lender give you a written list of all the costs and fees of the loan. Then, ask if they will reduce or waive completely one or more of the fees. You can also show them a competitor's offer to see if they will give you a better

Watch out for scams. Shopping around for a mortgage lender will help you get a general idea of how much a loan costs, which will help you spot and avoid any offers that seem too good to be true. Be wary of unsolicited calls and emails offering you great rates on a mortgage or «no-cost» loans. Never give in to high-pressure sales tactics. ConsumerFinance.gov warns about phishing scams where con artists attempt to divert your closing costs and down payment by suggesting you wire the money into a fraudulent account right before your loan closes. Never wire money until you verify the closing instructions in person with your trusted loan representatives.

20 32 59 60 62 63 41. Got through 36. Valentine's Day

43. They darken skin

45. In a harmful way

48. Form of weaving

49. City of Angels

hoopster

language

56. Sun up in New

50. Caucasian

55. Syngman

57. Paddled

60. Affirmative

59. Fishes

61. Nimble

62. Doctor of

Education

Republic

63. Soviet Socialist

64. A small island

CLUES ACROSS 1. Lions do it

5. In favor of 8. Rest here please (abbr.) 11. Pulpits

13. Leisure activity 14. Fertility god 15. Financial obligations 16. When you anticipate getting

somewhere 17. Spanish river 18. Sporting events 20. Type of tree 21. Ceased to be 22. Persons

25. Synthetic resin 30. Relates to photochemical reactions 31. Father

coach

CLUES DOWN 32. Former Cowboys 1. Cool! 2. Hebrew unit of 33. City in Finland measure 38. Run batted in 3. Swedish rock

4. College army 5. Favor over another Called it a career 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument

8. Israeli statesman 9. Hurries 10. Slog Korean president 12. Midway between south and southeast

> 14. Benedictine monk 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual 23. Family of regulator genes

24. Surrendering 25. Political action committee 26. S. American plant

27. Long-term memory 28. Bark

29. Breathes in 34. Take hold of

35. Everyone has one

53. __ Kristofferson, 54. A bad place to end up 58. MLBer Gordon

color

37. Drivers' licenses

and passports

40. Enters with force

41. One thousandth of

42. Deceased Chinese

44. Sugary secretion

39. Outer walls of

castles

an inch

politician

of plants

pleasure

48 Forest resident

51. Fashion accessory

45. Expressed

46. Shelter

47. Utilizes

52. A sharply

directiona

antenna

Public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S

SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Yvette M. Rioux a/k/a Yvette Rioux to Long Beach Mortgage Company dated August 8, 2006, recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16112, Page 540; said mortgage was then assigned to **Deutsche Bank National** Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-8 by virtue of an assignment dated March 4, 2014, and recorded in Book 20213, Page 393, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on May 16, 2024, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 57 Stafford Road o/k/a Stafford Springs Road o/k/a Route 32, Monson, MA 01057. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as

described in said mortgage: Two certain parcels of land, one on the westerly side of Stafford Road in Monson, Hampden County and located in the rear of the first described parcel, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE:

The land with building thereon, on the west side of said Stafford Road, o/k/a Stafford Springs Road, o/k/a Route 32 in said Monson, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound in the west side of Stafford Spring Road, said stone bound being at the northeast corner of land of one Rufus Blodgett and also at the southeast corner of the tract herein described; thence

S. 60° 18' 45" W. along land of said Rufus Blodgett, two hundred forty-seven and 45/100 (247.45) feet to an iron pin in a rock; thence

N. 51° 22' 45" W. along said last mentioned land, sixty-three and 89/100 (63.89) feet to an iron pin at Parcel Two herein; thence N. 20° 22' 41" E. along

said Parcel two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin; thence S. 86° 11' 24" E. along

said Parcel Two hundred fifty and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin in the west side of said Stafford Spring Road; SOUTHWESTERLY

along the curved line of Stafford Spring Road, having a radius of fourteen hundred ten (1410) feet, to an arc distance of forty-nine and 23/100 (49.23) feet to the point of tangent; thence

S. 28° 42' 02" W. along said Stafford Springs Road, one hundred and 77/100 (100.77) feet to the stone bound at the point of begin-

PARCEL TWO:

The land shown and designated as Parcel C on a plan by Sherman & Woods dated May 20, 1999 entitled "Plan of land in Monson, MA. Prepared for William Lemon Sr." recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 313, Page 26, being further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the westerly line of Stafford Road as shown on said plan at the northeasterly corner of Parcel One described above; thence

N. 86° 11' 24" W. Two hundred fifty and 95/100 (250.95) feet to an iron pin being the northwesterly corner of Parcel One described above; thence

S. 20° 22' 41" W. along the westerly line of said Parcel One described above two hundred forty-eight and 05/100 (248.05) feet to an iron pin located at the southwesterly corner of Parcel One described above, at land now or formerly of Ronald L. Brodeur et ux; thence

N. 55° 44' 41" W. along said Brodeur land one hundred twenty-three and 11/100 (123.11) feet to an iron pin; thence

N. 55° 29' 49" W. along land now or formerly of Shirley E. Blodgett Michaud as shown on said plan eight-seven and 93/100 (87.93) feet to an iron pin;

N. 51° 31' 57" W. again along said land of Michaud two hundred thirty-four and 09/100 (234.09) feet to an iron pin in the southerly line of Parcel B as shown on said plan; thence

N. 79° 33' 13" E. two hundred seventy-four and 65/100 (274.85) feet long the southerly line of said Parcel B to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: March 13, 2024 **Deutsche Bank National** Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-8 By its Attorney

DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 56271 (RIOUX A/K/A YVETTE RIOUX) 04/18, 04/25, 05/02/2024

Palmer Public Schools 4107 Main Street Palmer, MA 01069 REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION **SERVICES** Palmer Public Schools TIME, DATE AND PLACE FOR OPENING **OF QUOTES:**

The Palmer Public Schools will receive sealed quotes beginning on May 6, 2024 for the above-designated project associated with the Palmer Public Schools on behalf of the named School District until:

TIME: 11:00 AM DATE:

Monday, May 20, 2024

At the Office of the Superintendent, Palmer Public Schools, 4107 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069, at which time the bids will be publicly opened. The School bus transportation contract will be awarded under the provisions of Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Any bids received after 11:00 AM on Monday, May 20, 2024 will not be opened. Questions regarding the bid specifications must be emailed to Sara Menard, Director of Finance and Operations of the Palmer Public Schools, smenard@palmerSchools. org no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Responses will be emailed to all Contractors on the bid list no later than Friday, May 17, 2024.

05/02, 05/09, 5/16/2024

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.

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

Education with a TWIST



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão Bruce Rosenbaum demonstrated some of his steampunk creations, which are made from things like architectural salvage, antiques, and old machinery.



Full-size mannequins hang out in Rosenbaum's workshop.



Strung up on the wall of ModVic was machinery and bits of metal in the shape of a person.



Using the front of an old car, Rosenbaum created an elephant with light-up eyes and working sound effects.



as being about reappropriating old technology, and imagining it to do new and exciting things.

"What I do is I find objects, like architectural salvage, period antiques, machinery, and then transform it to tell the story of past, present, and future," Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum said that by repurposing old materials, the students will be able to stretch their creativity and problem-solving skills, helping to make them more innovative in their respective fields.

The program has developed over time, starting with a pilot program that ran at the end of last school year. Phelps has worked to coordinate student participation, gather and share student feedback, and act as the liaison between Sanderson MacLeod and the students.

"Though each student will be taking part in a paid Cooperative Education experience, this isn't just another educational program," Phelps said. "It's a once-inalifetime chance to dive into a realm of business and leadership education, hands-on technical learning, and unmatched mentorship."

Borsari described Sanderson McLeod as a twisted wire brush manufacturer that works specifically with large Original Equipment Manufacturers clients, including cosmetics, firearms, industrial equipment, and specialty products. The company doesn't sell its products in stores, but instead serves as the supply arm of most brushes sold domestically or internationally.

"This whole thing started with us about four or five years ago," Borsari said. "The idea came along where businesses used to make a real concerted effort to make sure the next generation was given an opportunity to get into a new career. There are so many programs out there that do that, so we thought to put local business leaders and educators and artists together and pick three or four kids a year who showed tremendous talent, and run them through a program that we wished we had when we had in high school."

Phelps said that participants get to engage in a real-world engineering design challenge that encompasses multiple facets of the engineering process.

"Collaborating as a team, students will work with mentors and experts to develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills," Phelps said. "The program also provides the students with leadership training, learning sessions with CEOs, and additional opportunities which expand the experience."

Borsari said that the connection with the community is tantamount to the TWIST program.

"We're doing this because we feel that, for American manufacturers, it's easy to get caught up in things that are working against us," Borsari said. "The fundamentals of doing something within the community and teaching young generation the importance of being able to make things; the goal isn't to expand this and do it with a lot of places, but more act as a model and prove to ourselves what we may be able to do."



Students pointed to the big globe as one of the more striking creations in Rosenbaum's shop.



Riley Olden and Zander Offrey admired Rosenbaum's artwork, and speculated as to the meanings of the symbols on the old elevator dial.



Rosenbaum's creations include lights and models to create a model ship out of repurposed materials.



A pigeon serves as the navigator for Rosenbaum's experimental aircraft.



Rosenbaum's tribute to H.G. Wells's Time Machine is housed on the upper floor of his workshop.



Most of the pieces on ModVic's upper floor are too difficult to move, with the exception of this Isaac Singer



Rosenbaum's tribute to H.G. Wells features lights and display screens, and a working propeller at the top.



Rosenbaum described this piece as a tribute to film, complete with old film reels and a Titanic pose refer-



Rosenbaum's creations include many imaginative uses of machinery to create various designs for vehicles and other crafts, complete with little pilots.

Car shows, climbs and cruisin'



The Wilbraham Hill Climb, the oldest hill climb in America dating back to 1908, will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



Pre-1959 vehicles get ready to face a 700 foot elevation gain as they vie for the best time up Monson Road in Wilbraham.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette Palmer Motorsports Park's Club Director Al Sandy (left) is shown with Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM/1025 AM and Jeff DeMarey, president of Stonewall Insurance Group and founder of the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation.

Palmer Motorsports Park announces new sponsor

> **By Paula Ouimette** pouimette@turley.com

PALMER - Get ready to start your engines, as car show season prepares to shift into high gear, bringing with it a new collaboration between Palmer Motorsports Park and Stonewall Insurance Group.

Palmer Motorsports Park is revving up for its ninth season since the track opened and has recently teamed up with Jeff DeMarey, president of Stonewall Insurance Group in Wilbraham to put on three benefit car shows.

"The track is going to be a great partner," DeMarey said.

Helping to bring them together was the Pioneer Valley's "King of Cruise" himself, Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM/1250 AM.

Marshall will be live broadcasting from all three benefit car shows, in addition to over 20 other shows and regular weekly cruise nights across the region.

On Wednesday, May 22, the first of this year's All Wheels Car Show returns to Palmer Motorsports Park to benefit the Palmer Food Share and the Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry, as well as DeMarey's nonprofit organization, Springfield to Boston Education Foundation. Gates open at 3 p.m. and the show runs from 4 p.m. until

Palmer Motorsports Park Club Director Al Sandy, said the All Wheels Car Show (which will also be held on Wednesdays, July 10 and Aug. 21) is not only a way to support local charities, but also allow the public to experience the thrill of Whiskey

Admission to the All Wheels Car Show is \$10 per car, or three nonperishable food items. The track is located at 58 West Ware Road.

DeMarey, like Sandy and Marshall, has always had a love for classic and vintage cars which he has used to shape his career in the insurance agency under Stonewall Insurance Group, which he founded in 2008.

Stonewall is an independent insurance agency that provides coverage for home, auto, boat and business, and specializes in classic and collector car insurance.

DeMarey enjoys sharing his love of cars with his customers and those around him, which inspired him to start the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation five years ago. The foundation strives to educate students on all levels about antique transportation, including maintenance and repairs.

"It just keeps growing and growing," he said.

DeMarey and his foundation are also the driving force behind the Wilbraham Hill Climb, the oldest hill

climb in America that is steeper than Pike's Peak. The climb ascends Monson Road, with a 23% grade and a 700 foot elevation gain.

First started in 1908, the hill climb was a way for auto manufacturers to test and show off their cars. The cars were timed over a measured mile, with the Knox Automobile clocking the best time in the inaugural event with 1 minute and 8 seconds, with an average speed of 52.9 mph and Stevens-Duryea winning the most events with seven victories.

"They all used it as a test track," DeMarey said. "It was also bragging rights."

By the 1950s, the hill climb had stopped up until 2013 when Wilbraham resident George Holman brought it back for the town's 250th anniversary celebration, keeping it going bi-annually up until the pandemic.

In 2022, Holman asked DeMarey to take over as chair of the event, and together they decided to make it a bigwith the local high school, vendors, museums, food trucks, as well as offering a plant and craft sale.

"The event is just a lot of great fun and gets the community involved," he said.

This year, the Wilbraham Hill Climb will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., rain or

The hill climb itself will take place from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., starting at 26 Monson Road and ending at 252 Monson Road in Wilbraham, with the winners announced at 2 p.m. The plant and craft sale will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the lawn of Wilbraham United Church.

A car show featuring over 350 show cars of all makes, models and eras, including unique and rare cars, will be held along Main Street and at Wilbraham Monson Academy from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Seven auto museums from across the northeast are also

planning to attend the event.

Food trucks will be parked between 480 Main Street from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and spectator parking is available at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Sandy said Palmer Motorsports Park will be doing a demo run of the hill climb with some of its drivers and racecars at this year's event, including Sandy number of champion drivers.

"This is going to get bigger and bigger every year," Sandy said

of the hill climb. DeMarey said there are over 20 plus vintage cars registered to compete in this year's hill climb, which is

fore 1959. DeMarey thanked the event's sponsors, including LUSO

only open to ve-

hicles made be-

ger, community event by partnering Federal Credit Union, along with town departments and the community for helping make the event a continued success.

In addition to the All Wheels Car Show, Stonewall Insurance Group is also a sponsor for Palmer Motorsports Park's annual Military Appreciation Day with Race Cars for a Cause on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Veterans, active military, law enforcement and immediate family members are invited to ride along with Club drivers along the 2.3 mile racetrack. Military, law enforcement and all proper identification is required.

About the sponsors

For more information about Stonewall Insurance Group, visit stonewallinsurancegroup.com or find them on social media. For more information about the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation or the Wilbraham Hill Climb, visit www. springfieldtoboston.com and www. wilbrahamhillclimb.com.

Find Marshall at area car shows and cruise nights including the Minnechaug Car Show in Wilbraham on May 25, Heritage Woods in Agawam on June 8, the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club in North Brookfield on June 22, Cedarbrook Village in Ware on July 13, Oakholm Brewery in Brookfield on July 20, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery in Hardwick on Aug. 10, the Blandford Fair in Blandford on Sept. 2, Christopher Heights Cars and Coffee in Belchertown on Sept. 8, St. Francis of Assisi Cars and Coffee in Belchertown on Sept. 14, All Makes and Models at Moose Center in Chicopee on Oct. 5 and the Brimfield Winery Car Show in Brimfield on Oct. 12.

Cruise nights are held on Fridays himself and a at Brimfield Winery now through Sept. 27.

> Find him on Facebook under "Cruisin' with Bruce Marshall" or online at classichits977.com for a complete schedule.

About Palmer Motorsports Park

Palmer Motorsports Park has been rated "One of the top 10 road courses in North America" by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course draw club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

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of clicking on the link in the text message, go to your web browser, find the toll service's actual website, and log in to your account to verify if you have any outstanding toll payments.

Another way to verify this is by calling the toll service's customer service line.

Do not call the phone number that texted you or any phone numbers included in the text message. Instead, find the toll service's legitimate phone number on their website.

Know the warning signs of a fake text. If you receive an unusual text message, there are several things

to look for to help you identify if it's fake. Read BBB's tips on spotting the red flags of fake text messages.

Don't click on links or download files that are unexpectedly texted to you. It may be hard to identify if a link sent in a text message is safe. Scammers can disguise a URL to appear legitimate when it isn't.

Block the number and delete the message. Do not engage with the scammer if you think you received a fake text message. Instead, block the phone number and delete the text message.

Refusing to engage and blocking the phone number can help prevent scammers from contacting you

If you receive a text message impersonating a road toll collection service, report it. You can file a report with BBB Scam Tracker at www.bbb.org to help warn others about this new scam.

In addition, file a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at ic3.gov.