

PET OF THE WEEK Meet Earl Grey Page 2



HOLIDAYS Santa visits TJ's in Monson Page 2



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#### PALMER

# Town seeks ambulance contract for ALS coverage



By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - The town's emergency response services have changed ever since the purchase of a designated ambulance at the Fire Station

The town recently unveiled its own designated ambulance for the Fire Department, after previously relying on the private company, Palmer Ambulance Services, for Advanced Life Support services (ALS). With the company now closed, the town has been working to address the increase in call volume for first responders at the de-

partment. Town Manager Brad Brothers said that he reached out to the fire department to add shifts in order to ensure that there is 24/7 response

coverage as of Nov. 1. "In addition, we let our neighboring towns know we may have an increase for mutual aid," Brothers said. "This is not uncommon for all towns, as many are struggling with

staffing.' Brothers said that the cost for additional staffing to the fire department was \$15,000 in November. Town Council previously approved approximately \$100,000 back in November, which will be available

through the end of the fiscal year on dealt well as we continue to weigh June 30, 2025.

"We are reviewing all options at the moment before any agreement is signed," Brothers said, "but the options range from keeping it in-house to contracting out with an outside agency for Advanced Life Support coverage."

Brothers said that all the costs tied to ambulance service will be new to the municipal budget, as Palmer Ambulance was a self-funded operation.

"While I wish we were given more time to game plan for the closure of Palmer Ambulance, I think we've played the hand we've been

more permanent options," Brothers said. "From my research so far, every option will have a significant impact on the municipal operating budget."

The town is currently soliciting quotes from potential providers, and Brothers said he hopes to see a designated ALS Service contracted with the town at some point next month.

If you have questions or concerns about the town's emergency response services, you can contact the Fire Department by calling 413-283-3861, or Town Hall by calling 413-283-2600.

#### TRAIN STATION

# **Feedback sought about station for East/West Rail**

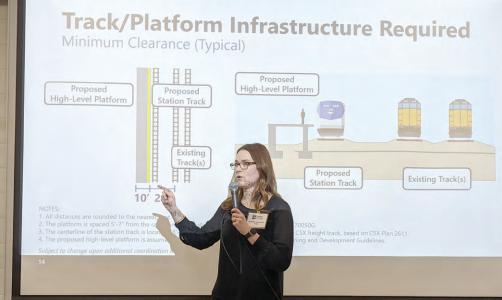
By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER - Last week, the Department of Transportation held a meeting at the library to solicit feedback from the public about the East/West Rail Project.

Members of the public were invited to a public information meeting in the Palmer Public Library's

Community Room on Monday, Dec. 16, where the project team provided an overview of the study's background, the station site alternatives and evaluation, and design considerations for the potential future rail station. After the presentation, the attendees were asked to provide feedback on the site alternatives and design considerations.

Andy Koziol, the director of the project, has been with the Depart-



MONSON School Committee announces digital report card system

> By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON - At last week's School Committee meeting, the Acting Superintendent reported on new grants, ongoing projects, and community outreach opportunities

Acting Superintendent Katherine Watts began the Dec. 19 meet-



Director Andy Koziol made a presentation about the future of the East/West **Rail Project.** 

Natasha Velicovic pointed out the infrastructure requirements on the slide.

of last year. "We received quite a bit of feedback, there was a lot of public participation," Koziol said.

Of the previous 11 sites, the project team has narrowed the focus to six that meet the ideal criteria for the new site.

"One of the reasons we went

ment of Transportation since June out for public feedback was to give public a chance to highlight anything we might have missed," Koziol said. "We feel pretty confident, with the local knowledge of the Steering Committee, together with that we've done a comprehensive look at each site, but the public can bring additional factors. I

think committee is being patient to make sure we use all the information available to us before we make any further decisions.'

The meeting involved some controversy, much of which was centered on the elimination of

STATION | page 6

ing with updates concerning the schools. Watts announced that the town is the recipient of a Multi-Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

in the district.

Tiered Systems of Support Grant of \$143,000 to build and strengthen the tiered supports and Granite Valley.

"We also are able to have a Family Outreach Coordinator for the remainder of the year, and we'll be able to host community events throughout the semester, too, as a result of this grant," Watts said.

The grant also provides profes-

SCHOOL | page 5

# Holiday Joy Bags assembled for local seniors

#### **Staff Report**

COMMUNITY

THREE RIVERS - For the last five years, Renee Niedziela and the team at J. Stolar Insurance have put together Holiday Joy bags for local seniors.

"This has been a very personal project. Our Dad, John Stolar, founded J. Stolar Insurance 43 years ago in Three Rivers and taught myself and my brother, Chris Stolar, how important and meaningful it

was to be active and supportive in the community" said Niedziela.

Local businesses and individuals contribute small goods such as toiletries, food stuffs, calendars, hand sanitizers and much more. The goal is to fill 125 gift bags to be delivered to two senior housing units in Palmer. The gift bags contents have grown over the years to now contain over 40 items.

"The first year, I didn't know

JOY | page 12

SUBMITTED PHOTO Holiday joy bags for seniors are ready for delivery.



#### COMMUNITY

### Town authorizes funds for wastewater plant

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The town recently voted to authorize the appropriation of funds to pay for improvements made to the town's wastewater treatment plant.

The first bond order was to authorize borrowing \$2,720,000 to pay the costs of designing and making improvements to the wastewater treatment plant ultraviolet facility.

"All or any portion of the

amount authorized to be borrowed by this order may be obtained through the state's Clean Water Trust," stated Councilor Mark Caci. "In that regard, the Town Manager and any other appropriate officials of the town are authorized to execute any and all agreements that may be required to obtain financial assistance through the trust."

Caci read that the amount authorized will be reduced to reflect funds contributed by Monson as

WASTEWATER | page 11

Hope Your Season Is Trimmed With Every Happiness Special memories!



www.turley.com 12 Weekly Community Newspapers

#### December 26, 2024 THE JOURNAL REGISTER



#### **EARL GREY**

This is Earl Grey, who lives with Christine Reed in Monson. He loves eating raspberry popsicles on his cat patio. 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.

### DEADLINE

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

*Are you having difficulty communicating* with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



A happy child visiting with Santa and the elves.



Debbie Lawrence and American Legion Commander Carl Santos visit with Santa.

MONSON— The annual children's Christmas party was held last week. Thirty children and their families from Monson were treated to gifts, homemade snacks, ice cream and a visit from Santa Claus

Debbie Lawrence, owner of Tjs Tavern, hosted and sponsored the event.

"This day is one I look forward to all year long"'said Lawrence. "It is a wonderful feeling watching the children open their gifts, being excited and just enjoying themselves. It's a lot of work and time, but watching them makes all of it worth it."

Families enjoy the event with homemade food, snacks and ice cream.



Turley staff photos Jen McMullen, Debbie Lawrence, TJ's Tavern owner, and Alex Hebert visit with Santa.

# spread through the hall at TF's Tavern





seniors

with prescription

pickup, grocery shopping, food

bank deliveries

and other chores.

Country Bank's

support is not

only an invest-

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ties in the region. WARE—Country Bank, a

"The Quaboag Valley Commufull-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massanity Development Corporation is chusetts, announced a \$10,000 dograteful for this generous donation from Country Bank. This donation nation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation will help us continue to run our (QVCDC) to help local communi-Senior Outreach Program, which helps

lventure tours of Warren

March 15...... 8-Night Bahamas Cruise ...... from \$1499 May 23 ...... 7-Night Bermuda Cruise ...... from \$1699 June 10-12.... Hampton Beach Getaway ...... \$529 Sept 12-26....Portugal & The Azores ...... \$6549

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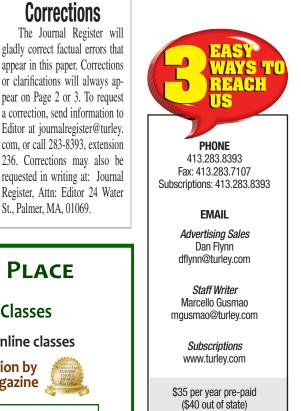
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ment in the Quaboag Valley CDC's mission, but an example of Country Bank's commitment to making a difference in the community," stated Melissa Fales, QVCDC Executive Director.

Seniors with underlying medical conditions can significantly impact their ability to get out safely to meet their everyday needs. The deliveries allow them to remain safely at home while addressing their critical needs.

To learn more about the various support programs the QVCDC offers, visit www.QVCDC.org.



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### **Aliya Hedgecock of Monson among Belmont University's Fall 2024 Dean's List Scholars**

MONSON - Aliya Hedgecock was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's fall 2024 Dean's List.

Belmont University recently released the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. Approximately 53% of the University's 7,175 undergraduate students qualified for the fall 2024 Dean's List.

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

awarded to Monson

MONSON- State Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

"I am pleased that Monson will be able to continue

The Recycling Dividends Program recognizes

MassDEP's SMRP program provides funding for

to maximize their recycling and waste reduction efforts

as they work toward a healthier and sustainable envi-

ronment for their residents through the continued sup-

municipalities that have implemented policies and

programs proven to maximize materials reuse and re-

cycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities that

receive this funding must reinvest in their own munici-

recycling, composting, reuse and source reduction ac-

tivities that will reduce the amount of waste disposed of

in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention and recy-

cling reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the

embodied energy in everyday products and packaging

waste and converting it into new products.

port of the DEP and the Legislature," stated Puppolo.

(D- SPRINGFIELD), is pleased to announce that the Department of Environmental Protection's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program has awarded the Town of Monson a \$2,100 grant through the Recycling Divi-

Grant funds

for recycling

dends Program.

pal recycling efforts.

### Linton family specializes in everything from parties and septic

#### By Abby McCoy Correspondent

PALMER - Michael Linton, the new owner of Linton Septic, is charting an exciting course for his family's long-established business.

The company, founded in 1981 by his parents, Barry and Colleen Linton, has been a constant in the Ludlow area for over four decades. Michael, who grew up working alongside his parents, has always had a deep connection to the business and is now taking it to new heights.

Linton Septic's origins date back to when Barry Linton bid on the Ludlow trash contract, initially offering trash hauling services. Over time, the company evolved into a full-service septic pumping business, with Barry managing the physical work and Colleen handling all the administrative tasks.

Linton worked weekends

ents, learning the ins and outs of the industry. However, at a pivotal point in his life, Barry Linton encouraged Michael to pursue other opportunities, leading him to start his own venture, Michael's Party Rent-

als, 25 years ago. The business, based in Palmer, has grown steadily over the years. But after his parents' retirement last year, Linton decided to take the reins of Linton Septic, a decision that felt like a natural next step for him. Already owning real estate in Palmer with his Party Rental Business, he combined the two offices into one and runs them both from his Palmer office.

Despite initial concerns from his parents about overburdening him with both businesses, Michael knew it was the right time.

"I've always known that one day I'd take over the business," Linton said. "The foun-

and summers alongside his par- dation they built is incredibly strong, and I want to continue growing it to new levels."

Since acquiring Linton Septic, Linton has already begun expanding its reach, taking advantage of the skills he honed in running his party rental business

In 2024, Linton Septic is on track to service more homes than ever before, with an expanded service area that now spans from Huntington to Oxford, Hadley to Rutland, and even into Connecticut. Linton's focus is on improving service speed, a commitment he emphasizes by offering a maximum two-week wait for service appointments, with plans to reduce that to just one week.

"I want our customers to know that when they call us, we're going to get to them quickly," Linton said. "There are other companies that take longer, but we pride ourselves on being responsive and effi-

cient." Additionally, Linton Septic

has undergone a digital transformation. The company now boasts a fully functioning website at lintonseptic.com, making it easier for customers to access information and schedule services online. The company has also modernized its payment system, offering credit card transactions and the option to email receipts, eliminating the need for paper mail.

Looking ahead, Linton is working on expanding Linton Septic's capabilities even further. One of his goals for 2025 is to achieve Title V Certification, which is crucial for companies providing septic system services in Massachusetts. Title V is a state regulation that ensures septic systems are functioning properly and are up to code, offering an added layer of trust for customers.

more comprehensive services and demonstrate our commitment to quality," Linton says.

His parents, Barry and Colleen, are thrilled to see their son taking the business to new heights. Linton talks of how proud his parents are with his decision to continue to build the family business they worked so hard to cultivate.

For Linton, the future is bright. He's eager to continue building on the strong foundation laid by his parents while growing both Linton Septic and Michael's Party Rentals. "It's a lot of work, but I wouldn't have it any other way," he says. "I'm excited for what's ahead."

Linton Septic, with its rich history and promising future under Linton's leadership, is set to continue serving the Palmer/ Ludlow area and beyond for many years to come.

'Becoming Title V certified will allow us to offer even

### **Palmer DVTF chosen as Country Bank organization of the month**

PALMER—The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force is very excited to have been chosen to set

up a table for the month of December, at Country Bank for Savings, 1485 Main Street, Palmer location. Each month the bank picks a business or organization with-

in the community to highlight. "Although October is technically Domestic Violence Awareness month, domestic violence happens throughout the year," shared Crystal Rondeau, Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator.

Rondeau went on to share that nationally the rate of reported domestic violence incidents reported are 20% higher in the month of December, as compared to the oth-

er months of the year.

Rondeau states that over the past seven years of working in the field of domestic violence she has witnessed many victims stay in dangerous situations to enable their children to have Christmas. Or if they do leave, their biggest concern is their kids' Christmas being ruined.

In response, Rondeau and other community members have played Santa for these children by adopting them.

Rondeau went on to explain that many programs such as Santa's Elves of Palmer, Toys for Tots, etc help many however they have a cut off date to sign up.

Very often those dates have

passed when the Domestic Violence Survivor finally has the courage to leave.

Since taking over the Palmer DVTF nearly three years ago, Rondeau reports that she has used the task force's Facebook page to ask followers to consider adopting the children of the Palmer Survivors that fall into this situation; which they have done.

> Crystal M. Rondeau stands in front of the table setup in the Palmer Country Bank.

> > Submitted photo



### Veteran's lunch friends



If you or someone you know could benefit from methadone treatment... Help is here.

Phil Christensen, 105 and Joseph Berthiaume 104 enjoy lunch at Amvets **Veteran's Prime Rib Lunch on** Dec. 13.

Photo by Estelle Moynahan

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### Viewpoints



### Have I saved Social Security money by claiming at 62?

#### **Dear Rusty:**

I had to start collecting Social Security at 62 and I am 75 now.

I believe that in the last 13 years I have saved Social Security money, so I do not know why I cannot draw my full benefits now.

If I had started drawing at 65 at \$1,200 per month, then I would have drawn \$16,400 per year. Instead, I got \$680 per month from 62 to 75 or \$8,160 per year or about \$106,000 over 13 years. Compare that to the age 65 amount of \$14,400 per year for 10 years, which is \$144,000. So, by claiming at 62, at age 75 I have saved the government over \$38,000. It would make seniors lives so much easier if they could draw full Social Security at 75 years old, after getting only part of their SS.

#### Signed: Second-guessing

#### **Dear Second-guessing:**

The difference between benefits claimed at various ages causes many to reflect, as you have done, about what might have been had you waited longer to claim. But there is an error in your calculations. If your age 62 monthly benefit is \$680, your age 65 monthly benefit would have been about \$845, not \$1,200. Thus, at 75 you would have collected about \$101,400 by claiming at 65, vs. the \$106,000 you have received by claiming at age 62. In other words, you still would not have broken even had you claimed at age 65.

Social Security says that it doesn't matter when you claim they say that if you claim early your payments will be less, but you'll get more of them. Where SSA's argument falls apart is when life expectancy is longer. Our experience is that if you wait until your Full Retirement Age to claim, which is age 66 in your case vs. claiming at age 62, you will collect the same amount of total money at about age 78.

In other words, the "breakeven age" for waiting until FRA to claim is about 78. So, you will reach your personal "breakeven age" in about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years, at age 78). And this is precisely why we encourage everyone to understand their life expectancy when deciding when to claim Social Security those who expect to live longer will, indeed, get more SS money if they delay claiming.

Your benefit is determined by your age when you claim and if you claim before your FRA your monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you claimed at age 62 and your monthly amount was \$680, then in the four years until you reached age 66, your FRA, you ould have received about \$32,640. If you had, instead, waited until your FRA to claim, your benefit at age 66 would have been about \$906/ month. Collecting \$906/month (at 66) vs. \$680/ month (at 62) would make your breakeven age about 78. If you claimed at age 65 instead of 62, your breakeven age would have been about a year earlier (77). So, have you saved Social Security money? Up to this point, you have not. Since you claimed at age 62, you have collected about \$680/month for 13 years until you were 75 (or about \$106,000). If you had waited until age 65 to claim you would have, instead, collected about \$101,400 - in other words you have received more, so far, by claiming at age 62. But that will change when you reach 77, your breakeven age, had you claimed at 65). Starting at age 77, you will have received less in cumulative lifetime benefits because you claimed at age 62. Which, again, is why - at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service - we encourage everyone to consider life expectancy when deciding when to take Social Security. Of course there are other factors too, not the least of which is financial need, but life expectancy is key. And since the benefit you get when you claim is permanent except for annual Cost of Living Adjustments, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision which affects a lifetime. 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.

ABOUT THE DRONE ACTIVITY IN THE EVENING SKIES ...



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### A Christmas card gardening question

column request via her Christmas card!

ta. I like the folksy way you write! Can you please provide

some tips on keeping my Poinsettia healthy?"

So, out of the archives comes this column, devoted to Jane and you guessed it, the poinsettia.

Every Christmas the poinsettia

takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating.

Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day.

Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant.

Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old.

Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted.

Wilted plants are also best avoided

y long-time friend Jane sent a droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each "I still read your columns, Rober- watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged.

> Soil that resoaking mains wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. My mom tries for repeat bloom each year with varying degrees of success. This year, some bracts are just starting to turn red!

Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month.

New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and



### The outlook for health in 2025

As we embark on 2025, the health-care industry, providers and patients should be prepared for a lot of innovation, and not a little bit of uncertainty. Here are some of the trends people are talking about.

#### Wellness, not just the avoidance of illness

Millennials, those born between 1981 and 1996, are entering middle age with a focus on wellness, which they are passing along to their children. Wellness is a daily, active pursuit for millennials. They are eating healthier and exercising more than previous generations. They smoke less. Almost half consider healthy eating a lifestyle choice as opposed to a goal-driven diet. They value family and togetherness.

Besides healthy eating and exercise, wellness involves activities like digital detoxing, sleeping better, using mindfulness practices, purposeful travel and work-life balance.

#### The technological revolution continues

Wearables (fitness trackers, sleep monitors and the like) help us track our wellness activities, and they will remain popular in the coming year, but there's so much more to health-care technology.

For example, artificial intelligence (AI) is being improved in order to deliver pinpoint treatments, more accurately read test results and diagnose illnesses. Innovations in 3D printing will let clinicians "print" customized joint replacements and implants for patients.

Telehealth and virtual health-care assistants are making care more accessible to more people. Companies like Target provide virtual health care to all their employees, regardless of whether they are eligible for health insurance.

#### More weight-loss drugs and coverage

Health-care costs are expected to rise about 8 percent in 2025, driven largely by wider use of GLP-1 drugs (such as Mounjaro, Wegovy and Ozempic) to treat obesity and diabetes. One report by financial research companies Morningstar and PitchBook predicted that the GLP-1 market will hit \$200 billion by 2031 and that 16 new obesity drugs could emerge within the next five years.

While some insurers are dropping coverage for GLP-1 drugs when prescribed for obesity, more than a quarter of employers are considering adding coverage in 2025 or 2026, according to a national survey conducted by Mercer, the human resources consulting firm.



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as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. I was aghast when an out of town florist delivered these to me without a proper covering!

Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands!

Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass.

Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65-70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until

g nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Regardless of whether you enjoy the poinsettia for the season or longer, may its colorful bracts brighten your holiday!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



REGION – A look back through history at the momentous anniversaries this week.

On Dec. 25, in 1066, William I was crowned King of England at the end of the Norman Conquest.

On Dec. 26, in 2004, an earthquake shook the Indian Ocean floor near the island of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that affected areas from Thailand to Africa and killed over 200,000 people.

On Dec. 27, in 1571, Johannes Kepler, the German astronomer who discovered the three major laws of planetary motion, was born.

On Dec. 28, in 1734, the outlaw Rob Roy MacGregor, known as the Scottish Robin Hood, died in his home in the village of Balquhidder, after an illness brought on by age and a harsh winter.

On Dec. 29, in 1845, the Republic of Texas was annexed with approval by U.S. Congress, sparking the Mexican American War.

On Dec. 30, in 1916, Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin was murdered in an effort to halt his influence over Empress Alexandra and the royal family.

Finally, on Dec. 31, in 1775, American troops under General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold were defeated by the British in the Battle of Quebec.

If your employer is one of those, you can expect your insurance premiums to increase. On the other hand, losing weight and controlling diabetes is likely to improve your overall health, so it might be a good investment.

#### Changes on the pharma front

Drug prices are expected to increase by nearly 4 percent in 2025. However, the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act brought several welcome changes for people on Medicare.

Starting in 2025, all Medicare Part D prescription drug plans will have an annual out-of-pocket cap of \$2,000. After reaching this cap, members will not have to pay additional costs for the rest of the year. The act also capped covered insulin products at \$35 a month and provides free recommended vaccines, such as for shingles and RSV.

Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical industry is expected to launch nearly 70 new therapeutics in 2025, many of which are expected to improve treatments for particular cancers and autoimmune diseases, as well as some rare conditions.

#### Changes in U.S. health administration

With a new administration in charge, questions abound about health care.

If Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is confirmed as secretary of Health and Human Services, how might that change U.S. public health policies? Under the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare was authorized to negotiate the prices of 10 popular but expensive drugs with manufacturers. Will that process continue or be curtailed under a new administration?

> Stay tuned! And Happy New Year to All.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become success-



We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

#### **Election letters** to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The 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 Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters writter by candidates supporting their owr candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger thar the space available in the newspaper or if the letters become repetitive, the ewspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

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

#### Campaign news

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

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



### Palmer Senior Center

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

#### **Special events January:**

Wednesday, Jan. 1 – Center is closed

Friday, Jan. 3- Showing 12:30 p.m. movie "A Little Bit of Heaven"

Monday, Jan. 6- 10:30 a.m. Therapy dog

Tuesday, Jan. 7- noon Lunch bunch China House in Palmer

Wednesday, Jan. 8- 1 p.m. Wii Bowling

Thursday, Jan. 9- 10 a.m. Tai Chi, 1 p.m. Sunshine village craft

Friday, Jan. 10- 11:30 a.m. Dan Lynch writing group informational, 1-3 p.m. Brown Bag pick-up

Monday, Jan. 13-1 p.m. Bake and Take

Tuesday, Jan. 14- 10:30 a.m. Trip to McKinstry Market Garden. They accept SNAP.

Thursday, Jan. 16- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memory Café Ben and Ed show Monday, Jan 20- Center is closed

Wednesday, Jan 22- 1 p.m. Wii

Bowling Thursday, Jan. 23-10 a.m. Tai Chi, 1 p.m. Sunshine Village Paint

Friday, Jan. 24- 12:30 p.m. showing a movie "Instant Family"

Monday, Jan. 27- 10:30 a.m. Marathon Bingo

Wednesday, Jan. 29- Jeopardy style trivia

Friday, Jan. 31-1 p.m. Wii Wheel of Fortune

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670. Individuals must sign up for breakfast, otherwise a meal will not be ordered for them.



Wednesday, Jan. 1- Center is closed

Thursday, Jan. 2- Chef's choice Friday, Jan. 3- Hotdog with bun, potato salad, baked beans and ketchup, Jello with topping

Monday, Jan. 6- Breakfast sausage, scrambled eggs, potatoes o'brien, cranberry snack loaf and spiced apples.

Tuesday, Jan. 7- Ham, egg and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, Jan. 8- Ham and swiss, mayo, coleslaw, chicken veggie soup, club roll and mixed fruit.

Thursday, Jan.9- Cinnamon buns Friday, Jan. 10- Spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad with ranch, garlic bread, mixed fruit.

Monday, Jan. 13- Mac and Cheese, stewed tomatoes, WW bread, cranberry juice, Jello with topping.

Tuesday, Jan. 14- Egg, sausage and cheese croissant

Wednesday, Jan. 15- crab cake with tartar, steamed corn, coleslaw, whole wheat bread and chilled peaches Thursday, Jan. 16- Egg, bacon and

cheese croissant.

Friday, Jan. 17- Chicken Marsala, tossed salad with Italian, penne pasta, garlic bread, mixed fruit

Monday, Jan. 20- Center is closed. Tuesday, Jan. 21- Chef's choice.

Wednesday, Jan. 22- Shepherd's pie, steamed peas, mashed potato top-

ping, 12 grain bread, spiced peaches. Thursday, Jan. 23- Waffles and Sausage

Friday, Jan. 24- BBQ pulled pork, broccoli slaw, half baked sweet potato, WW burger bun, birthday cake.

Monday, Jan. 27- Beef stew with

carrots and peas, mashed potatoes, wheat roll, Jello with topping.

Tuesday, Jan. 28- Egg, bacon and cheese croissant

Wednesday, Jan. 29- Jamaican jerk chicken, collared greens, coconut rice, oatnut bread, mixed fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 30- Egg, sausage and cheese on a roll

Friday, Jan. 31- Beef Stroganoff, brussels sprouts, egg noo-

dles, Italian bread and a cookie



### Second Chance expands Project Keep Me

EAST BROOKFIELD ment periods. Second Chance Animal Services is proud to announce the expansion of its groundbreaking Project Keep Me program to include services for veterans seeking in-patient treatment. Since its inception, Project Keep Me has provided temporary housing for the beloved pets of domestic violence survivors, allowing individuals to prioritize their safety while knowing their pets are well cared for. With this new addition, Project Keep Me will now support veterans undergoing in-patient care, offering a lifeline for those who may struggle to find accommodations for their pets during critical treat-

**SCHOOL** | from page 1

pathway at the high school.

"Hopefully, we will be able

to also receive another grant

through the One8 Foundation,"

Watts said, "but this grant is spe-

cifically from ProjectLeadThe-

Way.org itself, and it's a starter

other schools is we've applied

for expansion grants, so we've

already told them that that is our

intention," Watts added. "Hope-

fully, with their support, we're

going to be able to build that

program out over four years as

district report cards will be dis-

tributed electronically to stu-

dents," Watts announced. "This

switch is cost-effective, and it's

ilies can request a hard copy of

the report card if they prefer,

but that switching to digital will

save the district money on post-

age, which can be up to \$1,000

"We did a test run." Watts

Watts announced an update

"Starting semester two, all

Watts emphasized that fam-

we've discussed before."

to the report card system.

eco-friendly.'

per school.

"What we've done at the

al aids.

grant."

from the state."

"Project Keep Me has been a vital resource for survivors of domestic violence, and we're thrilled to now offer this support to veterans as well," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO and founder of Second Chance Animal Services. "Expanding the program to include veterans means we can help keep veterans and their pets together, allowing them to focus on healing and recovery."

For veterans facing the difficult decision to seek in-patient treatment, Project Keep Me provides a solution to ensure the safety and well-being of their pets, allowing them to focus fully on recovery. Pets enrolled in

the program will receive temporary housing, food, and medical care as needed, with support extending up to 90 days. This temporary arrangement not only eases the burden on pet owners but also reinforces the importance of pets as a source of comfort and companionship during recovery. "Veterans who need in-pa-

tient treatment are often unable to access the resources they need because they have no safe place to board their pets," said Blancato. "We're committed to making sure that neither survivors nor veterans have to choose between their own health and the safety of their beloved pets."

Keep Me has served as a lifeline for domestic violence survivors, and with the addition of veteran support, Second Chance aims to extend this critical assistance to even more individuals in need. As demand for services grows, Second Chance is seeking support to help fund and expand the program further. Second Chance invites community members, businesses, and philanthropic partners to support Project Keep Me through donations. For more information about Project Keep Me or to support this initiative, www.secondchanceanivisit mals.org/project-keep-me/.

Since launching, Project

in the district had them send it to to homes around the area.

> "The people that bought the trees were able to take pictures of the decorated tree and then send the pictures back to the preschool students," Watts said. "So far, the furthest family away that has a tree that has responded was from Medford, MA, so that's

pretty cool." Watts also talked about the Hour of Code for the first and fourth grade, which was hosted by Liberty Mutual and facilitat-

ed by Rachel Jagadowski. "We hope to expand this program next year," Watts said. The Achieve, Contribute, and Thrive Life Skills program's holiday gathering was also held last week.

'Students created their own decorations, they cooked and baked a variety of international dishes, and selected the music for the event," Watts said. "I was able to go, the food was amazing, so shout out to them, they did a great job."

Watts reminded the committee about the upcoming trip to Spain in 2026.

'Sign-ups are now open for this experience of a lifetime, so we want to remind families

that are interested to please reach out to Ms. Paula Garces," Watts said

Watts "record atten-

the Early Childhood Center's holiday concert, with over 300 people in attendance. She then updated the committee on the trout eggs project.

"Trout eggs have arrived at Granite Valley, and they are thriving in their big tank," Watts said. "Grade Four works with the maintenance and having the trout eggs flourish, and then they wind up releasing the eggs behind the police station in the spring. It's part of their science curriculum and it's a lot of fun, so they're looking forward to that.'

The Class of 2025 has scheduled a fundraiser for their class at Main Street Tavern on Thursday, Jan. 2.

"I always like any reason not to cook, so come join me there," Watts said.

Watts concluded her presentation by reminding the committee that the schools will be on holiday break from the end of the school day on Dec. 21 until Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025.

"We wish everybody a beautiful holiday season and look forward to seeing everybody in 2025," Watts said.

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us. It was so easy to just click on it and it just pops up, it couldn't sional development opportunities for teachers and instructionbe easier." Watts talked about the dis-

"We're very excited to parttrict's work to expand learning ner with the May Institute on beyond the classroom and outthis endeavor," Watts said, "and side the school and to bring the community into the school. we're very grateful for the grant

"The whole eighth grade Watts reported that the civics class went to the Armory high school has also received a in Springfield," Watts said. grant for Project Lead the Way, "They went over a period of two amounting to \$10,000. This days, and they had a great time. It was very interactive, so they grant is to launch an engineering really enjoyed it."

> The day of the meeting, the high school's Community Service Club visited the Senior Center, which was expanded on in the Student Representative Report. That same day, the VIP Life Skills class visited the Holyoke Mall.

"They had a wonderful experience there," Watts said. "They were able to interact with the community and purchase items, control their money – or not - and they really had a wonderful time."

Watts talked about Project 351, which is a statewide project where one student from all 351 towns and cities in the commonwealth is selected to participate in a community service project.

"This year, Mason Murphy was selected as our person," Watts said. "I'm sure in the next months we'll hear more about what he's planning to do, but it's very exciting and we congratulate him."

Watts described a trip taken by the preschool students reported and their families to the Ket Tree Farm, where the students

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said. "Some of us that have kids tagged trees that were then sold dance" for Hot Tub Removals



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### Behavioral Health Network announces new additions to Executive Leadership Team

SPRINGFIELD — Behavioral Health Network, Inc. has announced two new members of its Executive Leadership Team, Anthony Boswell and Sigfredo Irizarry.

PAGE 6

Anthony Boswell joined BHN as Senior Vice President in October. In this role, he will provide strategic leadership across multiple service lines and play an instrumental role in shaping the organization's future direction. With extensive experience in mental health leadership, Boswell's expertise will be key in advancing BHN's mission and expanding its impact in the commu-

nity. Prior to joining BHN, Boswell served as CEO of LevinThor, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in management, leadership, and education. He has also held senior leadership positions at mental health organizations in Springfield, MA, New Orleans, LA, and Washington, DC, further enhancing his diverse

experience in the sector. Boswell attended the United States Air Force Academy and earned a B.A. from Stony Brook University, a Master of Education in Organizational Leadership from

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

Sigfredo Irizarry joined BHN in November as Vice President of Performance Improvement, Applications & Data Analytics. In this position, Irizarry will lead efforts to enhance performance improvement initiatives across the organization, focusing on optimizing applications and leveraging data analytics to improve service delivery. His strategic vision and leadership will play a key role in the company's continued success and operational efficiency. With 30 years of experience in IT, Irizarry specializes in IT leadership, system information, business continuity, cybersecurity, and process automation. He is an accomplished IT executive, adept at leading diverse teams and developing sustainable IT strategies. Irizarry has extensive experience in managing technical teams, complex system migrations, and cyber security efforts to mitigate risks.

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity from Purdue University, Irizarry

is enrolled in the CISSP Track. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from the International Institute of The Americas.

Steve Winn, President and CEO of BHN, stated, "We are excited to welcome Tony and Sigfredo to our Executive Leadership Team. Their experience and leadership will be key in driving our strategic vision and enhancing the quality of services we provide. These appointments demonstrate our commitment to strengthening BHN's leadership and advancing our mission to de-

liver exceptional behavioral health services."

BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938. The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.



Protesters gathered outside the Palmer Public Library to criticize the DOT's direction.

#### **STATION** I from page 1

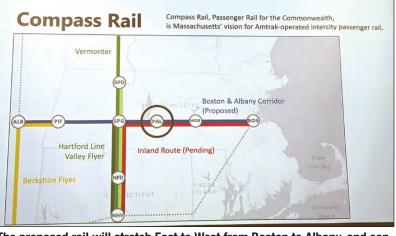
Steaming Tender Restaurant as a potential site for the station.

"Very early in our process we identified what we refer to as the requirements for rail infrastructure," Koziol said.

Koziol explained that the designs require a high-level, 800-foot platform to allow for level boarding on all coaches. There will also need to be about 1,775 feet of an adjacent track.

Koziol said that this is complicated by the properties near Steaming Tender, citing the CSX yard across from the tracks.

"Part of that is the CSX yard right across from tracks," Koziol said, "then the horizontal width beneath the South Main Street bridge. Not only would the bridge have to



The proposed rail will stretch East to West from Boston to Albany, and connect to the North/South line that runs through Springfield.

be reconstructed, but this particular layout would require purchasing several properties, which would make that not feasible."

KE YOU

This was countered by Blake Lamothe, the owner of Steaming Tender, who argued at the meeting that another proposal could fit in



Scarlet Lamothe held a sign advocating for a direction for the rail project.

the space provided by the restaurant and would be a better use of the town's assets.

"News stations are categorizing it a Category Four with Amtrak, which means they want to build these big long platforms," Lamothe said. "We could have gone under Category Two or Three, which would allow us to use the existing structure for the station stop."

Another concern Lamothe voiced was for the central corridor passage coalition. He said that combining a North/South line with the East/West station would allow passenger service up to Montreal, and would trigger growth and overnight stays in the center of town.

"By managing assets, what you



too far from downtown to bolster economic development. can do is put a couple million doltrain are minimal," Lamothe said, lars into an existing station and de-"so you've got to create economic

Chief among the protesters' concerns was that the station would be placed

velop a North/

along with the

East/West line

and take the money to put

into town to up-

good, healthy

growth down-

Lamothe said.

amount of peo-

ple in town

who are go-

ing to take the

again,"

"The

town

grade parking

line

South

growth here.' Koziol agreed with Lamothe that a station far from the town center would not be ideal for economic growth, and mentioned it as a focus for the project.

"The general sentiment is that having the meeting station as close lots, infrastruc- to downtown is desirable, we've heard that repeated several times

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ture, sidewalks, through multiple mediums," Koziol and the stuff we need to get said.

This project is currently ongoing, with the first route currently in the works. Koziol said that the team is going to use the feedback its received to hone in on a site that is both feasible to DOT and supported by the community, at which point the project team will be able to work on a conceptual design for

the station.

"Along the way, there will be supportive planning activities to plan for things like various mobility options - like a bus service that can serve the station to bring additional passengers," Koziol said. 'We'll be looking at environmental constraints and preparing ourselves to go after federal funds. We're really not getting involved in those quite yet, but setting the stage in background data analysis.'

An informal meeting with the public concerning the station is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 27, from 6-8 p.m. You can continue to send your feedback to DOT by sending an email to Andrew.M.Koziol@dot. state.ma.us.



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#### BASKETBALL



# **Offense** struggles in opener

MONSON - Last Tuesday night, Monson High School girls basketball fell to Wahconah 63-29. The offense struggled for the Mustangs as they were not able get any momentum going. Olivia Chrzan was the exception as she scored 21 of the Mustangs' 29 points. Monson is 0-2 to start the season. They are next in action on Dec. 27 against Hampshire Regional at 7 p.m.

Carli Zielinski tries to block a pass.



Emma Bannon stops the progress of an opponent.



Olivia Chrzan makes her way up the court.

#### BASKETBALL



# **Pioneers** jump out to a good start

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**Greenly Lagimoniere** attempts a three-pointer.



Ciara Green reaches out to grab a rebound.



PALMER - Last Monday and Wednesday, Pathfinder girls basketball was able to put up a pair of wins to get its season started. Last Monday night, the Pioneers opened up the year with PVCIC, defeating the visitors 36-12. Their defense was excellent throughout the game though it took some time for the offense to get moving. Desiree Croteau had 15 points to lead all scorers. The Pioneers defeated Duggan 49-27 on Dec. 18 and are back in action Dec. 27 against Smith Academy at 6 p.m.



Desiree Croteau makes a pass along the perimeter.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Megan Clark approaches the basket for a layup.



Addison Doktor goes for a put-back.

#### ICE HOCKEY

### Hurricanes battle to draw with Chicopee

loss against Greenfield to open the season, Amherst hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder, had its first matchup with Chicopee, another co-op program. The two teams copee is 1-0-1 to start the season.

AMHERST - After a tough ended up in a 2-2 tie. Nate Desbien and Eric Chen had the goals for the Hurricanes. Chicopee got two goals from Jake Fournier. Amherst is 0-1-1 to start the year while Chi-

#### BASKETBALL

# Palmer falls in road game



Dylan Doherty shoots from the free throw line.

GRANBY – Last Monday night, Granby High School boys basketball grabbed its second win of the sea-



Taydem Haley flies for the basket.

son, holding on for a 57-51 win over Palmer. The Panthers kept the game close throughout, but Granby was

able to hold its lead late in the game, not allowing the Panthers to grab a lead. The Panthers suffered their first

Gavin Smola shoots in pressure.



range jump shot.

loss of the season while Granby improved to 2-0. In the defeat, Stephen Fredette led Palmer with 11 points.

Turley photos by David Henry .sweetdogphotos.com

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

### Pathfinder gets in early hole, falls to PVCA





Dustyn Cook goes for the shot with pressure underneath the hoop.

**Cayden Bousquet runs into** traffic in the paint.

PALMER – Last Monday night, Pathfinder found itself in 14-2 deficit very early, and the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy more offense in the middle of the game, had 11 points for the Pioneers.



Matthew Vanasse waits for his opponent's jump to finish before taking a shot.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Cassian Kowalik shoots over an

rode that to a 49-37 win over Pathfinder. PVCA finished stronger for the win. Cassian While Pathfinder was able to muster some Kowalik had 15 points while Sauri Nieves

outreached defender.

### T-Birds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a twogoal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.

The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Ol-iver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Char-

ceremony

Basketball.

announced

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away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird Chris Driedg-

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and fourth units capitalized on backto-back shifts. Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wrister from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situa-

lotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped tion. Driedger made an initial pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle. However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind Zherenko, chopping the lead to 3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfot drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

tage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog unloaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game

### Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information



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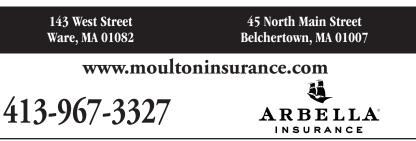
**Desiree Croteau** Pathfinder Croteau had a great game for Path-finder in a win over PVCIC last week. She led the Pioneers with 15 points. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibel-

li@turley.com.

Facebook.com/turleysports



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### Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester Railers.

"Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years," Myers said. "We can't thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several sea-

serving as General Manager & Associate Head Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and director of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from 2016-20.

"In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice," Myers said. "He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We're excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a win-

The league's top man advan-

sweep of the T-Birds.

during "NBA Today" on ESPN. The Class of 2025 Finalist Announcement will be Friday, Feb. 14, as part of the NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be announced on Saturday, April 5, during the NCAA Final Four Weekend in San Antonio.

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball

The nominees for the upcoming class were

Hall of Fame announced that the Class of 2025

Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Sat-

urday, Sept. 6, in Springfield - the Birthplace of

set to be revealed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, inclusive of the Class of 2025 jacket and ring presentation and the annual Hall of Fame Awards. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place the following day in Springfield's historic Symphony Hall and will be available to a global audience.

A full schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

sons. We look forward to him continuing to work with the team in this new role.'

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after ning culture to Worcester."



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# Modern readings on classic Christmas songs

What are "Baby It's Cold Outside" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" supposed to be about?

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

HOLIDAY - The Christmas songs that we've been listening to for generations are an integral part of the holiday, not only for tradition, but because the music has continued to adapt to its audience over the years.

There's only one holiday that comes with its own widely accepted soundtrack, and that's Christmas. The staple of songs that we consider Christmas music has been collected from Catholic hymns to commercial jingles, and a solid staple of songs about Yule time from the 1940s.

It may seem strange that in 80 years, we've barely expanded this collection with new material. Sure, the Jackson Five and Michael Buble will come along and give us an iconic cover of the familiar music, but somehow nothing breaks through into the canon the way the original classics. These songs have been able to endure by illustrating the feelings of people around the winter season, and audiences have continued to update their interprees and The Wolf persists over 30 times; any man who resists a no that much is a man to stay as far away from as possible.

Except, The Mouse doesn't really say "no," does she? She does a couple of times, but if you look at her lines, most of them focus on how her family will react and what the neighbors might think. She ought to say "no, no, no, sir," because that's what's expected of a respectable lady in society – but the implication is that she would rather continue to enjoy his com-

Much has been made of one particular line from the song, where The Mouse asks "What's in this drink?" leading to the song being nicknamed "The Date-Rape Song," presuming that the line is referencing the use of drugs in sexual assault cases. The use of date-rape drugs did not become popularized until long after the song was initially written, with the most common such drug, Rohypnol, colloquially referred to as "roofies" being patented in 1962 and becoming widely available in 1974.

This isn't to say that the use of mind-altering substances for sexual assault



schanel as The Wolf and M. Ward as The Mouse, which is one of the few versions where the genders are reversed.

The meaning of a song is not meant to be all things to all people, of course. Interpretation of art is as much about the reaction from the audience as it is the intentions of the creator, so while Loesser certainly wasn't thinking about roofies when he wrote "Baby, It's Cold Outside," that doesn't negate the reaction from a listener in 2024 who finds The Wolf's inability to take no for an answer to be pushy and annoying.

The song may not have been written to depict sexual assault, but its satire of the hoops that women are expected to go through to express sexual attraction.

#### I'll Be Home for Christmas

Another Christmas song that has changed its meaning over time is "I'll Be Home for Christmas," composed by Walter Kent with lyrics by Kim Gannon. The song was recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby with "Danny Boy" as its B-side, and went on to become a Top 10 hit, outpacing Crosby's previous holiday classic, "White Christmas."

When it was first recorded in the 1940s, "I'll Be Home for Christmas (If Only in My Dreams)' was written from the perspective of a soldier fighting in World War II, reminiscing about Christmas with

### Sen. Markey, Rep. Deluzio Introduce Legislation to Transform U.S. Rail Network

#### New All Aboard Act would make \$200 billion investment in rail

WASHINGTON - Senator Edward Markey, member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, today introduced the All Aboard Act, legislation that would dedicate \$200 billion over five years to build highspeed rail, expand existing passenger rail service, and electrify the most heavily polluting railyards and corridors.

The legislation includes critical labor protections for the existing union labor workforce and creates a rail personnel training grant program for rail workers. The legislation is led by Representative Chris Deluzio (PA-17) in the House.

"An accessible, reliable, and electrified rail network across our nation would put us on a high-speed track to fend off the worst effects of the climate crisis," said Senator Markey. "The All Aboard Act makes critical investments in every link of our rail network - from investing in our workers to expanding passenger rail to electrifying railyards across the country. This bill would give Americans the train service they are clamoring for, help save our planet, and do

it all with union labor. With the All Aboard Act, I'm calling 'all aboard' the train to a greener, more connected future."

"The American people ought to have a rail system that is safe, gets folks quickly where they want to go, and keeps the economy movingall while slashing road traffic," said Congressman Deluzio. "I am proud to join with Senator Markey to introduce the All Aboard Act to make transformational investments in the United States rail network like electrification. This bill will make American passenger and freight rail a lot safer and cleaner and will invest in the rail workers who make it all happen."

This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of labor, transportation, and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, the Green New Deal Network, the National Resources Defense Fund, Earthjustice, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Tallahassee Food Network, the Transportation and Trades Division of the AFL-CIO, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Electrical Workers, International Association of Machinists, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways Employees Division, the Teamsters Rail Conference. SMART-Mechanic, SMART-Transportation, the Transportation and Communications Union, the Transport Workers Union, the American of Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Transportation for America, the Rail Passengers Association, the High-Speed Rail Alliance, and Solutionary Rail.

execute a more robust rail network. Levin, Campaigns and Political Di-Address Air Pollution from Railyards. The All Aboard Act would provide \$500 million in grants under the Clean Air Act to address air pollution from railyards in frontline communities. Like other modes of transportation, air pollution from diesel-powered locomotives caused disproportionate harm in environmental justice communities. This investment is a down payment on addressing that harm.

Invest in the Rail Workforce. The All Aboard Act recognizes that the rail workforce is the backbone of a safe, efficient rail network and would invest \$300 million over five years to establish freight and passenger rail training centers. These centers would be run in partnership with organized labor and provide the training and development necessary to deliver the rail network of the future.



"The All Aboard Act is an investment in our transportation workers, our climate, and our communities, and the Sierra Club is proud to support it so Americans across the country can access the benefits of rail. Expanding and electrifying the U.S. rail system to move people and goods will help improve air quality, speed up the delivery of goods, reduce traffic congestion, and cut climate pollution," said Katherine García, Director of Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All Program.

"As America's largest transportation labor federation, representing the passenger and freight rail workforce, we are proud to support the All Aboard Act," said Greg Regan, president of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. "This bill will expand high-speed rail programs and passenger rail systems, including Amtrak, while electrifying rail yards and reducing air pollution for both rail workers and the surrounding communities. The All Aboard Act upholds an essential industry safety standard by requiring two-person crews for any resulting federally-funding projects,

rector at the Green New Deal Network.

"The All Aboard Act of 2024 sets the stage for what the zero-emissions rail future could look like, and this future looks a lot brighter." said Yasmine Agelidis, Attorney on Earthjustice's Right to Zero Campaign. "Old diesel locomotives are some of the worst offenders when it comes to health-harming air pollution, spewing toxins into our air that can lead to asthma, heart issues, and cancer. By upgrading rail lines across the country with all-electric options, we can improve transportation and mobility for millions of Americans while cleaning our air. We thank Senator Markey for his leadership in modernizing American rail.'

"Fully electrifying America's railways would revolutionize how we move people and goods through-

out the country, providing more efficient intercity connections and strengthening economic activity between regions," said Jim Mathews, President & CEO of Rail Passengers Association. "The All Aboard Act takes seriously the scope of the challengesand opportunities-involved in modernizing the U.S. rail network, and we applaud Senator Markey for his leadership and ambition on this

issue."

"The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, International Brotherhood of Teamsters strongly supports Senator Markey's All Aboard Act and we applaud his bold vision for the future of our passenger and freight rail systems. BMWED has been a leader in rail labor for pushing for the United States to build its first high-speed rail train and expanding passenger rail. The funding in this legislation will help ensure that America builds and maintains the 21st century high speed rail and passenger rail network it needs. BMWED is also the leading union in maintaining overhead catenary for railroads and the funding in this legislation will help build more catenary and upgrade our existing rail catenary system, creating tens of thousands of jobs for BMWED members. Finally, we are grateful for Senator Markey's commitment to continue to work with BMWED to ensure these federal grants have the strongest labor standards required so that it will be rail labor, including BMWED, members operating and maintaining these vital

tations as the years pass.

For some of these songs, modern interpretations have given the music new legs, allowing them to speak to a wide variety of audiences. In other cases, when divorced from its original context, the music might take on a grisly, even negative connotation in the minds of new listeners.

But in the spirit of artistic expression, there is no right or wrong answer; all that matters is what the song says to you.

#### **Baby It's Cold Outside**

A couple years ago, a meme started to circulate concerning the 1944 winter-themed duet, "Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Frank Loesser. The song has widely been enjoyed for the back-and-forth of the two singers, where the (usually) female singer presents excuses why she needs to go home, and the (usually) male singer counters with excuses for her to stay the night. The tone of the song is meant to be read as playful and flirtatious, but Internet pundits have started to speculate that the song is meant to represent rape culture, and have labeled it as "problematic."

In an article for the Rolling Stone in 2020, Amelia McDonnell-Parry wrote that "Loesser originally wrote 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' as a playful call-and-response duet for him and his wife to perform at their housewarming party while their guests were preparing to bid them goodnight." Five years later, the song was popularized in the film Neptune's Daughter, where the script referred to the male singer as "The Wolf" and the female singer as "The Mouse," reinforcing the predatory reading of the song.

So is this song about sexual assault? There's no denying that a huge theme of the song is how pushy The Wolf is throughout it, not even letting The Mouse finish her line before he's started protesting. After all, The Mouse refus-

existed for as long as there have been evil men, of course. Fans of older media may recognize the line in question as a then-common cliche, meant to indicate that the drink is a stronger form of alcohol than the speaker may have expected. It's not unreasonable to suggest that The Wolf may have given The Mouse something stronger than she asked for, but it's important to note that the line was far more commonly used as a red-herring for the speaker to admit to acting bolder than they normally would by pinning the blame on their drink.

One thing I think is particularly interesting about this duet is how rare it is to find a gender reversal. Though the song has been recorded over 400 times, almost all of them cast The Wolf as the male singer and The Mouse as the female singer. This is probably because for the melodic structure as much as any sexual themes, as The Wolf's lines are meant to be a deeper refrain from The Mouse's.

There are at least two versions that play with this dynamic, though. Bing Crosby recorded a version where James Stewart played The Mouse for The Bing Crosby - Chesterfield Show. In 2011, She & Him produced a version of the song with Zooey Dehis family. The song was actually controversial at the time, banned by the BBC, who "felt that the lyrics might lower morale in troops overseas," according to Linda Rodriguez McRobbie in a 2013 article for Mental Floss.

Despite this direct connection to soldiers, nothing in the song directly references wartime, so in peace times, this meaning briefly shifted. College students related to the isolation portrayed in the song, and in 1998, a family comedy film titled I'll Be Home for Christmas starred

Jonathan Taylor Thomas as a college student returning home for the holidays, with no mention of war at all.

College students were not the only homesick listeners to appropriate the song, though; in December of 1965, astronauts Frank Borman and James Lovell aboard Gemini VII requested that the song be played for them by the NASA ground crew.

While soldiers continued to enjoy the song throughout this time, it was Josh Groban's 2007 recording of it that sought to highlight the loneliness of soldiers away from home during the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. His cover featured recordings from soldiers sending messages to their families and loved ones in their hometowns, including Captain Patrick Caukin, Specialist Brook Frisk, Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Stag, and Norm Young, among others who are unnamed. The last recording is sent from "Gigi" to her father about wrapping presents while he is overseas.

Like "Baby It's Cold Outside," the meaning of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is not set in stone. The song touches the hearts of anyone who misses their family during the holidays, whether they're away at college, at war, or even off-planet.

Specifically, the All Aboard Act would:

Expand Passenger Rail and High-Performance Rail. The All Aboard Act would invest \$150 billion over five years across several successful rail grant programs established or expanded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, the bill provides \$80 billion to the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, \$30 billion to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety Improvement program, \$30 billion for Amtrak, and \$10 billion for the Railroad Crossing Elimination program.

Establish a Green Railroad Fund. The All Aboard Act would create a new Green Railway Fund that would dedicate \$50 billion over five years to electrify highly polluting rail yards, support electric high-performance passenger rail projects, and electrify the existing highest trafficked corridors by freight and passenger trains. With these funds, the U.S. rail network will take a lesson from many countries that have already fully electrified their train system, reducing air pollution in many frontline communities and driving down emissions from transportation.

Create a Dedicated Rail Formula Program. The All Aboard Act would create a first-of-its-kind, \$3.5 billion rail formula programfor states to perform rail planning, maintenance, operations, and capital investment. Although states can rely on regular formula funding to expand highways, federal investments in rail come only through competitive grants. States need regular, reliable funding to plan for and

and also invests in the workforce by establishing training centers in partnership with unions. We thank Senator Markey and Congressman Deluzio for championing this effort and look forward to working together to push this bill forward."

"I want to thank Senator Markey for introducing this very important piece of legislation that is intended to improve air quality technology for locomotives while also ensuring workforce development as there's a transition to this green technology," said Brian Bryant, International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. "The IAM was founded as a rail union in1888 and has very deep roots in the industry. As the representative of more than 35,000 rail workers, the IAM Rail Division supports this legislation that is intended to help improve and expand passenger rail across the U.S. This is growing our nation's rail technologies while ensuring good, union-paying jobs."

"UE represents thousands of workers in the rail industry; both those who manufacture locomotives and parts, and rail crew drivers who work in rail yards across the U.S. For years, workers, their families and communities have organized for bold action to address the urgent issue of rail pollution. With federal support through the All Aboard Act, the railroads must do their part to make necessary investments required to clean up our communities and create good union jobs," said Carl Rosen, General President of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America.

"We urgently need fast electric trains to improve lives, reduce traffic, and clean up our air - and we plan to build them! The All Aboard Act is a visionary proposal to more than double investment in our passenger and freight railroads, take the first steps towards railroad electrification, and provide significant resources to support communities harmed by rail infrastructure. We applaud Senator Markey and his team for painting an inspirational picture of the track we all deserve and a way to get there," said Saul

systems," said Jeff Joines of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"America deserves a world class passenger rail system, but too many Americans have been quite literally off the rails for far too long. Passenger railroads have linked the country together in the past and can once again. While some progress has been made in recent years, as a nation we're still far behind where we should be. Senator Markey's All Aboard Act presents a comprehensive way forward for American passenger rail, including accelerating progress toward building stateof-the-art high-speed rail," said Mark L. Wallace, President of the Teamsters Rail Conference. "The Teamsters Rail Conference, which represents the majority of unionized rail workers in this country, is proud to endorse the All Aboard Act. Senator Markey's bill not only will boost economic activity and speed passengers to their destinations, it also will create thousands of good paying jobs for Teamster members and others who operate the trains and build and maintain the rails."

Senator Markey is a long-time advocate for electrifying rail and a leader on supporting rail labor. Last Congress, Senator Markey introduced the BRAIN Train Act, which established a new \$25 billion passenger rail grant program and required that the FRA prioritize projects that connect historically under-connected areas. In April 2024, Senator Markey worked closely with a broad coalition of environmental groups and labor groups to send two letters to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation, calling for the EPA to update its locomotive emissions standard and for the DOT to require federally funded work to reduce emissions and to use union labor. In July 2023, Senator Markey chaired an Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety Hearing on reducing locomotive emissions and the need for EPA to update its 2008 locomotive emission standards.

### Public notices

#### PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 7:15 PM in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Ramin Piri Alamdari, is seeking Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to convert the existing building to a two-family dwelling and construct a gravel parking area on the property located at 25 Bourne Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 71, Lot 91.

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

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

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

#### Chairman 12/19, 12/26/2024

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, January 8, 2025 at 7:20 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) application for the confirmation of jurisdictional resource areas for the property located at High St, identi-

fied as Assessor's Map 094, Parcel 019. The Applicant is Baldwin Street LLC. Submitted by: Monson

Conservation Commission 12/26/2024

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

**Probate and Family Court Hampden Division** 

#### Docket No. HD24P2604EA Estate of: Maryann F. Bacyk Date of Death: 07/24/2023 **INFORMAL PROBATE**

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition

of Petitioner Theodore F. **Bacyk of Palmer, MA** a Will has been admitted

to informal probate. Theodore F. Bacyk of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal

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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. 12/26/2024

#### **Public Notice of Hazardous** Waste Transporter License Application

**Pursuant to Massachusetts** 

Hazardous Waste **Regulation 310** CMR 30.000

**Notice Publication Date:** December 26, 2024 This is a public notice regarding an application sub-

mitted by **Ironclad Environmental** Solutions, Inc. 487 Mashapaug Road,

Holland, MA 01521 Ironclad Environmental Solutions, Inc. has applied

for a license to transport hazardous waste within the state of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will review all written comments before deciding whether to approve or deny the application in accordance with the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulation 310 CMR 30.000. If MassDEP grants or

denies the license and you are aggrieved by the decision, you may request an adjudicatory hearing. The hearing request must be submitted in writing and postmarked within 21 days of the

decision date. For updates on the status of the application or further information, please contact Marcus Henry in MassDEP's Boston office, Business Compliance Division, at 617-

292-5576. MassDEP will consider all written comments submitted during the public comment period, which ends 45 days after the publication of this notice. Comments should be sent to: **Massachusetts Department** 

#### of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

**Business Compliance** Division One Winter Street, 7th Floor Boston, MA 02108

Attention: HW Transporter Licensing. 12/26/2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF** MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT **DEPARTMENT OF THE** TRIAL COURT **DOCKET NO. 24 SM** 003519 **ORDER OF NOTICE** 

#### TO: Kevin Brooke

and to all persons entifiled with this court a comtled to the benefit of the plaint for determination of Servicemembers Civil Relief Defendant's/Defendants' Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 Servicemembers status (et seq):

The Bank of New York ly have been, in the active Mellon, f/k/a The Bank military service of the United of New York as successor States of America, then you in interest to JPMorgan may be entitled to the bene-Chase Bank, N.A. as fits of the Servicemembers **Trustee for NovaStar** Civil Relief Act. If you Mortgage Funding Trust, object to a foreclosure of Series 2006-2, NovaStar the above-mentioned prop-Home Equity Loan Asseterty on that basis, then you Backed Certificates, Series or your attorney must file 2006-2 claiming to have an inter-

a Virginia Corporation.

its successors and assigns,

dated April 13, 2006, and

recorded in Hampden

**County Registry of Deeds** 

in Book 15828, Page 529,

and now held by the Plaintiff

a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, est in a Mortgage cover-MA 02108 on or before ing real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 1/27/2025 or you may lose 2 Barker Street, given by the opportunity to challenge John Wojnilowicz and the foreclosure on the ground Kevin Brooke to Mortgage of noncompliance with the **Electronic Registration** Act. Witness, GORDON H. Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for PIPER Chief Justice of this NovaStar Mortgage, Inc.,

Court on 12/13/2024. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson,

by assignment, has/have

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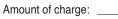
each additional word.

### FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

#### **DEADLINES:** MONDAY AT NOON MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:							
1		2		3		4	
5		6		7		8	
9		10		11		12	
13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20	Base Pric \$26.0
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Pric \$28.0
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Pric \$30.0
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Pric \$32.0
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Pric \$34.0
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00	39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Pric \$36.0
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Town:					•		
Number of Weeks:							
Credit Card:	Mast	erCard	UVISA U	Discover	Cash		
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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

#### **OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

Date

#### WASTEWATER from page 1

well as any grants or gifts received by the town on account of the project.

A second loan authorization was for \$273,500, an amendment to a previous authorization for the wastewater treatment plant's dewatering improvements.

"This is the one that the Council already previously approved," explained Town Manager Brad Brothers. "That's why we're just asking for the difference, because design money did come off the original approval, and now we have to backfill that amount."

The amount borrowed for this authorization is also subject to reductions based on grants and collaboration with the town of Monson. Brothers added that there would be a return on investment with the latter appropriation.

"Our rates are better when we return or when we sell it off, and that it actually is a break even," Brothers said. "Even though we see the amount hit our EDU, we actually will offset that in full from the savings we have from the dewatering."

The Council voted to approve these authorizations.

EAST BROOKFIELD- Ribbet, the resilient Labrador Retriever puppy whose heartbreaking story captured hearts nationwide, has reached an incredible milestone in his recovery. Following his latest X-rays, Second Chance Animal Services' veterinary team has confirmed that Ribbet's skull fracture has healed properly, the swelling has resolved, and he is thriving. With this clean bill of health, Ribbet has officially been cleared for adoption.

Ribbet's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. After suffering life-threatening injuries that required emergency surgery to remove both eyes, he has made a stunning recovery in the loving care of his foster family, who has now become his forever family. His new family has been teaching him how to play fetch with a jingle ball, and Ribbet's supporters are celebrating his transformation with a joyful video showing him in action.

"This moment is a testament to the resilience of animals and the incredible power of community support," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO of Second Chance Animal Services. "Ribbet has shown us all that, with the right care and love, even the most challenging odds can be overcome.'

Second Chance is sharing Ribbet's story not only to celebrate his triumph but to remind pet owners about the importance of responsible rehoming and Second Chance's lifetime support policy for adopted pets.

The video of Ribbet enjoying his favorite new activity, fetch, has brought smiles to the faces of his supporters who have followed his story on social media and the Second Chance blog:



With a clean bill of health, Ribbet has officially been cleared for adoption.

www.secondchanceanimals.org/ribbet.

As Ribbet embarks on this new chapter, Second Chance continues its mission to provide lifesaving medical care for shelter pets in need. Stories like Ribbet's highlight the importance of these efforts and the significant costs involved in providing such specialized care.

Help ensure more pets like Ribbet get their second chance. Donations made to Second Chance will go directly toward medical care for pets in need. Visit http://www.secondchanceanimals.org to make a difference today. Every contribution helps provide hope and healing to pets facing extraordinary challenges.

#### **Police Logs**

#### Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 356 incidents on its logs from Dec. 10 through Dec. 16.

#### Dec. 10

At 10:49 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 11:09 a.m. police gave summons to William J. Wells, 54, of 173 State St., Bondsville, for 2 counts of trespass and criminal harassment.

Dec. 11

At 3:28 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Mass Turnpike.

At 5:13 p.m. police arrested Gavin Ty Gomes, 18, of 314 Oak St., Harwich, for OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and person under 21 in possession of liquor.

#### Dec. 12

At 4:44 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 7:56 p.m. police gave summons to Wayne Clark Slongwhite, 72, of 379 Crouch Road, West Warren, for uninsured motor vehicle.

At 9:34 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Ware Street.

Police/Fire

#### Dec. 13

At 3:41 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

#### Dec. 15

At 7:05 p.m. police arrested Jose Luis Argueta-Vasquez, 39, of 88 Allendale Road, Hartford, CT, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and uncovered/unsecured load.

#### Dec. 16

At 6:03 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Depot Street.

At 6:05 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Sykes Street.

At 9:07 a.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on the corner of Old Warren Road and Gates Street.

At 9:47 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Thorndike Street and High Street.

At 11:59 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 12:58 p.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Thorndike Street.

Any interested persons

wishing to be heard on the

application should appear at

the time and place designat-

Conservation Office, 4417

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair,

Palmer Conservation

Commission

### Public notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P2595EA Estate of: **Dorothy H. Langevin** Date of Death: 06/04/2024 **INFORMAL PROBATE** PUBLICATION NOTICE To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Beverly Hoekstra of Hampden, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Beverly Hoekstra of

Hampden, 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 admin-

MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION Under the require-

ments of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:10 PM in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the work associated with the re-establishment of agricultural fields for the property located at 175 State Ave, identified as Assessor's Map 088, Parcel 001. The Applicant is the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources.

Submitted by: Monson Conservation Commission 12/26/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampden Probate and

Family Court 50 State Street

LEGAL NOTICE

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

ADMINISTRATION **UNDER THE** MASSACHUSETTS **UNIFORM PROBATE** 

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 19, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani, 12/26/2024

NOTICE OF

**MORTGAGEE'S** 

SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Monson, MA 01057

Premises: 25 State Street,

and objection followed by Deeds in Book 25009. Page an affidavit of objections 341: for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on January 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

> a certain tract of land with the buildings thereon, situate on the southerly side of State Street in sad Monson, bounded and described as follows

> pin in the ground at the northeast corner of land of Frederick J Sullivan thence EASTERLY along the southerly side of said State Street, eighty-two (82) feet to land of Alce E McCray; thence SOUTHERLY along last named land EIGHTY-EIGHT and ONE-HALF  $(88^{1/2})$  feet to the northeast corner of land conveyed by Mary A North to Seraph North, November 4, 1941, now of Mabel North, see Probate Record Estate of Seraph North; thence

ed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds simultaneously herewith. The description of the property contained in the

mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 10, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden

County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 110. TERMS OF SALE: Said

conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which

mortgage above described. (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Palmer Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 143, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 7th 2025 at 7:15 PM in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street. Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of the Town of Palmer Department of Public

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of

Applicability for activities associated with geotechnical borings to support the design of replacement culed. A copy of the application verts at Bacon Road and West Ware Road. This work and plan may be inspected at is proposed to occur withthe Palmer Town Hall in the in the 200' Riverfront Area and local 50' "No-Disturb" Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687. The project is located near the intersection of Bacon Road and West Ware 12/26/2024 Road, within the right of way, immediately above the

Job Connection

respective culverts.

### Helping You Find Help

Town of Brimfield, MA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SELECT BOARD

Hampden County Registry of

to wit:

BEGINNING at an iron

Register of Probate

premises will be sold and

take precedence over the said FIVE THOUSAND

# Works

istration 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. 12/26/2024

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.

Estate of: Theodore F McClosky

Date of Death: 11/28/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with **Appointment of Personal** Representative has been filed by Sandra M Hobbs of Monson, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Sandra M Hobbs of Monson, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised adminis-

tration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance

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Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P2623EA

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert L. Meacham II to RBS Citizens, N.A., and now held by

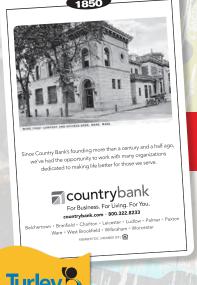
Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A., said mortgage dated November 24, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 114, as affected by a Loan

Modification dated April 19, 2023 and recorded in the

> **Attention all** businesses in Palmer, Monson,

Brimfield, Holland & Wales

Publications. Inc



WESTERLY along said last named land, SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) feet to a stone bound in line of land of sad Fredrick J Sullivan; thence N 1° W along last named land NINETY-SIX (96) feet to the place of beginning.

Said premises are conveyed SUBJECT to right of way, in favor of Seraph North, her heirs and assigns, ten (10) feet in width, running along the easterly line of the above described premises from property conveyed by Mary A North to Seraph North to said State Street.

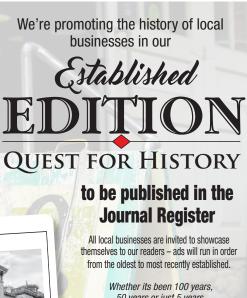
BEING the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor herein by deed dated October 10, 2015 to be record-

Brock & Scott, PLLC 23 Messenger Street 2nd Floor Plainville, MA 02762 Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2024

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of



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OFFICE 413.967.3505

CELL 413.297.5886

**PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 27, 2025** 

#### **Statement of Duties:**

The employee is responsible for providing a wide range of administrative and clerical support services to the Select Board as well as supporting other town functions.

This is a full-time position consisting of a 35 hours per week Monday -Thursday with two (2) evening meetings per month. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

#### **Education and Experience:**

High school education or further with a minimum of 3-5 years administrative work experience preferably in municipal government and dealing with the public and the required knowledge, ability and skill to perform the essential functions of the position in an effective manner.

Thorough knowledge of office practices and procedures; working knowledge of department operations and functions. Working knowledge of the Uniform Procurement Act, M.G.L. Chapter 30B; M.G.L. Chapter 4 and Chapter 66 (Public Records Law); M.G.L. Chapter 268A (Conflict of Interest Law); and Town Bylaws and State Statutes relevant to matters of the office and position.

A full job description can be found at www.brimfieldma.org on the Employment Opportunities section located on the Select Board page. Interested individuals are asked to apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Select Board, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010, or to selectboard@brimfieldma.org.

The position will remain open until a qualified candidate is chosen. The Town of Brimfield is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

#### We are celebrating our

20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons. Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

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#### HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



### Virtual support groups for those with cancer

PALMER— During a cancer derstanding, and encouragement." journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups are being held now and through 2025, by Camille St.Onge, LICSW and oncology social worker.

For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location to attend cancer support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic virtual support groups began meeting entirely online, with participants joining through video conferencing platforms like Zoom. Today, many people prefer this method because it offers flexibility, and convenience, and allows them to access support from where they are without needing to physically travel to a meeting location.

"Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis," said St. Onge. "While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, un-

oin the team that does more b im than some do all day t 774-200-6762 or email J.P. McCarthy & Sons WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Virtual Support Group offered include: General Cancer Support Group: first Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving: second Wednesday of each month, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer, third Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group, fourth Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and are made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St.Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at cstomagin@ gmail.com.

### **Senators Markey and Paul urge President Biden** to extend TikTok divestment deadline

WASHINGTON - Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging him to provide TikTok owner ByteDance with a 90-day extension to either sell TikTok or face a ban in the United States, as authorized by the Protecting Americans Data from Foreign Adversaries Act.

The lawmakers urged the Biden administration to trigger the 90-day extension before Jan. 19, the deadline by which ByteDance must either divest TikTok or face a ban. On Jan. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments to consider whether the law violates the First Amendment.

Earlier this month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the legislation that bans TikTok.

In the letter, the senators wrote, "The stakes here are high: As a practical matter, even if the Court rules that the law is constitutional by the January deadline, ByteDance cannot divest TikTok in that limited time. Consequently, absent a judicial injunction, decision overturning the law, or action by you, TikTok will soon be banned in the United States, causing its creators and users serious hardship."

### Local musician hits the stage in Palmer

PALMER - Local to South Hadley, musician Kyle Ray will be performing for one night only at the Palmer Historical Cultual Center on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

The concert will feature his brand new single, "Shoebox", a song about his life and story, will be performed live for the very first time on a stage, so be sure to mark your calendar.

You can find tickets by scanning the QR code for \$15 ahead of time, or \$20 at the door. The address is 2072 Main Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

Don't miss this chance to welcome home a neighbor, and spend some time before the New Year listening to some good music, and hearing for the first time a new song that will end up in your saved playlist.



The group of volunteers who collected and prepared the holiday joy bags.

#### JOY | from page 1

what to expect for support. I asked friends and businesses for support and we filled 125 bags with a good amount of donations. This year's efforts just sets me back. The support has been unbelievable. Donations and boxes are flooding in and the office is full" said Niedziela.

Thirteen volunteers braved the

chill and filled the bags on Friday night in the J. Stolar workshop. Delivery of the gift bags will happen the upcoming weekend.

We have a good bit of leftover misc items, 5 of this, 10 of that, and we wanted to keep giving" said Niedziela. "We have partnered with another local organization to pass

out support. Everything left over will go to the AMVets Post 74 in Three Rivers for local veterans."

"I am grateful on behalf of my team and myself for the support. This project has been growing but can't without that support. We are planning for next year already." said Niedziela.



Submitted photos One of Santa's helpers fills the holiday joy bag.





# **Green Gold Group Cannabis Dispensary**



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**Contact: 413-289-9503** Website: www.greengold.group

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► Menu:



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concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug Marijuana can impai For use only by adults 21 years of age or older. Keep out of the reach of children

This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of edible marijuana may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1. This product may be illegal outside of MA.