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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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HEALTH

QHSUA welcomes new director, Emily Kirby

By Paula Ouimette
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Members of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance welcomed the new Prevention Director, Emily Kirby, following the retirement of Gail Gramarossa.

At the May 13 meeting, Kirby introduced herself and shared information about her education and experience with substance use and harm reduction.

"We are in a complete void," Kirby said, in terms of harm reduction in the Quaboag Hills area.

Kirby said there is no local access to syringes, with the closest being Amherst and Worcester. She said there is also a need for more sharps disposals.

Kirby grew up in Berkshire County and has a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a master's degree in public health and public policy. She has worked for WIC, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Berkshire Harm Reduction.

"I've had a lot of hands-on experience in harm reduction," Kirby said.

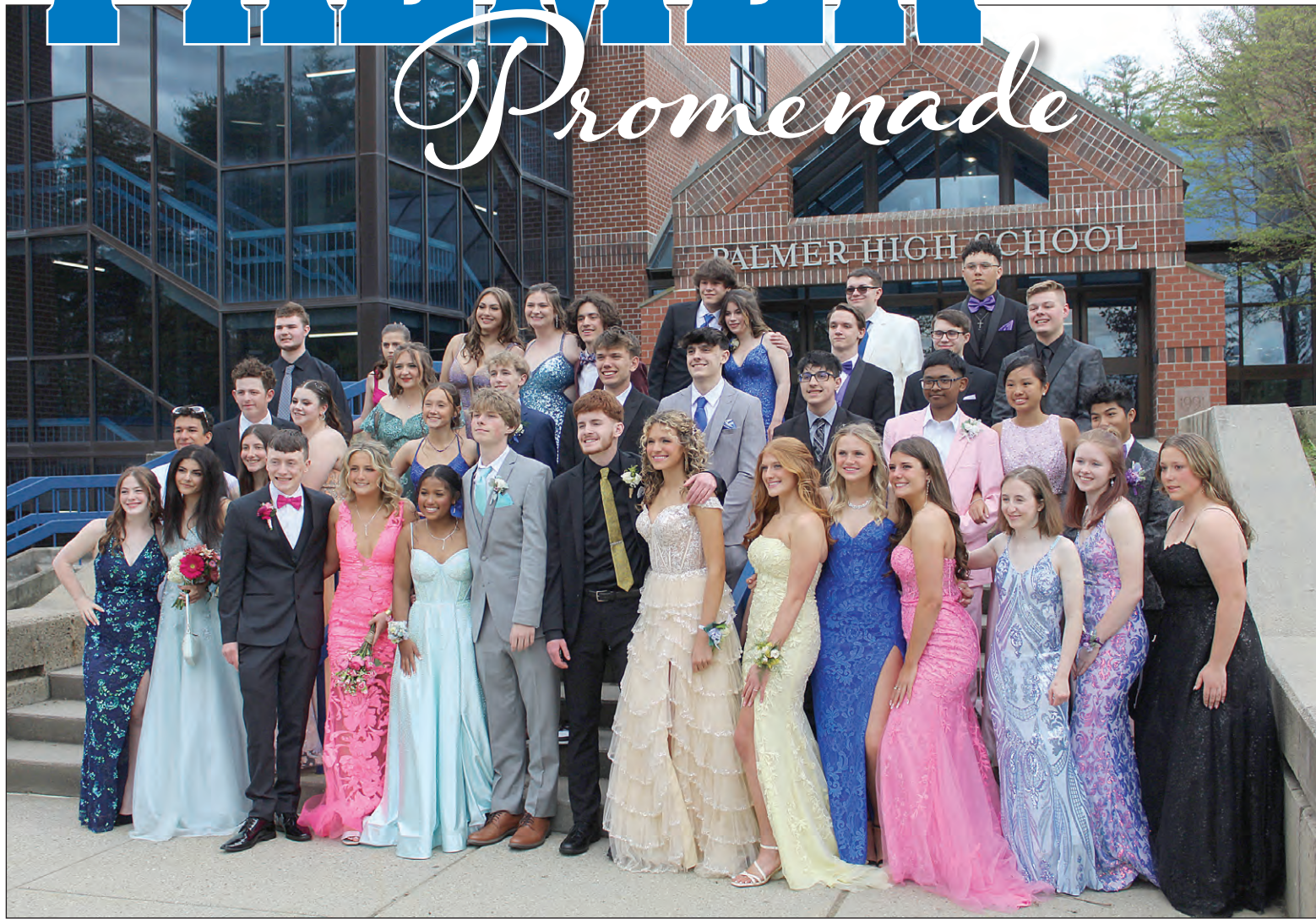
Recovery Center of HOPE update

Community Engagement Coordinator for QHSUA Abaigeal Duda said the Recovery Center of HOPE is an all pathways, regional recovery center on Main Street in Ware.

The idea to create the center (as well as the QHSUA) was discussed 10 years ago by the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition, as a way to address the opioid crisis and substance use.

QHSUA | page 5

PALMER Promenade



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Juniors and seniors gathered on the school steps to take one big picture together before heading to the Harding Allen Estate for their prom.

Juniors and Seniors unite for First Integrated Promenade

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Last Friday, students at the High School gathered on the steps of their campus to take pictures ahead of going to the prom.

The Promenade involved pictures on the steps of the school and the announcement of the attendees in the auditorium before the students departed to the venue for the prom. This year's prom was

held at the Harding Allen Estate in Barre.

School Committee member Bonny Rathbone, whose granddaughter Madison was attending this year's prom as a junior, noted that for the first time, the school was integrating the junior and senior classes into one prom.

"It gives them one more opportunity to get together with their friends," Rathbone said.

Inside, parents and faculty gathered in the auditorium to watch their students parade across

the stage. As students were announced, the students emerged from behind the curtain, striking poses with their dates and friends.

Prom has been a long-standing tradition at American high schools, providing students with an opportunity to celebrate with their classmates before graduation and summer vacation. The students from the high school arrived in party buses and wore black ties, evening jackets, and beautiful prom dresses for a night of dinner and dancing to close out the

school year of 2024.

The now 100-year-old Harding Allen Estate is a popular wedding and event venue, which, through its architecture, evokes nostalgia for the style and opulence of the Roaring Twenties when it was built.

"Our walled gardens and variety of outdoor spaces for guests provide plenty of space for personalizing your wedding, whether you're looking for a glamorous or rustic event," its website reads.

PROM | page 6

CONSERVATION

Culvert repair project has been 'put on ice'

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – At the May 7 Conservation Commission meeting, it was announced the ongoing culvert project will be too expensive for the town to pursue for the time being.

The town has been pursuing repairs to its many culverts, which are structures designed to channel water past obstacles such as streets or bridges into rivers or subterranean waterways. At the recent Conservation Commission meeting, Conservation Agent Justin Enright had some disappointing updates for the project.

"The project has been kind of put on ice for a little bit," Enright said, "until we can regroup and figure out a way to move the project forward."

Enright said that previous Conservation Agents had noticed infrastructure and stream-crossing problems that, if fixed, could potentially improve infrastructure as well as passage through certain stream systems. The project came under the purview of the Department of Public Works, and so the two departments have been working together to secure funding to make the repairs.

"A lot has happened since their time in the seat of Conservation Agent, including the whole pandemic," Enright said, adding "potential barriers with former engineers that were on the project and

CULVERT | page 14

EDUCATION

Students honored in awards ceremony for National Technical Honors Society

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – Last Wednesday, Pathfinder Technical Vocational School held an awards ceremony for its students being entered into the National Technical Society.

People are more likely to take steps forward on a path if they see footprints from others on the ground

— Eric Duda.

school, just shy of the school's record a few years ago at 57.

"I stand before you with a sense of pride and connection, as I was inducted into the National Technical

NTHS, symbolism of its logo. Interim Principal Brenda Turner then led the Candlelight Ceremony, in which School Committee members lit candles onstage that signified each of



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Abigail Mudgett received a pin from her sister to signify her induction into the NTHS.

Honor Society at this very school, in almost this exact location, 25 years ago," Duda said in his speech at the ceremony. "Being a part of NTHS remains one of the most cherished memories of my high school years."

Following Duda's initial welcoming statements, Cooperative Education Director Caitlin Phelps spoke about the purposes of the

the values promoted by NTHS.

"Perseverance, achievement, teamwork, and honor; sound familiar?" Turner asked. "I sure hope so; these are the core values at Pathfinder Tech, our path to professionalism. You all are shining examples of exactly what we are all about."

PATHFINDER | page 15

POLICE



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

The organizers posed with the guest of honor, (from left) Josette Before, Cameron Prosperi, and Dan Moore.

Friends and family support Cameron Prosperi at Pulaski Park benefit

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – At Pulaski Park last week, an event was held to benefit Wilbraham police officer Cameron Prosperi after he was shot and injured while on duty.

The benefit was held on Saturday, May 11 featuring live music, food trucks, a bounce house, face-painting, and socialization between people from the various communities touched by Prosperi throughout his years in the area.

Josette Before, who was closely involved in planning for

the event, said that she was motivated to launch a benefit after her cousin's accident.

"Cameron is my cousin," Before said. "I didn't have siblings growing up, so he's more like an older brother to me."

Before said that after Prosperi | page 7



Pet of the Week



RELISH

Relish is a rescued nine-year-old with a sister, Pickles. 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 journalregister@turley.com.

State Auditor seeks signatures for ballot question

By Paula Ouimette
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WEST BROOKFIELD – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has one wish for her birthday on June 5, and that's to gain the 13,000 signatures needed to get a question on the November ballot.

This ballot question would allow voters to compel the Legislature to be audited. The audit would be performative, and also look at how tax dollars are being spent.

"This is the same type of audit we do for every other entity," DiZoglio said. "Legislature is the only one refusing."

Last fall, over 75,000 residents across the commonwealth signed a petition after DiZoglio's request to audit the Senate and the House of Representatives was denied by the House Speaker and Senate President.

DiZoglio and her office staff have been traveling to towns and cities, asking for help to collect the necessary signatures before the deadline, making a stop in West Brookfield on May 5.

DiZoglio said she has a "deep love and affection" for policy making and transparency in the Legislature, after spending six years as a state representative and four years as a state senator before taking her current office in 2023.

"We do so many great things here in Massachusetts," DiZoglio said.

Despite this, the commonwealth is ranked one of the least transparent state governments, she said.

"As your state auditor I've been given the really unique opportunity to have a platform; a singular voice," she said. "We need transparency. There are a lot of tough conversations that need to be had."

DiZoglio said she has been reflecting on the saying, "knowledge is power," and she feels that this applies to a legislative audit, and how its results will spread knowledge and power back to the voters.

"I've seen knowledge hoarded, essentially, by people in power," she said. "If we have knowledge about state budget and government, we



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
State Auditor Diana DiZoglio speaks with residents at the West Brookfield Town Hall on May 5. DiZoglio is seeking signatures to get a question on the November ballot regarding an audit of the state Legislature.

have an opportunity to join in – to rise against or support."

DiZoglio said her office works to "bring light" to over 200 state entities. She is it is common practice in many other states to audit the Legislature regularly as well.

"The decisions that impact us all should be made in the light of say," she said.

DiZoglio said no system is perfect, but that the government should strive to be better.

"Our goal and our mission is to help," she said of the State Auditor's office. "To make sure everyday people get the best services."

DiZoglio said the government cannot improve its service to constituents if potential problems can't be identified and addressed. She said it's "deeply concerning" that her office's efforts to get access to the Legislature have been demonized and talked down about.

"It doesn't say a lot of good things about how our system is running. What is there to hide?" she said.

DiZoglio said there have been 113 audits of the Legislature completed by her office dating back to 1849. Now, they are unable to get access to information about public tax dollars, she said.

DiZoglio said the audit is a nonpartisan issue, and it's more about those who have power and those who do not.

"Leadership has a lot of power," she said.

Retaliation is also a common occurrence in the Legislature, DiZoglio said, adding that this behavior is "unacceptable."

She said retaliation directed at herself personally is missing the mark, and coming back on the voters who elected her.

"This is something that need to be talked about over and over again...This is not the Massachusetts we know and love," she said.

DiZoglio urged residents to "have a seat at the table" before decisions are made in the Legislature, asking them to help gather the remaining signatures for the ballot question before the June 5 deadline.

"You have the power to make change. I cannot do this without you," she said.

For more information about the audit or to sign the State Auditor's petition, visit dianaforma.com. For more information about the State Auditor's office and its role in state government, visit www.mass.gov/org/office-of-the-state-auditor.

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 in 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 on 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 p.m.

The flags will be available for pick up from May 31 - June 2, 2024 at the Amvets 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.

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.

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, 1 seat, 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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Monson Health Wellness Fair

MONSON— The Monson Board of Health Wellness Fair is May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, 198 Main St. The event is open to the public at no charge. The Wellness Fair will include participation from at least 20 local organizations with interactive demonstrations. There will be activities for all ages. For information or questions please call Mary Farrin 413-205-6691 or Joan Simmons 413-206-8560.

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.

Call Grand Knight Paul Harper To Reserve Your Spot: 413-537-3422

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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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Special Olympics dedicated in honor of David Peritz



Matteo Teixeira and Nicole Chambers were excited to cross the track field during the Special Olympics.



Submitted photos

Monson Public Schools students waved to the camera as they walked along the track.



Violet Bartlett was able to keep up with Jenna Goodreau as they followed the Granite Valley track.



Monson students Alex Sweet and Teddy Sullivan squinted in the sunlight to get their picture taken.

VIP students Pete Jones and Collin Medeiros struck a pose with a police officer.



Director of Special Education discusses the planning and benefits of the annual Special Olympics

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – The annual Special Olympics were recently held on the lawn of Granite Valley School, which unites students from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Wilbraham for a celebration of inclusivity and diversity for the region's students.

Colette Bidus is the Director of Special Education for the Monson schools, a position she has held for two years. Bidus has been in Monson for her entire career, starting as a teacher before moving into the leadership position.

"It was a fantastic day," Bidus said. "We had about 275 students able to come participate from six different districts and programs. It's become an event that all the districts look forward to each year; high schoolers come and act as student leaders as well as participants in the opening ceremony."

Bidus said that the festival was following "another great year of student participation," and that she was "looking forward to another one next year."

"The day is really all about students," Bidus said. "It's an opportunity for students with and without disabilities to compete alongside each other."

As the Director of Special Education, Bidus has to do a lot of planning to arrange the Special Olympics.

"It's a full year of planning," Bidus said. "We have a fantastic committee of service providers and special education teachers that work as a team to be able to bring the event to fruition."

Bidus said that putting on the athletic festival involves a lot of community support, donations, and fundraising throughout the year. The committee collects nominations of athletes and unified partners and contacts the different districts, including reaching out to local government officials, the County Sheriff's Department, and the first responders and any town officials that like to attend the annual event.

"This year was really special, because we dedicated games in honor of David Peritz," Bidus said. "He was a really highly regarded special education teacher in Palmer schools, and the community tragically lost him last summer, so we wanted to honor his memory for all the students he represented."

Bidus said the school partners with Special Olympics in order to foster a more inclusive environment, which includes incorporating unified physical education classes, and a celebration of all the events that happen throughout the school year.

"We see a benefit for students with and without disabilities in events like this," Bidus said. "It gives students with disabilities a chance to participate right alongside their peers, to feel included and that sense of belonging. For students without, we see them thriving and learning social skills and empathy, seeing how they include all peers to create an inclusive setting for everyone."

Bidus talked about the student club that she helps run that's dedicated to this cause, the Leadership Inclusion Fun and Teamwork Club.

"At Granite Valley School we have an inclusion club called LIFT," Bidus said. "It's really looking to work toward inclusive youth leadership."

The LIFT club is involved in many activities and events throughout the school year, such as involvement with the School Committee. The high school students

have worked toward bringing unified basketball into the district, so that all students have the opportunity to compete alongside their peers against other districts.

"Next year, we're hoping to bring in the Polar Plunge, so students can participate in that as one of our fundraising events," Bidus said.

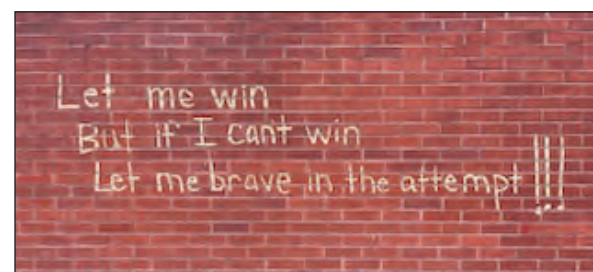
The Polar Plunge is a mobile event involved with the Special Olympics where people jump into freezing cold water. Bidus said that districts will hold a Polar Plunge to raise funds and awareness around inclusive programming, and that the school hopes to partner with them next school year to bring the day of fun and participation to its students and staff.

Bidus said that in addition to the School Committee members in Monson, that Occupational Therapist Alina Lillis took on a leadership role this year, and was a large part of making sure everything came together.

Bidus concluded with a special thanks to the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, who she said is "always a great supporter, with emotional support dogs, horses, and officers to help with opening ceremonies."

Bidus also thanked the first responders who attended, and representatives from Representative Brian Ashe's office and Senator Ryan Fattman's office.

"We wanted to say thank you to them for taking the time to do that," Bidus said.



The Athlete's Oath of the Special Olympics was written on a brick wall to encourage the Olympians.



A parade of participants brought a torch during the opening ceremonies.



Hampden County Sheriff's Department officers, police officers, and first responders from the represented districts took a photo with 2002 Olympian Tiffany Scott-Pryor, along with Collin Medeiros and Pete Jones.

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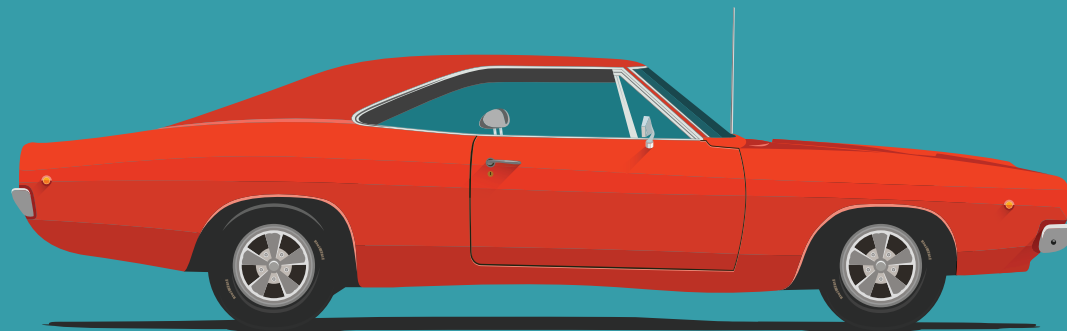
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Viewpoints



Future retiree worried about Social Security's future

Dear Rusty

I keep reading that the SSA will only be able to pay out 75% of benefits come 2033.

If congress were to do nothing and this reduction in benefits occurred, would seniors already collecting benefits in 2033 have their benefits reduced or would it only be those who have not begun to collect have their future benefits reduced? I will be collecting my benefits no later than 2027, but my wife will not reach full retirement age until 2033 and we are looking for information on whether we need to adjust savings now to account for mine or my wife's possible reduction in benefits.

Signed: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior

If Congress does nothing to prevent Social Security's reserves from depletion, Social Security, by law, will only be able to pay out benefits equal to income, which is estimated to be about 23% to 25% short of what will be needed to pay full benefits starting in 2033.

That would mean everyone who is already receiving monthly Social Security benefits would get a payment 23% to 25% less than they were previously receiving. And without reform, new beneficiaries would get benefits similarly reduced.

The action needed to prevent those cuts from happening resides with Congress and any program reform they enact would likely only affect those who are not yet collecting. Whether or how that would affect you and your wife as future SS beneficiaries depends on the scope of reform Congress will enact which, of course, is not yet known. That uncertainty, itself, is reason enough to bolster your savings for your future retirement.

The probability of Congress allowing the Trust Funds to be depleted, thus necessitating an across the board cut in everyone's benefit is, in my opinion, slim it would be political suicide. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial woes they just currently lack the bipartisanship and political fortitude to do so. And it's doubtful any Social Security reform will happen this election year rather, the opposing sides will likely just sling accusations at each other in 2024. But rest assured that both sides of Congress are acutely aware that reform of the Social Security program is needed soon, and we are already seeing signs that progress on reform may be forthcoming, but not until after the 2024 elections.

Congress is notorious for waiting until the last possible moment to act, and I don't suggest you alter your Social Security claiming strategy based on the unknown. But building a bigger nest egg for retirement is always a prudent goal. Also, calling your Congressional Representative to endorse needed Social Security reform which ensures your future benefits will not be cut would be a good move.

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.



Memories on Mother's Day

I came across the column below and it brought back a wonderful memory of my oldest daughter being a year old and her having a fascination with pansy faces.

Fast forward to Mother's Day 2024, 16 years later, and I find a vase of fragrant double narcissus "Bridal Crown" and lilacs in my bedroom from said child. How sweet.

But before I even found and read the column, I was seriously thinking about devoting one of my perennial borders to a garden of memories. Most of the plants in my landscape hold special meaning anyway, but a garden devoted to my childhood would be neat.

It was certainly those early experiences that shaped my career and honestly my life in general. Maybe you can relate.

Read on for a "blast from the past."

Gardening was a big part of my childhood. Our backyard, while under an acre in size, was immense to me, full of nooks and crannies to explore.

We had a rock garden, and garden on a banking, a garden devoted to annuals, and of course, a vegetable garden. We also had a few choice flowering plants and shrubs just outside of the screened porch and fruit trees and bushes tucked in here and there.

One of my favorite spring pastimes as a kid was to pick little bouquets of lily of the valley, lilacs or peonies and place them around the house. I also enjoyed moving plants from one place to another in the yard.

My mom is reminded of one of my adventures in transplanting each time the lawn mower maneuvers around a clump of lilacs planted smack dab in the middle of the upper landing.

Most of the flowering perennials we had were handed down from my mother's grandmother ("Babci") or her Aunt Julia. They aren't rare by any means, but to know they came from a line of strong women before me makes me want to pass these same plants on to my daughter.

My daughter is just over a year old and she has already taken an interest in flowers. This, of course, has made me very happy.

She points them out on her shirt or in books, and each time we stroll around the yard she clamors relentlessly until I give her a stem or two to hold. Recently, a single pansy face held her attention long enough for me to actually do some work in the garden...nothing short of a miracle for a busy little girl like her!

When she is a bit older I think it would be fun to plant a memory garden. In it we could commemorate five generations of flowers and the ladies who grew them.

First, I would include all of the heirloom flowers that my mom has tended over the years originating from her grandmother and aunt's garden: the deep purple bearded iris, the sweetly scented lemon lily and frilly pink peony. Then I'd add her favorites, the flowers I remember her growing in the valley and candytuft.

Next would be my contribution, pretty primroses that originated in England and double columbines that I started from seed several seasons ago. My daughter could add her favorites too - this year pansies would have certainly made the cut!

Fast forward to the present day, Mother's Day 2024. Why not consider installing a memory garden of your own?

If you aren't lucky enough to have family heirlooms already growing in place, ask your mom or grandma what their favorite plants are and go from there. I'm sure that many are still available for purchase.

Involve the kids by making stepping stones, plant labels and other simple ornaments to decorate the space. Tailor the design to suit your taste - it certainly doesn't have to be grandiose, just special, like the gardeners who came before us.

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.



Mute Swan

Two Rutland residents and my daughter spotted a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland.

Mute swans are about 55 inches in length and are white. The bill is pink to orange with a black knob at the base. They swim with their neck held in an S curve and with the wings slightly raised over their back. Immature swans keep their brownish feathers for a full-year.

Mute swans are beginning to aggressively compete for food with other waterfowl. They eat the leafy parts of fresh and salt water plants as well as algae and waste grain.

The female lays four to eight pale, grayish eggs in a nest, which is a large pile of vegetation lined with feathers placed near the water. Mute swans are native to Great Britain and Europe and were brought to the United States in the 1800s. These swans are usually seen at parks, but they are also in the wild.

They got their name because they are usually silent. Mute swans do not have the same vocal structure as native swans and can only make hissing and snorting sounds.

Nesting bluebirds

I received this email from an Oakham resident. He said "Two months ago I repaired an old bird nest box and placed it in an apple tree. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds took to it, going in and out with nesting material." He said, "Today, from my kitchen window, I admired the male, perched at the corner of the deck rail. It was scanning the lawn for prey items. It flew to the ground and returned to the perch with what appeared to be a beetle. The male then flew off with it."

"Moments later, the female landed at the exact same perch and, like the male, was scanning the lawn. It spotted a prey item and returned with it to the perch: it looked like another beetle. The female then exhibited the crouched fluttering posture, like a hungry hatchling. Within seconds, the male appeared and was given the insect by the female. As many of you know, the male of most (but not all) bird species feeds the female during courtship."

More birds

A Brimfield resident sent some of the birds he has seen in an email dated April 29. He said, "Today in the yard, male ruby-throated hummingbird and male rose-breasted grosbeak. I rushed to put a couple of feeders out. I had planned to do that next week but the hummingbirds got here earlier that expected."

He also had a turkey wander through the yard: a couple have been irregular visitors lately. Other back yard sightings were red-winged blackbirds and a cowbird pair as well as a Carolina wren.

He said, "Ospreys in Wilbrham and Warren are sitting on nest as are the great blue herons in Warren. I have to get to the Monson rookery soon to see what is going on there."

He also said, "Some members of the Allen Bird Club are monitoring peregrine falcon nest and at one of the sites I'm watching, my wife and I saw three for sure and maybe four chicks in a nesting box setup by Mass Fish and Wildlife."

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

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Life Together

Ramadan began March 7 and lasted until April 9.

This Muslim time of fasting and prayer is a discipline of purity and awareness. The word Ramadan literally means, "scorching heat."

This spring time is the time for awakening and redemption.

I walked through the streets of Old Jerusalem, and at 5:43 p.m. saw the families breaking their fast since 4:57 a.m. They were gathered in the back of their shop, and I could see their whole family sharing a meal at the end of another day.

Today there is no food in Gaza, no breaking fast, breaking bread.

Ramadan urges believers to live with discipline and these values: no drinking alcohol, fasting during the day, trust in Allah, creating healthy habits, focusing on spirituality, obeying Allah's commands, learning self-discipline, breaking unhealthy cycles, building God-consciousness and developing as a person.

Ramadan is usually at the same time as

the Christian time of Lent and Easter. A similar theme in Lent is the fasting of Ramadan; and the time of Easter is a time of rededication to new life.

The rhythm of sacred days, of most religious expressions, are grounded in the reality of repentance to renewal, from darkness to light, from despair to hope. This rhythm is like the beat of a heart; pumping life through the person to sustain life.

For those whom there is no religious expression, our humanity brings us to the reality that whatever we do or do not believe, is subject to this fundamental rhythm of life and death.

When we take time to be in a space that allows for the quiet peace we seek, we experience a time of respite. Whether Ramadan or Lent-Easter, or no ritual, we discover that our fear and anxiety block us from experiencing the deeper presence of the Holy.

I often struggle with the need for discipline in my life. It can be messy and unfinished. It is frustrating when my thoughts and feelings flood my awareness and am distracted.

What if there were a way to be fully aware and experience the joy of living?

What if we experienced the peace we seek through meditation, and focus our attention on being fully aware and awake? Meditation does not eliminate any religious expression, it may, like Lent and Ramadan, deepen our peace.

Where do you find a "moment of peace?" What discipline do you practice to engender healthy God-consciousness? What discipline do you practice to repair our broken world?

As we move through these days of introspection and honesty, may we find the peace we seek.

Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn

Minister, Therapist, Consultant
Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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A Turley Publications, Inc. Community Newspaper

QHSUA | from page 1

"They started a group that eventually became the QH-SUA and one of their main goals was to start a recovery center," Duda said.

Duda said the members did a lot of hard work, and now there is the Recover Center of Hope at 52 and 78 Main St., which is overseen by the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium.

"This wouldn't have happened without them. Now, they do such a good job making sure this continues," Duda said of the consortium.

Duda said the best thing about the center is the feeling you get when you walk through the door.

"These are great people, and it makes all the difference," Duda said.

Representing the Recovery Center of HOPE were Julie Lutz, Operations & Administration Coordinator and Susan Daley, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator.

Daley said the center is truly a community, and it is run by people in recovery, as well as friends, family members and allies.

Lutz said the center provides social support for people in recovery.

"Our peer recovery center supports people on their recovery journey...to move forward and build a meaningful life in recovery," she said.

Lutz said substance use affects all people in one way or another, and that the center provides an environment where people can engage in safe dialogue.

"We always welcome nonjudgemental and compassionate curiosity," she said. Lutz said All Recovery meetings are inclusive and nondenominational.

Daley said peers determine what, when and how activities are offered at the center. Hours at the center have also increased significantly, offering support Monday through Saturday.

All Recovery meetings are held Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m., with additional times on Tuesday at 4 p.m., Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. A Wellness Hour is held on Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

Coffee hours are held on Mondays from 1-2 p.m. and a book club has started on the first and third Monday of each month at 2 p.m. A peer-led writing group meets on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Game nights provide fun for the whole family on the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. Community Growth Meetings to develop new ideas and make important decisions for the center are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Snack and Spruce gives the community a chance to enjoy snacks and music while they clean the center on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

"We just kind of take care of the space that takes care of us," Lutz said.

Art hour is held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and Feel Good Fridays offer food and fellowship each Friday at 10:30 a.m. A Women's Recovery Circle is held on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

Lutz and Daley said the center also helps people connect with important resources with the help of Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger of the Quabbin Health District for "Ask the Nurse" on the second Friday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Krieger provides blood pressure, blood sugar and wound checks, as well as confidential consultations for health issues, nutrition, foot care, cardiovascular and respiratory health, immunization and vaccines, diabetes management, women's health, mental health and more.

Community Resource Assistance for people living in Hampshire County is offered every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. Staff can assist with MassHealth, SNAP benefits, advocacy, detox, substance use programs, resume building, job searches, job applications, interview preparation and provide housing information.

Transportation is another area the Recovery Center of HOPE can assist people in recovery with, through use of its Guiding Rides van.

Lutz said transportation is "extremely challenging and a tremendous barrier," not only for treatment, but also to meet basic daily needs such as grocery shopping and laundry. The van even takes weekly shopping trips to Walmart and monthly trips to Trader Joe's.

"We're really willing to go anywhere," Lutz said. "It's made a big difference already."

John Morello's performance of 'Dirt' Performer John Morello spoke with members of the alliance about his performance "Dirt" which has been presented at schools across the country and in Canada.

Duda said "Dirt" covers a number of issues young people face, including bullying, substance use and mental health. "He's been kind of taking our area by storm," Duda said. Morello is set to perform next at Ware Public Schools on May 23.

Morello talked about his recent performance at North Brookfield Public Schools, which kicked off Student Wellness Week in the school district.

QHSUA member and organizer of the North Brookfield event, Sue Lewandowski, said two students came forward to talk about what they are going through after watching Morello's performance.

Nekr Jenkins of Q-Drug said students at the Quabbin Regional School District still talk about "Dirt" two years after Morello's visit.

An actor and stand-up comic, Morello wrote "Dirt" as a one-person show that touched on his life experiences. Morello said he grew up with addiction in his family and he wanted to explore how he made it out, and how others didn't.

"I wanted to address some of those things I was feeling," he said.

The show, which features a series of intertwined monologues, was never intended to be a school performance. After a teacher saw it performed in a theater, she invited Morello to bring "Dirt" to the schools.

"It really took off with the students," Morello said. "When you make yourself vulnerable and make it a story and not a lecture...I think it makes it more accessible to kids and they appreciated that I wasn't talking down to them. It's a great conversation starter."

Morello said he has tried not to change "Dirt", which he has performed over the last 20 years.

"I just kept on doing my show and spoke my truth," Morello said. "With the idea that the right people will get it and the right people will connect with it."

Morello said he talks a lot about mental health, both through the characters and his own personal experiences.

"Talking about struggles gives us all hope," Morello said.

Credit for Life fair takes place at Tantasqua



Tantasqua seniors Ryan, Jace and Aaron were ready to try out the fair and learn how to manage their finances better for the future.



Seniors of Tantasqua, Quaboag and North Brookfield high schools were about to begin their exercise in the Credit for Life fair.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Tantasqua High School Principal Pete Dufresne and Jodie Gerulaitis of Country Bank welcome students to the Credit for Life fair that took place at the Tantasqua High School gymnasium.



Tantasqua seniors enjoyed the company of friends during the Credit for Life fair.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Tantasqua Regional High School hosted the Credit for Life fair last week welcoming hundreds of high school students.

The senior classes of Tantasqua, Quaboag, and North Brookfield schools gathered at the gymnasium where dozens of volunteers were prepared to assist the students in the fair. Credit for Life is where students learn the real-life budgeting and money management skills they will use throughout their lifetime.

Tantasqua High School Principal Peter Dufresne welcomed the students and volunteers. He described the Credit for Life fair as a "real world simulation of how to work your finances."

Dufresne commented on how great the fair is and encouraged all the seniors to learn as much as possible. If Credit for Life had existed when he was a student, Dufresne admitted that he would've wanted to experience it.

"I wish I had this when I was in high school," Dufresne said.

Dufresne introduced Jodie Gerulaitis, the Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank. Gerulaitis also encouraged the students to enjoy the simulation, learn what they can and understand the importance of credit and keeping a budget.

The students visited every booth and after drawing a random credit score and choosing a job in the exercise. Not all credit scores were good, but Gerulaitis encouraged students to make it work no matter how high or low their selected credit score was.

"This is a good experience to what you'll be involved with in the future," Gerulaitis said.

Ellis Cropper was one of the volunteers at the credit booth and explained how credit scores impact many necessities in life adults will need.

"Credit scores affect every element," Cropper said. "Approval for car loans, mortgages, interest rates, etc."

One of the booths that can be impacted by credit is insurance. The insurance booth volunteers explained to students how important insurance is in all aspects of life and it can change as individuals get older.

"There are

components to all ages in life insurance," Blanchette said.

Insurance can be for automobiles, houses, life and health.

Joining her students during the Credit for Life Fair was Quaboag Regional School District teacher Jean DiRico. One of the classes that DiRico teaches at her school is personal finance.

DiRico views Credit for Life as a great experience for all seniors to practice handling a budget and prepare for their financial future.

"Attending an event like Credit for Life offers numerous advantages," DiRico said. "Students have the chance to practice budgeting based on their anticipated careers and gain a deeper understanding of the significance of a credit score in shaping their financial prospects. While many seniors cover these topics in their personal finance class, participating in Credit for Life serves as a valuable reinforcement of the curriculum."

Moreover, it extends this essential learning opportunity to seniors who may not have the chance to take DiRico's personal finance class, ensuring that all students benefit from this crucial financial education event.

Tantasqua seniors Ryan Blaine and Jace Hess both view Credit for Life as an opportunity to learn how to manage money better in the future. Blaine is interested in pursuing a career as an electrician and Hess is interested in becoming a welder.

Over at the banking booth students have the opportunity to raise their credit score with activities and answering banking questions. The most common questions asked relate to starting accounts such as checking and savings, and saving for college.

Quaboag seniors Jenna Duff, Riley Patchen and Lexi Cacace had a great experience during the Credit for Life fair and wanted to learn as much as possible when budgeting their finances.

Duff was interested in learning more about how credit works. Patchen wanted to learn how to

have better spending and saving habits and Cacace was excited to meet more students during the fair.

The career samples chosen by these Quaboag seniors were high school educator (Duff) and physician's assistant (Patchen and Cacace).

North Brookfield High School senior Jake Standrowicz also chose physician's assistant for the Credit for Life simulation. He is interested in majoring in health science and found the fair helpful when handling a budget.

"Manage the money you're spending," Standrowicz said. "Save for the more important things, not just perks."

When visiting the reality check booth with the spinning wheel, Standrowicz lucked out with a bonus.

Quaboag seniors Abigail Long and Rachel McGrath did the Credit for Life simulation together and decided to be roommates. Both McGrath and Long found it important to learn how expensive certain purchases can be including a house and a car.

McGrath selected a nutritionist as a job and Long selected a registered nurse. These are careers both McGrath and Long want to pursue after high school.

Credit for Life features dozens of dedicated volunteers to assist students in areas such as banking, employment, transportation, nutrition, clothing, furniture, housing, savings and retirement, utilities and fun.

First time volunteer Kaelin Falke was over at the employment information booth where students learn how to apply for jobs.

"Helping students with their future endeavors," Falke said. "It is important for kids to know that jobs aren't claimed super fast".

Falke's statement is valid considering some of the competitive fields that many kids will pursue when they enter in the workforce.

Throughout the fair, Gerulaitis was excited to meet many students who experienced a simulation of real-life experiences that occur as high school students transition into adulthood.

"This is an eye-opening experience," Gerulaitis said. "First time exposures to these topics are very empowering. This gives students an idea of what they want their future to look like."

On the subject of financial literacy, Gerulaitis says that Country Bank will continue offering this beneficial program of Credit for Life. The program plays an essential role in the students' transition into adulthood and teaches them to learn to live within their budget.

"Country Bank is fully committed to financial literacy," said Gerulaitis. "We continue to look for new and innovative ways to make a difference."



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Briley Labossiere (left) waited for his date, while Mon Nyin and Hannah Hoang arrived together.



Ava Swist showed off her prom dress in front of the high school.



Grace Hershowitz was all smiles as she waited to kick off the joint junior/senior prom.



Ella Pear (left), pictured with Kara Noonan Pear, didn't let her crutches keep her from having a good time at prom.



Seniors gathered with their dates and their friends to take a picture out in front of the high school.



Evan Menard joined Brayhdin Martel and Clint Storey for a picture.



Striking a pose for their parents, Paige Venneri, Kasandra Perry, and Hannah Hoang.

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Alex Young and Jayda Pardo struck a pose in front of the party bus that brought their classmates to the promenade.

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Mon Nyin, Taran Prak, and Shea Simpkins weren't able to recreate the pose that their parents asked for.

PROM | from page 1

For the students of the small, but intimate graduating classes of 2024 and 2025, the district did not hold back on planning their prom. The juniors and seniors seemed to have a good time, and undoubtedly made great memories at the prom with all their classmates.



Mark Paradis and Shawn Baldwin sold fresh-cut fries that they made right there at the park.



Kaydee Clark, Glenn and Sara LaBier, and Taylor Chrusciel came out to Pulaski Park to support the benefit.



Margaret Kane and Calvin Jones enjoyed a drink and the live music at the party.



Justin Grimshaw and Melissa and Josh Hoy shared drinks and socialized under the overcast sky at Pulaski Park.



Several bands were booked to provide live music for the event throughout the evening, including the Geezer Band.



Lauren Reutenauer and Elijah, age 6, checked out the table of raffle baskets.

Denise Berkebile handed Desy Booker some money to purchase food from Nicole Ortiz's food truck.



Long-time reader Caitlin Carson helped to monitor the Bounce House.



Philip and Lynne Ferrell tried to get their dog to stand still for a picture.



Wynter, age 6, ran over to take a picture with the Thunderbirds' mascot, Boomer.



Boomer of Springfield Thunderbirds fame took a picture with Emma, age 6.



Rob Klein and Bernice Lynch arrived at the benefit via motorcycle, and laughed when I asked if they were together.

PROSPERI | from page 1

peri's accident, rather than launching a GoFundMe campaign, she wanted to do something in person, as Prosperi is a lifelong resident of the region and has been a huge part of the community. Before said that the event was planned to give the community an opportunity to come together and socialize, while also giving people a chance to give back. "Everybody was shockingly very quick to jump in," Before said. "Everybody asks how to support and where to do it. It was very overwhelming, but it's great to see. Everybody really just came out of the woodwork at every opportunity."

Prosperi was at the event, seen catching up with friends and family from around the community, and said he was grateful from the response throughout the community. "It's been amazing," Prosperi said. "All the local police depart-

ments, even in the surrounding towns beyond Wilbraham, and the people that I do know, everybody's just come together and make the situation a lot better than it was." There were three different food trucks that Before was able to arrange, as well as a kettle corn stand and fresh-cut fries prepared by Captain Sean Baldwin, who works with Prosperi.

Before said that she was able to use the park for the benefit thanks to she and her boyfriend being part of St. Stanislaus Polish Club, who donated the use of the park for the

event. She said that many of the organizations that participated did so by donating their time and resources in order to support Prosperi.

Before said that all proceeds from the event went to helping Prosperi stay afloat while recovering from the incident in an uncertain economy.

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Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Massachusetts to invest in outdoor recreation

BOSTON — Today the Healey-Driscoll Administration joined the Confluence of States, a bipartisan national coalition of state governments, dedicated to growing the outdoor recreation economy and championing conservation. The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation joins 17 other state departments at COS dedicated to advancing and embodying the central pillars of the alliance: conservation and stewardship, education and workforce training, economic development and public health and

wellness. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania signed the Confluence Accords, a multi-state agreement to advance outdoor recreation and protect wild areas, inducting them as new members of the Confluence of States. As a member, MOOR will regularly collaborate with other state outdoor recreation offices to identify and solve challenges through innovative research and information sharing on best practices.

“Outdoor recreation is an essential part of living and visiting Massachusetts, and we are thrilled

to join our state partners as a new member of the Confluence of States,” said MOOR Director Paul Jahnige. “Massachusetts is blessed with vibrant trail systems, diverse wildlife, and outdoor adventures of all kinds. Through the Confluence of States, we look forward to amplifying our collective voice to advance outdoor recreation and protect our natural resources.”

«We are thrilled to welcome Massachusetts as the 18th member of the Confluence of States. Their commitment to enhancing outdoor

recreation, conserving our natural landscapes, and fostering economic growth aligns perfectly with our four pillars,» said Katherine Andrews, 2024 Chair of the Confluence of States and Director of the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation. «As a state renowned for its historical significance, diverse landscapes, and innovative spirit, Massachusetts brings a wealth of knowledge to our bipartisan coalition. From the rolling hills of the Berkshires to the shores of Cape Cod, Massachusetts’ unique contributions will be invaluable in our pursuit of cultivating a strong outdoor recreation economy and getting more people outdoors.»

Established in December 2022, MOOR collaborates with state and private agencies to promote activities across Massachusetts, including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, paddling, swimming, and more. Outdoor recreation is vital to Massachusetts contributing \$11 billion to the economy, creating over 102,000 jobs, and boosting tourism. MOOR looks forward to working closely with the Confluence of

States to implement strategic initiatives that drive economic growth, promote equitable outdoor access for all, and improve public health in Massachusetts. This announcement follows the hiring of Paul Jahnige as the state’s first Director of Outdoor Recreation in 2023, as well as the launch of the Massachusetts Inclusive and Accessible Events Grants Program, created to advance equity and belonging across Massachusetts’ recreation opportunities.

National Grid is inviting you to an Informal Open House Learn More: Palmer to Ware Improvement Project

National Grid’s Palmer to Ware Improvement Project is a proposed transmission line project that will upgrade a deteriorating electric transmission line. The upgrade will focus on portions of the 10.35-mile-long segment of overhead power lines that run through Palmer, Ware, and West Brookfield. Once upgraded, the newly rebuilt transmission line will provide enhanced electric reliability for the region.

National Grid is hosting Open Houses for the Palmer to Ware Improvement Project. We encourage you to join us to learn more about the project.

If you are unable to join us at the in-person event and are interested in learning more about the project, please email info@O15nproject.com to set up a meeting with a member of our project team.

Questions? Contact us!

Phone Number: (800) 674-9510

Email: Info@O15nproject.com

Website: PalmerToWareImprovementProject.com or scan the QR code.

nationalgrid 7-57 Wells Ave., Suite 27, Newton, MA 02459



You are invited to an Informal Open House

Palmer to Ware Improvement Project

May 22nd, 2024

5:00pm to 7:00pm

Ware Senior Center
1 Robbins Road
Palmer MA 01069

May 28th, 2024

5:00pm to 7:00pm

Palmer Public Library
4105 N. Main Street
Palmer MA 01069

PalmerToWareImprovementProject.com
E: Info@O15nproject.com
P: 800-674-9510

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BASEBALL

Three-run fourth helps Monson prevail



Jake Beaupre sends a throw to first.

MONSON – Last Saturday afternoon, Monson baseball scored three times in the fourth inning to lead the Mustangs to a win over Pathfinder. In the 5-3 decision, Monson got some big hits from the top of their lineup to back a great effort by pitcher Austin Meacham, who had two of the RBI for the Mustangs. The Pioneers were led with two hits each from Miguel Velasquez and Hunter Griswold. Griswold scored two of Pathfinder's three runs.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



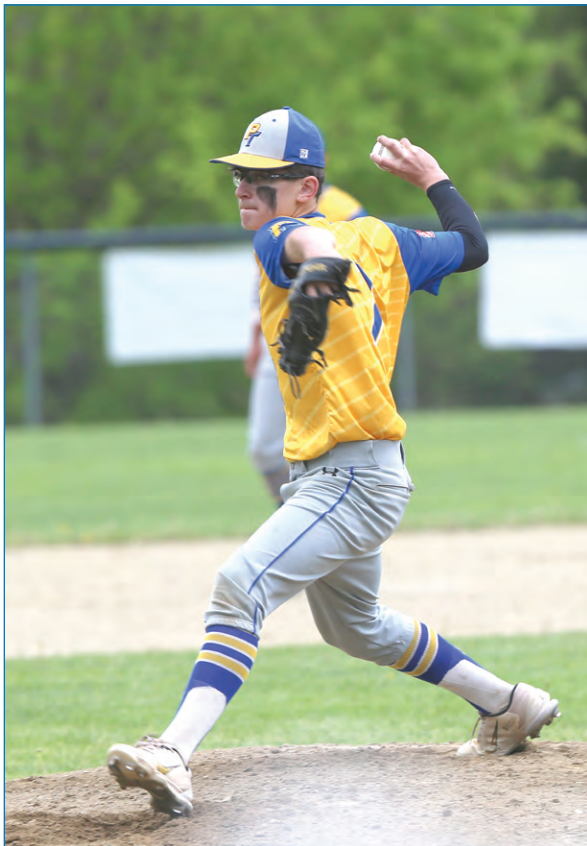
Niko Matthieu makes the throw to first for an out.



Austin Meacham sends a pitch home.



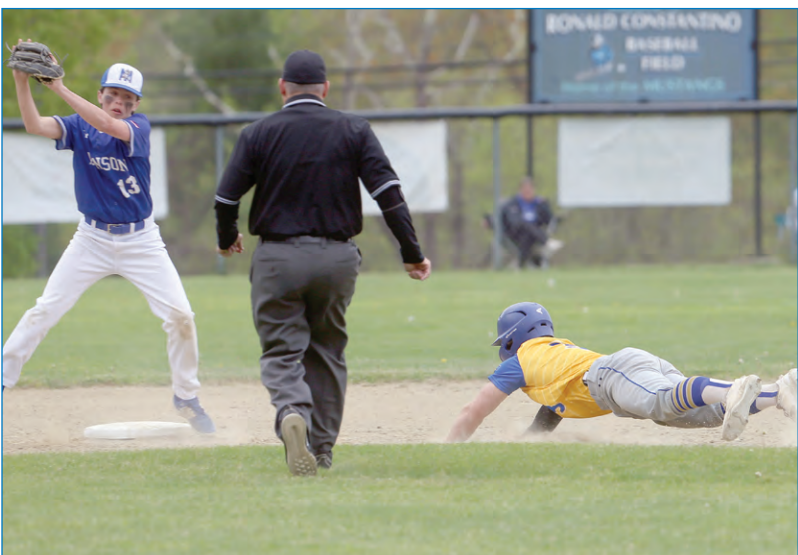
Alex Young makes a catch in right.



Brayden Mega pitches for the Pioneers.



Miguel Velasquez fires a throw across the diamond.



Hunter Griswold slides into second on a steal attempt.



Edward Szostek beats the throw to the base.

SOCCER



Seth Mitchell makes a rush up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Dominic Kierkla angles toward the goal and looks to shoot.

Offense comes up big for Mustangs

MONSON – Last Saturday afternoon, Monson boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional and Brodie St. Martin had three goals each. The Mustangs are now 8-3 on the season.



Brody St. Martin, covered by a teammate looks to make a pass.



Goalie Osvaldo Nieves winds up for a long throw.



Landon Couture heads up the field.

Mustangs fall at home to South Hadley



Natalie Hull fields a ground ball.



Carlee Meacham takes a swing.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Maya Summers tries to take home on a passed ball.



Emma Bannon slides home.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—After capturing the 2023 Suburban West title without suffering a loss to a league opponent, the South Hadley varsity softball team was moved to the Valley Wheel League.

Winning another league title was a little bit more challenging, but the Lady Tigers locked up sole possession of first place in the Valley Wheel league standings following an exciting 4-2 come-from-behind road victory over the Monson Lady Mustangs, last Saturday afternoon.

"We won several games last year without having to work very hard. It has been a lot different for us this season," said South Hadley senior catcher Ara Powers. "We had to be on our toes in every game. A lot of people didn't think we could win another league. It just feels amazing."

Powers, who'll be a freshman at Penn State University in the fall, is one of the Lady Tigers senior tri-captains, along with Jenna Bobrowski, and Erin Bullough, who started the Monson game at second base.

South Hadley, who was ranked 10th in the latest Division 4 state power rankings, had a 12-3 overall record and an 8-1 league record. Eight of their twelve victories were by two runs or less.

The Lady Tigers also clinched the league title on the Quarry Hill Community School softball diamond a year ago with a 3-0 victory against the Lady Mustangs.

"Monson is a quality opponent and they're also well coached," said South Hadley head coach Junior Perez. "This wasn't a very easy victory for us."

Prior to last season, the last time that the South Hadley team had won a league title was in 2006.

The Lady Tigers only league loss so far this season was an 11-6 setback to East Longmeadow at home on April 15.

Monson also made the move from the Suburban West to Valley Wheel League before the start of the regular season. The Lady Mustangs had a 6-7 overall record and a 3-5 league mark. Despite having a below .500 overall record, the Lady Mustangs were ranked 18th in the Division 5 power rankings.

Last Saturday's game featured two of the best high school pitchers in Western Massachusetts.



Molly Szado fires away for the Mustangs.

South Hadley junior righthander Ella Schaeffer allowed two runs on five hits. She recorded a total of 16 strikeouts giving her 677 career K's. At the beginning of April, she struck out 18 batters in a 9-0 home shutout victory against the Lady Mustangs.

"Ella is just an amazing pitcher," said Powers, who did an outstanding job behind the plate. "She's a very hard worker and she always keeps everybody on the team motivated."

Junior righty Molly Szado also pitched well in Monson's second annual Homecoming game. She allowed four runs on seven hits with nine strikeouts. She's approaching 400 career strikeouts.

Both teams left several runners in scoring positions during the early innings.

After retiring South Hadley in order in the top of the first, Szado singled to left field with one out in the home half of the inning before stealing second base. Then Schaeffer struck out the next two batters.

The Lady Tigers first baserunner was freshman third baseman Ryley McMahon, who lined a single down the rightfield line with two-outs in the second inning. Junior first baseman Seville Kinney followed with a bunt hit. A wild pitch moved both runners into scoring position. Szado ended the threat with a strikeout.

Maya Summers, who was one of the four Monson eighth grade starters, hit a flyball single to left with one-out in the second before stealing second and advancing to third base when the pitch bounced away from the catcher. The Lady Mustangs starting catcher was stranded at third base.

The Lady Tigers loaded the bases with two outs in the third, but once again they failed to score.

The Lady Mustangs broke the ice with a pair of runs in the fifth inning.

Eighth grade left fielder Cali Zielinski began the rally with a bunt hit in front of the plate. She advanced to third base following a throwing error. Eighth grade second baseman Grace Berry also had a bunt hit before stealing second base, which put two runners in scoring position. After the next batter struck out, the third bunt hit of the inning by junior shortstop Natalie Hull brought home the game's first run.

It was the first time that Monson scored a run against South Hadley since a 1-0 victory in the second meeting of the 2022 regular season.

A sacrifice bunt by freshman first baseman Chelsea Hull scored another run giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

The Lady Mustangs didn't keep the lead for very long.

Powers leadoff the top of the sixth with a line-drive single to right. Then Schaeffer, who had three base hits, hit a hard chopper up the middle into centerfield. Powers crossed the plate following a fielding error. Schaeffer scored the tying run when junior shortstop Sophia Butler blooped a single into shallow rightfield.

The Lady Tigers took the lead for the first time in the following frame without a benefit of a base hit.

Junior centerfielder Karli Carmody drew a leadoff walk before stealing both second and third. She crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Bullough also walked before Schaeffer blasted a triple to rightfield giving the visiting team a two-run cushion.

Schaeffer struck out the first two batters in the bottom of the seventh inning before McMahon fielded a bunt and threw a strike to Kinney ending the ballgame.

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Dominic Kierkla
Monson

In a big win for Monson boys lacrosse over Central last Saturday, Kierkla had five goals scored to lead the Mustangs.

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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Thompson Speedway holds Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT — A much nicer day awaited fans on day two of the 50th Icebreaker at Thompson Speedway held last month. Six star-studded features took to the 0.625-mile oval on Sunday, as did the peaks of sunshine to greet the fans in the stands. While the Street Stocks were able to start their 2024 track championship season on Saturday, the rest of the track championship line-up got their year started with plenty of action on Sunday along with the roar of the mighty NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with their return to Icebreaker weekend.

Following strong qualifying efforts in time trials, Justin Bonsignore and Jake Johnson led the NASCAR Whelen Modifieds to a short start after Bobby Santos III lost a right rear tire in mid-pack, dragging Dave Sapienza, Andrew Krause and Eric Goodale into the turn one wall. Back under the green flag, Johnson slid back to third on the restart and gave second to a hard-charging Craig Lutz with Bonsignore still at the helm. Lutz grabbed his chance to take over the lead on a lap 25 restart following a grenaded motor in the Tim Connolly machine.

A second motor expired in the first 33 laps for Trevor Catalano but Lutz again retained control ahead of Bonsignore and Ron Silk. Silk methodically made his way to Lutz's back bumper, pulling up alongside the #46 on lap 59 and using the slide job in turn one to come back and lead lap 60. The field would slow once more on lap 89 for the spinning Matt Swanson in turn four, leading to a frenzy of teams jumping down pit road for their respective tire changes. Patrick Emerling stunned the competition by winning the race off pit road followed by Silk, Johnson, Bonsignore and Austin Beers.

Silk moved up way high as they motored through turns one and two, forcing Emerling to pull back on the outside and giving him the lead. The final laps saw Emerling and Bonsignore battle for third as Silk continued to grow his lead more and more. Ron Silk took the dominant Icebreaker 150 win followed by a consistently fast Jake Johnson and a hard-charging Patrick Emerling, whose radiator sat steaming in victory lane.

Wilb. Monson Academy names new hockey coach

WILBRAHAM — Wilbraham & Monson Academy is pleased to announce Lawrence Biondo has been named Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Hockey program beginning with the 2024-25 season.

Coach Biondo will take the helm with a strong foundation of current and new student-athletes and support from the entire WMA community. The Titans compete as a full varsity member of the New England Prep School Athletic Council.

"Coach Lawrence Biondo is a prep school person, through and through," Head of School Brian P. Easler said. "He played at prep school, has coached at prep schools, sent all of his kids to prep schools, and now he chose to return to prep school teaching and coaching after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He is fully committed to WMA and the development of our hockey program for the long term, and I can't wait to see how it grows under his leadership."

Biondo's hockey resume includes both playing and coaching experience at the prep school and collegiate level. As a coach, count Avon Old Farms, St. Benedict's Prep and The Harvey School in his prep school experience.

Joining Biondo will be Steven McGearry as Assistant Coach. Formerly the Boys Ice Hockey Head Coach at

Wyoming Seminary, McGearry played at Bethel University (MN). Assistant Coach and Goalie Coach Brian Musa '92 will round out a stellar coaching staff. Musa has over two decades of coaching experience, played goalie at Elmira College and is USA Bronze Goalie certified.

As a player, Biondo was a three-year member of a Deerfield Academy team that won the 1983-84 Prep School Championship, and he lettered all four years at Tufts University. He played on the Olympic Development U16 summer program at Lake Placid, N.Y., and the Springfield Pioneers AA Bantam championship team that included WMA alumnus Rick Bennett '86.

Already a current English faculty member at WMA, Biondo retired as a lieutenant in 2023 after 20 years of service with the NYPD. Two of his five children are recent alumni of WMA, both Class of 2021, and they are currently matriculated at United States Military Academy West Point and Florida Atlantic University.

"I look forward to building upon the hockey program here at WMA and appreciate the full support I'm receiving from the school," Biondo said. "We have a solid schedule, we're expanding our off-and-on-ice program and we're eager to begin the season this November."

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Palmer falls in slugfest with Granby

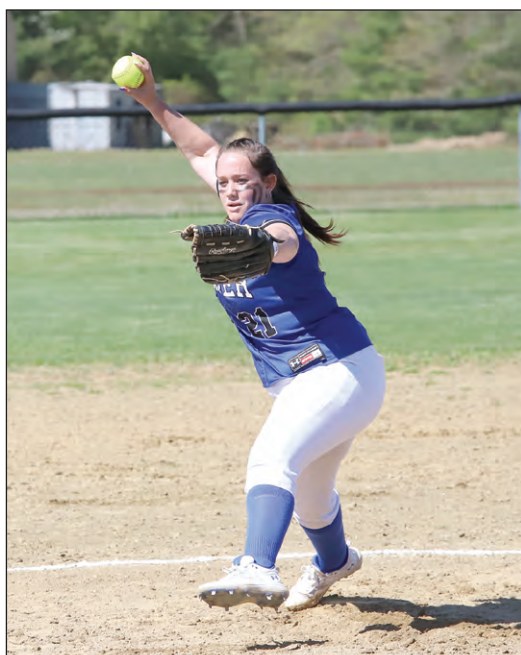


Jordan Bigda swings and connects.



Brooklyn Peloquin sends a fly ball away.

GRANBY – The Granby High School softball team secured a berth in the state tournament with a 22-16 win over Palmer. The game had some wild innings, including the second when both teams put up seven runs. The Rams finally put it away for good with a 10-run sixth inning after they fell behind 16-12. Grace Roy and Cassie Flaherty had three hits each and Jordyn Placzek had four RBI and four runs scored. For Palmer, Amhia Mcealareavy had two hits and two runs scored. Jordan Bigda and Jayda Pardo had two RBI each. Palmer is now 7-9 on the season while Granby is 9-5.



Avigail Lee pitches for the Panthers.



Jordan Bigda makes a catch on a pop-up.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Pioneers set to get regular season underway

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since they joined USL League Two in 2019, the Western Mass. Pioneers have finished first in the Northeast Division standings twice. They've also finished in second place twice.

The members of this year's squad will be looking to make their fifth appearance in the USL League Two playoffs. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

"We're going to try our best to put together another winning season," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari following his team's 9-0 friendly win against 3rd Eye FC at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night. "We do have nine returning players and a bunch of new players. The older players will need to show the new guys how we do things here. Every game that we play is very important because it's very difficult to make up points in this league."

The Pioneers finished the 2023 regular season with a 10-1-3 record (33 points). They finished in second place, one point behind the Seacoast United Phantoms, who finished in first place. The Pioneers lost to North Carolina Fusion U23 in the conference quarterfinals by the final score of 2-1.

The Pioneers were scheduled to kick off the 2024 campaign on Tuesday night with a road match against the Boston Bolts. They'll be facing Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

It'll be the second game of a double-header at Lusitano Stadium. The New England Mutiny will be hosting Maine Footy at 4pm in their season opener.

Saturday will be a very busy day for Molinari. He was named as the Mutiny head coach by Joe Ferrera, who's the General Managers for both soccer teams, during the off-season.

"I told Joe if he wasn't able to find a head coach for the women's soccer team, I would help him out this year," said Molinari, who has been coaching the Pioneers since 2012. "Tomas Duben will be helping me out as an assistant coach."

Molinari is also the Director of Coaching for the Western United Pioneers.

Dennis Gomes and Jay Willis are returning as the Pioneers assistant coaches.

Duben, who played in about 30 matches for the Pioneers during the past several seasons, is also the Pioneers new Scouting & Tactical Analyst.

"Tomas knows a lot about soccer," Molinari said. "He can also relate to the players very well. It's a very good connection between the players and the coaching staff."

Ciro Viviano has replaced John Voight as the Pioneers Goalkeeper coach.

The Pioneers' other six regular season home matches will be against Black Rock FC (May 31), Seacoast United Phantoms (June 7), AC Connecticut (June 11), Boston City FC (June 21), Albany Rush (June 28), and Vermont Green FC (July 13).

"Every year is a new season, and you have to start from the beginning," Molinari said. "It's a lot of fun watching your players improve in every game."

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Connor Hicks, who helped the Monson boys' soccer team win back-to-back Division 4 state titles. As a senior in 2016, Hicks scored an incredible overtime goal to beat Cohasset High School in the state finals.

Hicks played college soccer at AIC and has been a member of the Pioneers since 2019.

"I'm getting a little bit older, but it's nice to be back playing for the Pioneers again," said Hicks, who's one of the defenders. "We've made the playoffs every year that I've played for this soccer team. I really enjoy the atmosphere here. It's a lot of fun signing autographs and taking pictures with the kids."

This will be Hicks final season playing for the Pioneers, as he's planning to move to Florida this summer.

Midfielder Khalid Rose, who's another



Jared Smith looks to send the ball deep.



Zach Sauer looks to pass.



Patrick Gryczewski attempts to get around an opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Kwame Adu-Gyamfi gets ready to shoot.

fan favorite, is also returning.

Alec Hughes, who was one of the Pioneers leading goal scorers a year ago, is back again this year. He was a senior on the UMass men's soccer team last fall.

One of the Pioneers newcomers is striker Scott Testori, who was the leading goal scorer on the 2023 UConn men's soccer team.

The Pioneer's captain is Nicholas Oberrauch, who's a defender.

Gianluca Cersosimo was the Pioneers' starting goalie in the friendly match.

The tickets prices for all the Pioneers regular season home matches are \$10.

Children 6 years old and younger are free.

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 us.

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, From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

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@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.



Saturday, May 18th ~ 7pm-11pm
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

BINGO AT AMVETS POST 74 will be suspended for the summer starting Memorial Day weekend. Bingo is scheduled to resume the Monday following Labor Day. For more info contact the Post at 413-283-4518.

MICHAEL GILMAN IS COMING TO THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF MONSON again on Sunday, May 19, at 10 a.m. This performance is titled, "The Great American Songbook". He will feature ragtime music by Scott Joplin, works by Gershwin and Cole Porter. Some titles are, "Over the Rainbow", "What the World Needs Now", "May the Lord Bless You

and Keep you". For more info call Malita at 413-596-9075.

CONCERT AND DINNER AT FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON. Wings of Song under the direction of Nym Cooke will present their spring concert Rough Seas: Safe Harbor at 7:30 p.m. on May 18. The concert is free and open to the public. A pre-concert dinner will be served by the Music Committee at 5:30 p.m. The menu is baked haddock, baked potato, coleslaw, Italian bread and apricot squares. Tickets for \$20 are available by calling Gail at 413 267 4818.

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 MAR-

KET - 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 413-245-3607.

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

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplish-

ments, 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 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.

BINGO AT AMVETS POST 74 will be suspended for the summer starting Memorial Day weekend. Bingo is scheduled to resume the Monday following Labor Day. For more info contact the Post at 413-283-4518.

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,

Public Notices

More public notices on page 13

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE
In accordance M.G.L. Chapter 40A § 11 the

Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 7:40 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110

Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Richard Krupczak for a variance from the requirements of § 3.4.1, (Table 2, Dimensional &

Density Regulations), of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to construct a 20' x 32' handicap accessible bathroom building that will violate the setback requirements. The property is zoned Rural Residential and located at 101 Wilbraham Road, Monson, Map 50, Parcel 13. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell,
Chairman
05/09, 05/16/2024

Monson Housing Authority Invitation for Sealed Bids
The Monson Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Elderly 667-1 Development for the Monson Housing Authority in Monson Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Resolution Architects.

The Project consists of:

Selective window replacements at four buildings.

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 64,000**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received **until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 5, 2024** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. **Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority.** For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978-499-9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Monson Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract

Documents will be available electronically or for purchase at www.Projectdog.com on Wednesday, May 15, 2024; Project Code 861215.

The existing buildings will be available for a pre-bid inspection between 10 A.M. and 11 A.M. on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

For an appointment outside of the pre-bid inspection time period call Jonathan Leonard, Executive Director at 413-267-4047.
05/16, 05/23/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P0689EA

Estate of: Ky Van Nguyen Date of Death: February 08, 2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tuoi T Nguyen of Brimfield, MA.**

Tuoi T Nguyen of Brimfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

05/16/2024

thereon, situated on the Northerly side of Roberts Road in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being Lot #7, as shown on a Plan of Roberts Park, Scale 1" 20', by Benjamin F. Tully, Engineer, dated November 23, 1968, most recently revised September 28, 1970 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of deeds at Book of Plans 124, Page 35 and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning northerly by land now or formerly of Violet N. Williams, 40.13 feet;

Thence westerly by Lot #98 as shown on said plan 115.52 feet;

Thence southerly by Roberts Road, 50 feet;

Thence easterly by Lot #6 as shown on said plan, 123.65 feet;

For title reference see Deed recorded herewith.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23599, Page 65.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Noyes, David, 24-044523 05/16, 05/23, 05/30/2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David Noyes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC., its successors and assigns, dated December 18, 2020 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23599, Page 67 (the "Mortgage") as affected by a Scriveners Affidavit dated April 11, 2024 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 25383, Page 120, of which mortgage Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC., its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC dated February 3, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 24901, Page 554, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 5 Roberts Park Road, Holland, MA 01521 will be sold at a Public Auction at **2:00 PM on June 13, 2024**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the build-

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SAMPLE

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



Love Dad. Mom & John

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DEATH NOTICES

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Martins
Died May 10, 2024
Services May 17, 2024
Beers & Story 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.

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

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Martins

WEST BROOKFIELD—Elizabeth A. "Betty" Martins, 89, passed away May 10, 2024. She was born on Jan. 9, 1935 in Palmer to the late Isadore and Sophie (Czajka) Perry. Betty earned her bachelor's degree from Western New England College.



daughters, Laurel Larocche of Brimfield and Dianne Martins of Cape Cod; her brother, Edward Perry and his wife Elaine of West Brookfield; her grandchildren, Jennifer Henrich DeJoinville of Palmer, Martin Henrich of Palmer, Adam Larocche of Three Rivers, and Michelle Dansereau and her husband Kevin of Belchertown; her great-grandchildren, Alyson Boyer of Belchertown, Taryn DeJoinville of Palmer, Morgan Henrich of Palmer, Samantha Henrich of Warren, and Mad-

ison and Charlotte Dansereau of Belchertown; and her three great-great-grandchildren, Chaeli, Teagan, and Odin; as well as several nieces and nephews.

An hour of visitation will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 10-11 a.m. with a memorial service to begin at 11 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will immediately follow in St. Thomas Cemetery. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 486 incidents on its logs for April 30 - May 6.

April 30

At 7:17 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Red Bride Road and Chilson Road.

At 4:07 p.m. police gave summons to Melissa Ann Goodrow, 37, of 42 Sibley St., Three Rivers, for larceny under \$1200.

May 1

At 3:23 p.m. police responded to a disturbance call and arrested Jessica Guadalupe Lopez, 34, of 1552 N. Main St., Palmer, for disorderly conduct and assault and battery. Angela Marie Diaz, 34, of 28 Fox St., Palmer for disorderly conduct and assault and battery. Jose Emmanuel Gonzalez Marti, 35, 1552 N. Main St., Palmer was given a summons for disorderly conduct and assault and battery. Nathaly Gonzalez Lopez, 18, of 1552 N. Main St., Palmer, also received a summons for disorderly conduct and assault and battery.

May 2

At 3:19 p.m. police gave summons to Ciarra T. Hairston, 35, of 197 Belmont Ave., Springfield, for forgery of a check, utter false check and larceny over \$1200 by a single scheme.

At 5:40 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

At 7:40 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury

on Palmer Street.

At 10:26 p.m. police arrested Ronnie L. Powell, 28, 2350 Main St., Three Rivers, on a warrant.

May 3

At 12:28 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Crawford Street.

At 12:55 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on River Street.

At 4:46 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Scott Michael Kumpulianian, 63, of 3045 High St., Bondsville, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and speeding a rate that was reasonable or proper.

At 5:10 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage at the corner of Pleasant Street and Central Street.

At 5:35 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Foster Street.

At 11:21 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Anne Ruth Rose, 57, of 7 Converse St., Palmer, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding at a rate exceeding posted limit and marked lanes violation.

May 4

At 8:57 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Shearer Street.

At 1:17 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Kristopher G. Hills, 44, of 66 Clement St., Springfield, for operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

At 4:39 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 10:18 p.m. police responded to an accident and arrested Jenna Lynn Langlais, 28, of 16 Gay St., Thorndike for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and using an electronic device while driving 1st offense.

May 5

At 7:56 p.m. police arrested Lisa Lynn Laroche, 40, of 1278 S. Main St., Palmer, for possession of a class A and class B drugs.

May 6

At 12:02 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8 p.m. police gave summons to Amy Marie Horton, 35, of 8 Fern Hill, Monson, for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

Correction from the Palmer Police Department

In the May 9, 2024, Police Log it was incorrectly reported by the police department that Joseph Galica, 42, of 1588 N. Main St. Palmer was arrested April 26, for an assault with a dangerous weapon.

Mr. Joseph Galica was NOT arrested or charged for assault with a dangerous weapon on April 26. We apologize for the error.

More public notices on page 12

Public Notices

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 001854 ORDER OF NOTICE To: Roland R. Table; Barbara Table a/k/a Barbara G. Table

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 230 Palmer Road, given by Roland R. Table, Barbara Table a/k/a Barbara G. Table to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank, dated August 17, 2009, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17948, Page 318, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before June 24, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on May 9, 2024.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 25851

05/16/2024

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

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7:30 P.M. in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, on the application of Nathaniel Tassinari for a Special Permit as provided by § 3.3.6 of the Zoning Bylaws for the construction of a single-family home to replace the previous nonconforming single-family home. The property is zoned Rural Residential and located at 21 Bogan Road, Monson, Map 76, Parcel 14. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman 05/09, 05/16/2024

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Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024:

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Bride's Town Residence:
Groom's Name:
Groom's Town Residence:
Wedding Date:
Wedding Location:

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

Fire Logs

Bondsville Fire Log

For the period of April 30 to May 6, Bondsville Fire responded to 4 calls.

On Thursday, May 2 at 4:50 p.m., the department responded to Third Street for an alarm activation and returned to service at 4:59 p.m.

On Thursday, May 2 at 11:25 p.m., the department responded to Third Street for an alarm activation and returned to service at 11:56 p.m.

On Friday, May 3 at 7:43 a.m., the department responded to Third Street for an alarm activation and returned to service at 8:25 a.m.

On Friday, May 3 at 10:23 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for a good intent call and returned to service at 10:48 p.m.

Three Rivers Fire Log

For the period of May 6 to May 10, Three Rivers Fire Department responded to 6 incidents.

Monday, May 6 - Springfield Street, Three Rivers, Medical assist, assist EMS crew

Monday, May 6 - Main Street, Three Rivers, Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

Wednesday, May 8 - Overlook Drive, Palmer, Emergency medical service, other

Wednesday, May 8 - Belanger Street, Three Rivers, Medical assist, assist EMS crew

Thursday, May 9 - High Street, Three Rivers, Oil or other combustible liquid spill

Friday, May 10 - Bourne Street, Three Rivers, Medical assist, assist EMS crew

journalregister.turley.com

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting points for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
4. Ooze
9. A set of eight
14. Obstruction
15. Swiss mathematician
16. Philosophy
17. The night before
18. A timid person
20. Unifies
22. Gangs
23. Alternative name
24. Acumen
28. Cathode-ray tube
29. Tantalum
30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
31. Humiliate
33. Earthy pigment
37. Air Force
38. Adult males
39. Stiff untanned leather
41. Before
42. Atomic #18
43. Beer mug

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
2. Untangle
3. One from the U.S.
4. Academic terms
5. San ___ Obispo, in California
6. Not healthy
7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
8. Argula genus
9. VIII
10. Makes a monarch
11. Tormentor
12. Commercial
13. Sprinkle
19. Make a mistake
21. Freshwater fishes
24. Vermont town
25. Man-made device
26. Entrap
27. Places to store important things
31. Accumulate
32. Greek mythological

nymph

- 34. Gregory ___, American dancer
35. Denotes past
36. Becoming popular again
40. Indicates position
41. Came before
45. An extra seed-covering
47. Cheerful
48. Deli sandwich staple
52. Skateboarders love them
53. Mandela's party
54. Sierra lake
56. Nickname for Elizabeth
57. Remove from record
59. Employee stock ownership plan
60. Former NFLer Newton
61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
62. Work unit
63. Town in Cambridgeshire

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.



Winds of Song Free Concert

MONSON— This area's premiere community chorus, Wings of Song, will present its spring concert "Rough Seas, Safe Harbor" at First Church of Monson on Saturday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will take audiences on a huge sea voyage, much of it aboard a 19th-century whaling ship that might have left from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, or Portsmouth, England, and sailed practically around the world, separating the crew from their families for as much as a year or two. Nym Cooke, Music Director, has combined 29 stirring, eloquent songs of the sea into a seven-part odyssey. The individual sections of the program are titled "Home Port," "Setting Sail," "At Sea," "Shipwreck!," "Foreign Ports," "Women at Home," and "Return and Reunion." Music Director Cooke has also arranged several pieces of music that weave a moving tapestry of life at sea and also of life at home for those left behind.

The concert venue is sure to be crowded, so be sure to arrive early for a good seat and attempt to car pool. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be collected at intermission. First Church is handicap accessible.

Audience members are invited to join the chorus for tasty and free refreshments after the concert. The concert is sponsored in part by the Monson and Sturbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Music Committee will be hosting a dinner prior to the concert at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu features baked haddock, baked potato, homemade coleslaw, and for dessert, apricot squares with whipped cream. Tickets are \$20 and available by calling Gail at 413-267-4818. Deadline for dinner tickets if Tuesday, May 14.

CULVERT | from page 1

outfits that those engineers also supported, and also just a lot of pass over with a lot of turnover with my department, because since Angela and Sarah's time there has been three or four people that have held the seat."

Due to these and more hurdles, Enright said that the town has reached a financial pause with the project. DPW Director Matthew Morse was present at the meeting to speak in more detail, but first took a moment to praise Enright's work as Conservation Agent.

"Justin's been a really great addition to the Town of Palmer," Morse said. "I actually enjoy working with him a lot."

Morse said the project was initially granted about \$389,000 from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in 2018, with the town expected to

match 25% of the budget, equaling approximately \$125,000.

"So the town was expected to come up with \$125,000 from project start," Morse said.

When the project came to the DPW, Morse pushed it to go to bid, and within six months, the town received the bids back, ranging from \$719,000 at the lowest, to almost \$2 million.

"That put us in a position where we were roughly \$300,000 (short)," Morse said. "Initially we needed to meet with MEMA because we had to figure out how we could close that gap of the overrun, so we met with them on several occasions."

Morse said the whole project had to go back through a Cost Benefit Analysis to see if the new cost of the project would meet the town's additional overrun cost. He said that represen-

tatives from MEMA "didn't feel confident" that the project would make it through at that price range, despite the astronomical inflation since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Even if MEMA were to give us the additional \$300,000, the town would also have to match another 25% of that," Morse added.

Morse described five town departments that attended a meeting to go over the pros and cons and hold the CBA in-house, and that it was the decision from those discussions that the cost of the project just isn't feasible for the town at this time.

"It doesn't mean that we can't reopen it back in the future," Morse added, "but as it is right now, the way that that cost is is just unfeasible for the town."

Morse added that, in his meetings with MEMA, they had assured him that there would not be a negative impact on the town to hold off on this project at this time, and that it would not create a cascade effect with other projects.

Though the Commission was disappointed that the project would have to be put on hold, its members were understanding. Commission Chair Don Blais said that he hoped the project could be reopened when it was more financially feasible.

"It's unfortunate, because of so many unforeseen circumstances, that this is where we're at," Blais said. "It's a bummer, but I have confidence that the town will, when the time is right."

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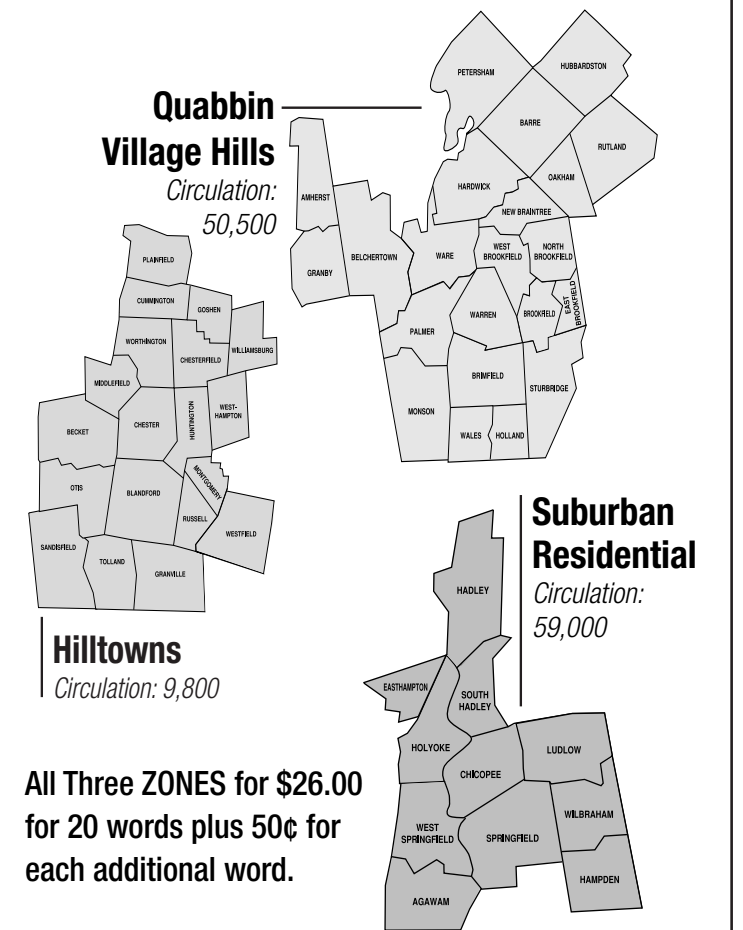
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The 46 National Technical Honors Society inductees sat in front of the stage while Superintendent Eric Duda made his opening remarks



Superintendent Eric Duda addressed his opening remarks to the 46 students being recognized with the NTHS awards.



Caitlin Phelps explained the meaning behind the symbols on the NTHS logo.



Morgan Brown (right) and Sara Davenport were awarded desserts in addition to their recognition as part of the NTHS.



Mackenzie Fulton and Hanna Hurtado were both awarded as part of last Wednesday's ceremony.



Alissa McKinney took a picture with her proud family in the entryway of the school.



Interim Principal Brenda Turner congratulated the students on the hard work it took for them to earn this recognition.



Heather Martin and Alexander Hastings leaned up against the Pathfinder Tech logo.



Evin Reardon climbed back onstage to get a picture with his family and his certificate.



Dan Whalley (right) announced Adrianna Andrejack as her father fastened her pin to her.



Isabella Staiti was identified as one of Pathfinder's 46 inductees into the National Technical Honors Society in 2024.



46 students stood and pledged to uphold the values of the NTHS.



Dan Whalley clarified that Jacob Payne is not part of the Automotive department, as listed in the program, but the CAD pre-engineering program.

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PATHFINDER | from page 1

"I can say this with 100% certainty," Turner said, "the 46 of you being honored tonight sure didn't get here by chance. (...) You are all here as a result of hard work and dedication. You show up and push through, even on those days or times when maybe you don't quite feel like it."

The event then turned to the Pinning Ceremony, where Academic Director Dan Whalley read the students' names, and Assistant Principals Patrick Boudette and Lisa Tassone presented the students with their certificates. The students were then pinned by a family member, and photos were taken by Community Outreach and Communications Coordinator Lindsey Tracy.

"When this school was built 50 years ago, you were exactly what the vision of vocational technical education should be," Turner said to the students. "Securing a range of technical skills, achieving academic success, and exhibiting outstanding character. Pathfinder Tech grads would be exceptional school citizens who would join our communities and contribute – contribute to our towns, our state, our country, and hopefully the world."

"For all that each of you have accomplished thus far, and I know there is more ahead, you are all highly deserving of recognition and celebration tonight," Turner said.

IT Director Cole Rogers led the students in reciting the NTHS pledge, which states that the students will uphold a high standard of personal conduct, strive toward excellence, and invest their talents to uphold their obligations as a part of their community.

"I recently came across a quote that resonated with me," Duda said. "'People are more likely to take steps forward on a path if they see footprints from others on the ground.' Your leadership, willingness to take risks, and determination to challenge the status quo are the footprints that pave the way for others to follow."

"Embrace this responsibility as you continue through high

school or as you enter your next chapter and embark on your chosen career paths," Duda said.

The National Technical Honor Society is an educational non-profit that exists to recognize and empower students and faculty in technical vocational education. NTHS serves over 100,000 active members annually in both secondary and post-secondary chapters across the country, according to its website.

To learn more about Pathfinder Tech, you can visit their website at pathfindertech.org. For more information about the NTHS, visit their website at nths.org.



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Izyk's attend Boy Scouts of America annual meeting

PALMER—Peter and Cheryl Izyk attended the Boy Scouts of America's National Annual Meeting last week at the Marriott Orlando World Center in Orlando, Florida. They went to all the General Sessions and special events including the Duty to God Breakfast, Silver Antelope Dinner, Americanism Breakfast and Silver Buffalo Dinner. Peter also went to the National Eagle Scout Association and Alumni Elective sessions and Cheryl attended the Youth Protection and Safety Electives Sessions. They enjoyed meeting old friends and learning about new programs coming out.

On February 8, 2025, the BSA will change its program name to Scouting America so that everyone feels welcome in Scouting. Although the name changes the mission remains the same: committed to teaching young people to be prepared for life. Scouting America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared For Life". Scouting America welcomes all of America's youth into its programs.



Peter at the Summit Bechtel Reserve booth at the Exhibit hall. Peter is a member of the Summit Staff Association. The Summit is the fourth BSA High Adventure Base and where the National Jamborees are held.



Peter with Tom Pendleton the National Scout Jamboree Director.



Cheryl and Peter at the Duty to God Breakfast

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