

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com January 1, 2026 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 49 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

JANUARY

JAN. 9

Select Board approves final request for funds

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

MONSON – At last month’s Select Board meeting, the town voted to approve the use of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds toward a guardrail at Flint Park, technology for the town, and active shooter equipment.

Finance Director Jamie Farnum reported that the town held several ARPA meetings through the fall to discuss projects that were already committed and to keep an eye on the overall balance. As per the last meeting, Farnum reported that the available balance was roughly \$21,235.

“We did have projects in the amount of \$53,045 close back,” Farnum said. “So as a committee, we had to make recommendations for the remaining balance of \$74,280.”

The committee put forth the following revenue replacement requests for ARPA funds; fire equipment to include AEDs and Active Shooter Equipment for \$10,000; a guardrail for the playground at Flint Park for \$7,280; and dig-

itization of record, software, equipment, a keycard locking system, and miscellaneous technology needs for \$57,000.

Farnum told the board that though there are some projects that are still being completed that may end up costing less than was allotted to them, the funds had to be committed by the end of 2024. She said that the way to make best use of the funds, according to guidance through the ARPA interim rule, would be to dedicate the funds to a project within the same scope so the town doesn’t need to return the money to the federal government.

“One of the topics we talked about was technology,” Farnum said. “So, if it’s within that realm of technology, we can still utilize it and not have to give the funds back.”

Select Board Member Pat Oney summarized, “If the current projects come in under budget, as long as you’ve got something close to it, you can transfer the funds.”

Oney asked what would happen if projects come in over budget, which Farnum said was unlikely.



FEBRUARY



Submitted photo

JAN. 23

PHS students awarded Scholarship

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – The Jan. 15 School Committee meeting saw the presentation of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship to 19 students, as well as a heartfelt thank you to the district from the parent of a recent graduate.

“I am so excited to be presenting 19 students the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship,” said High School Principal Susan North. “We are

extremely proud of each and every one of them.”

Based on their academic achievement on the MCAS exams, students qualify to receive a four-year scholarship on their acceptance to a participating public institution of higher education throughout the state. Participating colleges include the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts, nine universities, and 15 community colleges, which is outlined in a letter received by the schol-

arship recipients.

“Besides the letter, the students will be getting a certificate,” North said, “and then they are also receiving an academic achievement pin.”

North said that the pins can be worn over the student’s gown at graduation, adding, “they can wear that with pride.”

North called out each of the students by name, and she and Senior Advisor Melissa Petrashewicz passed out the certificates and pins to each of the students present.



JAN. 30

Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão
Dominic, age 8, and Luke, age 7, climbed out of the pool on Friday’s Swim Night.

High School opens pool to families

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – Last Friday, the High School opened its pool to students from Old Mill Pond for one of its regular Swim Nights.

“The Swim Night is for students at Old Mill Pond and their families,” said Kristine Camacho. “We try to offer them three or four times a year so students can come for free and swim for a couple of hours with their immediate families.”

Swim Nights are offered through the Parent Teacher Organization, and run from 6-8 p.m. Camacho said the school has been opening the pool up for Swim Nights for a number of years.

“We started up again after COVID for the last two years, and I know they were doing it prior,” Camacho said.

The school works with staff from the school district to hire lifeguards, all of whom are high school students with the proper certification.

“I know they offered a

lifeguard course to students this year, so we were able to get new lifeguards through that process,” Camacho said. “One student that was there had previously gotten her lifeguard certification, and all the lifeguards are certified.”

Teachers are on-site to welcome families and make sure everyone signs in, but Camacho said that the collaborative effort is between the PTO and the central office, and the school’s main priority is getting information out to the families.

FEB. 6

Tailgate Tavern held its annual Soup-Off, an annual fundraiser for Light Up Palmer.

Tailgate Tavern announces winners of Soup-Off fundraiser

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, Tailgate Tavern held its annual Soup-Off fundraiser to raise funds for Light Up Palmer.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, staff at the Tavern turned on generators and plugged in 30 crock pots filled with delicious soup made by local chefs. For a \$5 charge, local residents and soup connoisseurs were able to sample as much soup as they liked and vote on their favorites.

The first place prize went to Lisa Cormier for her French Onion Soup. Cormier shared that she had to make five batches the night before, because when she entered last year, the soup was “gone in the first 20 minutes.”

Second place went to one of the event’s helpers, Deedee Abare, for a Pizza Soup. Third prize was awarded to the Sweet Potato Kielbasa made by “Bert” Russo.

In addition to the soup competition, the event also included around 80 raffles, with winners announced, as always, by Mike Wadas. Shelley Casey, the primary organizer, said that between the charge to judge the soup competition and all the raffles, they were able to raise \$2,300.

The funds raised by this weekend’s event will all go towards Light Up Palmer, which will use them to repair and replace the decorations that go up on Main Street every year. The volunteers are currently refurbishing the Purple Heart banners that have been damaged by weather.

FEB. 27

Cub Scouts graduate at banquet

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – This Sunday, the Second Congregational Church hosted the Blue and Gold Banquet and a Crossover ceremony for two graduating Cub Scouts.

Blue and Gold Banquets are a tradition in Cub Scout packs to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Scouting America on Feb. 8, 1910, and are traditionally held around the February pack meeting. After rescheduling due to the recent snow-

storm, Pack 164 held its celebration on Feb. 23.

Two Cub Scouts had their Crossover ceremony on Sunday, Lincoln Quinn and Zachary Champagne. They were each accompanied by their parents, and recognized by local scoutmasters and pack leaders.

Holly Riopel, Principal of Old Mill Pond School, announced the speakers for the meeting. After a reading by Pastor James, Senator Jake Oliveira presented a citation to the two scouts on behalf of himself and State

A look back on the events and stories of 2025

This New Year’s Day, *The Journal Register* is excited to take a look back at the stories and events from the last year.

Our Year-In-Reviews shows so many great and fun events that took place in the towns of Palmer and Monson during 2025.

We hope you enjoy the look back at the events of 2025 and look forward to many more great events to be featured in *The Journal Register* coming up in 2026.

FEB. 20

PFD projects offering ALS services

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – At last week’s Town Council meeting, the Fire Department presented a proposition to meet the town’s need for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

The Feb. 10 meeting began with a history of the Palmer Ambulance Service from Bob Havelles. Following that, Town Manager Brad Brothers reviewed the situation, going back to the town receiving notification on Oct. 24, 2024, that Palmer Ambulance would no longer be able to service medical emergencies.

Brothers highlighted that the department has 24/7 coverage at the Basic Life Support level as of Nov. 1, 2024, but that Advanced Life Support requires different resources and certifications.

The town has continued these discussions into the new year to sort out problems involving where to house an ALS vehicle. Brothers said that initial quotes have ranged from \$150-320,000 per year, representing a potentially significant cost to the \$500,000 remaining in the town’s budget.



A Year at the Brimfield Public Library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – A year marked by creativity, community engagement, and steadily growing participation made 2025 a standout year for programming at the Brimfield Public Library, according to Rebecca Wells, who reflected on the past year's events and initiatives during a recent conversation.

While planning for 2026 programming is still in its early stages, Wells said the success of the past year has provided a strong foundation moving forward. Central to that success, she emphasized, is the continued support of the Friends of the Brimfield Public Library, an active volunteer group that fully funds the library's public programming.

"We're very fortunate to have a really active Friends group," Wells said. "They're actually who financially support all of the programming at the library."

Throughout 2025, the Brimfield Public Library offered a mix of returning favorites and new programs that resonated with patrons of all ages. Among the new additions was a Valentine's cookie decorating program, which Wells said was introduced for the first time this



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Bonnie Knox reads "Snoopy's Christmas Surprise" by Charles M. Schulz.

year and proved so popular it will now become an annual event. A February story hour for children ages 3 to 10 also continued as a seasonal staple, drawing families into the library during the winter months.

Children's programming remained a consistent focus throughout the year, with themed monthly storytimes paired with hands-on crafts. Most recently, the library hosted its December storytime and craft on Wednesday, Dec. 10, featuring a reading of Snoopy's Christmas. Following the story, children created their own versions of Snoopy's iconic doghouse us-

ing popsicle sticks and sticky paper, blending seasonal storytelling with creative expression.

Adult programming saw notable growth as well. In March, the library hosted an appetizer swap, where participants submitted recipes ahead of time, sampled each other's dishes during the event, and left with a compiled recipe booklet. The program was so well received that Wells confirmed it will return in the future.

One of the most significant additions of the year was the launch of the One Book, One Community book club. The idea grew out of



After explaining the craft, parents and Knox go around helping the kids create the crafts.

community feedback following the loss of the library's longtime Page Turners book club during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Mystery Buffs book club successfully continued through that period, Wells said some patrons were looking for a more general-interest option.

"I picked one book to see what kind of interest we'd get," she explained. "I was planning on doing it quarterly, but the group loved it and wanted to meet monthly."

The club initially ran under a working title before participants voted to officially name it One Book, One Community, a name Wells said

clearly reflects the program's inclusive mission. The group now meets monthly on the last Tuesday of each month, while the Mystery Buffs meet on the third Monday and the knitting club meets on the third Thursday, providing a consistent schedule of ongoing adult programs.

Creative workshops also remained a highlight of the year. Painting sessions with Greg Mychek, typically offered in the spring, once again filled quickly, continuing a tradition that often sells out. Needle felting workshops became another standout, with a May session featuring a felted wren followed by a re-

turn visit later in the year for a cardinal-themed workshop. Wells noted that the needle felting events fill up even faster than the popular painting classes and are limited to adult participants.

Beyond programming, the Friends of the Brimfield Public Library supported major fundraising and community events, including bake sales and flea markets held in May and September. The Friends also funded the entirety of the library's summer reading program, covering everything from prizes and incentives to T-shirts and lanyards.

Looking back, Wells described 2025 as a year of thoughtful expansion and positive response from the community.

"We were able to incorporate some new events this year for both children and adults, and they were very well received," she said. "Some of them are now going to become yearly events because of that response."

As the Brimfield Public Library looks ahead to 2026, the success of the past year's programming suggests a continued focus on community-driven events, creative opportunities, and inclusive offerings designed to bring residents together through learning, art, and shared experiences.



Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee
12:30 p.m.
with drinks and popcorn

Jan. 2: *It's Complicated* – Two-time Academy Award winner Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, and Alec Baldwin star in this hilarious look at marriage, divorce, and everything in between. With a thriving Santa Barbara bakeshop, a new romance heating up, and her divorce finally behind her, Jane Adler has her life all figured out - until she finds herself trapped between the perfect new beau and her philandering ex-husband who is determined to win her back. When do oppo-sites attract all over again, will love be sweeter the second time around?

Jan. 9: *Ticket to Par-*

adise - Academy Award® winners George Clooney and Julia Roberts team up as exes who find themselves on a shared mission: to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made. Ticket to Paradise is a romantic comedy about the sweet surprise of second chances.

Jan. 23: *Hope Floats* - Sandra Bullock, Harry Connick, Jr. Life does not turn out quite the way a former prom queen planned, so after her marriage falls apart, she returns to her hometown for another chance at life-and love.

Jan. 30: *Lilly* - About a courageous factory worker who fights for justice when cheated and mistreated by her company. Based on the life of Lilly Ledbetter.

Upcoming Events

(Starting Thursdays in January at 1 p.m. the pool table and cornhole boards will be available for open play. Please grab a friend and come have fun.)

Jan. 5: Candle Holder Craft, Betty Koss will lead this class. \$5 due to sign up. See samples at the center.

Jan. 12: Dinner served at 5 pm. Lasagna by Frigo's. January 14th—Lighted Snowman Jar - Kim Keeton will lead the class, see sample at the center. \$5 due to sign up.

Jan. 16: Memory Café - Ben & Ed Show - see this musical duo perform, songs and have some laughs.

Jan. 21: Lunch & Learn -5 Wishes - The 5 Wishes is a legal advance directive document used to out-line

medical, personal, spiritual, and emotional preferences for end-of-life care. It helps people clearly communicate their wishes to family and doctors, so loved ones do not have to guess what you would want if you became incapacitated.

Jan. 26: Quabbin Presentation— Eagles, Loons, and Bears - In the past 50 years our region has seen the return of many woodland animals in part because of the great habitat Quabbin Reservoir Forest creates. This presentation focuses on the history and habitats of some local wildlife. Join us for the first presentation on the Quabbin. This will be a monthly presentation about how the Quabbin was built.

Feb. 23: Intro to Quabbin

COLLEGE NEWS

Matthew Wilbur named to Fall 2025 Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, OH – Matthew Wilbur of Holland, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Fall 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online pro-

grams across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in the Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

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

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
- 100% Workers Compensation



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

SQUIER OIL

Squier Oil is located in Monson since 1874. We live, pay taxes, hire and donate here. We are not from CT, Westfield, Hadley or Timbuktu!

We Maintain Our Own Service Department

We Sell Bio Friendly Fuel Oil

We Buy Contract To Protect Future Supply For Our Automatic Customers

Email: squieroil@verizon.net

NOTICE

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



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

WEB
www.journalregister.turley.com

@ The Journal Register

The Journal Register is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

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

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Palmer U-Haul

D & M Auto

MEGAN JENSEN • NATE JENSEN

Make your reservation with us and earn \$\$ back!! Best price guaranteed!!!

Ask Us How!

413-283-6882
413-636-2929



DMAutoRepair88@gmail.com

1422 Park St. • 1116 Park St. PALMER, MA 01069

Baystate Wing's CHNA reported to food policy council

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council heard the results of Baystate Wing Hospital's recent Community Health Needs Assessment.

Presenting the findings of the assessment at the Dec. 17 meeting were Annamarie Golden, Director of Community Relations and Community Benefits at Baystate Health and Lisa Ranghelli, Director of Assessment and Capacity Building at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts.

Golden explained the purpose of the assessment, and how its data is used to help address the health needs of the communities Baystate Wing Hospital serves.

Golden said nonprofit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA every three years.

Baystate Wing Hospital is located in Palmer, with 46 patient beds, 50 physicians and 500 employees. The hospital serves patients across multiple counties including Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester.

health crisis services and CT and X-ray services. Last year the emergency department had more than 38,000 patient visits.

"Our team there is absolutely fabulous," she said.

Data for the assessment is collected through various sources thanks to the partnership of nine hospitals and insurers through the Coalition of Western MA Hospitals/Insurers.

"The coalition was established in 2012 to leverage resources," Golden said. "There's a lot of overlap."

Ranghelli shared the key findings of the CHNA, which highlighted health trends and needs across the counties.

"This is a very comprehensive and inclusive process. We use it as our starting point," Ranghelli said. "A lot of different folks have been engaged."

Ranghelli said data was collected from 300 community members from western Massachusetts, through focus groups, key informant interviews, public health surveys and through regional advisory committee members.

The CHNA took into consideration social and economic influences, barriers to care, health behaviors and outcomes and priority populations.

The key findings for this year's CHNA showed a focus on maternal health, mental health, substance use, access to basic needs (food, housing and transportation) and difficulty with insurance and medical systems.

"Access to needs is a perennial challenge, including food, transportation and housing," Ranghelli said.

Maternal health
Ranghelli reported that the level of adequate prenatal care rates have dropped by 10-20% per county, based on whether the patient has private or public health insurance.

"Access to prenatal care showed a difference based on what health insurance you have," she said. "Public health insurance had more barriers across all three counties."

Ranghelli said higher rates of low birth weights were also reported by patients with public health insurance, especially in Hampshire County.

"Hampshire County has doubled the low birth weight for public insurance compared to private," she said.

Adult mental health and substance use

Ranghelli said the assessment found an increase in the rates of poor mental health, compared to findings from 2019.

"Unfortunately, we see increases in rates of poor mental health and we're seeing that across the board," she said. "This continues to be a challenge in the present day."

Binge drinking was also identified as an ongoing challenge in all of the counties. With one in five people reporting having binge drank.

Ranghelli said while there has been a more positive shift in substance use care in the community, those who use substances are still facing barriers for basic needs in addition to discrimination and stigma in emergency rooms and other medical settings.

Ranghelli said people from the Recovery Center of HOPE were interviewed about these barriers, and that the staff leaders at Baystate Wing Hospital were responsive to the feedback received.

Youth substance use and mental health

In the spring, students at Monson, North Brookfield and Quabbin Regional middle/high schools were given a survey about substance use.

The survey showed that alcohol is the most commonly used substance with 20% of eighth grade students reporting that they tried it.

Mental health continues to be a challenge, with four out of 10 students reporting

daily anxiety. Seventy-eight percent of LGBTQIA+ students reported high levels of daily anxiety.

Of all students surveyed, 27% reported feeling depressed or sad nearly every day.

Common themes

Ranghelli said there's "a lot of crosscutting themes" across the following population groups: older adults, immigrants and refugees and young children and their parents/caregivers. Barriers include access to transportation, access to technology, earning a livable wage, access to reliable and affordable childcare and access to food.

"One of the biggest expenses for grandparent caregivers is food for the children," she said.

Ranghelli said many grandparent caregivers do not qualify for government assistance to help with food insecurity, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Older adults are struggling with housing, social isolation and loneliness, and a lack of geriatric care providers. Women age 65+ are more likely to be widowed and living in poverty than men are.

With immigrants and refugees, there is a great need for trauma informed care and

practice. There are also language barriers, despite Baystate Wing Hospital having translation services.

Transportation in rural areas is still a barrier to health care, which can also have an impact on a person's ability to get food.

Ranghelli said the Quaboag Connector, a transportation service based out of Ware, is trying to meet those needs.

Ranghelli said the cost of housing has continued to rise and the town of Palmer reported higher eviction rates.

"Many folks, more than a quarter, pay more than 30% of their income for housing," she said.

Food insecurity had increased in 2021 when supports were in place, but now there is an uptick due to inflation and those supports being gone.

Ranghelli said the top searches on 413Cares were related to housing and food.

"We know we have areas where food isn't available and we have limited access," she said.

More about the CHNA

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment is available at baystatehealth.org/CHNA. The Health New England Community Health Needs Assessment will be published in January 2026.

Monson Free Library celebrates 25 years of holiday story time tradition

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Free Library marked a milestone this month with its 25th annual Holiday Story Time, a festive community tradition that has brought local families, children, and state leaders together for a quarter of a century.

Held Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the General Library at the Monson Free Library, the annual event welcomed families for an evening of seasonal stories, holiday cheer, and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Monson Free Library. The program featured readings by state legislators and their representatives, continuing a tradition that began at the turn of the millennium.

Library Director Hope Bodwell reflected on the long history of the event, which began in 2000 with then-State Senator Stephen Brewer. Over the years, the tradition has been carried on through changes in legislative leadership, with Representative Brian Ashe becoming a central and familiar presence. Bodwell noted that Ashe brought a particularly warm and playful energy to the program, often wearing festive jack-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Amanda Hellyar, aide to Senator Fattman, reads to the children gathered while dealing with an up-close reader.

ets or themed outfits to entertain the young audience.

"He really made it feel personal and fun for the kids," Bodwell said, adding that the event has always been about creating a welcoming, joyful experience rather than anything political.

While State Senator Ryan C. Fattman was unable to attend this year due to illness in his family, his aide, Amanda Hellyar, stepped in to read to the children. Hellyar joined Representative Ashe in sharing holiday and winter-themed stories with the crowd of attentive listeners.

Representative Ashe, who has participated in the program for 17 years, said the event remains one of the highlights of his year. First invited shortly after his election in 2008, Ashe said the simplicity and warmth of Holiday Story Time have kept him returning year after year.

"It's so neat to see all the little kids gather around, getting cozy, and listening to different holiday or winter stories," Ashe said. "For me, it's great because I get to see all the young kids. It's not about voters or politics...it's just about the season."



Children and families gather in the community room to listen to the stories being told.

For this year's reading, Ashe selected *A Loud Winter's Nap*, a children's book about a tortoise who initially dislikes winter but ultimately learns to appreciate it. Ashe also donated the book to the library's collection, continuing another small but meaningful tradition associated with the event.

Now in its 25th year, Holiday Story Time remains a beloved fixture on the Monson Free Library's calendar, offering families a chance to slow down during the busy holiday season and share a moment of storytelling, laughter, and community.



Representative Brian Ashe dressed up in a festive suit and a santa hat and read "A Loud Winter's Nap" by Katy Hudson to a group gathered.

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 journalregister@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

413-477-6496

TDD (800)439-2379



Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Arthur "Skip" Gervais
Hot Tub Removals (774)397-6500

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.

Central Reflexology

(413)324-2922
1026 Central St.
Palmer

Open 7 days Mon.-Sun. 9am-9pm

Duration	Price	Credit Card Price
30 Minutes	\$50	\$54.80
45 Minutes	\$60	\$65.50
60 Minutes	\$70	\$76.30
90 Minutes	\$120	\$130.00
120 Minutes	\$140	\$151.50
Deep Tissue	\$10	\$11.80

~ Foot Reflexology ~

30 Minutes	\$40	\$44.00
45 Minutes	\$50	\$54.80
60 Minutes	\$60	\$65.50

Viewpoints

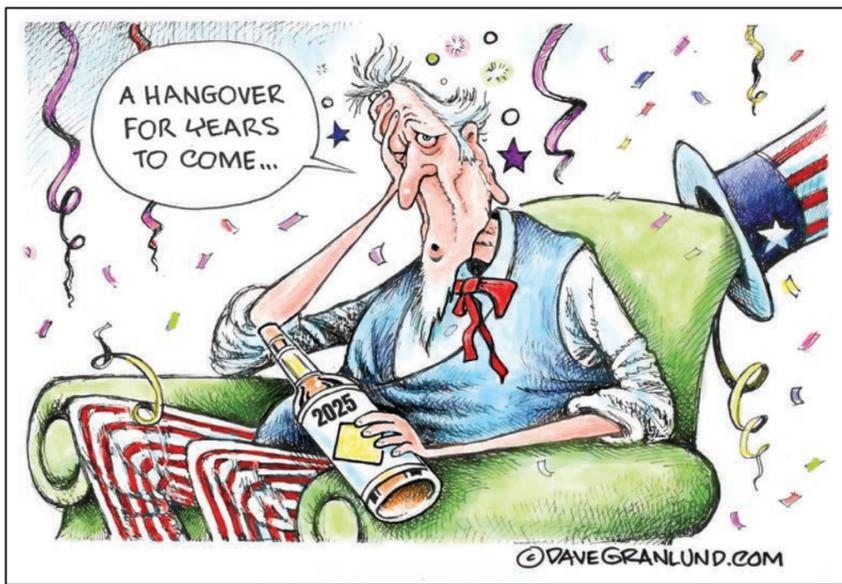
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

To the Editor
All the residents of Palmer Housing would like to thank all of the merchants, donors and many volunteers who made up the annual

Christmas goody bags for the residents. We love the items that we can use all the time. Thanks so much.

Palmer Housing Residents
G. David Bishop



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm on SS disability; should I switch to regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

Should I take my Social Security now at age 62, or wait till I am 65?

I've been collecting SS disability due to health issues and was curious if I should wait or claim my regular Social Security retirement benefits now.

Signed: Disabled but Wondering

Dear Disabled but Wondering:

If you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and you are still disabled, it would be a disadvantage to claim your SS retirement benefits at this time age 62 or even at age 65. That's because your SSDI benefit is the same as your Full Retirement Age amount, as calculated for you at the point you became disabled. Born after 1959, your FRA is age 67, but you are already receiving your FRA benefit while on SS disability even though you have not yet reached your full retirement age. That full SSDI benefit will automatically convert to become your SS retirement benefit when you reach your full retirement age.

If you were to claim your normal SS retirement benefit any earlier than your SS full retirement age of 67, the amount you get would be reduced for

claiming early. At your current age, you would likely get between 75% and 80% of what you are now receiving on SSDI (depending on your exact age in the month you claim and at age 65 you would get about 87% of what you are now receiving on Social Security disability.

In other words, as long as your disability continues and you remain eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you should not switch to your normal SS retirement benefit, because you would get less money. And the resulting benefit reduction would be permanent.

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.

Testing and taking seed inventory is good practice to start new gardening season

I don't know about you, but I have been caught up in spirit of the holidays. It's been fun to indulge in family time and try and get caught up on much-needed rest.

I have given myself this last week of the year to continue to take it easy before I hit the "to do" list.

One of the big things I have been procrastinating on at work is taking inventory of all the seeds I have left from the last couple of years. The box holds a hundred or so different varieties of seeds, mostly heirloom, open-pollinated types.

There is something refreshing about accomplishing this task soon into the new year; a seasonal habit I've had for the last four decades give or take. To me, it means spring is not far behind.

I begin by organizing the seeds first by category: vegetable, flower or herb, then alphabetically. After those piles have been made, I go back and decide which packets are no good or no longer of use.

No matter how well they are stored, some seeds

should tell you how long it takes for germination to occur, as well as inform you of the initial germination percentage. Once the necessary amount of time has elapsed unroll the paper towel and determine how viable your seeds are by observing the sprouting that has occurred.

Based on the results you may decide to sow the seed more thickly or just start over with a fresh batch.

Last year I did my own version of a germination test by sowing few seeds of questionable varieties in pots, and placing them on a shelf near my wood stove. I learned which seeds were worth the effort of sowing in the garden and which I needed to discard and order new.

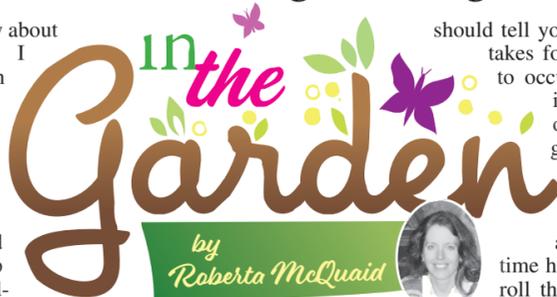
Although viability decreases as seeds age, proper storage can insure that you will get at least three years worth of sprouting out of many of your favorites. It is important to fold over used seed packets and seal them with tape after use, and if you are just getting to it now, it's better late than

new. As a general rule I keep seed that is less than three years old, unless the variety in question is rare. Even spotty germination is better than nothing when it comes to seed that is hard to find.

You can save yourself disappointment at planting time by performing a simple germination test on questionable seed.

Place a few seeds in a moist paper towel. Roll it up and seal it in a plastic bag in a warm location.

Instructions in the seed catalog or on the packet



GARDEN | page 5

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a sighting of a sora on Nauset Beach in Orleans on Cape Cod between Dec. 10 and 16.

Soras are small, chubby, chicken like birds with long toes and between eight to ten inches tall. Their stubby bill distinguished them from other rails in the United States and Canada, which have longer bills. They also frequently hold their short tail cocked up showing their white patch under the tail.

Soras are mottled gray and brown with white-edged feathers, but the feature that stands out the most is their yellow candy-corn bill. Other field marks include a black mask, throat patch and vertical white lines on the sides. Females tend to be less brightly colored than males and have less black on the face and throat. Juveniles also lack the black mask.

Soras have a distinct



By Ellenor Downer

walk pushing their head forward with every step while nervously flicking the tail upward, exposing the white under tail feathers. They tend to forage in dense vegetation, but also venture into open areas from time to time. Their long toes help them walk on top of floating mats of vegetation. Soras make their homes in freshwater wetlands with emergent vegetation such as cattails, sedges and rushes. During migration and winter, they also use brackish marshes, flooded fields and wet pastures.

The Sora makes its presence known with plaintive whistles and whinnies rising from the marshes all across North America. Despite its abundance, it is not often seen: As with other rails, it spends most of its time hidden in dense marshy growth or wet meadows. Occasionally it will walk about in full view at the edge of a pond, delighting any birders, who happen to be nearby. Although Soras might seem like weak fliers when seen fluttering over the marsh, they regularly migrate long distances, many going to South America for the winter.

Cape Cod bird sightings
Besides the sora, the following sightings were reported between Dec. 10 and Dec.16. A western tanager was found at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay sanctuary. The male painted bunting continued at a feeder in Brewster. Other bird sightings included a clapper rail and six western willets in South Chatham, two common terns in North Chatham, a blue-headed vireo and a yellow-breasted chat



Bluebirds

in South Orleans, a common yellowthroat and for northern shovelers in Harwich and a short-eared owl.

Birds seen at Race Point in Provincetown were a black guillemot, 200 razor-bills, 13 dovebies, three common murrelets, 45 black-legged kittiwakes, six Iceland gulls, a red-necked grebe and 75 northern gannets.

Other sightings around the Cape included two continuing Eurasian wigeon in Yarmouth Port, two Barrow's goldeneyes at Loop Beach in Cotuit, a great egret at Mass Audubon's Skunknet River sanctuary in Barnstable, a Nashville warbler reported at a house in Yarmouth, continuing unseasonably large numbers of tree swallows in various places including over 50 in Falmouth, two western willets in Chatham and an American golden plover in North Truro.

Christmas bird count

From Dec. 15 to Jan. 5, the Christmas Bird Count will commence in the U.S.,

Canada and 18 other countries in the Western Hemisphere. Countries are divided into geographical regions with 35 in Massachusetts and each region will pick a single 24-hour period to count birds. Data from the CBC can be utilized in many ways, including to monitor trends in bird populations, document range shifts over time and examine how climate change may impact the winter distributions of birds.

CBC data has been used in hundreds of analyses, peer-reviewed publications and government reports over the decades.

Birds likely seen in Massachusetts are chickadees, titmice, many species of woodpeckers, bluebirds, Carolina wren and many raptors. Migrants from the north include kinglets, some raptors, snow bunting and some sparrows. Waterfowl seen mostly along the coast are dabbling and diving

BIRDS | page 5

The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Journal Register



www.journalregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of 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 Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

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

Campaign news

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

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



Sora

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

ONGOING

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register!

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St,

Monson. Rose’s line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Mah Jongg Club open to all levels

PALMER – Have you ever wanted to learn Mah Jongg? Haven’t played in years and would like to? Drop in and join us at the Palmer Public Library for this newly formed, weekly club! Beginners will get help from Joyce, a local Mah Jongg enthusiast and teacher.

The club will primarily meet in the Community Room on Mondays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. If the

Community Room has another event, the club will relocate for that day to another area of the library. This club will play the American version of Mah Jongg and follow the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) rules.

Mah Jongg is a 4-person game of strategy and skill that originated in China. There are many versions of this game, with the American version enjoying popularity in the U.S. today. Learning

to play involves getting familiar with the tiles, learning the specifics of dealing & play, and especially learning to decipher and become familiar with the official card of playable hands released annually by the NMJL.

Please bring your own Mah Jongg set and current NMJL card if you have them. The library is located at 1455 North Main Street. Questions? Call Amy at 413-283-3330, ext. 121.

Upcoming Palmer Library events

PALMER – Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main Street has two upcoming programs next week. The programs are free and registration is not required. If you have questions please call Amy Golenski, Adult Services Librarian at (413) 283-3330, ext. 121.

Medicare 101 Workshop Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Confused about Medicare? Why Medicare? How do I know when to apply or

make a change? Learn about the “catastrophic stage” in prescription drug coverage, the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and the Medicare Advantage Special Needs plans (DSNP).

Join us for an informational (no selling) presentation on the basics of Medicare from Israel Rivera, with Stateline Senior Services. This program is free to the public and registration is not required.

Author Talk with comedian Chris Duffy

Saturday, Jan. 10 at 12 p.m.

Join us for an author talk with award-winning comedian Chris Duffy. Chris is currently the host of the hit podcast “How to be a Better Human.” Chris will be discussing his new book “Humor Me.” You don’t want to miss this afternoon of comedy! This program is free to the public and registration is not required.

GARDEN | from page 4

never. Put them in a location that is cool and dry.

Since temperatures around 37-41 degrees are ideal, many people assume that storage in the refrigerator is preferred. It is, as long as the seeds are first placed in an airtight container along with a desiccant to absorb moisture. Desiccants such as silica gel are available in the floral section of craft shops, or you can reuse the pouches of silica that come in vitamin bottles or shoe boxes.

If you’d rather not take up space in your fridge, stor-

ing the container of seeds in a cabinet in a dry part of the house will also work.

Whatever you do, don’t put them in a hot attic or damp basement! It is also not a good idea to purchase seeds from stores that have their seed displays in greenhouses. Temperature and moisture extremes can affect viability even if the seeds are brand new!

Some seed companies sell their seed in foil-lined packets. These are very good at keeping them fresh for the longest amount of time – especially if they are unopened.

Now that you have in-

ventoried your seeds, it will be a whole lot of fun to order exactly what you need. That’s what I will be doing after one more family game night and that last Christmas movie!

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.

BIRDS | from page 1

ducks. Irruptive species that are only present in some years are evening grosbeak, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, redpoll, pine grosbeak and red-breasted nuthatch.

Helping birds

People may help birds by participating in the Christmas Bird Count. It is an important source of data on birds.

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

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391

Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski
Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333





TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners,
HiSet Tutors:
English, Writing & Math

Call to ask about our next
Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org

<https://topfloorlearning.org/>



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

MARCH

MARCH 6

Pathfinder unveils refurbished gym floor

By Marcelo Gusmão
journalregister@turley.com

PALMER – Improvements have been made to Pathfinder Technical Vocational School’s gym floor as part of the town’s efforts to support youth sports.

The project was made possible by the town, which appropriated \$50,000 in ARPA funds for the improvements. Communications Coordinator Olivia Falcone described the school’s administration as “incredibly grateful” for the town’s support.

“It was a collaborative effort with Palmer through Town Manager Brad Brothers and the Town Council, who saw a need to accommodate youth sports in the community,” said Falcone.

“Brothers reached out to Superintendent Eric Duda and, through conversations, determined what it would take to update our gym’s infrastructure, specifically the floor.”

The refurbished gym floor helps to create a space for local Youth Athletics to use throughout certain weekdays and weekends. Pathfinder’s administration was eager to express its gratitude for the town’s support in these improvements.

“We admire Brad (Brothers) and the Council’s dedication to serving the public, and we’re more than happy to jump onboard and bring this project together,” Falcone said. “We recognize the importance of youth sports in our community and look forward to helping them in any way we can.”



Submitted photo

An inaugural tournament was held by the girls basketball team on the new gym floor last week.

MARCH 27

Denise Cook hosts dog obedience training

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Denise Cook, owner of Harmony Acres, has dedicated the last decade of her life to training dogs, helping them become better companions and more manageable members of households. A certified dog trainer with expertise in AKC training, Cook recently launched a six-week class aimed at helping young dogs learn the basics of obedience and socialization at Pathfinder School. The course is designed to create a solid foundation for both dogs and their owners.

Held in the spacious

Pathfinder Cafeteria, the class saw 11 dogs alongside their owners, all eager to learn how to better communicate and bond with their canine companions. To ensure that each dog was comfortable and could focus without fear of distractions or altercations, each family was spaced five to ten feet apart, giving dogs room to breathe and observe each other from a safe distance.

For Cook, dog training goes beyond teaching simple commands, it’s about building a relationship between owners and their pets. She explains that dogs, while intelligent, are still animals with their own boundaries.

Holly Norwick becomes Senior Pastor at First Church of Monson

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The First Church of Monson, founded in 1762, has officially welcomed Holly Norwick as its new Senior Pastor. Known for its welcoming atmosphere, historic significance, and modern approach, the church, located up the hill from Monson Center, has embraced change while remaining committed to its mission of inclusivity and service to the community.

Pastor Holly, who stepped into her new role this month, is eager to share her vision and goals for the

church. “I want to be as open as possible about my goals,” she said. “This is a place where all are welcome, and I want to ensure everyone feels that they belong.”

The First Church of Monson offers an inclusive environment for people of all ages and backgrounds. The church provides accessible facilities, including handicap parking, a wheelchair ramp, large print bulletins, hearing assistive devices, and accessible restrooms. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that every individual can fully participate in the worship experience.

The church’s services are also designed to be family-friendly. Church school and nursery care are available from September to June, and children’s programming takes place after the children’s message during worship. On the third Sunday of each month, breakfast is served to foster community, and the Sunday worship service, held at 10 a.m., includes instrumental music, community announcements, and a time for prayer.

The church also offers the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month, inviting all to partake.



Turley photo by Paula Ouimette

Monson Police Department participated in the annual Polar Plunge event at Beaver Lake in Ware to benefit Special Olympics Massachusetts. This year’s event raised over \$5,750 and had close to 50 people registered to take the plunge. Shown from left are Lieutenant Nicholas Gasperini, Officer Paul Mayo, Police Chief Stephen Kozloski, Gwen Gasperini, Olivia Iwaniec and Evie Iwaniec.

APRIL 3

APRIL

PHS offers innovative EMT pathway for senior students



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Kassandra Perry, Aaliyah O’dean, Louis Alicea, Elijah Jez, Keegan Jez, Rachel McNalloy, Gianna Perry, Nayoka Williams.

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Palmer High School is providing a unique opportunity for senior students aged 17 and older to join an innovative Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) pathway. This program, which runs outside of regular school hours, offers students the chance to gain practical skills in the medical field while earning valuable credentials.

Currently, eight seniors are taking part in this new program: Kassandra Perry, Aliyah O’Dean, Louis Alicea, twins Elijah and Keegan Jez, Rachel McNalloy, Gianna Perry, and Nayoka Williams. While students must provide their own transportation to and from the class, they can enroll as early as age 17,

though they must wait until they turn 18 to take the state exam to earn an official EMT license.

The program fully funded by Palmer High School. It is offered free of charge to students. The school covers the costs for both the course and the final exam. For many of the students, the opportunity to take the class at no cost is one of the biggest draws.

“This is a great opportunity for me,” says Aliyah O’dean, one of the students in the program. “It looks great on a resume, and it helps me get one step closer to my goal of going to med school.” Many students echo this sentiment, noting that having EMT certification can be a valuable asset when applying to medical schools or pursuing other healthcare careers.

APRIL 24



With the coordination of MHS staff and community members, students were out in the warm weather washing cars and having fun.

Service day helps clean up community

By Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com

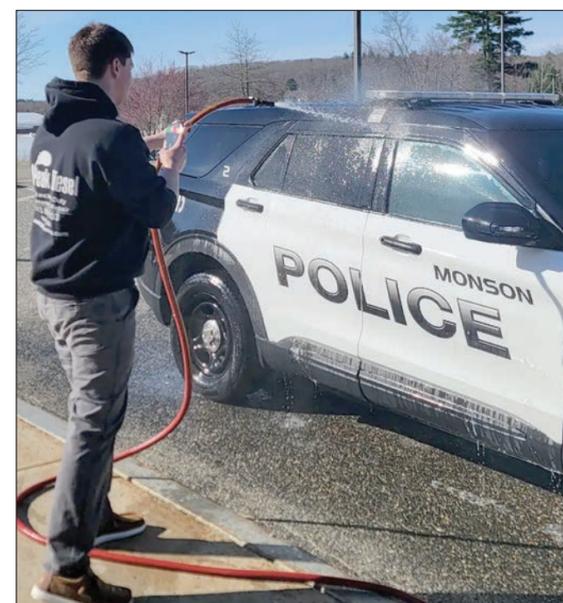
MONSON – “I really try to promote our 9 through 12 students to get out and give back through our community service day.” At Monson High School, students and staff went around the town to volunteer their time to various projects. From the senior center to town offices, cemeteries to the library, a food drive at Adams Marketplace and a car wash at the high school, students were busy helping out the town on April 18.

Principal of Monson High School Chris Fontaine who’s been at the school for almost a year, talked about his time at the high school, the success of the community service day, and what he hopes students take away from this event.

“We’ve done a lot of

great things up here for the last couple of months so it’s good to feel that we have a direction and we can really support our town community with our growth. For example, at the senior center we cleaned out the shed and organized materials the seniors have access to, other groups did a food drive at our local supermarket, some did raking on local trails and upkeep of the public disc golf course.”

Students had the full day of school on Friday, April 18 and with the help of the teachers at MHS, the different grades were able to go to different places to assist in volunteer efforts. The freshmen class went to the town offices and the cemeteries for upkeep and the seniors hosted a car wash where the police department, fire chief, and community were able to get their car washed.



Submitted photos

MHS students were washing the MPD cars last Friday, happy to be serving the community one wash at a time.

MAY 8

MAY

Business organizes town-wide cleanup

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Fed up with the criticism aimed at town officials over the lack of a coordinated cleanup effort, local resident and business owner Robert Nasiatka decided to take matters into his own hands; in doing so, turned a common complaint into a vibrant,

family-friendly community event.

“I just got tired of seeing people bash the town administrator and the council on Facebook,” Nasiatka said. “This shouldn’t be on them. It’s on us, the community, to step up.”

As the owner of BB Landscaping, Nasiatka used his network, know-how, and

a bit of grit to organize a town-wide spring cleanup. With a detailed street list provided by the highway department and town administrator, including the length of each road, volunteers were able to select specific streets that mattered to them. Whether elderly participants chose shorter streets or younger, more en-

ergetic folks opted for longer stretches, the process was inclusive and flexible.

Participants received free compostable trash bags, five-gallon buckets, trash pickers, and bright safety-colored T-shirts. Even better, once filled, the bags could be left streetside to be picked up by BB Landscaping employees between 2 and 5 p.m., a thoughtful touch to spare volunteers the trouble of hauling debris themselves.

Incentives helped draw a crowd. The first 100 participants received a free T-shirt and coffee donated by Amanda Roy the owner of Better Bean Coffee Shop. Everyone who signed in was entered into a raffle for a \$150 cash prize, sponsored by BB Landscaping. Other local businesses pitched in too: OJS Landscape and Excavation provided dumpsters and covered disposal costs, and Payne Gang donated labor and a bucket truck to hang street-side awareness signs.

Palmer Library marks 20 years

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Public Library commemorated the 20th anniversary of its building with a vibrant celebration on Sunday, May 4, honoring its evolution into a cornerstone of community life, education, and historical preservation. From heartfelt speeches and legislative honors to games, exhibits, and birthday cake, the day was a tribute to both the past and the future of a beloved local institution.

Representative Todd Smola, who served on Palmer’s Board of Selectmen during the early stages of the library’s development, reflected on the two-decade journey. “The very first major event I attended as a newly elected State Representative was the dedication of this building,” Smola said. “Now, twenty years later, I’m proud

to return and honor the commitment that made this dream a reality.”

The library, which first opened its doors in May 2005, has become far more than a traditional reading room. As Smola remarked, “This isn’t just a library in the traditional sense. This is a community center... and one of the finest in Western Massachusetts.”

He praised the town’s tireless library advocates who, over the years, have met with lawmakers, written letters, and emphasized the importance of strong public funding. State Senator Jake Oliveira, who serves alongside Smola on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, was not there personally for the festivities but sent along his best with Smola to the event, echoing those sentiments and noting that Palmer’s example highlights how essential public libraries are to civic life.



File photo

The original group of people who started the Monson Town Wide Clean up back in 2007.

MAY 15

Stakeholders continue to rally for East-West rail stop

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – A private meeting between only invited guests, transportation advocates, town leaders, and business owners was held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant to push for a pivotal decision in the future of New England

rail: the establishment of a centrally located downtown station in Palmer.

At the center of the discussion was the Central Corridor Passenger Rail Coalition (CCPRC) and its vital North-South link, which is currently at risk of being overlooked in Massachusetts’ broader East-West rail planning.

Scarlet Lamothe, speak-

ing on behalf of the CCPRC, welcomed attendees with a call to civic engagement and stressed the committee’s focus on connecting various regions along the north-south-east-west rail, and broader areas across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and even into Montreal.

“Our mission is to create viable, comfortable transpor-

ation that strengthens our communities and economies,” Scarlet said. “Palmer is the linchpin in that vision.”

The project’s goals go beyond just transportation. Restoring regional rail service is seen as a driver for economic development, expanded housing, increased tax revenue, and the revitalization of New England’s towns and cities.

The town of Palmer, once a rail hub of the Northeast, holds deep historical significance. In 1884, Palmer’s Union Station was built at the junction of major North-South and East-West rail lines. It was designed by renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson and landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted. The station remains a symbol of integrated

infrastructure and urban accessibility.

“Few towns can boast such a ready-made opportunity,” said Blake Lamothe, co-presenter and local business leader. “The original underpass, 680 parking spaces, and even land for a bus terminal and recreational park... it’s all here, just waiting for investment.”

JUNE

JUNE 19

JUNE 5

PFD takes on full-time EMS role

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – In a continuation of the Annual Fire and Water District One Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, held at the Palmer Public Library, residents voted to approve an amended fiscal year 2026 budget for the Palmer Fire Department. The meeting marked a critical turning point in the department’s history, as officials detailed their transition from a traditional fire service to a full-service emergency response agency following the abrupt closure of Palmer Ambulance in late 2024.

After nearly three hours of debate and public comment, voters approved Article 4, the Fire Department’s operating budget, by a vote of 61 in favor and 43 opposed. The final approved amount of \$1,426,129.36 reflected a reduction of more than \$103,000 from the original proposal, which had asked for \$1,529,736.42. The budget includes funding for nine full-time firefighter EMTs and 24/7 in-station coverage, both fire and EMS services, and various line-item adjustments aimed at minimizing the tax burden.

“This is the most significant transformation in the history of this department,” said Fire Chief William Bernat, who presented alongside firefighter and EMS Coordinator John Castro, Commissioner Dan Belanger, and Lieutenants Anthony Garros and John Fitzgerald.

Pathfinder graduates huge class, year of growth

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Three words define the 2024–2025 academic year at Pathfinder Re-

gional Vocational Technical High School, according to Superintendent Eric Duda: growth, achievement, and pride.

As the school year

wrapped up, Duda reflected on the district’s successes and share a glimpse into the future for both students and adult learners at Pathfinder Tech.

“It was an excellent school year,” Duda said. “A year of growth. We had a huge graduating class...possibly the largest among the nine member towns. There’s a lot to be proud of.”

Pathfinder continues to live up to its mission of preparing students for both college and careers. This year, a high percentage of graduates entered the workforce directly through vocational placements, while many others were accepted into colleges or enlisted in the military.

“We made huge strides with our district and school improvement plan,” Duda said. “Our students were placed directly into careers at a very high rate. Others are college-bound or entering

the military. That balance is exactly what we aim for.”

While students are heading off for summer break, the school will remain active with a variety of programs designed to serve both young learners and adults.

For youth ages 9 to 13, Pathfinder is offering a multi-week summer program in July, led by trained staff. The initiative gives children a taste of vocational education in a hands-on, engaging setting.

“We’re not just closing our doors for the summer,” said Duda. “We’re engaging the community, updating our building, improving curriculum, and moving forward with a new district and school improvement plan.”



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

The Pathfinder Tech Faculty and Staff enjoying their end of year staff lunch brought to them by local food truck Egg Roll Revolution

JUNE 26

Water ski collective hosts adaptive ski event at Hamilton

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – With bright skies above and the calm waters of Hamilton Reservoir shimmering below, more than 20 individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities gathered on Thursday, June 19, for a day they would not soon forget. The Webster Water Ski Collective (WWSC), in partnership with Team Hoyt New England and the Aqua Riders of Holland, hosted the 3rd Annual Team Hoyt New England Adaptive Ski Day, kicking off the group’s sixth season of adaptive water skiing.

Held at the private ski site of the Aqua Riders in Holland, the all-day event brought together participants, families, and over two dozen volunteers to deliver not just recreation, but freedom, empowerment, and community.

“Every event brings new smiles, new breakthroughs, and reinforces our commitment to providing life-changing recreational opportunities for people of

all abilities,” said Ryan Desroches, Director of Adaptive Skiing at WWSC and one of the organization’s founding members.

WWSC was formed in 2019 by a small group of rec-

reational skiers who met on the waters of Webster Lake. By 2020, inspired by a visit to the Leaps of Faith Adaptive Skiers in Connecticut, they had launched their own adaptive skiing program and

incorporated as a nonprofit. For Linda Candela, also a founding member and director, the journey has been deeply personal.

“Water skiing is a sport that demands you to be com-

pletely present,” Candela said. “All your cares and worries go out of your head. And I’ve learned in life that the only thing better than having a passion is sharing it.”



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Originally designed in Australia for barefoot skiing, the “Seahorse” is a supportive seat mounted to a training boom that helps skiers with balance challenges learn how to start skiing from the water.

JULY

JULY 3

Exotic animal encounters bring education

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – A room full of excited children and curious adults gathered last Thursday, June 26, at the Holland Community Center for a rare and interactive opportunity: to meet, and even touch, a selection of rescued exotic animals from around the globe. The free event, hosted by the Holland Public Library in partnership with Animal Adventures, marked a high point in the library's Summer Reading Program, which kicked off June 16 and runs through August 9.

With no registration required and no cost to attend, the program welcomed community members of all ages to experience a hands-on educational session led by expert animal presenters. The animals were brought by Animal Adventures, a rescue and education center based in Bolton and Hubbardston, Massachusetts, which takes in surrenders and rescues from overpopulated facilities, often transforming former pets into "animal ambassadors."

"We want people to see these animals up close and understand their biology, behavior, and what it takes to care for them," said presenter Audrey Zimmerman and her assistant Paige Blanchette, who guided the crowd through an engaging and humorous afternoon filled with fur, feathers, scales, and facts.

Zimmerman introduced each animal with care and context, inviting questions from the audience throughout. Most animals were available for gentle petting, with



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Audrey Zimmerman holds one of their no-touch animals, an elderly Fennec Fox named Timone.

clear boundaries set for safety. "No pulling tails, no fingers near mouths, and please follow our instructions," Zimmerman emphasized. Blanchette would walk through the rows of the audience carefully holding the animals so people can pet the back of the creatures without the undue stress of them being passed around. One animal, an elderly fennec fox, was designated strictly as "no touch," due to its temperament and medical needs.

The first animal to take center stage was Swirl, a domestic rabbit named for her chocolate-and-vanilla coat. Swirl was surrendered by an owner who could no longer care for her, a common story that echoed throughout the event.

JULY 10

Lemonade Day supplies sweet success, community spirit, and budding entrepreneurs

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Lemonade Day returned to Palmer for its second year on Saturday, June 28, bringing with it a festive mix of sunshine, fresh-squeezed lemonade, handmade crafts, and hometown pride. From noon to 3 p.m., ten youth-run stands popped up across town, from fire stations and the public library to family homes and local businesses, each one reflecting the personality, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of the kids behind them.

The event, part of the national Lemonade Day initiative, is designed to teach young people essential life skills, like: budgeting, goal setting, customer service, and business planning; all wrapped in the simple but powerful framework of running a lemonade stand. In Palmer, the initiative has caught on quickly. It's now one of only two Lemonade Day programs in the entire Northeast and the furthest



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Liem Foster and his mother Jesse Reyes had their stand outside of Girlie's Cakes, the money he makes will go towards his tuition for Camp Words Unspoken, a camp for those with speech disabilities or a stutter.

one to the northeast in the United States.

This year's event saw participation grow, both in the number of stands and in community involvement. Local fire stations, the police department, and numerous area businesses stepped up to host or support stands.

Kids weren't limited to selling lemonade either; many offered homemade crafts, baked goods, and small toys. Some even donated a portion of their profits to charitable causes.

At the Palmer Public Library, Youth Advisory Board Director Olivia Char-

trand teamed up with teen board members Lily Peltier and Tristan Ganicy to run a stand in front of the building on North Main Street. They were joined by Buck the Dog, the Country Bank mascot, who stopped by to greet visitors and pose for photos.

JULY 24

Duckies dive into reading at Wales Library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

WALES – The scent of soap and the buzz of excited children filled the air at the Wales Public Library on a recent summer afternoon, Saturday July 19 where patrons of all ages gathered for a special Duck Soap Making program as part of the library's D.E.A.R. (Duckies Excited About Reading) summer reading series.

Inside the cozy, historic library, which was once a private home built in 1841 and transformed into a public library in 1922, families crowded into the freshly updated main room. There, bubbly creativity took center stage as soapmaker Gariné Arakelian of Kulina Folk Arts guided a hands-on, sensory-rich workshop that was equal parts chemistry lesson and crafting fun.

Arakelian, who runs

an artisan workshop business with her husband, Rick Hamelin of Pied Potter Hamelin, and pottery partner of nearly 40 years, explained the science behind soapmaking with enthusiasm and humor. While the day's project used a safe, glycerin-based melt-and-pour soap suitable for kids, Arakelian shared her journey from learning to make cold-process soap (a more advanced and potentially hazardous technique

involving lye) to becoming a self-taught expert; thanks to public libraries.

"I wanted to make cold-process soap, and I thought I could just wake up one day and do it," she told the group. "But I found out it was dangerous, and I had to teach myself. So I went to my local public library, picked up every book I could, and studied for six months. That's the power of a library... it teaches you how to teach yourself."

AUG. 14

Palmer Night Out 2025: Public safety on display

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – On Tuesday, Aug. 5, the front parking lot of the Palmer Police Department buzzed with excitement and camaraderie as residents gathered for the town's annual Palmer Night Out; a local celebration of the nationwide National Night Out campaign aimed at fostering stronger relationships between law enforcement, emergency responders, and the community they serve.

The event drew a broad spectrum of participants,

from local police officers and firefighters to community service organizations, businesses, and families eager to enjoy an evening of entertainment, education, and togetherness. Under a clear summer sky, the town's spirit of unity was palpable.

Lieutenant Aaron Sullivan of the Palmer Police Department explained the core purpose behind the event. "This day is about bringing the community together with all the stakeholders who work here. For us in law enforcement, it's a chance to show a different side of our-

selves... not during crises or emergencies, but as people who care and want to build trust."

Sullivan noted that police officers often meet residents during difficult times, during: mental health crises, accidents, or other emergencies. "People don't get to see us at our finest moments. Usually, if you see a cop, it's because something's wrong. So this event flips the script."

Sullivan added, "It's a nationwide event, held on the first Tuesday of August. Some departments have it on other days, but this is

Palmer's day, a day to have fun and hopefully provide a low-stress environment for everyone."

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department was a prominent presence at Palmer Night Out, with Lt. Sady and her team showcasing their special operations boat, canine unit, and tactical teams. Though not directly part of the Palmer Police Department, the Sheriff's office is currently in partnership with Palmer PD, assisting with patrols and emergency coverage.

"We're here for the com-

munity and for the kids," said Lt. Sadie. "It's about relationship-building and being accessible."

Across the grounds, other first responder groups mingled with families and attendees. Representatives from the Palmer Fire Department were on hand alongside emergency medical personnel, answering questions and demonstrating equipment.

Palmer Night Out also served as a resource fair, featuring a wide array of local groups offering information and support.

AUG. 21

Nipmuc revives tradition with weeklong Mishoon-Building

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

WALES – For a week in mid-August, the air around Pond #1 at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary carried the steady scent of wood smoke. Members of the Nipmuc Nation gathered there from August 15–21 to construct a tra-

ditional mishoon, or dugout canoe, through the ancestral practice of controlled burning and carving.

The project marked the eighth time in recent years that Nipmuc community members have created a mishoon, but it was the first to be hosted on the 8,000-acre Norcross property in Brim-

field. The canoe itself was made from a massive white pine tree harvested on the sanctuary's land, measuring 24 feet long and 41 inches in diameter.

Andre StrongBearHeart Gaines-Roberson Jr., who served as one of the leaders of the project, described the careful process of choosing

the tree. "The size and shape of the tree were critical," he explained. "Length determines how many paddlers it can hold, and diameter affects stability. This one was the largest we've worked with so far, which makes it special." Gaines is a cultural bearer for the Nipmuc Nation and tribal historic preservation officer.

No Loose Braids is a Nipmuc-led organization dedicated to uniting Eastern Woodland Tribal communities through the revitalization of traditional cultural practices. The organization seeks to reconnect Indigenous peoples with ancestral knowledge, strengthen bonds of reciprocity, and restore balance to both community and the Earth. Through teaching original practices, ranging from: brain-tanning hides for drums, buckskin, and blankets to constructing traditional homes (wetuash) and burning dugout canoes (mishoonash); No Loose Braids emphasizes cultural preservation, intergenerational learning, and community empowerment. The group also works to address systemic marginalization by advocating for Tribal rights and engaging in dialogue within colonial institutions, creating opportunities for future generations to participate in cultural and environmental stewardship.



Members of the Nipmuc Nation gathered on the first day of the mishoon burn.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

AUGUST

AUG. 7

Community Cupboard set to open

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – In response to rising food insecurity and growing economic pressure on local families, a new community food pantry is preparing to open its doors this fall. The Monson Community Cupboard, spearheaded by the grassroots civic group Monson Together, is scheduled for a soft opening on Sept. 1 at 24 Green Street, just off Main Street near downtown Monson.

The project has been in development for several months, but the conversations that led to it go back even further. Karen Davis, one of the lead organizers, said the idea began as Monson Together started listening closely to residents' needs.

"Since we started Monson Together a few years ago, one of the biggest things we kept hearing about was food insecurity," Davis said. "People were quietly struggling... whether it was due to job loss, inflation, or unexpected crises. And after doing some exploratory research, it became really clear that Monson has a much larger need for food assistance than the current resources can handle."

At the moment, Monson is served by just one food pantry, which is open only once a month. According to Davis, that limited access is not enough to serve the volume or diversity of people who need help today. The Monson Community Cupboard is designed to offer a more responsive, flexible, and dignified approach.

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

OUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

BASKETBALL

Panthers fall to Granby

GRANBY – On Friday, Dec. 19, Palmer High School girls basketball had its offense stopped by Granby in a 58-34 defeat. Addyson Petraszewicz was Palmer's top scorer with nine points. Harper Brouillette and Evelynn Ladue had six points each. Palmer was 2-2 heading into the holiday break. The Panthers will host Ware on Friday, Jan. 2 at 7 p.m., Monson on Jan. 6 at 6 p.m., then Quaboag on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.



Harper Brouillette attempts a long jumper.



Addyson Petraszewicz goes for the free throw.



The Palmer defense sets up.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Ava Durocher looks to pass ahead of pressure.



Brookelyn Peloquin sends in an in-bound pass.



Aria Nompoggi makes her way down the court.

BASKETBALL



Ellie Barnes fights around a defender.



Milayna Bousquet takes a shot.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Sophie Ezzo heads down the court on a breakaway.



Maya Lewis eyes a shot.



Leah Phaneuf takes the jump shot ahead of a block.

Warriors score win over Cougars

WARREN – Prior to the Christmas holiday, Quaboag girls basketball faced neighbor rival Tantasqua Regional. The Warriors came in to Quaboag and played excellent defense and came away with a 43-29 win.

Quaboag fell to a disappointing 0-5 on the season and next plays on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Palmer High School at 7 p.m. The Warriors improved to 3-0 on the season with the win. The Warriors played a

couple of games during the holiday break and are back in action on Friday, Jan. 2 at 3 p.m. at Fitchburg High School. They will host Belchertown on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Pioneers fall to 0-2 with loss

SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, Dec. 18, Pathfinder girls basketball was defeated at Bay State Academy Char-

ter 43-17. Pathfinder's offense struggled in the defeat, though Addison Doktor

managed double digits for the Pioneers with 11 points. Pathfinder will next travel to Duggan on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Megan Clark fakes a pass.



Taylor Allen surveys the offensive end.



Hannah Mellor fights to keep the ball.



Ciara Green comes up with the rebound.

@turleysports | www.turleysports.com | facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Cali Zielinski
Monson High School

In a matchup last week against Granby High School, Zielinski would lead the Mustangs with eight points.

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



HOCKEY

Tough start continues

AMHERST – On Monday, Dec. 22, Agawam High School ice hockey continued to have a tough time defending goals against the opposition in a 5-1 loss against host Amherst Regional at Orr Rink.

Amherst, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech, got off to a slower start, but exploded for four goals in the third period to secure the win. Graham Arguin had two

goals, Ethan Mooney and Joshau Feldman had a single goal each. Anthony Barbarini had Agawam's lone goal. Amherst is now 2-2-1 while Agawam fell to 0-5.



Nathan Desbien tries to emerge from a crowd with the puck.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

MOULTON
 Insurance Agency | A Truaccordia Business

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
 99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street Ware, MA 01082 | 45 North Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327 | **Safety Insurance**
 AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

Our Family Cares About Your Family



Joshua Feldman goes for the puck during a faceoff.



Sawyer Ferro tries to get the puck away from the wall.



Silas Villegas makes a backhand pass.



Goalie Jason Kim tries to control the puck.



Sawyer Arguin looks to guide the puck to a teammate.



the **best** around
CLASSIFIEDS
 TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
 Reaching readers in
 50 local communities every week.

- Check Out Our For Sale, Services, Pets and Other Classifieds
 - Real Estate: For Sale, For Rent & Vacation Rentals
 - Help Wanted: Part Time & Full Time Career Opportunities
- Call toll free to place your classified ad:
413.283.8393

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 11

Lam tells stories of medical breakthroughs



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Dr. Andrew Lam, ophthalmologic surgeon, presents on historic medicine.

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Visitors to a recent presentation at the Keep Homestead Museum at 35 Ely Rd, Monson, were treated to riveting stories from Dr. Andrew Lam, a retina surgeon, author, and Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Lam, who lives in Longmeadow, has made a second career of bringing medical history to life through his books, including *The Masters of Medicine*, *Saving Sight*, *Two Sons of China*, and *Repentance*.

Lam began the program by introducing himself as both a practicing physician and a lifelong lover of history. “I grew up in Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln’s hometown, and I was always the kid in the

library pulling history books off the shelves,” Lam told the audience. That passion eventually merged with his medical career, inspiring him to write about the discoveries, mistakes, and mavericks that shaped modern medicine.

“...innovations born in desperation have gone on to save countless lives in peace.”

Dr. Andrew Lam
ophthalmologic surgeon

His latest work, *The Masters of Medicine*, chronicles some of the most transformative medical advances of the past 150 years, many of which were accelerated by the crises of war. “One of my favorite

sayings is that the only winner in war is medicine,” Lam said. “Time and again, innovations born in desperation have gone on to save countless lives in peace.”

He illustrated the point with gripping stories from World War II. One featured Dwight Harken, an American Army surgeon stationed in England. Faced with soldiers whose hearts had been pierced by shrapnel but sealed shut by the lodged metal, Harken devised a bold plan: he would remove the fragment and plug the wound with his finger long enough to stitch the heart closed. Against all odds, the method worked. Harken went on to pioneer early cardiac surgery and paved the way for open-heart procedures, bypass surgery, and even heart transplants within two decades.

Faith Baptist Church celebrates 75 years

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

today.”

PALMER – Faith Baptist Church marked a major milestone this weekend, celebrating 75 years of ministry, fellowship, and outreach with a two-day event that brought together current members, former pastors, and longtime congregants. The celebration began with a casual community picnic at Miller Memorial Park on Saturday, Sept. 20, followed by a more formal anniversary service at the church on Sunday.

Linda Spelko, a longtime member helping coordinate the festivities, explained the origins of the park gathering. “The park is central, and it’s exciting to see people we haven’t seen in 40 years. We’re expecting about 120 people here

Founded in the 1950s, Faith Baptist Church has deep roots in the Palmer community. The church initially began construction on a building in the early 1950s, but it was destroyed by the 1955 hurricane. The congregation eventually established a permanent home on Shearer Street, opening officially in 1957. The church is affiliated with the Baptist denomination and has maintained a long-standing commitment to outreach, helping members of the community who are searching for spiritual guidance or in need of assistance.

“This church has always been about reaching out,” Spelko said. “We’re always looking for ways to help people and provide support where it’s needed.”

SEPT. 25

Cruise for Critters blends cars, community, compassion for animals

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – What began as a modest gathering at the

River Hollow golf course in Monson has grown into one of the region’s most unique fundraisers, uniting car enthusiasts, animal lovers, and

dozens of small businesses. On Saturday, September 20, the 13th annual Cruise for Critters filled the grounds of Westview Farms Creamery

with more than 150 vehicles, 50 vendors, and an estimated 300 dogs, all to benefit Second Chance Animal Services. Event founder Alan Wid-

lan said the concept was once dismissed as incompatible.

“People told me you can’t have a car show with dogs,” Widlan recalled. “But in 13 years, we’ve never had a single issue... no dog has ever jumped on a car or bitten anyone. It’s been absolutely amazing, and I think that’s why people keep coming back.”

Widlan launched the show after splitting from an earlier partnership and aligning with Second Chance, a nonprofit he called “absolutely amazing.” He emphasized that the show is about more than trophies. “It’s about making sure the money gets to the shelter,” he said. “A lot of car guys know each other from the circuit...this gives them a way to show off their cars while raising money for a good cause.”

The event now raises an average of \$15,000 annual-

ly, funds that go directly toward veterinary care, surgeries, and programs at Second Chance. “Fifteen thousand dollars may not sound like a lot, but it can mean life-saving surgery for an animal whose family can’t afford it,” Widlan explained. “A lot of people don’t have pet insurance, and Second Chance makes sure pets get the care they need instead of being put down.”

Second Chance’s Lindsay Doray, who staffed the organization’s mobile adoption unit at the show, highlighted the scope of their services.

“Our goal is keeping pets and people together,” Doray said. “We run four full-service veterinary hospitals and an adoption center. We also operate a pet food pantry that has grown by 500% in the last three years, because so many families need help feeding their pets.”



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The hay bale ride provided by Westview Creamery to tour the farm land surrounding the ice cream place.

Join the trend with these New Year resolutions

With the new year around the corner, many people are setting goals for 2026. After months of rising prices on everything from milk to mortgages, money-related resolutions are prominent.

One out of four Americans (27%) plan to make 2026 the year of their financial comeback, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Others will continue with previous goals (21%), start from scratch (20%) or catch up on missed goals (14%).

Here are their top three financial goals and what to consider if you make one or more of these yours.

Boost your income: Get creative with your time and interests. Consider side hustles such as delivery driving, pet sitting or tutoring. Perhaps you can sell things online that you no longer need. And if you traditionally get a refund on your tax return, consider adjusting your withholdings so less is taken from your paychecks.

To indirectly increase your income, cut your expenses. Every dollar saved effectively increases the “income” side of your budget. The biggest categories Americans plan to cut are restaurants and subscriptions.

Build up savings: Whether you’re planning for a vacation or creating an emergency fund, having accessible cash means you’re less likely to rely on credit cards. And credit cards can incur interest charges if you don’t pay the full amount due every month.

To save for something specific, calculate how much you’ll need and by when. Then break it down into monthly targets to help make your goal tangible and achievable.

For an emergency fund, build toward three to six months of living expenses. And remember: an emergency fund is for true emergencies – think medical bills, major auto or furnace repairs, not a TV on sale.

Pay off debt: Every payment brings you closer to a life of financial freedom. Start by listing all your debts and their interest rates. Then choose one of these payoff strategies.

The Avalanche Method: You’ll pay off the debt with the highest interest rate first. With that paid, you’ll move on to the next highest. This reduces the amount of interest you pay over time, which generally means a lower total cost and often a shorter payoff period.

The Snowball Method: You’ll pay off the card with the lowest balance first, then move to the next smallest balance. This may offer quicker gratification as the number of creditors can dwindle faster.

The Consolidation Method: You may be able to bundle and refinance high interest credit card debts to a 0% bank card for 12 months or longer.

With any of these methods, don’t ignore your other debts. You’ll still need to pay the minimum balances due on mortgages, auto loans and other credit cards to keep interest rates and late payment fees from accruing and your credit score from dropping.

Ready to join the trend? Across the country, millions of people are committing to improving their financial situation, and ultimately their financial future. By joining this trend, you’re not just setting goals—you’re shaping a life of freedom and possibility.



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



SMART MONEY

MOULTON Insurance Agency

Our Family Cares About Your Family.
HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

What credits and discounts do you qualify for?
We invite you to stop in or call for a quote.

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Customer Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

Moulton Insurance is proud of its family tradition of serving both individuals and businesses since 1952. Protecting clients throughout Massachusetts, Moulton Insurance individually tailors policies to maximize your credits and give your family and business our most competitive rates.

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-3327

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7229

www.moultoninsurance.com • 1-800-521-5787



CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES

For Full Accounting,
Bookkeeping & Tax Service
Call For An Appointment

228 WEST STREET
WARE, MA 01082

413-967-8364



Edward Jones®



Lucille Germain

1448 Main St.
Palmer, MA 01069
413-289-1875
lucille.germain@edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

> edwardjones.com

OCTOBER

OCT. 2

Postmaster Joe Torcia retires after nearly four decades

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – After nearly 39 years with the United States Postal Service, Palmer Postmaster Joe Torcia is preparing to hang up his hat. His final day will be Tuesday, Sept. 30, marking the close of a career that began in March 1987 and brought him to Palmer in 2007.

Torcia, who has lived in East Longmeadow his entire life, said the decision to retire was not made lightly. He became eligible two years ago but chose to stay on longer, citing the dedicated employees and supportive community he has worked with as his reason for continuing.

“It’s been a great run,”

Torcia said. “There are some really great people here. That’s why I stayed so long. I was eligible two years ago and chose to stay because I wasn’t ready. But now I’m ready.”

“It’s been a great run. There are some really great people here.”

Joe Torcia
Palmer Postmaster

Over the years, Torcia has witnessed firsthand the transformation of the Postal Service. When he first started, the bulk of the work centered around letters and magazines.



Today, the landscape has shifted dramatically.

“Now it’s parcels, parcels, parcels,” he said. “We have to be competitive with FedEx and UPS. It’s a changing organization, and hopefully we’ll remain viable forever.”

While Torcia acknowledges that change has not always been easy, he expressed optimism for the future and confidence in the next generation of postal leaders. He hopes his current supervisor, Branden Velez, will succeed him as Postmaster, ensuring a seamless transition for the Palmer office.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Postmaster Joe Torcia stands in front of the Palmer Postal Crew in front of the downtown Palmer Post Office.

OCT. 9

Pathfinder unveils expansion plan

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School is preparing for what local leaders are calling the most significant expansion in the school’s history; one that could add up to 150 new seats, create multiple new programs, and help close the skills gap across Western Massachusetts.

During an announcement held at the school’s restaurant on Friday, Oct. 3, Superintendent Eric Duda and his administrative team outlined plans to acquire and repurpose the Cold Spring School

in Belchertown, which is scheduled to close in 2026. The move would allow Pathfinder to increase capacity, launch new programs, and ensure that students from all nine member towns have access to career and technical education.

“This is personal,” said Duda, a Pathfinder graduate who has served as teacher, principal, and now superintendent in his 19 years at the school. “I believe in the power of career technical education. The demand is through the roof, and we need more capacity. This expansion will allow us to deliver that without raising local taxes.”

Pathfinder has already secured over \$2 million in competitive Skills Capital Grant funding in recent years, used to rebuild the electrical program, upgrade horticulture equipment, renovate HVAC labs, and establish a plumbing program. Caitlin Phelps, part of the expansion planning team, credited the state legislature for its strong commitment to funding career and technical education.

“These initiatives have already had a huge impact on our regional workforce,” Phelps said. “But this expansion could be the most significant opportunity in our school’s history.”

The Belchertown School Committee recently voted to close Cold Spring School by June 2026 due to shifting enrollment needs. Rather than see the building sit vacant, Pathfinder has proposed taking ownership on July 1, 2026, and opening its doors to students just two months later.

At roughly 30,000 square feet, the facility would initially house five existing technical programs moved from the Palmer campus, freeing space there for additional classrooms and expanded offerings. Pathfinder currently operates 15 programs; with the new facility, that number could grow to 20.

OCT. 16

MassDOT presents rail design

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) presented its long-awaited conceptual design for a proposed Palmer passenger rail station during a public meeting on October 7 at Palmer High School, outlining what could become a significant milestone in the return of intercity passenger rail service to the region.

Town Manager Brad Brothers opened the meeting by welcoming residents, emphasizing the town’s continuing collaboration with state transportation officials, and

expressing optimism about the community’s future role as a rail hub. “We appreciate your continued interest as we move forward toward the potential stop here in town,” Brothers said, adding that feedback from previous meetings had directly influenced the latest design proposal.

The evening’s presentation drew a large audience of local residents, regional planners, and advocates for rail restoration. Nancy Farrell of the consulting firm Regina Villa Associates moderated the meeting, explaining that MassDOT would first share design details before opening the floor for public comment.

NOV. 6

Monson Lions Club marks 70 years

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON—The Monson Lions Club recently celebrated its 70th anniversary, honoring decades of community service, fellowship, and civic pride. The event, held in Monson, brought together local and state leaders including State Representative Brian Ashe, State Representative Angelo Puppolo, and members of the Monson Select Board to recognize the club’s long history of volunteerism and its enduring impact on the town.

“It was nice,” said club member Karen Davis, reflecting on the celebration. “We had Representative Ashe, Representative Puppolo, and

the Select Board from Monson there. It was a great way to look back at everything the Lions have done since the very beginning.”

The Monson Lions Club was founded in 1955, around the time of the devastating Flood of ‘55. One of the club’s very first acts of service was helping with post-flood cleanup efforts throughout the town; a spirit of hands-on community support that continues to define the organization today.

“Helping with the flood cleanup was one of the first big things they did,” Davis said. “From there, the Lions became involved in all sorts of community projects...whatever was needed.”

Over the years, those ef-

forts have ranged from public health initiatives to environmental conservation. The Lions conduct vision screenings for students in Monson and Brimfield schools, collect used eyeglasses for distribution in developing countries, and gather crayons for repurposing and donation. The club also supports food pantries and other local charities, and has even funded tree-planting projects at the Quaboag Riders Club to combat erosion.

The Lions Club’s presence is felt year-round in Monson’s community life. The group takes part in Summerfest, helps organize Halloween celebrations, and hosts the annual Tree of Lights ceremony each Christmas season.

NOV. 13

Veterans honored with lunch

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON—The Monson Senior Center hosted its annual Veterans Day luncheon on Friday, Nov. 7, welcoming local veterans, community members, and town officials for an afternoon of gratitude, remembrance, and reflection on service.

The event, held each November, celebrates veterans from across the community with a hot meal, speeches, and time to reconnect. This year’s lunch featured meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and rolls, “a traditional comfort meal for a day of apprecia-

tion,” said Kelly Bergeron, who helps coordinate the event.

“We do a Veterans Day lunch every year to honor the veterans from the community,” Bergeron said. “We have a speech, we introduce a couple of speakers after we eat, and we’re just glad to have everyone together.”

Two guest speakers, both U.S. Navy veterans, shared their personal experiences in military service: Russell Brissette and Rita LaFerriere.

Brissette opened his remarks by thanking the community and the Senior Center staff “for providing us with the dinner” and re-

flected on the meaning of Veterans Day.

“Most of the people here don’t need me to tell you what Veterans Day is,” he said. “It’s the people that have sacrificed everything they can to keep our land safe. The veterans are truly heroes of Monson.”

Brissette shared that Monson is home to approximately 627 veterans, according to his research, and then spoke about his own service in the U.S. Navy during the 1960s. He served aboard an assault cargo ship, operating mikes capable of carrying troops and tanks, and was part of the naval blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Monson Fire Logs

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of Dec. 15 through Dec. 21. The department responded to 38 medical calls and 3 fire calls.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 5:43 p.m. the department responded to Shearer Street in Palmer for the public assist. The department returned to service at 5:49 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 18 at 3:56 a.m. the department responded to Fenton Rd for smoke inside a residence. The department returned to service at 5:02 a.m.

On Thursday Dec. 18 at 12:22 p.m. the department responded to Main Street for the grill fire. The department returned to service at 12:30 p.m.

The fire log for the week of Monday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Dec. 28 the Department responded to 7 fire calls and 31 medical calls.

On Monday, Dec. 22 at 08:23 a.m., the Department responded mutual aid to the town of Palmer to assist with a structure fire. The Department returned in service at 12:01 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 22 at 03:18 p.m., the Department responded to the area of Lower Hampden Road for a tree on powerlines. The Department returned in service at 04:12 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 22 at 04:56 p.m., the Department responded to Munn Road for an illegal burn. The Department returned in service at 5:50 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 25 at 10:13 a.m., the Department responded to Wales Road for an odor investigation. The Department returned in service at 10:47 a.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 25, at 02:40 p.m., the Department responded to Nieske Road for an odor investigation. The Department returned in service at 03:11 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 27, at 09:30 a.m., the Department responded to Main Street for a public assist. The Department returned in service at 10:10 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 28 at 07:52 a.m., the Department responded to Cote Road for a chimney fire. The Department returned in service at 09:15 a.m.

Palmer Police Logs

Sunday, Dec. 21

4:11 a.m. – Burglar alarm, O’Connell’s Convenience Plus, S. Main St.

3:25 p.m. – Animal complaint, Sasur St.

3:39 p.m. – Animal complaint, Pinney St.

4:31 p.m. – Suspicious person, Bridge St.

4:40 p.m. – Missing person, Park St.

10:25 p.m. – Suspicious autos, Northern Tree Service, Park St.

Monday, Dec. 22

4:08 a.m. – Larceny, Baystate Wing Hospital, Wright St.

7:13 a.m. – Suspicious auto, Old Warren Rd.

7:47 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Palmer Public Library, N. Main St.

8:14 a.m. – Structure fire, Pine St.

9:35 a.m. – Threat report, Flynt St.

11:14 a.m. – Suspicious person, Pleasant St.

12:06 p.m. – Suspicious person, Thorndike St.

2:59 p.m. – Trespass complaint, Lawrence St.

4:06 p.m. – Motor vehicle theft, Flynt St.

5:47 p.m. – Motor vehi-

cle theft, Flynt St.

5:51 p.m. – Fraud, E. Palmer Park Dr.

7:20 p.m. – Motor vehicle theft, Main St.

10:21 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Green Gold Group, Thorndike St.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

1:54 p.m. – Suspicious auto, Rondeau Rd.

2:24 p.m. – Arrest, Maciej Oscar Janusz, 28,

charged with two counts of possession of a Class B drug, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

7:42 a.m. – Harassment, Pearl St.

10:09 a.m. – Fraud, Beacon Dr.

3:13 p.m. – Animal complaint, Flynt St.

4:22 p.m. – Fraud, Spencer-Salem St.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

1:01 a.m. – Arrest, Tasha Mae Bucknam, 20, charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

1:16 a.m. – Arrest, Eboney O. Sims, 34, charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

6:59 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Third St.

7:14 a.m. – Property fraud, Glenn St.

9:45 a.m. – Fire, Haley’s Grain Store, Park St.

11:42 a.m. – Animal complaint, Hillside Dr.

11:50 a.m. – Fraud, Palmer Depot Studios, N. Main St.

12:05 p.m. – Arrest, Walter L. Black, Jr., 66, charged with a number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

2:41 p.m. – Fire, Pine St.

5:17 p.m. – Accident with property damage, Boston Rd.

5:50 p.m. – Animal complaint, Three Rivers FD, Springfield St.

Thursday, Dec. 25

12:03 a.m. – Disturbance, Palmer Rd.

9:37 a.m. – Fire alarm, River St.

8:02 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Thorndike St.

Friday, Dec. 26

2:43 a.m. – Suspicious auto, N. Main St.

8:17 a.m. – Harassment, Thorndike St.

9:29 a.m. – Burglar

alarm, Peterson Rd.

10:31 a.m. – Animal complaint, Norbell St.

12:33 p.m. – Fire alarm, State St.

12:39 p.m. – Accident with property damage, Converse St.

1:47 p.m. – Fire alarm, Main St.

2:31 p.m. – Fraud, Quaboag Valley Co-op

4:52 p.m. – Accident with property damage, Thorndike St.

7:16 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Ware St.

Saturday, Dec. 27

6:04 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Third St.

8:36 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Wilbraham St.

10:23 p.m. – Arrest, Jesse Alan Ginman, 36, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

Public notices

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** in the *Auditorium of Granite Valley School, 21 Thompson Street*, to review a petition for a Special Permit for an Estate Lot as provided by §6.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws for Gleb Leiderman. The property is zoned Rural Residential and is located on Paradise Lake Road identified on Assessors Map 74 Parcel 23A as shown on a plan prepared by Heritage Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc dated 01/20/2025 and revised 02/20/2025. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
01/01, 01/08/2026

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, sections 9 & 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 12th, 2026, at 7:00 PM** in the Police Department Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Crimmins Graveline Insurance, is seeking a Special Permit as required by §171.94(B)13 to display a sign larger than permitted by the Ordinance in the Village Center 1 Zoning District, located on the property at 1010 Thorndike Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessors Map 57, Lot 70.

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>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
12/25/2025, 01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2676EA
Estate of:
Michelle Marie DeMarco
Also known as:**

**Michelle M DeMarco
Date of Death: 09/03/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Diane DeMarco of Hyde Park 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 **Diane DeMarco of Hyde Park MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate

to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this 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 01/23/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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 26, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT Engineering Services Palmer: Front Street, Park Avenue and Kelly Street Improvement Project (FPKIP)

The Town of Palmer has been awarded funds from the FY25 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities - Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Palmer wishes to receive proposals from professional engineering firms who will facilitate the proposed FPKIP under the direction of the Palmer Community Development Office. Design services include base mapping, preliminary design, development of cost estimates, public participation process, final design, and production of construction documents and construction oversight. The overall project is being developed in phases with Phase 1 designing all three streets and fully constructing Front Street and Park Avenue, as existing funding allows. Kelly Street will be improved with future funds. The estimated construction cost of Phase 1 is estimated at \$538,000.

A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available at the Town of Palmer Community Development Office 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069, (413)283-2685, from M - Th, 9 AM to 4 PM. To request an electronic copy of the RFQ, please email John Latour at jlatour@townofpalmer.com. The RFQ will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below in digital format. The Town of Palmer reserves the right to reject any proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Completed proposals are to be submitted no later than Jan-

uary 22, 2026, at the Town of Palmer Community Development Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2626EA
Estate of:**

**Cristian L Nolan
Date of Death: 11/12/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sonia M Nolan of Wales, 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 **Sonia M Nolan of Wales, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this 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 01/15/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE
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 18, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2628EA
Estate of:**

**Arthur Mark Sheldon
Date of Death: 11/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, 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 **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 18, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD22P2062EA
Estate of:
Beverly H Pease
Also known as:
Beverly Anne Pease
Date of Death: 01/27/2022**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Nelson B Pease of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Nelson B Pease of Palmer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this 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 01/15/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE
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 18, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2628EA
Estate of:**

**Arthur Mark Sheldon
Date of Death: 11/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, 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 **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 19, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2628EA
Estate of:**

**Arthur Mark Sheldon
Date of Death: 11/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, 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 **Arnold L Sheldon of Wales, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You

have a right to object to this 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 01/22/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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 18, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

Town of Brimfield Notice Of Public Hearing

The Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 12, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M.** in the **Brimfield Elementary School cafeteria, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010** to hear the application filed for a **FP-002 License for Storage of Flammables and Combustibles/ LP Gas/Explosives/Fireworks**, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 148 § 13, for the location **4 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010**, site of **Sam's Foods**. The license application includes **No Lead, Premium, and Diesel underground storage tanks**. If you have an interest in this application, you are requested to attend said hearing.

Martin J. Kelly, Chair
Select Board
Town of Brimfield
23 Main Street
Brimfield, MA 01010
01/01/2026

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:10 P.M.** in the **Auditorium of Granite Valley School, 21 Thompson Street, Monson.**

The purpose of this hearing is to hear and act upon a proposed new zoning district entitled **"Planned Village District"**. This district is intended to guide the redevelopment of approximately 108 acres of the former Monson Developmental Center and includes amendments to the zoning map and bylaw text, definitions, dimensional and use regulations, and design standards applicable to the area.

The land proposed for a zoning map amendment from **Reserved Land (RL)** to the **Planned Village District (PVD)** is shown on a plan entitled **"Plan of Land in Monson, MA"**, prepared by **Northeast Survey Consultants**,

dated **April 12, 2023**, and recorded in the **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 397, Pages 121-125**. This land description is further amended by an **Approval Not Required** plan entitled **"Plan of Land in Monson, MA"**, prepared by **Northeast Survey Consultants**, dated **April 11, 2025**, and recorded in said Registry in **Plan Book 403, Page 30**.

Owner and Applicant: **Westmass Area Development Corporation**

A copy of the proposed bylaw may be viewed during regular office hours at the **Planning Board Office** or at the **Town Clerk's Office**, in addition to the **Planning Board's web page**.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
01/01, 01/08/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2606EA
Estate of:**

**Lynn Frances Marszalek
Also known as:
Lynn Frances Hall
Date of Death: 09/21/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Stephen T Marszalek of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 01/14/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE
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 17, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/01/2026

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We're counting down and don't you know, that as the final minutes go, we're filled with joy and gratitude too, for friends and readers like all of you!



Obituaries

Susan Stine Ford

Susan Stine Ford, age 81, formerly of Monson, Massachusetts, and most recently of Pineville, North Carolina, passed away on Dec. 16, 2025 after a long illness.



Born to the late George Maxwell and Mary Jane (Sponsler) Stine, Susan was a 1962 graduate of Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill Pennsylvania. She attended the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston and Western New England College in Springfield Massachusetts.

While living in Monson, Susan was employed by Attor-

ney James Rooney and later by Monson Savings Bank. She was deeply involved in her community, serving as a member of the Monson Rotary Club, the Board of the Monson Home for the Aged, the Board of the Grace Makepeace Trust for Historical Preservation, and the Monson Finance Committee.

Susan was a devoted mother and grandmother whose kindness, love, strength, and quiet generosity shaped the lives of her family. She will be profoundly missed and forever held in the hearts of those who loved her.

She is survived by her three daughters: Kim Puzzo and her husband David Puzzo of Chapin, South Carolina, and their children, Alyssa Puzzo and Kyle Puzzo. Marcia Jacobs and her husband Steven Jacobs of Durham, North Carolina, and their daughters, Katherine Button and Jennifer Panara; and Cynthia Aponte and her husband Richard Aponte of Charlotte, North Carolina, and their sons, Christopher Aponte and Adam Aponte. Susan also had a great grandson, August James Wadecki.

Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Susan will be laid to rest in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Joan C. Riel

1936-2025

MONSON - Joan C. (Jolly) Riel, 89, formerly of Monson, passed away Dec. 21, 2025 at Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer after a prolonged illness. She was born in Worcester, daughter of Leo P. and Nora (Lescault) Jolly. She lived and raised her family in Monson 1959-2025 before recently moving to Cedarbrook Village in Ware.



She leaves her devoted husband of 69 years, Alfred J. Riel of Ware; her daughter Cynthia Cates and husband Nady of Wilbraham; her son Steven Riel and husband Neil Glickman of Leeds; her granddaughter Jennifer Ehle and husband Josh of Springfield; her grandson Andrew Guidara and wife Gisell of East Longmeadow; cherished

great-grandchildren Geneva and Chester Ehle, Abigail and Claudia Guidara, and Gianna Albano; her sister Rita (Jolly) Granquist and husband Ronald of Shrewsbury; sisters-in-law Rita

(Baryl) Jolly of Mystic, CT, Angelina (Maio) Jolly of Milton, GA, and Ann (Simarano) Riel of Northbridge; and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son David Riel and by her brothers Leo P. Jolly, Jr., and Robert Jolly.

Mrs. Riel graduated from St. Peter's High School in Worcester, where she was classmates with her husband-to-be. After attending Salter's Secretarial School, she employed her skills in a variety of positions. She was secretary to the superintendent of the Hampden-Wilbraham School

District for many years before her retirement. A woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Riel was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Monson. She competed as a teenager in pairs dancing at the national roller-skating championship. She was an avid tennis player at the Wilbraham and Ludlow tennis clubs.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours on Monday, Dec. 29, 2025 at Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St. Monson, MA from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The Funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 22 Green St. Monson, with burial at Bethany Cemetery, Monson. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick's Church Restoration Fund, PO Box 473 Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Philip A. Christensen Sr.



5/6/1919 - 12/21/2025

Philip A. Christensen Sr., 106, passed away on Dec. 21, 2025, peacefully with family by his side. He was the recipient of the Boston Post Cane as the oldest citizen of Palmer. His body was accepted as an anatomical gift by UMass Chan Medical School.

Phil was predeceased by his brothers Al, Warren, Donnie, and by his children Carol and Joan. He leaves his wife Shirley of 65 years; six children: Charles (Connie), Jeanie (Russ), Candice (Gary), Bonnie, Philip Jr. (Kathrine), and Laurie (Gary); 20 grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren.

Phil was born in Springfield, MA to the late Olaf and Adelaide Christensen. He grew up in Springfield and graduated from Springfield Tech High School in 1938. Phil and his family moved to Palmer in 1966.

Phil served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1953. During World War II, he held the rank of 2nd Class Fire Controlman, aiming and firing 12" guns on the U.S.S. Arkansas, and witnessed the original flag being raised at Iwo Jima. During the Korean War, Phil was deployed on a special assignment to Germany to repair and retrieve two icebreakers that had been loaned to Russia during World War II. He also

served as an instructor and trained Navy personnel during his time in the Navy Reserve. After his service, Phil worked as an Electronic Technician and a supervisor for the U.S. Postal Service until he retired in 1987 at age 68.

In his older years, Phil was a storyteller, often catching your ear to pass on history. Phil's memory was impeccable, as he often recollected exact details from his earlier years, including from his time in the service and his first jobs (e.g., working as a newspaper deliverer, in his father's machine shop, as a die sinker, and as a watch repairer).

His legacy includes his passion for helping others, especially through the Shriners Hospital. Phil was an active Master Mason of the Masonic Lodge for 82 years, a Past Master for more than 60 years, and a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shriners for 70 years. Phil drove with Vintage Auto Unit in many parades and was flawless at ritual even into his 100s. Phil was a member of First Baptist Church in Springfield and then Second Congregational Church of Palmer.

Phil was most happy when surrounded by family and friends at Little Alum. His love of the lake started as a Boy Scout where he swam, boated,

and camped at his Boy Scout leader's cottage. Phil was then fortunate to buy the cottage, where he and Shirley would raise eight children.

Phil loved staying active. He enjoyed cheering on Palmer High School sports teams, cutting wood, and gardening, always growing enough to share. Phil was also an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox, either listening to or watching every game. Living through the entire curse of the bambino, he never lost hope. At age 85, Phil was thrilled to finally see the Red Sox win a world series.

Phil will be remembered for his big smile, strong hugs, dedicated work ethic, and many stories. In his own words, "I had a great life!"

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Second Congregational Church of Palmer (1080 Pleasant Street, Palmer, MA 01069). In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: DAV National Headquarters at 860 Dolwick Drive, Erlanger, KY 41018, ATTN: Remittance Processing/DAV In Memorial https://support.dav.org/campaigns/PhilipAChristensenSr_Memorial or Shriners Hospital for Children 516 Carew St. Springfield MA, 01104 <https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/ways-to-give>



Beverly Marie (Stanisewski) Lemire

Beverly Marie (Stanisewski) Lemire, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Dec. 19, 2025, at the age of 69. Born on May 30, 1956, Beverly lived a life filled with deep love, laughter, and unwavering devotion to her family.

Beverly was predeceased by her parents, John Stanisewski and Beverly Harris Stanisewski; her sisters, Bonnie Kavanaugh and Karen Soucie; and her brother, Albert Stanisewski.

She leaves behind the love of her life and devoted husband of 52 years, Wayne Lemire Sr. Together they built a family rooted in love, humor, and fierce loyalty. She is survived by her sons, Chad Lemire and his wife Barbara, Travis Lemire, Wayne Lemire Jr. and his wife Denise and Steven Lemire and his partner Sarah; and her three incredible grandchildren whom she adored beyond measure, Steven Lemire, Cody Lemire, and Kylie Lemire.

Beverly is also survived by her loving siblings: her sisters Holly Pragluski and her husband Robert, and Tracy

Paulo and her husband Michael; and her brother Wayne Stanisewski and his wife Debra and sister-in-law Rosemarie Stanisewski. She also leaves behind many extended family members and dear friends who she cherished deeply.

Beverly retired from Hamilton Sundstrand after decades of dedicated service. It was there that she met her best friend of many years, Judy Crandall, a friendship that meant the world to her and who she considered a sister.

Above all else, Beverly loved her family fiercely. She was deeply devoted to her sons and supported them in everything they did - even training in taekwondo right alongside them and proudly earning her black belt with them during their teenage years. She shared a one-of-a-kind sense of humor with her siblings, children, and close family-one that could fill any room with laughter. Family gatherings were always rich with stories, inside jokes, and unforgettable moments.

Beverly also found great joy and peace in her home,

which was her sanctuary and something she took immense pride in. She loved gardening and caring for her plants, spending countless hours outside during the warmer months tending to her yard and creating a space filled with beauty and comfort. By her side through it all was her beloved dog, Arlo, her "baby boy," who brought her endless joy and companionship.

Beverly was known for her protective heart, generous spirit and selflessness. She would do anything for those she loved and had an incredible ability to make people laugh with just a look. Holidays were especially dear to her, with Christmas Eve holding a special place in her heart. She treasured the joy of everyone coming together, cooking, laughing, and simply being together.

Beverly will be remembered for her boundless love, sharp wit, fierce loyalty, and the warmth she brought into every life she touched. She will be deeply missed and forever loved. Services will be held at the convenience of the family.



DEATH NOTICES

Philip A. Christensen Sr.
Died Dec. 21, 2025
Services Jan. 3, 2024

Susan Stine Ford
Died Dec. 16, 2025
Services will be private

Joan C. Riel
Died Dec. 21, 2025
Services Dec. 29, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Beverly Marie (Stanisewski) Lemire
Died Dec. 19, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
 - ❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
 - ❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs
- 201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the **Journal Register**

Find your MARKET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS!** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$1.82 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST OR STEAKS.....	\$5.99 lb
USDA INSP. FOZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN	\$1.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST OR STEAKS	\$6.29 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG	\$1.66 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS	\$3.25 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB. BAG ..	75¢ lb	USDA INSP. HOT POCKETS STEAK & CHEDDAR 18 OZ	\$3.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN • 12 OZ. BOX TEMPURA BREADED SHRIMP	\$3.99 ea		
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$4.99 lb				
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb				
TAILGATE SPECIALS					
USDA INSP. STORE MADE PORK MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$3.79 lb				
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN.....	\$2.99 lb				

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.
HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

M	E	R	E	S		E	M	F		S	B	I	C							
S	L	O	A	N		P	R	A	U		E	L	B	A						
E	D	A	M		S	O	N	A	R		R	A	S	P						
C	A	R	E	T	A	K	E	R		S	A	B	E	R						
					S	O	R	E	S		M	E	G	N	A					
M	E	M			G	O	B		N	Y	A	L	A							
E	P	O	S		S	E	L	E	C	T	I	V	E							
T	I	N	E	A		R	A	W		S	O	A	K	S						
					C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y	S		S	H	E	M		
										D	E	I	T	Y	O	I	L	I	D	A
S	C				N	E	E		A	R	R	A	S							
M	A	C	A	U					N	A	K	E	D	N	E	S	S			
A	M	I	D		A	S	H	E	S		A	L	E	E						
S	E	R	E		S	E	E	R		O	C	E	A	N						
H	O	E	S		L	C	D			S	K	A	L	D						

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
Call (508)882-0178

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging, Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls.
(413)563-0487

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis **413-218-3301**.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

Walker Home Improvement
Handyman Services
Licensed & Insured
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

INSTRUCTION

NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course
with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140.
Matt Marcinkiewicz
muscione@hotmail.com
413-537-0620

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

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

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. **413-519-5439**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**.

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

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

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARA-EDUCATOR. Submit resume and letter of intent to: www.schoolspring.com

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT 1 PM

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667**.

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
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 Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin
Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

DECEMBER

DEC. 4

'Light Up Palmer' returns again

By Abigail McCoy amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Downtown Palmer at Depot Park and the surrounding block shimmered with holiday cheer this Saturday, Nov. 29, as residents gathered for the annual Light Up Palmer festival...



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Everyone in the crowd cheered when the lighting of the large spruce tree illuminated Depot Park in a brilliant glow.

At the center of the occasion stood longtime volunteer and spokesperson Chris Smith, who reflected on the event's origins in an interview before the lighting of the town's large spruce tree...

ed. However, limitations on fundraising under the PRA soon prompted the group to branch out and form its own nonprofit: the Palmer Business Partnership.

Under this organization, about two dozen volunteers now manage the holiday celebration as well as Palmer's Purple Heart banner program. The group installs

DEC. 11

'Stuff-A-Cruiser' toy drive helps assist local families

By Abigail McCoy amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Holiday spirit filled the air once again as the Palmer Police Department held its annual "Stuff a Cruiser" toy drive this past Saturday, Dec. 6, drawing families, volunteers, and community organizations together to support local children in need.

For several years, the event has served as a major seasonal effort to gather toys for Palmer-area families, and this year's turnout demonstrated strong community enthusiasm.

as they packed a police cruiser full of gifts.

Lori Chiacchia, who runs the "Santa's Elves of Palmer" Facebook page, has been one of the key organizers behind the event since the department revived the tradition following the pandemic.

"I've been doing this for the past five years with the police," Chiacchia said. "It stopped during COVID, and when we brought it back, we just kind of collaborated. They collect the toys, and I dish them out to all the kids in Palmer."

Chiacchia said she works year-round on holiday support efforts and praised the event's expanding partner-

ships. This year's toy drive included reindeer-food making for kids and a long list of participating community groups.

"Demore's Auto is big... they donate everything, and I use their trailer," she said. "Santa's here, the Boy Scouts are here, the Lions Club, the fire department... Everyone comes together."

Chief Burns said the department is proud to see the event grow each year. While the police have hosted versions of Stuff a Cruiser since before the pandemic, this marked the seventh official year, and the fifth working alongside Chiacchia's Santa's Elves group.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Lori Chiacchia, Santa Claus, Police Chief Burns, and Lion's Club President George Richardson stand in front of the police cruiser that is being stuffed with gifts.

DEC. 18

West Mass presents early redevelopment vision for former Monson State Hospital

By Abigail McCoy amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – West Mass officials met with residents on Dec. 11 at Granite Valley Middle School to outline preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the former Monson Development Center...

economic development organization operating in Western Massachusetts since 1960, recently acquired the core portion of the campus containing most of the large brick buildings. Officials stressed that the project remains in its earliest stages, with no finalized site plans or housing counts.

"This is still very preliminary," West Mass representatives said, noting that environmental assessments and demolition planning are underway, with demolition targeted for summer 2026 through summer 2027.

The site presents significant challenges, including

widespread asbestos contamination, unsafe structures marked with fire department "let burn" designations, and unusable water, sewer, and power infrastructure. While most buildings are expected to be demolished, West Mass is exploring the potential reuse of two structures, (the Daly Center and the Brookside building), for civic or housing purposes.

A central focus of the meeting was a proposed zoning change. West Mass plans to submit a zoning by-law to the Planning Board that would reclassify the land from "reserve land" to a

mixed-use district, allowing housing, small-scale commercial, light industrial, and civic uses. Housing concepts include apartments, townhomes, smaller cottage-style homes, and larger estate lots, aimed in part at allowing Monson residents to remain in town.

Approximately 120,000 square feet of commercial and light industrial space is also envisioned, primarily along Hospital Road, to sup-

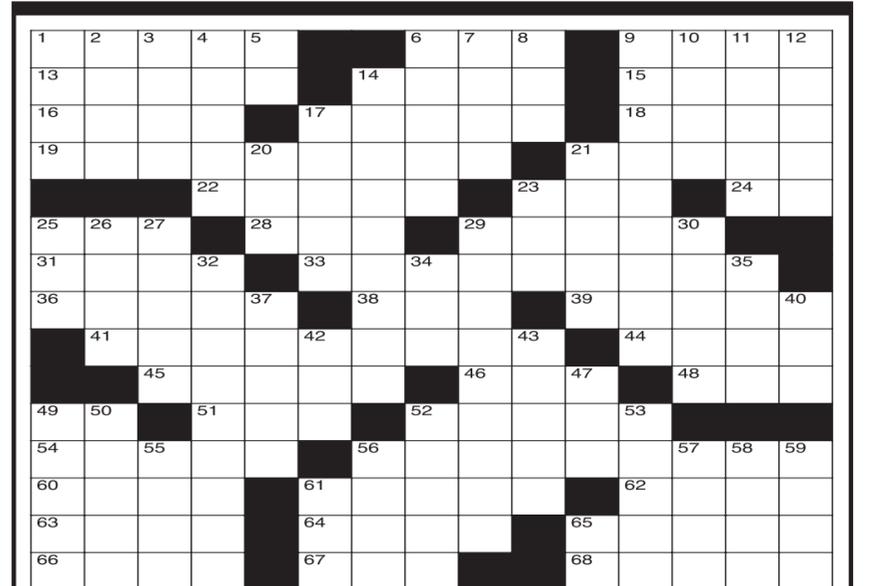
port small businesses and local trades.

Infrastructure improvements are a major component of the project. Monson recently secured a \$5 million MassWorks grant to replace the State Hospital Road bridge and upgrade roadway, water, and sewer infrastructure; funding that West Mass cautioned is contingent on the redevelopment moving forward.

Officials warned that if

the zoning change does not pass at Town Meeting in May, West Mass could return the property to the state. Under the Mass Affordable Homes Act, the state could then redevelop the site with significantly less local control.

"Zoning keeps Monson in the driver's seat," West Mass representatives said, calling community support critical to shaping the site's long-term future.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques ___, French

biologist

- 29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to "oohed"
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

THE CENTERED PLACE SINCE 1988 Yoga & Meditation Classes Offering both onsite and online classes Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself. 413 436 7374 286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM

St. Barnabas Anglican Church 18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown Weekly Mass Saturdays 4 p.m. Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh stbarnabasbelchertown.org ~ All Are Welcome ~