

PET OF THE WEEK Meet Posiepurrs Jacaranda Page 2



POLICE/FIRE Locals graduate fire academy



SPORTS Panthers tie with Agawam

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SERVING PALMER. MONSON. BRIMFIELD. HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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PALMER

Town Council votes on finalized budget, raises Senior Property Tax

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Town Council met last Monday to vote on a series of finalized budget items.

Council Member Mark Caci read the resolution concerning the budget to the assembled members.

"The Town Council conducted a public hearing on the fiscal year

2025 budget on June 10, 2024, after bert asked why the town wouldn't sor, Rachael Carney, to provide dedue notice was given," Caci stated. raise it to the maximum allowable "The Town Council considered the 2025 budget on an organizational basis and by vote, so determined the size of appropriations for each department on June 24."

The Council held a vote to increase the Senior Property Tax from \$500 to \$1,000. Though the vote was initially only for a \$100 increase, Council Member Phillip He-

"Every year we raise our taxes to the limit," Hebert said. "The state allows us to go to \$1,000, so that would be my motion, to show the love to the elderly and raise it to the limit, just as we do taxes and help them out."

Town Manager Brad Brothers invited the town's Principal Assestails on the program.

"The 41c program is for those aged 70 and older who qualify through income and through asset limitations, they have to apply annually to the program," Carney said. "We currently have 13 people enrolled in the program."

Carney explained that a single applicant can have a maximum income of \$20,000, and maximum

including their home and vehicle. For married couples, the maximum income is \$25,000 and assets can amount to no more than \$34,000.

Carney also specified that the applicants must live in the home by a certain date, and it has to be their primary residence and not a vacation home.

"It's the one program that I think is the most beneficial to the

assets amounting to \$31,000, not most in need in the community," Carney said. "We have many other programs, but this is the one that I really feel like has impacted those

that need it the most." Brothers explained that it was recommended to increase by \$100 because the town doesn't know how many people who weren't aware of the program will now be applying

COUNCIL | page 3



By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

HOLLAND - Last week, the Webster Water Ski Collective, the Aqua Riders of Holland Water Ski Show Team and Team Hovt New England partnered to hold the summer's first Adaptive Ski Day.

On Wednesday, June 26, participants arrived at the Aqua Riders' home ski site on the Hamilton Reservoir on Mashapaug Road for eight hours of water-skiing. The participants, many of whom displayed a

range of physical disabilities, were able to water ski through the use of adaptive equipment and volunteers who rode alongside them.

This event was dedicated to Lisa Fracalosi, who was a long-dedicated member of Team Hoyt New England and became involved with Adaptive Water Skiing last year. in spirit this summer," the Facebook page said.

Water-skiing can be difficult for people with mobility and phys-

ADAPTIVE SKI | page 5



"Lisa will be skiing with all of us



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Eddie gives a thumbs up as he's helped into the sit-ski in the water by water-ski volunteers.

PALMER

Doug Danger mesmerizes sold-out crowd

By Scott Senecal Correspondent

PALMER - Palmer Public Library hosted an event celebrating the history of Palmer and its residents this past Saturday where daredevil and former Palmer resident, Doug Danger, took the stage giving a speech about his life growing up in

Palmer Voices." "The idea came when we were talking to members of the community and they said they had items, photos, and newspaper clippings they were going to throw away," said O'Connor, "we told them 'no, no, no, bring them to us, we'll scan them and record their history for the town." So far the project has 15 episodes on You-



Turley Publications staff photo by Scott Seneca

Doug Danger signs autographs for local fans.

the town and becoming a world-record-holding stuntman. The Event was organized by the library's collection development librarian, Helene O'Connor, and the adult services librarian, Amy Golenski.

The event was to show the new web series produced by the two librarians called "Palmer Villages,

Tube bringing the history of Palmer to life.

Each episode focuses on a specific person or event from Palmer or a single aspect of life in Palmer. One such episode tells the story of Ignacy Pobieglo, who served his country in WWII and died on the

DOUG DANGER | page 12

BUSINESS

WB&CA and Beyond welcomes new members at Palmer Motorsports Park

June meeting toured Motorsports Park facility

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

PALMER - The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held its monthly meeting last week at Palmer Motorsports Park, welcoming several new businesses to the organization

New members include the Town of Warren represented by Town Administrator James Ferrera, Dhillon Family & Cosmetic Dentistry in Ware, Canna Retreat in Palmer, Sunny Side Storage in Ware and Palmer Motorsports Park.

For the June 26 meeting, WB&-CA and Beyond members toured Palmer Motorsports Park, enjoying





Palmer Motorsports Park Club Director Al Sandy talks about the track during the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond's June membership meeting.

a view from the top of the steepest states from its peak. vertical grade track in North America. On a clear day, you can see four

Palmer Motorsports Park's

WB&CA | page 5

TOWN HALL

Morrell becomes next chair of **Monson Select Board**

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Select Board reorganized last week following the town election, and the former Chair noted a few issues that have been developing in town.

At its meeting on June 25, the board was reorganized by unanimous vote, with John Morrell being named Chair, Peter Warren becoming Vice Chair, and Pat Oney taking over as Clerk.

Thank you, Pat, for the work you've done in the last two years as Chair," said Morrell, "And congratulations on your re-election."

As then-current Chair, Oney opened the meeting by thanking the town for re-electing her to the

free to contact any of the three

"I appreciate all the support," Oney said, adding, "please feel

of us, either by email through the town's website, or leaving a message at the Select Board Office."

Oney then provided a numbered list of comments on issues that have been discussed at previous meetings.

'We have had new counsel for the past two months, and that's been a really great opportunity to review some of our past practices with a new perspective," Oney said, before launching into the list.

Human Resources Director

Oney recommended that the board revisit the combination of the Town Administrator and Human Resources Director duties.

"I mentioned two meetings ago that this position was not working as well as we had hoped," Oney said. "We understood the potential conflicts in having the Town Administrator act as Director, even on a temporary basis, but the board was not monitoring this situation closely enough and it's become clear that while some of the more financially related aspects of a Human Resources Department can be successfully subsumed into the Finance Department, we still need a dedicated HR person."

Oney suggested that the board schedule a discussion on how to move forward on this issue.

Conservation Grants

Oney announced that Conservation Agent Toni Uliana had obtained the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant for the town.

"Our Conservation Agent has obtained and is working on using this grant money for climate issue preparedness and also for specific projects in town, including those related to issues on Bunyan Road and the Chicopee Brook," Oney

SELECT BOARD | page 12



POSIEPURRS JACARANDA

This is Posiepurrs Jacaranda, a.k.a. Jack. Jack is a 13-year-old shaded golden Persian, and twice a regional winner, though he's now retired from showing. 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 Rep. Ashe's office hours

MONSON— A staff member from State Rep. Brian Ashe's office will be available to meet with residents at the following locations:

Monson Library on July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30

Monson Senior Center every third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If any citizens are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, please contact Chief of Staff, Robin Frechette, at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

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Chamber of Commerce's Summer Festivals start in July

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS - The Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that it will be hosting a series of artisan markets over the summer.

"It's something fun and free for the community," said Carol Seaver, Vice Chair of the Chamber. "We hire a band for the afternoon and we get the food trucks and permits and all the vendors. Then we set up the park on the day of the event and make sure everything's taken down that night."

The first of these summer markets will be held on Friday, July 12 at 3 p.m. at Hryniewicz Park, rain or shine. Seaver said that vendors and eight food trucks are expected to attend, there will be a pottery demonstration, and that there will be live entertainment for all ages, including a performance by The Geezers.

"They're a very popular local band," Seaver said. "The other entertainment we have is Maggie the Clown, she's coming for the kids."

Seaver shared that of the food trucks, one of them will be the local traveling pizza vendor, Tony's Happy Valley Pizza, a member of the Chamber. To prepare for the weather, there will be tents set up, as well as a water station in case it gets too hot.

The second event will be held on August 9, and will feature a different set of live entertainment and some different vendors.

"This is our fourth year," Seaver said. "We started this during COVID to try to get the community together in an outside area where they felt comfortable and it was safe enough for nobody to get sick. Obviously, it was very much different then. We encourage people to have hand sanitizer, but then it was a priority."

The event turned out to be very successful, according to Seaver.

Seaver shared that many of the vendors have attended the event "since the beginning," having built a connection with the Chamber for a while, and that she's looking for-

ward to seeing those that are returning. Of the 50 vendors participating in the event, 10 of them are current members of the Chamber.

"Some vendors only sign up for one, some sign up for both," Seaver

The Chamber has been approached to hold more events like this, which Seaver described as a "daunting task."

"It's grown every single year, we normally get a very good turnout. It's a free event for the community, where they can come in and browse the eclectic mix of vendors," Seaver said. "It's not just about businesses, but all about connecting with the community, because if you don't have a healthy community, you have nothing."

In addition to the Summer Artisan Festivals, the Chamber is also holding an event at Pathfinder with 90 vendors, and will hold its largest festival in the fall.

If you'd like to attend the first of the Chamber's Summer Festivals, stop by Hryniewicz Park on Friday, July 12, at 3 p.m.

Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the Spring 2024 President's List.

CAMPUS

College of Our Lady of the Elms congrat-

Hailey Magierowski of Brimfield, Bach-

Camryn Orszulak of Bondsville, Bache-

Darius Taylor of Monson, Graduate Cer-

Madelyn Levesque, of Monson, MA,

Levesque, who majored in Business Ad-

is among the more than 3,100 students who

earned their degrees from the University of

ministration, received a Master of Business

Administration from the Graduate School.

Nichols College President's

ulates more than 400 students who received

their degrees during its 93rd Commencement

held on May 18, 2024 at the MassMutual Cen-

0

ter in Springfield, Massachusetts.

lor of Science degree in Nursing

elor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice

tificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care

Levesque Graduates from the

University of Mississippi

Mississippi in May 2024.

List Spring 2024

Commencement

Elms College Spring 2024

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students have achieved President's List honors:

Michael Peloza of Brimfield Karissa Wood of Three Rivers

Nichols College Dean's List for spring 2024

Lydia Julian of Holland, MA, has achieved Dean's List honors for the spring 2024 semester at Nichols College.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

Baystate Wing Hospital Embraces Spiritual Healing

Reopening Our Interfaith Chapel and Spiritual Space

PALMER —In the hospital setting where the primary focus is often on physical healing, the significance of spiritual and emotional well-being is considered just as important. At Baystate Wing Hospital, the care team understands that healing is a holistic process that encompasses the mind, body, and spirit.

"It is with great excitement we announce the reopening of our interfaith chapel and spiritual space. A sanctuary dedicated to nurturing the spiritual and emotional health of our patients, their families, and our staff," said Michele LaPrade, volunteer coordinator for Baystate Wing Hospital. "For years our Chapel has offered a quiet space for our caregivers, patients, and visitors but it was showing its age and needed to be refreshed."

Located on the first floor of the hospital, the newly refreshed space



Michele LaPrade, volunteer coordinator at Baystate Wing Hospital, and Reverand Ute Schmidt, manager of Spiritual Services at Baystate Medical Center.

is open to all faiths, cultures, and spiritual beings. It features a beautiful stained glass-looking Tree of Life, which symbolizes love, gratitude, and protection. The furnishings for the chapel were made possible through the generous support of The Baystate Health Foundation.

The Baystate Wing chapel and

spiritual space embodies the hospital's commitment to providing comprehensive care that respects and honors the diverse spiritual needs of our community. Designed to be inclusive and welcoming, the chapel offers a tranquil environment where individuals can find solace, meditate, pray, or simply reflect. "We understand the impor-

tance of meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of our patients and their families. It is a key part of caring for the whole person," said Karli Barrett, chief nursing officer/chief administrative officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. Volunteers are currently being

sought to fill positions in various departments, including greeters and patient-care areas. If you are interested in being an Interfaith Spiritual Care volunteer or other type of volunteer, please contact Michele LaPrade at 413-370-5295 or michele.laprade@baystatehealth.org. An online application is available at www.baystatehealth.org/aboutus/ volunteer.com.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY 25% OFF TO FILL THE GRILL

You're going to be putting a lot of burgers and dogs on the grill this 4th of July. Our Freedom to Grill sale will let you fill your grill with farm-fresh burgers, dogs, and kielbasa. Get 25% off 1/4, 1/3, and 1/2 pound patties (frozen or fresh), Farmer Matt's delicious hot dogs, horse collar kielbasa, and kielbasa dogs when you use code "FREEDOM" online or mention this ad in store.

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Brenda Mayhew found guilty in 2021 homicide in Palmer

SPRINGFIELD - On June 26, counsel Assistant District Attorney a Hampden County Superior Court David Sheppard-Brick, and Chief

Jury found Brenda Mayhew guilty of first degree murder for her role in the February 2021 death of Marcia Wilson, 68, in Palmer. The penalty for

first degree murder is life without parole. Hampden District

Attorney Anthony Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am hopeful that this verdict pro-

vides a measure of justice for Ms. Wilson's family as the continue to grieve the loss of their loved one. I appreciate the diligent work of the detectives from the Palmer Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police in my office throughout this complicated investigation. My gratitude also extends to my prosecution team: lead trial counsel Assistant District Attorney Dana Parsons, appellate



Brenda Mayhew

John J. Beauregard "The Kid"

6/13/43 ~ 7/11/99

Still making us laugh, 25 years later, sadly while missing you.

Patrick and Patti

Victim Witness Advocate

Jane Chevalier, for their dedicated efforts on this matter." On Monday, Feb. 8,

2021, uniformed members of the Palmer Police Department responded to 15 Fox St. at 8:08 a.m., after receiving a 911 call reporting an incident that has left two people injured and one deceased. Responding officers had to force entry into the

residence after attempting to gain entrance into the home via the front door but were obstructed from doing so.

After gaining entry, officers discovered Wilson deceased, and were not able to render aid due to signs of death from multiple stab wounds. They then checked the residence for additional victims or

During their search in and around the residence they discovered two other individuals, Wilson's husband and the defendant, Brenda Mayhew. Both were transported from the scene with various injuries.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office and Palmer Police Department arrested Mayhew, 58, of Palmer on a charge of murder for her responsibility in the death of Wilson. Mayhew's sentencing is ex-

pected to occur in early July. Assistant District Attorney

Dana Parsons represented the Commonwealth in this case.



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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.

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.

COUNCIL I from page 1

"If this all of a sudden doubles or triples and we're at \$1,000 rather than just going to \$600 this year," Brothers said, "we don't have the funding."

Hebert suggested that the town appropriate funds from another source, such as Free Cash, in that event.

"Everything has doubled, tripled, in their lives," Hebert said. "The requirement is to make only \$20,000, to me, I'm not worried about the safety of it, quite frankly. I say buckle up and do what you can do for them.'

This prompted Councillor Matthew Lemieux to ask about the Overlay Fund, which Council Chair Barbara Barry said "is not built up," and so the amount is comparable to the \$100 increase, plus abatements and exemptions issued over the course

"In FY25, we're recommending \$150,000 (for Overlay)," Brothers said, "which actually was approved through the budget process tonight."

Council Vice President Jessica Sizer noted that these seniors are also eligible for the tax work-off program. Brothers agreed with Hebert that the elders in town deserve as much as the town can afford, and recommended looking into adding onto the increase in future years.

"Just to give us a safety blanket, we felt \$600 was adequate," Brothers said.

At the end of the discussion, the Council voted unanimously to raise the limit to \$1,000.

The Council voted to raise and appropriate \$42,281,522 to pay town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. This included, through the collection of sewer fees, \$4,449,490 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget.

This vote included raising \$15,000 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund, \$150,000 for the Capitali Stabilization Fund, \$115,500 for track stabilization, \$52,500 for the Tree Removal and Trimming Capital Projects Fund, and \$33,000 for the Re-evaluation Special Revenue Fund.

The Council then voted on the spending limits for the Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2025. The individual line items were as follows: electrical inspections: \$120,000; EV charging station: \$15,000; gas inspections: \$30,000; Legion Field: \$5,000; plumbing inspections: \$30,000; Recreation Fund: \$30,000; Sealer of Weights and Measures: 15000; and Senior Center: \$30,000

The Council voted to accept these limits to the Revolving Fund.

The next vote was to transfer \$2166,187 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, which passed unanimously.

Two items were tabled, due to not having enough members present to attain the 9/10 vote needed to pass.

Food policy council learns about SNAP benefits

By Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

WARE - The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council welcomed Mary Loughlin, SNAP Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Transitional Assistance, to its June meeting to discuss the pro-

gram and its benefits. At the June 27 meeting, Loughlin said SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal program that provides food-purchasing assistance to people with low income. One in seven people receive benefits.

"When it comes to food security, the programs DTA offers are SNAP, with includes HIP and SNAP Nutrition Education," she said.

HIP and RMP

The Healthy Incentive Program was originally started with a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to help bring money back into the local economy, supporting local farmers, while also giving SNAP recipients access to the freshest produce at farmers' markets.

All SNAP recipients automatically qualify for and receive HIP.

"They can get an additional \$40, 60, 80 a month in HIP," Loughlin said when an electronic benefit transfer card is used at a participating farmers' market. "The money goes right back on the card as long as they spend it on fruits and veggies.

HIP eligible foods include fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruits and vegetables with no added salt, sugar, fat or oil. Seeds and seedlings also qualify for HIP reimbursement.

Money that is spent on qualifying produce using an EBT car is instantly reloaded on the card up to the maximum amount allowed per month.

Loughlin said HIP became so popular that the commonwealth decided to fund it when the USDA grant ran out.

Participating farmers and markets can be found on dtafinder.com.

Local vendors that accept HIP include Flourish Farm, 59 Tower Hill Road, Brimfield; Growing Places, 40 West St., Barre; Hunt Road Berry Farm, 96 Hunt Road, West Brookfield; Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre; Mycoterra Farm/Mass Food, Belchertown; Still Life Farm, 1643 Petersham Road, Hardwick: Stillman's Farm, 1205 Barre Road, New Braintree; Wildberrv Acres Farm, 135 Town Farm Road, Brookfield; West Brookfield Farmers' Market, West Brookfield; Hardwick Farmers Market, Hardwick; Brimfield/ Hitchcock Academy Farmers' Market, Brimfield; and the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Belchertown.

DTA also offers a Restaurant Meals Program, which allows people ages 60+, homeless and disabled to use their EBT cards at select restaurants to purchase

There are 15 restaurants approved by DTA for this program, with the closest in proximity to the Quaboag Valley being in Worcester.

The RMP allows people to purchase a meal in a participating restaurant and it is not subject to meal tax. The program does not cover tips for servers.

Currently, the commonwealth is one of nine states offering this program.

"Much like the HIP program has grown, I hope the RMP will grow," Loughlin said.

Eligibility and applying

Loughlin said there are many ways people can apply to receive SNAP benefits, including online at dtaconnect.com, by fax or by mail. People can also call DTA or visit an office.

"Outreach partners can also help with applications," Loughlin said, and can be found locally at the Ware Senior

Paper applications are available in 13 languages.

Loughlin said there is also an app called DTA Connect, which helps people manage their SNAP benefits and check their balance. In order to use this app, people need to have an email address.

She said the outreach workers can help those who do not have an email address to create one.

Eligibility is based on who is in the household, earned income and unearned income, disability, child support, certain expenses like rent and mortgage, utilities and medical expenses. Countable unearned income includes Social Security and child support.

Loughlin said it takes about 30 days to complete the SNAP application process, which requires a mandatory interview. If this interview is not completed in that time frame, the applicant will be denied, but is able to reapply.

Loughlin said many SNAP users cycle on and off the program.

After the interview is completed, applicants will typically have another 30 days to provide proof of eligibility and mandatory verifications including identification, proof of Massachusetts residency, unearned income, two- to four- consecutive pay stubs for earned income and Social Security number.

"The more deductions you have... can result in a higher award," she said.

Optional verifications include shelter costs, costs of utilities, dependent care costs and medical costs that total more than \$35 a month for elderly and disabled people.

Help for senior citizens

Loughlin said the standard medical deduction range is \$35-190 per month, and that seniors and disabled people can self-declare up to four items to get into that range.

This includes co-pays and any outof-pocket pharmacy costs for prescriptions. She said people can ask their pharmacy for a one-year "look back" to view these expenses.

"The client should tell us about all of their expenses," Loughlin said. "The amount awarded is based on your income and your deductions."

Loughlin said many seniors have low shelter costs, due to their homes being paid off, which can lower their SNAP benefits.

"Seniors may not have a lot of income coming in, but they have low expenses," she said.

In addition to working with outreach partners, seniors can receive application assistance through the Senior Assistance

"A lot of seniors don't want to ap-

ply because they're afraid to take benefits from others," Loughlin said. "There's enough money in the program to take care of everybody."

Monthly benefits

Loughlin said SNAP benefits will be awarded on the same day each month, and any unused balance will roll over month to month. HIP benefits do not roll over, and will re-set each month.

Once a person applies for SNAP benefits, they will automatically be mailed an EBT card, prior to the application being processed. Once the process and mandatory interview and verifications are completed, the applicant will receive a pin number.

Those who have had SNAP benefits in the past and still have their EBT card, can note this on their application and use their existing card once the application process is complete.

EBT cards can also be used for online for food purchases from certain ven-

Benefit protection

Loughlin said the DTA recommends re-pinning your EBT card prior to each monthly benefit being received, to help prevent theft of benefits. If theft is detected, notify the DTA immediately using the online form found at dtaconnect.

How to apply

For more information about the DTA and SNAP eligibility and benefits, visit dtaconnect.com or call 877-382-2363.

About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discus-

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The Monson Lions Club Congratulates Travis Rock

The Monson Lions Club is proud to announce and honor Travis Rock, a senior at Monson High School. Travis is our 2024 \$1000 recipient of our Harold Barkley Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a well deserving senior that we see as a hard-working student, that's dedicated to his future goals, and who is kind, caring and compassionate. Travis will study at Springfield Technical Community College to be a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Contractor. We love to award students who have a passion to be in a skilled trade profession. Congratulations Travis, be proud of your achievements, we are! You are a wonderful young man who will make a difference!

> **The Monson Lions Scholarship Committee**

Paws 4 Blue K9 fundraiser

MONSON— The second annual Paws 4 Blue, police K9 fundraiser and craft fair will be held on Saturday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Westview creamery, 109 Hill Road. There will be raffles, demos, venders, food and drinks. Attendees will be able to meet local K9 heroes from Amherst police to Ware police. Admission will be free. The rain date will be July 27. For more information and a full list of K9 heroes that will be there please visit www.paws4blue.com.

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Journal Register

Are you having difficulty communicating

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Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm

to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is

educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.





TUTORING AVAILABLE

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.

Work days

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

July 13, 20 & 27

COME ON SATURDAYS

AND DRIVE A TRAIN!

Interested in more information

amherstrail.org

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- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep



Three Rivers Fire Dept. Headquarters **One Prudential Committee Member To Fill Unexpired Term Nomination Papers Available at the**

Three Rivers Water Dept., 2031 Main St. Nomination Papers Must Be Returned

No Later Than 5pm on July 15, 2024.

Three Rivers Fire & Water District

SPECIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

3pm to 7pm

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.

Corrections

The Journal Register will



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NOTICE

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Viewpoints



Grieving husband asks about his survivor benefits

Dear Rusty:

My wife died May 4, 2024. I notified Social Security, and they have removed the direct deposit made to my joint checking account on May 8, 2024. What are my options now for obtaining any benefits from my wife's Social Security account?

Signed: Grieving Husband

Dear Grieving Husband:

Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your wife. Rest assured that we're here to assist with any Social Security questions you may have at this difficult time.

FYI, a person must live the entire month to be eligible for SS benefits for that month. Social Security benefits aren't paid for the month a person dies. For this reason and as a matter of standard protocol, Social Security instructed the bank to return any payments received for your wife after her death. This is often referred to as the "claw back" rule.

In some circumstances, however, Social Security "claws back" money, which rightfully belongs to the deceased, as they did in this case. Your wife's Social Security payment received on May 8 was her payment for the month of April, and she was fully entitled to that payment because she lived for the entire month of April. I suggest that you download, fill out, and submit Form SSA-1724 to your local Social Security office to recover that May 8 payment, which rightfully belongs to your wife's estate. Note that the bank will automatically return any future SS payments received for your wife.

As your wife's surviving spouse, you are also entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255, which you can request by calling your local SS field office (get the number at www.ssa.gov/locator), or by calling 1.800.772.1213. During that call you can also explore whether you are entitled to any additional SS benefit as a surviving spouse.

If your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit was more than your current monthly SS benefit, you will be entitled to receive her higher monthly amount instead of your own smaller amount (FYI, if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age your survivor benefit will be reduced). And if you are not yet collecting your own SS benefit, you have the option to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first while allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to maximum at age 70 if you like.

Just be aware that if you haven't yet reached your Full Retirement Age and you are still working, any SS benefit you take before your FRA will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned before they take away some of your SS benefits. The 2024 annual earnings limit is \$22,320 (changes annually) for those who claim prior to the year they attain full retirement age, and SS will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 over the annual limit. The "earnings test" no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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.





Three Signs That You're a Difficult Patient

Difficult patients come in all shapes and sizes, but they all have one thing in common: they make life harder for their healthcare providers, whether they know it or not

Healthcare providers not only work in a frustrating, fast-paced healthcare system, they spend much of their time helping people who won't help themselves. Are you one of them? If so, it could be interfering with your healthcare and therefore your health!

Here are three signs that your providers might think you're a difficult patient:

You Don't Follow Doctors' Orders

Noncompliance is one of the most pressing issues in healthcare today. When patients don't follow their care plans or medication guidelines, problems arise.

Noncompliant patients have poorer health outcomes—and they waste every-one's time and money. Yet if a provider were to ask a patient, "Do you plan to be non-compliant?" most patients would exclaim "no!"

So, what's the disconnect? Noncompliance happens for many reasons: a lack of understanding, an inability to pay for prescriptions, or a myriad of behavioral health and social issues.

Unfortunately, it's unlikely your doctor will ask you, "What's your plan for following these instructions?" But if you tend to ignore your doctor's instructions, you need to create a plan to do just that.

You Come off as Being Angry or Entitled

Some patients have good reason to be unhappy with the quality of their healthcare. Some have been on the receiving end of medical error. Some feel they've been treated poorly or have skewed perceptions of the healthcare system.

Whatever the reason, angry, entitled patients are their own worst enemies. Alienating care providers rarely results in better health outcomes.

Doctors, nurses and social workers are human beings. As such, they gravitate to those who are pleasant to deal with. They may subconsciously steer clear of difficult patients and family members. Frankly, in these situations, all a provider can do is to listen to a pa-

tient's complaints and address whatever is in their power.

It's never okay to berate a care provider, yet it happens all the time. Often patients don't realize how badly they're behaving. Find a way to share your concerns or frustrations with civility, even on a bad day.

You Talk Too Much During Appointments

When patients talk nonstop, it makes it challenging for providers to discern the important information from everything else. It's rather like the boy who cried wolf; doctors may eventually tune out.

Doctors have limited time to see each patient. Excessive talkers unknowingly steal time from the next patient, while making it harder for providers to hone in on what's important.

Ask yourself: who does most of the talking during your doctor visits?

How to Be a Good Patient

If you want good healthcare—and who doesn't?—start by being a good patient. Follow your physician's instructions and medications as prescribed, even when you don't feel like it.

Share your healthcare concerns with your physician, but in a respectful manner. Ditto your frustrations. Don't create distractions from the main issue: your health!

Be mindful that in today's health-care environment, ER doctors and hospitalists are generally allowed about five minutes per patient. Doctors' office visits are booked in 15-minute increments. So be prepared: create a list of issues you want to discuss and keep the conversation on point.

Remember, it's never in your best interest to be a difficult patient. Partner with your providers to give them what they need, so they can best attend to your health.

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

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In 1987, Jeanne Bailey returned to her hometown of Monson, after having lived in California for many years. Upon her return, she brought back with her a very successful business, JB Catering and JB's Mobile Cafe. She and her husband Ken had their businesses at the Brimfield Flea Market for 35 years. Never someone to sit still, she formed a new business in Palmer called Jean Bailey's Gourmet Shop. Later on, she opened the very popular and charming Village Gift Shop in Monson, located both on Palmer Road and also Main Street in Monson. Realizing the need to stimulate the local economy in Monson, Jeanne formed the Monson Tourism Committee and her accomplishments just took off. Along with tourism member Denise Morgan, also from Monson, they established the Town of Monson's first Town-Wide Tag Sale. Jeanne also introduced and formed the annual Monson Town Trash Pick-up program. The many accomplishments of Jeanne's Tourism Committee include Entry Signs into Monson, located on the North, South, East and West entrances to Monson. The original Public Notice Board located outside the Monson Town Office Building. (All construction costs were donated by the Sanderson Family in memory of Ken Sanderson.) The Town Clock at Dave Grieve Park & Gazebo, as well as a new shingled roof on the Gazebo, Park Benches on Main Street along with Trash Receptacles, the painting of the of the House of Art. On May 23, 2006 Jeanne along with her Monson the Tourism Committee held a Flag Memorial Service at the Soldier's Monument on North Main Street in Monson to honor all troops who served and lost their lives in service to our country. A ceremony was attended by hundreds of people, with a flag display that was overwhelming and extremely impressive. Many dignitaries from across the State, as well as the Monson Police Department, Fire Department, American Legion Post 241, clergy, selectmen and the Quaboag Highlanders Band were in attendance. All these projects were funded through donations and fund-raising through her efforts. Jeanne also joined the Monson Rotary Club and assisted in their many civic projects such as the Annual Halloween Parade & Costume Party, the Tree of Lights, the Lucky Duck Race, Picnics and Christmas Luncheons served at Colonial Village, Rotary Scholarships, Citizen of the Year Awards, etc. In 2004 Jeanne was named Citizen of the Year by the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce. Jeanne was also a member of the Monson Summerfest Committee for many years. One of Jeanne's most successful projects was the Monson Food Truck & Music Festival which was created in 2019 and ran until 2023. All proceeds were donated in excess of \$80,000, to Dana Farber Cancer Research and other local Charities. Jeanne Bailey's contributions to her hometown have been amazing. Thank you, Jeanne, you certainly have set an example for all current and future generations to follow. Plus, Jeanne just became a member of the Monson Lions Club! Jeanne's newest adventure, as its Creator and Chairperson, will be the new 2024 Quaboag River Music Festival to be held on Saturday, September 21, at the 13th World, 1701 Park Street, (Rte 20) Palmer, from noon to 10 p.m. Four Popular Bands, plus local area singer Jordyn Doyle. Many Food Trucks, Cash Bar, Local Artisans, Nonprofits and Activities for all Ages. With Fireworks going off at 9:45 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Dana Farber Cancer Research, Palmer Food Share Program, Military Care XMAS package, and Second Chance Animal Services. "What's next Jeanne?" Great appreciation and much admiration,

Dot Jenkins, 2024 Quaboag River Music Festival Committee

Life Together

"Nobody's perfect!" "She is a perfectionist." We stress ourselves out by judging ourselves and realize we are not and cannot be perfect.

In fact, as Leonard Cohen wrote, "the cracks are where the light gets." To be vulnerable is to experience the possibility of change, for relief from stress, for a sense of order and hope.

There is a great book entitled, "The Spirituality of Imperfection", by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham. It describes the process for discovery of recovery from and affirming such spirituality.

The Japanese have a process for repair of broken pottery called, Kintsugi, the art of putting broken pottery pieces together again with gold. To see the beautiful lines of gold indicating the broken and now restored is beautiful.

In Native tradition, the weaver will include a flaw in the pattern to remind the person we are not and cannot be perfect.

As a therapist, it was not unusual for a former patient to grow, repair, and do the work to become a very good therapist. Henri Nouwen called it, "the wounded healer".

When we are judging ourselves for our lack of perfection, or even doing a good job, we need to remind ourselves of the lines in the Japanese pottery, the light getting in through the cracks, and that we can help others with their vulnerability because we have been there. We are wounded healers.

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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Letters to the editor policy

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

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

UPCOMING

Summer Drama & Dance Program
Beginning June 18 and ending August 25
Do you love dancing and acting?

Do you love dancing and acting? Have you always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5-18 welcome. (Drama students must be able to read). Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.comfor more info and to register.

PINE VALLEY ANNUAL TAG SALE: SATURDAY, July 13, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m,. at 281 Chauncey Walker St. Welcome station with maps, burgers/dogs/snacks/cold drinks. Restrooms. Huge variety of items.

PATHFINDER 40TH CLASS RE-UNION The event will be at Pulaski Park, on Saturday, Sept. 28, from noon to 5 p.m.

ONGOING

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses. The market starts on April 13, and runs from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

INTERESTS

PIONEER VALLEY QUILTERS Guild meets at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome. The mission of the guild is twofold: 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.

CALENDAR | page 12

WB&CA I from page 1

Club Director Al Sandy said he grew up around cars, taking many trips to the track in Watkins Glen, New York.

He's been at the club since before it opened, which is now in its 10th season.

Sandy said the Palmer track is unique in its design, and is a challenging course that tests the technical skills of drivers.

"We pull people from all over the world to come here to drive," he said.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a private member's club, and also hosts track days for select vehicles including Miata, BMW and Porsche during Cars & Coffee events. The club also hosts events that benefit military servicemembers and veterans, as well as local food pantries.

Sandy shared some little known facts about the track, pointing out that it's not the American muscle car that is the most popular car to drive on the trick, but rather the Mazda Miata, due to its affordability and handling.

"More often or not, the answer to driving the track: Miata, Miata, "Sandy said. "It's what they call a momentum car."

The club also offers high performance driver's education courses. Helping drivers to navigate the track with precision.

"This is a driver's course and we're all about teaching," Sandy said.

Sandy said it's a different mindset being out on the track, and it takes a little while to get used to it. He encouraged the WB&CA and Beyond members to take one of the club's monthly courses, which he said fill up quickly.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a seasonal operation, with the track open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Members are able to select the days and times to take their cars to the track.

Sandy said the club has quite a few members who drive multiple cars at the track. The club also boasts a diverse international following, with drivers visiting from Germany, France, Japan, Czech Republic, China, Sweden and many more.

Safety and the rules of operation are strictly enforced, with 14 flaggers around the track and cameras. The club is the only facility in the U.S. to use a program called Flagged, which keeps drivers aware of other cars on the track at all times; and alerts them when a car is stopped.

"There's no other circuit that we know of that operates like this on club days," Sandy said.

The track is built less for speed and more for technical driving, winding 2.3 miles through the top of Whiskey Hill. The track was built into the environment, to disturb as little of the natural surroundings as possible.

"It's that much of a gemstone. It's good for the community and good for all of us," he said.

Civic updates

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there is a lot going on, as the town prepares for the end of the fiscal year.

He said the town has applied for a large grant to cover the cost of replacing the town pool and adjacent playground. The grant totals \$7 million, and if awarded, it would also cover the purchase of electric vehicles for the Quaboag Connector and improvements to accessibility throughout town.

Beckley said the Massachusetts Department of Transportation bridge repairs on Route 32 are progressing and that it is expected to be a two- to threeyear project.

Ferrera introduced himself to WB&CA and Beyond members and said the town of Warren is a great town that is willing to hear any business ideas and plans.

"We're open for business...we'd love to have your business in town," he said.

Ferrera said Warren is also working to secure grants, including a federal grant that will help a potential developer restart the Wrights Mill complex in West Warren. The grant can be used to identify weaknesses in the infrastructure around the mill.

'We're keen on looking at ways to help bring businesses in town," he said.

WB&CA and Beyond President Dan Flynn said the new Town Administrator for Hardwick, Justine Caggiano, and Town Manager for Palmer, Brad Brothers, have also been invited to join the organization and share updates from their towns.

Upcoming event

The WB&CA and Beyond's next event, the Summer Sizzler presented by J. Stolar Insurance Agency, will be held on Wednesday, July 17 from 5-7 p.m. at AMVETS Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three

There will be horseshoes and cornhole; and members, employees and "plus 1's" are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person, and includes

burgers, hot dogs and sides. Toss a horseshoe to win the \$100 Golden Ringer prize, sponsored by ColorBlindGuv.

Reservations are required by July 15.

About WB&CA and Beyond

The WB&CA and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. The monthly meetings are open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit ware-

bca.com, contact warebca@gmail.com or call Flynn at 413-297-5886.

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Water Ski volunteers held onto the sit-skier to keep her steady and prevent her falling out.



Volunteers for the Webster Water Ski Collective helped to push the sit-ski out onto the water.

ADAPTIVE SKI I from page 1

ical disabilities, but the attendees of the Adaptive Ski Day were able to use a special type of ski, called a sit-ski, which the Aqua Riders volunteers explained how it

"The sit-skier is tied to the boat, they're not holding onto anything," explained the boat driver, Benny. "We have what we call a release. If something goes wrong, we can disconnect from the boat really quick."

Benny's rope-puller explained that she was there to provide a second set of eyes, and to ensure the safety of the skier.

"They're tied to a rope that, if I release, will release the rope," she said. "If she falls out, or if something happens, the ski is going to keep getting dragged. She can't let go on her own, so I'm basically letting go for her."

One volunteer, Chris Polkowski, said he enjoyed teaming up with the Ski Collective.

"It's nice to team up with the Webster people and be able to volunteer our time," Polkowski said. "It's good to get the two teams together, working together side by side. The participants love it you saw Eddie, he's having a blast, he's

jumping in the water - and it's great to see that.'

Webster Collective President Reanna Kudzal said that the Adaptive Ski Day shows how water-skiing is all about community.

"It really shows what the true meaning of water-skiing can be," Reanna Kuzdzal said. "To be in a position where we have so many people willing and able to come together and create this opportunity, it's a great day for everybody.'

The Webster Collective will be holding Adaptive Ski Days four more times this summer

"The next one's a veteran's event out in Shrewsbury," Kuzdzal said. "Then we're doing one specifically for folks with spinal cord injuries in Webster. We'll do one more that we call 'Any Age, Any Disability,' in Springfield, and then we're doing a half-day up in Tyngsborough, I believe that's also under Team Hoyt Partnership."

For more information about Team Hoyt New England, the Aqua Riders of Holland, or the Webster Water Ski Collective, visit their Facebook pages.



The Water Ski Club members gathered along the shore of the Hamilton Reservoir to help attach people to the boat.



As volunteers help a sit-skier into the water, the rope had to be reeled back into the boat.



Boats pulled skiers of varying physical capabilities all over the Hamilton Reservoir.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

PORK TENDERLOIN

As one volunteer Benny, drives the boat, a second volunteer rides with him to ensure the skier's safety.

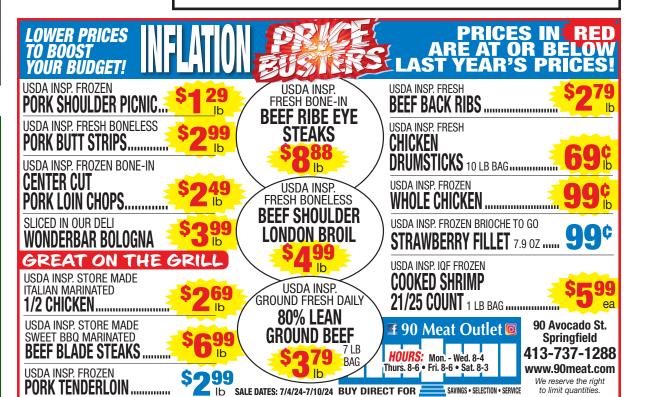


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Volunteers helped a participant into the water to attach a rope to a boat.



Volunteers rode along on either side of the sit-ski to prevent them from capsizing or getting hurt.



Volunteers set up on the dock to load into motorboats and assist the water-skiers.



Chris Poklowski hangs onto Eddie to keep him steady while water-skiing.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

A boat along the water sets up for the next group of adaptive water skiers and volunteers.



The motorboat takes off into the Reservoir, pulling along Eddie in the sit-ski.





Volunteers kept there eyes on the skiers from the boat.



Skiers enjoyed their time on the lake.





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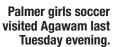
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SOCCER

Panthers tie with Agawam

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday evening, Agawam B girls soccer faced off with Palmer and went to a 1-1 draw. Agawam B consist of JV and some incoming freshmen players while Palmer's team includes players from both levels of its high school program. Agawam is 0-1-1 while Palmer is 2-0-3 on the summer.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli







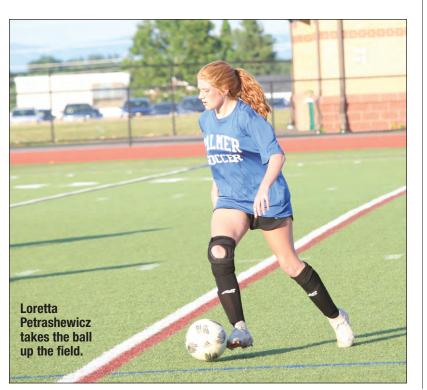
Addyson Petrashewicz stops the ball to change direction.



After taking this week off, the Panthers will resume play early next week.



The girls are training for what they hope is a deep run this fall.



BASEBALL

Post 241 evens record with win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Because of a couple of postponements, the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team had only played three games during the first 18 days of the regular season.

Monson evened its overall record to 2-2 following a 6-1 win against Aldenville Post 337, at Thomas B. Landers Baseball Diamond in South Hadley, last Friday night.

"This was only our fourth game since the Legion season began on June 10. We're still trying to figure things out," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "We did play very well defensively, and we also had a couple of timely base hits. I'm very happy with the way that we played in tonight's game."

The winning pitcher was righthander Brayden Mega, who was a junior on the Pathfinder Tech varsity baseball team this past spring. He allowed one run on three hits with four walks and four strikeouts in 51/3 innings. Righty James Delaney, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2023, only allowed one hit over the final 1 2/3 innings.

"Mega pitched an outstanding game," Tripp said. "He kept the Aldenville batters at bay. He threw around 80 pitches and just kept throwing strikes."

Aldenville, who normally plays their home games at Szot Park in Chicopee, had a 3-3 record following the loss to Monson.

"We were missing five starters tonight and we found enough players together to play the game. We didn't want to forfeit tonight's game," said Aldenville assistant coach Steve Burnett. "I think they only scored one earned run against us. We just made a couple of costly mistakes."

Aldenville manager Mason Scott also didn't attend last Friday's game against Monson because he was on vacation.

Aldenville did take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

With one-out in the frame, shortstop Nathan Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School a year ago, hit a chopper off the pitcher's glove for an infield hit. He advanced to second base on a wild pitch before Brady Burnett, who was Aldenville's starting pitcher, drew a walk. Then another infield hit by second baseman Zach Oldenburg

loaded the bases. Left fielder Ryan Netkovick, who was a sophomore on this year's South Hadley varsity baseball team, drove home the game's first run with a groundball out to third.

Aldenville managed to hold onto the one run lead until the third inning.

That's when Monson took advantage of a couple of errors to take a 3-1 lead against lefty Brady Burnett.

Monson shortstop John Mumper was safe at first base following a fielding error by the third baseman leading off the inning. His younger brother, Jason, who started in center field, followed with an infield hit. John Mumper scored the tying run on the play following a throwing error.

After a line-drive single to left field by first baseman Dylan Sutkaitis, designated hitter Dom Allen blasted a double to deep left field scoring two more runs.

Monson also had scoring chances in their next two at-bats. They left a runner at third base in the fourth and the bases loaded in the fifth.

Meanwhile, Mega retired ten

batters in a row before walking both first baseman Justin Moskal and right fielder Noah Carillon with one-out in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Mega was able to retire the next two batters rather easily ending Aldenville's threat.

After walking Netkovick with one-out in the sixth, Delaney replaced Mega on the mound.

The Monson relief pitcher did receive some help from his defense when left fielder Austin Meachum made an outstanding diving catch.

"Austin is the starting shortstop for the Monson varsity baseball team and he's a star in the making," Tripp said. "His outstanding diving catch helped up get out of that inning."

The next batter grounded out which ended the threat.

Monson scored three more runs in the top of the seventh inning. The biggest hit of that inning was an RBI single by right fielder Shane Szado, who also plays baseball at Monson High School.

Monson made a couple of errors in the bottom of the seventh, but Delaney got out of the jam without giving up any runs.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Extra innings decide minor division championship

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

STURBRIDGE—The Sturbridge Little League Minor Division championship game featured the top-seeded Mariner's and the second-seeded Red Sox.

Grayson Tavares, who's one of the players listed on the Mariners' roster, probably never thought he would be the hero of the June 18 game.

With the score tied with one-

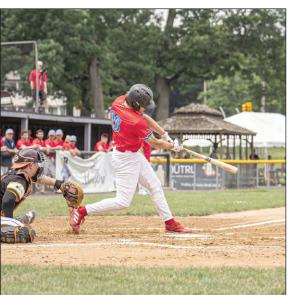
LITTLE LEAGUE | page 8



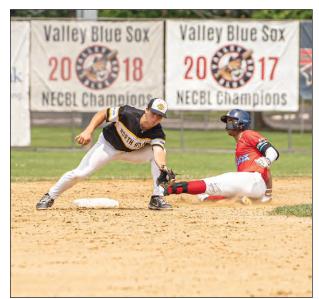
Michael O'Connor enters the field.



John Kwaitkowski delivers a pitch for the Blue Sox.



Jonathan Hogart swings and connects.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande Andrew Estrella slides safely into second.

Blue Sox continue season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are the local attraction for college baseball. The Blue Sox have played about half its schedule and continue their 42-game slate into July. Home games are played at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. There are numerous promotions and fun deals for individuals and families. The Blue Sox have several home games throughout July and hopefully beyond with the New England Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.

Mutiny racks up another home win

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW-A parade, a block party, and fireworks were held June 16 as part of Ludlow's yearlong 250th anniversary celebration.

The New England Mutiny joined in the fun by celebrating a 4-0 shutout victory in their first ever meeting against the Hudson Valley Crusaders before a large gathering at Lusitano Stadium.

"This is a very good win for the ladies," said Mutiny assistant coach Ciro Viviane. "I thought we played very well in tonight's match, especially during the second half.'

Viviane and Joe Ferrara, who's the Mutiny's Owner and General Manager, shared the coaching duties during last Saturday's home match.

Federico Molinari, who's the Mutiny's first-year head coach, is also the longtime head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers. He coached the Pioneers match at Vermont Green, which ended in a scoreless draw, last Saturday night.

The Mutiny remained in first place in the United Women Soccer East conference standings with a perfect 5-0-0 overall record.

"It feels really good to be 5-0," said Mutiny defender Rachel Marchini, who scored her first goal wearing a Mutiny uniform. "We're just looking forward to continuing playing well in each game."

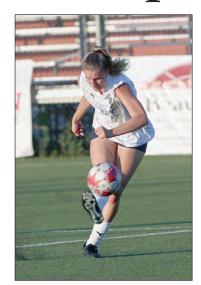
Because only the top four teams in the East Conference standings will qualify for the league playoffs, the Mutiny can't afford a loss in their final three regular season matches.

They're scheduled to play a road match against the Connecticut Rush on Saturday night.

The same two teams will face each other again seven days later at Lusitano Stadium, which will be the Mutiny final regular season home match.

The Mutiny will then close out the regular season with a road clash against the Worcester Fuel on June 30.

"We're looking forward to finishing the regular season on a positive note," said Viviane, who's also the Pioneers goalie's coach. "I think our next two matches against the Connecticut Rush will be hard fought battles.



Avery Klingensmith follows through on a pass.

Worcester might be struggling, but you can't overlook any team in this league."

The Mutiny won't have the services of forward Cat Berry, who's one of the team's leading scorers, during the final three regular season matches. She went back to the University of South Carolina last weekend to take summer classes and prepare for her final collegiate season as a member of the Gamecocks women's soccer team.

Berry has been a member of the Mutiny for the past three seasons and is a fan favorite. She'll most likely be drafted by a National Women's Soccer League (N.W.S.L.) team next year.

"Cat will definitely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team next year," Ferrara said. "It was awesome having her play for our soccer team during the past couple of years. Not only is she a very talented soccer player, but she's also a great kid."

The Mutiny, who outscored their first five opponents of this season, 19-3, have compiled a an 18-5-2 overall record since the start of the 2022 regular season.

The Crusaders (3-1-1), who joined the U.W.S. this season, entered last Saturday's contest with a 3-0-1 mark. They had only given up two goals in the first four matches. The Mutiny doubled that total in a span of 90 minutes.

The home side took a 1-0 lead during the 11th minute of the opening half following a corner kick goal.

Mutiny midfielder Abbey Jones, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, booted the ball into the box from



Maddy Theriault advances up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Jess Mazo sends a quick pass away.

the left corner. Marchini, who also played soccer at UConn a couple of years ago, sent a volley shot into the back of the net past Hudson Valley goalie Natalie Kelch-

"I've been playing for the Mutiny for two years now and I scored my first goal in tonight's game," said Marchini, who also scored only one goal during her collegiate career. "I was just in the right spot at the right time. My goal gave us a lot more confidence because they were also an unbeaten team."

Marchini was also a member of the Connecticut Fusion before joining the Mutiny.

"I used to play for the Fusion, but when they folded, I decided to come play here," Marchini said. "It has been a lot of fun playing soccer at this stadium during the past couple of years."

Marchini anchors the Mutiny defensive unit along with Logan Jacobs, Laci Lewis, and Sam

Goalkeeper Natalie Mutschler only had to make a couple of saves in recording her second consecutive shutout.

The Mutiny second goal was scored by forward Chioma Okafor during the 29th minute. Forward Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School a couple of years ago, was credited with

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Hope Santaniello, who was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School.

Santaniello, who'll be a member of the UMass-Lowell women's soccer team in the fall. scored her team's second corner kick goal, which was assisted by Okafor, during the 71st minute.

She also converted a penalty kick during the final minute of regulation, which kept the Mutiny undefeated heading into the home stretch of the regular season.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Austin Meacham

Monson

During Monson Post 241's win over Alden-

ville last Friday, Meacham made a diving

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week,

contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A.

Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an

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catch to help out his team on defense.

e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

T-Birds announce coaches and promotions for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds today announced the promotion of James Woodward and Katherine Ferri to Account Executives, as well as the hiring of Joe Manning as an Inside Sales Representative.

143 West Street

Originally from Hartford, Conn., Woodward joined the Thunderbirds as a Game Operations and Merchandise intern before joining the sales department as an Inside Sales Representative for the 2023-24 season. He graduated with a degree in Sport Management from Western New England University.

A Springfield native, Ferri is a graduate of Westfield State University, where she competed on the swimming team during his time in school.

and diving team while completing her degree in communication with a concentration in Media Arts and Analysis. She joined the Thunderbirds during the 2022-23 season as an intern in the ticket sales department before serving as an Inside Sales Representative during the 2023-24 season.

A recent graduate of Springfield College, Manning joins the Thunderbirds as an Inside Sales Representative after interning in the ticket sales and media relations departments during the 2023-24 season. The native of Wilbraham, Mass., was also a member of Springfield College's club ice hockey

Registration now open for Owl tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration to introduce Lou to some of our ment includes 18 holes with cart is now open for the 18th annual Owl Club Golf Tournament, which will be played on Monday, Aug. 5 at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass.

The tournament is a primary fundraising event to support Owls athletics.

Registration is open at www. westfieldalumni.org/OwlGolf

New Owls' head football coach Lou Conte, Jr. will be the guest of honor for the tournament. Meet coach Conte and learn about his plans for the future of the Owls program, while enjoying a great day of golf.

"It's a great chance for us

most loyal alumni, and the folks that support Westfield State athletics," said Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. "It's great that Lou has ties here in the local area, and I think that everyone will look forward to hearing his approach to Westfield State football."

Conte joins the Owls after a year as head coach at American International College in Springfield, and a seven-year stint as an assistant and offensive coordinator at The Citadel, a NCAA Division I program in the Southern Conference.

The Owl Club Golf Tourna-

in a scramble format, a cookout style lunch before the round, and a buffet dinner following. Raffles, on course contests, and a player's oasis on the course helps to ensure an enjoyable round for golfers of all levels. For more information on the tournament, CLICK HERE.

The event has been popular with alumni, parents, friends and fans, and has sold out for the last 15 events. Westfield Bank will serve as the lead sponsor for the

Register early to ensure your team's participation. Foursomes are preferred, but we will pair individuals or smaller groups.

"It's always a great day to see a lot of old friends and classmates, and some of the sponsors that really help to support the accomplishments of our talented student-athletes," added Lenfest. "The golf is fun, but the proceeds help to put our Smith Cup-winning programs in position to be as competitive as possible on the field and in the classroom."

Westfield Bank serves as the title sponsor of the event. Additional sponsor packages are still available; contact Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole at 413-572-5433 or dcaspole@ westfield.ma.edu.

LITTLE LEAGUE I from page 7

out in the bottom of the eighth inning, Tavares hit a hard groundball single into left field bringing home Gabe Parent with the game winning run, as the Mariner's celebrated a thrilling 6-5 walkoff victory under the lights at Town Barn Field.

"It was Grayson's first base hit of the entire season, and you couldn't have written a better script," said Mariner's manager Steve Brunell. "This is Grayson's first year playing for our baseball team and I'm thrilled for him."

Had the Marnier's failed to score a run in the bottom of the eighth inning, the Sturbridge Little League Minor Division championship game would've ended in a tie for the first time in at least the past 15 years.

One of the four regular season meetings between the two rivals did end in a tie. The Mariner's won the other the three

"I never expected tonight's game to go into extra innings,"

Brunell said. "I'm just glad that we won the game with a hit instead of a walk or an error. We always tell the players that they have to earn it."

The other Marnier's players are Max Schwerwin, Ryan Schwerwin, Aiden Petersen, Jace Levesque, Jase Lamothe, Ethan Petersen, Jacob Brunell, Nick Kluge, Denny Jennette Jr., Emily Parent, and Joey Nellenbeck.

"This group of players have been fantastic to coach this year," Steve Brunell said. "We only lost one game during the regular season. It was just a great season."

Following the game, the Marnier's players took pictures with the championship trophy in the outfield. Every player will also be receiving their own championship trophy.

The members of the Red Sox are Oliver Boudreau, William Norton, John Hinson, Owen Boudreau, Kade Scheffler, Cole Bond, Carter Beales, Jack Lazzareschi, Charles Gagnon, Aiden

Coombs, Thomas Luth, and Colin Leecock.

"It was a long game, but it was very exciting," said Red Sox manager Jed Beales. "We were able to take the lead in the sixth inning, but we couldn't keep it."

Levesque, who was the Marnier's starting pitcher, struck out the side in the top of the first in-

With two-outs in the bottom of the first, Lamothe drove home the game's first run with a flyball single to center. The Red Sox tied the score

in the following frame when Bond, who walked, scored on a wild pitch with one-out. The Marnier's quickly re-

took the lead on an RBI single to rightfield by Ethan Petersen with one-out in the bottom of the sec-

After both teams were held scoreless in the third, Hinson drew a leadoff walk in the top of the fourth. He scored the tying run on a wild pitch.

The contest stayed tied until the top of the sixth inning. That's when the Red Sox

took the lead for the first time.

With two-outs, Bond delivered a two-run double to right field before scoring on a wild

The Marnier's answered right back with three runs in the bottom half of the frame. Those three runs were

scored by Max Schwerin, Aiden Petersen, and Jacob Brunell on wild pitches. During the regular season

Minor Division games do end in ties and there is also a two-hour time-limit. Following a discussion be-

tween the two managers and the umpire, the championship game continued into extra innings.

The score remained tied at 5-5 until Tavares became the hero for the Marnier's with one-out in the bottom of the eighth.

New matchup announced for showcase

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the updated lineup for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase. The event will now take place on Dec. 14 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut. Revised Hall of Fame Showcase

matchups: Saturday, Dec. 14 Providence vs. St. Bonaventure **Bryant vs. Fordham**

Tickets for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase will go on sale Friday, September 6, via Ticketmaster and on sale at the Mohegan Sun Arena Box Office starting Saturday, Septem-

Details surrounding the game time, broadcast information, and credentials will be provided at a later date. For more information, please visit hoophall.com.

Coaches participating in the event commented.

"We are always looking for unique situations in scheduling where we can put our program on a big stage. We are very thankful for the Basketball Hall of Fame continuing to allow us these opportunities." said Phil Martelli Jr., Bryant.

"We are excited to be invited to play in the Basketball Hall of Fame Men's Showcase. The Basketball Hall of Fame does a fantastic job at hosting these events and Mohegan Sun is a great venue for basketball. It will be a tremendous experience and test for our program as we compete against some strong early season competition. I'm sure that Fordham fans are just as excited and will come out to support their Rams." said Keith Urgo, Fordham.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to participate in the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun. Providence College has a proud tradition of participating in past Hall of Fame events at Mohegan Sun. This is a great event for our team and our fans in a first-class facility. It also will be a good chance for our team to compete against one of the top programs in the Atlantic 10." said Kim English, Providence.

"We are excited to participate in this season's Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun. These are exactly the types of games we strive to play every year. Providence is a storied program with good players who are very well-coached. This will be a great challenge, but one we are looking forward to. I anticipate a large contingent of Bona Nation in the building that day. Thanks to the BHOF for another great opportunity." said Mark Schmidt, St.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage polices, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

DEATH NOTICES

Erich Horst Heinze Died April 29, 2024 Lasher Funeral Home

Robert M. "Bob" Laviolette Died June 24, 2024 Services July 1, 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. 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.

Erich Horst Heinze

Erich Horst Heinze was born to Herma & Erich Heinze January 17th, 1948 in NYC. He passed in his sleep at his home in Burlington, CT April 29th 2024

at the age of 76. Erich was a connoisseur of antiques & a history buff. He was a master storyteller & fluid illustrator whose distinct signature came naturally. He was a jovial 'chip off the old block' who lost his famous beard to a football bet

like the 1990's Lay's Potato Chip commercial starring Kareem Abdul-Jabbar & Larry Bird. He fancied a lark (and high steaks).

He was The Sphinx. He flew planes & drove long distance; he had stories to tell.

Above all, he was frighteningly incisive. His wit www.lasherfh.com/obituary/Er-& drollery will be missed. He is



survived by wife Catherine McClosky H., daughters Margaret & Marion Heinze, son Tyler Maxwell and sister Lorelei Bardes. No Memorial is set at this time. Memories & Condolence Can Be Shared On The Tribute Wall at https://

ich-Heinze

Robert M. "Bob" Laviolette

We are so very sad to announce the passing of Robert M. "Bob" Laviolette on June 24, 2024 in Palmer, MA. Bob was a cherished husband, dedicated father, Pepere and Great Pepere, devoted community member, and friend to all. Born on April 25, 1936, Bob was a lifelong resident of Palmer for all of his 88 years.

"Little Bobby" was the be-

loved son of the late Ladislas "Nick" Laviolette and Margaret (Ditto) Laviolette. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Joyce Clairena (Jalbert) Laviolette, his best friend who took such great care of him throughout the years. He also leaves behind his 5 children and their spouses: Michael and Donna Laviolette, Mark and Kelly Laviolette, Michele and Paul Rivers, Maria and Bill Darling, and Martina and Dean Buchman. Pepere will be sadly missed by his 15 grandchildren: Bryan, Tyler, Alyssa Trey, Manda, Sarah, Caroline, Hannah, Reese, Halie, Hillary, Tessa, Thomas, Nicolas and Delaney. His grandchildren were the absolute joy of his life, and he loved every moment he was able to spend with each of them. He also leaves behind six great-grandchildren: Evie, Lyra, Otto, Milo, Eli and Mila, who he loved and adored. Bob will be deeply missed by his siblings Jeanne Santucci, Richard Lavio-

lette, and Rocqueline Blazejowski, along with an abundance of nieces and nephews and their extended families.

A graduate of Palmer High School, Bob furthered his education at the former Monson Academy. He was honored to serve

his country in the United States Army, and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of AmVets and the American Legion. His professional career was marked by his role as a Production Manager at Jarvis and Jarvis Manufacturing for over 30 years.

Bob was a devout communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer, where his faith was a guiding beacon throughout his life. He was so proud to serve his community as a volunteer for the Palmer Fire Department for over 30 years, including a role as Chaplain and participation in their color guard. An avid supporter of Palmer sports teams, Robert never missed a Thanksgiving Day or Palmer-Ware game, and was always there to proudly and lovingly watch his grandchildren as they participated in baseball, football, basketball, gymnastics, cross country, track, theater and dance recitals. His commitment



to youth also extended to coaching Palmer Football and Little League. Throughout his life, Bob enjoyed many sports, especially golfing, and was a member of the Quaboag Country Club. He was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Everyone knew Bob will miss his smile, his friendly manner, and his infectious laughter (usually brought on by a joke of his own telling). Through his many stories, jokes and youthful antics, Bob brought so much love and laughter to friends and family throughout the years.

Visitation was held on July 1, at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass took place on Tuesday, July 2 at St. Thomas Church, with burial in the parish cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Bob's memory to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Children's Hospital, honoring his legacy of charity and care.

Bob Laviolette's life was a testament to service, love, and dedication. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 443 incidents on its logs for June 18 - June 24.

June 18

At 12 a.m. police arrested Robert J. Rogers, 55, of 263 Wilbraham St., Palmer on OUI liquor, possession of ammunition without a FID card, 4 counts of possession of a firearm without a FID card, 4 counts of improper storage of firearms and unlawful possession of

At 3:02 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Susan Ann Depathy, 70, of 1974 Parker St., Springfield, for speed exceeding posted limit and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

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At 7:16 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Church Street.

At 8:49 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Boston Road and Old Warren Road.

June 21

At 5:02 p.m. police arrested Steve Frank McKenzie, 44, of 227 Mazarin St., Springfield, for OUI liquor, failure to wear a seatbelt, lights violation with windshield wipers on, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and marked lanes

At 7:39 p.m. police arrested Victor R. Conterras, 48, of 4 Ruggles Circle, Three Rivers, for OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

June 22 5:45 p.m. police gave summons Sharon Lee Schweizer, 58, of 41 Asinof, Chicopee, for number plate violation and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

June 23

At 12:49 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Griffin Street.

At 7:41 p.m. police gave summons to Cody L. Jameson, 19, of 148 Sykes St., Three Rivers, for marked lane violation, speeding at a rate that is greater than was reasonable and proper and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

June 24 At 2:48 p.m. police responded

to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 7:41 p.m. police gave summons to Seja L. Esancy, 43, of 1210 Calkins Road, Palmer, for operating a motor vehicle with license suspended.



27 local firefighters graduate

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy graduates represent 18 communities.

from fire academy

Graduates of Call/

#112 Represent 18

SPRINGFIELD—State Fire

Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massa-

chusetts Firefighting Academy Di-

rector Eric S. Littmann announced

the graduation of 27 recruits from

the Call/Volunteer Recruit Fire-

fighter Training Program this eve-

ning. The graduates received certif-

icates of completion at a ceremony

held at the Department of Fire Ser-

are on the frontlines protecting

their communities every day, and

today's graduates are needed now

more than ever," said State Fire

Marshal Davine. "The hundreds

of hours of foundational training

they've received will provide them

with the physical, mental, and

technical skills to perform their

ing Academy instructors draw

on decades of experience in the

said Director Littmann. "Through

consistent classroom instruction

and practical exercises, tonight's

graduates have developed the tools

they'll need to protect their com-

Call/Volunteer Recruit Class #112

represent the fire departments of

Adams, Brimfield, Granby, Had-

ley, Huntington, Lee, Leverett,

Orange, Palmer, Richmond, South

Hadley Fire District 1, Southwick,

Three Rivers, Tyringham, Warren,

Warwick, and Whately. They were

presented with certificates of com-

pletion by Deputy State Fire Mar-

Outstanding Student Award was

presented to Firefighter Max Ar-

vidson of the Hadley Fire Depart-

ment. The award is named for Mar-

tin "Marty" McNamara V, a call

class and recognizes their academ-

The Martin H. McNamara

shal Maribel Fournier.

The graduating firefighters of

fire service to train new recruits,"

Firefight-

jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts

"Massachusetts firefighters

vices' Springfield campus.

Volunteer Class

Communities

Video of the ceremony will be posted on the Department of Fire Services' YouTube channel, www. youtube.com/dfsosfm.

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Making the training more accessible means more firefighters can participate and allows them more time to practice training skills with instructors.

The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, has offered the program since 2003. More than 3,000 call and volunteer recruits have graduated since then.

Today's Firefighters Do Far **More than Fight Fires**

Today's firefighters train for all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to Fentanyl overdoses or a gas leak. They may be called to rescue children who have fallen through the ice or locked themselves in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and crashed vehicles. They must test, maintain, and utilize equipment such as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

Students receive classroom firefighter with the Lancaster Fire training in all basic firefighter Department who lost his life in the skills. They practice first under line of duty in 2003 while battling non-fire conditions and then during a fire in a multifamily home. It is controlled fire conditions. To gradpresented to one recruit in each uate, students must demonstrate graduating call/volunteer training proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, waic and practical skills, testing, and ter supply, pump operation, and evaluations over the course of the

fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires.

Submitted photo

Graduates have completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends. Upon successful completion of this program, all students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001. In addition, they have the ability to become certified to the level of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifica-

Andrey Mendel, Adams Fire

Roman Carlisle, Brimfield Fire Dept.

Jonathan Delgado, Granby Fire Dept.

Myranda Goveia, Granby Fire Dept.

Erin Kerdavid, Granby Fire Dept. Chris Towne, Granby Fire Dept. Max Arvidson, Hadley Fire Dept. Anthony Golembeski, Huntington *Fire Dept.*

Nicholas Perry, Huntington Fire

Cole Torres, Huntington Fire

Jessica Conkling, Lee Fire Dept. Jeremy Rice, Leverett Fire Dept. Ryan Hendrickson, Orange Fire Dept.

Jason Cousineau, Palmer Fire

Dept. Thomas Allen, Richmond Fire Dept

Heather Perkins, Richmond Fire

Dept. Jacob Soldato, Richmond Fire

Dept. Briana Cote, South Hadley-Dis-

trict 1 Fire Dept. Nora Newman, South Hadley-District 1 Fire Dept.

Benjamin Cleland, Southwick Fire Dept.

Jonah Bachand, Three Rivers

Fire Dept. Nicholas Morrison, Tyringham

Fire Dept.

Lillian Harvey, Warren Fire Dept. Drew Martinez, Warren Fire Dept. Jonathan Russell, Warren Fire

Dept. Anna Picard, Warwick Fire Dept. Sean Kirkendall, Whately Fire

Dept.

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PINE VALLEY ANNUAL TAG SALE: SATURDAY, July 13, 8-3. 281 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown.- Dozens of tag sales throughout our community. Welcome station with maps, burgers/dogs/ snacks/cold drinks. Restrooms. Huge variety of items!

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

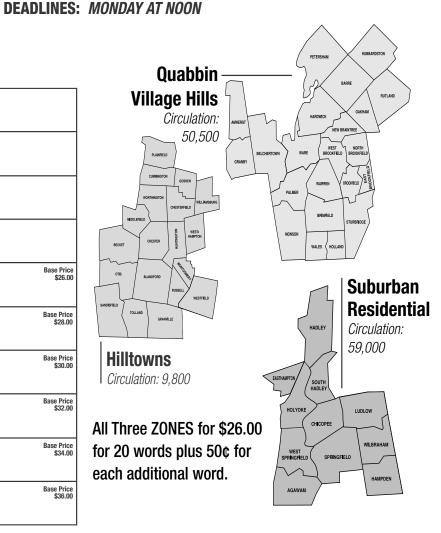


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Public Notices

Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Town Administration Building, Meeting Room #1, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation District 2 Office of 811 N. King Street Northampton, MA 01060.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of **Applicability** for activities associated with mandatory road maintenance within the existing state highway layout. The work will be set to occur within the 200ft riverfront area and the bank of a perennial stream.

The project will occur near 2-15 Breckenridge St. Palmer, MA 01069 alongside Route 20 (GPS coordinates 42.15155°, -72.31575°).

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

> Donald Blais, Jr., Chair Palmer Conservation Commission

07/04/2024

Town of Wales Conservation Commission

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on July 11, 2024, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at 6:00 PM, for a Request of Determination **Applicability** filed by Gary Pfisterer for the property located at 15 Shaw Rd. Wales, MA 01081. For more information regarding this application contact conservation@townofwales.net and visit our website for any updates 07/04/2024

Town of Wales Zoning Board of Appeals Notic of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch 40A §10 &§11, the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on July 16, 2024, at the Wales Senior Center at 5:30 p.m. on the application of Alice Lombard & Brian Hatch regarding the property at 41 Fountain Rd. in Wales. The applicants have applied for a special permit in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4. 2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.2 states "A pre-existing non-conforming use or structure may not be extended, altered or changed except by a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals." Specifically, the applicant wishes to demo a section of the existing home and construct/rehab the single-family home on site with driveway installation, new septic and landscaping. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to July 16th, 2024, agenda on the Zoning Board of Appeals page on the town website (www.townofwales.net). If you have any questions or concerns, please email planning@townofwales.net 06/27, 07/04/2024

PALMER PLANNING BOARD **PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 15, at 7:00 PM in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corp. (PPC) is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one year term, on the property located at 863 Ware Street, Palmer MA, also

known as Assessor's Map 31

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

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

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

Michael Marciniec, Chairman 06/27, 07/04/2024

PALMER PLANNING **BOARD PUBLIC HEARING** NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corp. (formally known as JJC Materials) is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one year term, on the property located at 1310/1312 Park Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map, 7 Lot 13 and Map 56 Lots 78, 79, 80 & 83

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

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

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

Michael Marciniec, Chairman 06/27, 07/04/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division** Docket No. HD24P1371EA **Estate of:**

Simone E. Brouillette Date of Death: March 5, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Lu-Ann Routhier of Gilbertville, MA.

Lu-Ann Routhier of Gilbertville, 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.

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

07/04/2024

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:20 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St, Monson, MA. Under consideration is a **Request for Determination** of Applicability to determine if the work associat-

ed with the treatment and removal of invasive species for the properties located on Crow Hill Rd., identified as Assessor's Map 061, Parcel 001 and Tupper Hill Rd., identified as Assessor's Map 161, Parcel 003 is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

Monson Conservation Commission 07/04/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: FORD VIN: 1FDFE4FS2FDA38184 Alexandra Riviere Stedman 112 King ST Apt B Northampton, MA; CHEVY VIN: 2CND173F876234692 Melanie Donohue 457 Lumas ST Westfield, MA; FORD VIN: 1FDAF56F2YEB89563 Pro Cut of R.I. Inc. 165 Dyerville Ave. #3 Johnston, RI; FORD VIN: 1FDAF56F2YEB89563 Alexandra Riviere Stedman 112 King ST Apt B Northampton, MA; TOYOTA VIN: JTDKB2OU840047087 Alpuslan Turk 20 Banbury ST Springfield, MA; CADILLAC VIN: 1G6AL5SX1E0122945 Jennifer MCGuill 15 Meadowbrook LN Palmer, MA; FORD VIN: 3FAHPOHA2AR293404 Matthew Samek PO Box 1123 Barre, MA/85 Bethany Road Unit 4 Monson, MA; HONDA VIN: 1HGCM72615R010194 Melissa Moore 2 Castle ST Ware, MA; HONDA VIN: 1HGCM66586A071233 David Sanchez Santos 633 Walls CIR Oliver Springs, TN; BUICK VIN: 2G4WD582791130002 Shawn Bowen 45 Elm ST Monson, MA. This auction is to take place on July 5, 2024, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA

> LEGAL NOTICE MONSON **CONSERVATION**

06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40. the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St., Monson, MA. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the repair of a paved drainage swale located within the Right-Of-Way of Route 32, identified as near Assessors 130, near Map 005, Parcel is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant is MassDOT -District 2.

Monson Conservation Commission

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION

COMMISSION Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131, §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:10 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St, Monson, MA. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, septic, and well within the Buffer Zone for the property located on Munn Rd, identified as Assessor's Map 175A, Parcel 009. The Applicant is Frederick McDonald.

Monson Conservation Commission 07/04/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT **DEPARTMENT OF THE**

TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 24 SM 002321 ORDER OF NOTICE

Richard D. Stred, The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representative of the Estate of Marilyn E. Stred. The Heirs, Devisees and

Legal Representative of the Estate of Richard S. Stred, Jeremy Robert Clark and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the

Servicemembers Civil Relief

Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901

(et seq): Mortgage Assets

Management, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 275 State Street, given by Richard D. Stred and Marilyn E. Stred to **Financial Freedom Senior** Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Bank, FSB, dated May 2, 2002, and registered at Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 144361 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 9004, 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 recent-

ly 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 vour attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 8/05/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 6/25/2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson, 07/04/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S

SALE OF REAL ESTATE By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 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, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for EverBank, its successors

and assigns to EverBank,

recorded on December 11, 2012, in Book No. 19587, at Page 531 EverBank, as successor by merger to EverHome Mortgage Company to Green Tree Servicing LLC, recorded on July 14, 2014, in Book No. 20349, at Page 185 Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC to New Residential Mortgage LLC, recorded on January 28, 2020, in Book No. 23063, at Page 485 New Residential Mortgage LLC to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on January 24, 2023, in Book No. 24886, at Page 215 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on August 5, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 230 Palmer Road, Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in

said mortgage, TO WIT: A certain tract of land situate on the westerly side of the highway leading from Palmer to Monson in the Town of Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stone bound in the ground in the westerly line of said highway leading from Palmer to Monson and at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Heber A. Davis;

thence N. 89° W. along line of said land now or formerly of Heber A. Davis a distance of one hundred eighty-five (185.00) feet to an iron pin in the ground in line of other land now or formerly of Frank B. Haley and Pearl H. Haley;

thence S.1° W. along line of said other land now or formerly of Frank B. Haley and Pearl H. Haley one hundred (100.00) feet to an iron pin in the ground; thence S. 89° E. along said land named land one hundred eighty-five (185.00) feet to an iron pin in the ground in the westerly line of said highway leading from Palmer to Monson;

thence N. 1° E. along the westerly line of said highway a distance of one hundred (100.00) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10867, Page

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the TERMS OF SALE: A

deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, 150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500 07/04, 07/11, 07/18/2024

Public Notice

Massachusetts Department of **Environmental Protection** Division of Wetlands and Waterways MassDEP Boston Office 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114 Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for major fill associated with culvert

proposed projects for reconstruction and improvements on Monson Road, from the Monson town line to Reed Hill Road in Wales, MA, by the town of Wales with construction funding from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division, Ten Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. This project will consist of the replacement of four 12-36 inch cross culverts with new pipes and reinforced concrete headwalls, two new concrete box culverts, channel realignment, stream channel restoration, and associated rip rap protection. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, Attention Courtney Walker or by emailing courtney.l.walker@dot.state. ma.us. Written comments should be sent to MassDEP Wetlands Program, Attention Heidi Davis, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or heidi.davis@ mass.gov within 21 days of

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. 07/04/2024

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

Thank you.

What to know before 'reversing' your retirement

If you've retired, you may have thought you closed the book on one chapter of your life. But what happens if you need to "reverse"

Due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, many retirees are taking out more money from their retirement accounts than they had originally anticipated. As a result, some are headed back to the workforce. If you're thinking of joining them, you'll need to consider some factors that may affect your finances.

First, if you've been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which, in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits,

regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn't the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world. Obviously, you'll be making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you'll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven't yet started receiving

In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce, even if it's on a part-time basis, may give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you'll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There's no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

CALENDAR I from page 4

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

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

visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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.

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,

SELECT BOARD I from page 1

said. "Uliana is working with Hope Bodwell and Denise Newland at the library to offer climate and ecology programming directed to kids and also environmental protection."

Uliana and Conservation Commission Chair Glenn Colburn were at the meeting, accompanied by Ed Hood, Executive Director of Norcross Wildlife Foundation, to seek the support of the board for the application of a grant next year.

"We are a charitable organization, we own land in several towns, including here in Monson," Hood said. "We have about 4,000 visitors a year come to our school programs and our trails, and we like to think we're a good neighbor with our local towns. Our main mission is to protect land for wildlife."

Hood explained that of the 8,000 acres the organization owns, about 2,000 are in Monson, and there

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is concern that a director might at one point try to sell the land.

"We are seeking to actually put a permanent conservation easement on our property, which will restrict us from selling the land for development in the future," Hood said.

The method to prevent this that Norcross and Conservation are exploring is the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, which is a federal grant to protect privately-owned forests. Norcross is currently applying for this grant for a block of land in Wales, and is interested in applying for between 500-1,000 acres of land in Monson next year.

"The main thing we need to have is either a state agency or the local municipality hold a conservation easement, and that would be a way for us to partner with that organization," Hood said.

The board expressed misgivings about how the program would affect the taxes, but agreed to continue having conversations with Norcross as the application is prepared.

Veterans Services

Oney then announced that the Veterans Services Officer has been appointed and is expected to start on Monday, July 1.

"After determining that a veterans service district with Monson and Wilbraham was not feasible for either town due to the cost involved, Monson veterans received service coverage through Jared Sasson from Wilbraham and part-time coverage by Tina Brohman from Palmer," Oney explained.

The town received several applications for the po-

Clerk interviewed the candidates earlier this month, and unanimously appointed Michelle Murdoch, "citing her positive attitude, extensive knowledge, and experience working as a Veterans Service Officer for other communities," according to Oney.

Housing Protection Plan

"Under MA general laws chapter 40B, towns are encouraged to insure that at least 10% of their total

sition, and a panel consisting of the Finance Director,

the Director of the Council on Aging and the Town

"Under MA general laws chapter 40B, towns are encouraged to insure that at least 10% of their total housing stock qualifies as affordable to individuals and families who earn up to 80% of the area median income. In communities that have not reached this 10% goal, a developer who proposes a significant number of affordable units is allowed to override most local zoning and wetlands laws and regulations by applying for a comprehensive permit, which the Zoning Board of Appeals is obligated by state law to issue. If a town has an approved and certified housing protection plan, it is given preference for certain state grant funds, but more importantly can avoid issuing a comprehensive permit as long as the town is making progress toward the 10% goal at a rate of at least half a percent per year.

"Specifically with regard to Monson, we received a grant in early 2021 from the state in the amount of \$60,000 to work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The plan requires approval from the Planning Board and the Select Board. The Planning Board has been reviewing the plan at its last few meetings and has asked for an additional extension to the next meeting. The Select Board will be attending that meeting to understand what the Planning Board's concerns are and then put the issue on a Select Board agenda."

Board of Health

As of June 30, due to term expirations and resignations, there are no members on the Board of Health, according to Oney.

"By law, the Select Board will be temporarily acting as the Board of Health until a new Board of Health is constituted," Oney said.

Oney said that this would not have an effect on inspections or the issuance of permits, which are provided through a regional health services organization.

Other business

Oney talked about the town's use of ad hoc committees, which have been preferred for their flexibility, and the convenience of not being subject to Open Meeting Law.

"In speaking with counsel, she agrees that it's preferable to use Open Meetings as much as possible," Oney said. "To that end, I would ask the board in the future to review existing ad hoc committees, and generally not rely on them so much moving forward."

Oney also announced that the Wage and Compensation Study is in its final stages, and that the report and recommendations are expected to be presented at the Select Board in July.



Doug Danger remembers his time jumping bicycles as a kid.



Turley Publications staff photos by Scott Senecal Steve Hall talks about his cousin, Doug Danger, before introducing the daredevil.

DOUG DANGER I from page 1

frontlines. Pobieglo will have a bridge dedicated to him later this month in Three Rivers. Another episode will focus on the historic Day and Night Diner which sits across the street from the Palmer Library.

The latest episode of the web show focuses on Doug Danger, a local legend of Palmer who holds several world records for motorcycle jumping. The episode highlights his childhood in Palmer and shows photos and videos of jumps performed in town. "We were going to focus on the world record holder Doug Danger," said Golenski about the episode, "but the more we talked to people and gathered more photos, everyone kept talking about the Doug they grew up with."

Danger was invited to give a speech at the event which hosted more than 120 attendees. He was introduced by his cousin and the author of his Biography, Steve Hall.

Danger opened his speech saying, "this is the story of a little boy from Palmer who followed his dreams," opened Danger, "and the courage it took to make it to the top." He regaled stories of his youth in Palmer, from

riding his dirt bike through the high school to his jump over the roller-skating rink into Forest Lake. "That was the first time I made it on the news. They ran it locally but soon they were running it nationwide."

Danger made sure to focus on those who helped him when he was starting out, from his teachers at Pathfinder who helped him by building his first ramps, to those that allowed him to practice his jumping in their yards. "I think the reason I was successful was because I was from Palmer," Danger said, "There's great people. So many of them believed in my dream as much as, or maybe even more than me... There's always people in the background who help you become who you are, no one becomes successful on their own."

Of the event's turnout Danger said, "Who would've thought that this kid, who always got in trouble, would be asked to come back to give a speech to a whole library filled with people?" The crowd was filled with those who grew up with Danger and those that helped him in his early years, including former teachers and community members.

Danger's biography "Doug Danger: Dare to Dream" is available on Amazon. The first 15 episodes of "Palmer Villages, Palmer Voices" are available on YouTube and on the library website, www.palmerlibrary.org/palmer-voices.







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