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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Michael Critelli's guitar playing usually closes out the open mic nights.

Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

PALMER

Library offers new youth-oriented programs

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Youth Services Department at the library has a lot of programs to offer throughout the month of January.

Olivia Chartrand was recently made the head of tween services, a new section of the library seeking to offer youths aged 10-14 programs that are geared toward their age group.

“That age group tends to be where we lose a lot of our patrons, that’s sixth grade to eighth roughly,” Chartrand said. “We have a lot of elementary schoolers who come to a lot of our programs and teens who volunteer before they graduate high school but not a lot for kids between 10 and 14.”

The Youth Services Department now caters to three age ranges; one for kids ages 10 and under, the tween section for youths aged 10 to 14 and the teen section for high school students. The tween section was designed to be something that Chartrand can “grow with and into.”

“I’m in the position to better support the youth in town, because we had noticed a trend of kids no longer coming to the library when they reach middle age,” Chartrand said. “By having a librarian dedicated to them, the thought is mid-

dle-age youths will return.” All month, kids are invited to participate in the “Do You Want to Build a Snowman” program, in which kids get to add cotton balls to a snowman for every book they check out.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 4 p.m., tweens are invited to make friendship bracelets while listening to a favorite pop sensation.

On Thursday, Jan. 11, at 4 p.m., kids are invited to build a swirling nebula in a jar using cotton, glitter and the deep colors of space.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, patrons will get to take home a bag of mystery goodies to enjoy the winter weather.

On Thursday, Jan. 18, kids can take home ingredients to make a gingerbread cake out of a mug. The ingredients come pre-portioned.

“We portion out all of the dry ingredients and vanilla and send them home with the recipe of the rest of the ingredients, how to bake them, and their mug size,” Chartrand said.

Michelle Popp, who recently started as the teen librarian, said that there will be an Open Game Session on Jan. 23 for ages 15-18.

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 4 p.m., patrons are invited to Rank That Snack. This will involve a

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Local artists rock open mic night



PHCC set the stage for musicians around the region.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Palmer Historical Cultural Center held an open mic night on Dec. 28 filled with music, song and live readings to close out 2023.

PHCC regularly hosts open mic nights in its stage and hall space, where performers are instructed to bring two or three songs to perform, often with a featured artist performing a longer set. Though the event is free of charge, there is a donation box with a suggested offer-

ing of \$5. “We got interrupted with COVID, as did everything,” Bob Haveles said. “Upon return, Tony Valley and Amanda Meli have been the main hosts for the open mic.”

“One of the nice things that they’ve been able to bring is they have a lot of connections within the music industry, so they’ve been able to bring featured artists as part of the open mic,” Haveles said.

The evening began with Jackie Rumsey playing a few Christmas carols on the piano. James Cook then took the stage to perform his original songs, including “Song from the Perspective of a Cat,” and “Make the 20s Roar Again.”

After a passionate performance by Dennis Doyle of Wayne Cochran’s “Last Kiss,” Eric Troy performed a few songs on the guitar, in-

Michaela Nelson performed an original song that she wrote when she was 16 years old.

OPEN MIC | page 6

COMMUNITY

Carbonneau recognized for 14 years of service



Submitted Photo

Estelle Carbonneau and Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital.

PALMER— Estelle Carbonneau was recently recognized for her many years of service as a member of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary and volunteer in the hospital’s gift shop.

“We are grateful for the many years of service Estelle has given to the gift shop and Auxiliary,” said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital. “She has served in many roles as the manager of the gift shop, helping with purchasing merchandise, and training new volunteers. Generously giving herself and her time has been a way of life for Estelle and her connection to our hospital has always been extra special. A committed volunteer and member of our Auxiliary for 14 years, she now serves as trustee of the organization.”

“Volunteers are extraordinary people who want to contribute to the greater good,” said Becky George, manager of volunteer services for Baystate Health. “We have several opportunities open for individuals to share their talents and skills to support and assist our staff in creating wonderful experiences for our patients. Every hour and every minute that our volunteers serve makes a difference in the lives of our patients, families, and our team.”

Volunteers are currently being sought to fill positions in various departments, including greeters, patient-care areas, and the gift shop. Duties will vary depending on the volunteers’ interests and the needs of the hospital. “During their service at Baystate Wing Hospital, we

CARBONNEAU | page 2

TRIBUTE



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Balsam wreaths were laid at veterans gravestones.

Veterans honored at Quabbin Park Cemetery

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – One week after the town held its first ever Wreaths Across America Day ceremony, honoring veterans in town-owned cemeteries, volunteers made their way to Quabbin Park Cemetery

with more than 260 wreaths to honor those from the lost towns.

These wreaths were received as a last minute gift to the town. Ware’s Wreaths Across America Coordinator Frank Bateman said, and they were placed on gravestones in both Quabbin Park Cemetery and Holy Cross Cemetery on Dec. 23.

Wreaths Across America be-

COMMUNITY

Lunch with Veterans Agent and upcoming programs at Community Center

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

HOLLAND – This Wednesday, residents were invited to meet the town’s new Veterans Affairs Agent during the Community Center’s regular lunch program.

Arthur “Dusty” Evans was recently named the Veterans Agent for the town. Holly Sommers, the activities coordinator at the Community Center, said that Evans collaborated with Director Brenda Palmer, who also serves as the town’s outreach coordinator, to arrange the event.

“He’s meeting the community as the new veterans agent to help them figure out more about what their needs are,” Sommers said.

The lunch itself is part of the center’s regular lunch program that runs Mondays and Wednesdays. People are encouraged to sign up with 48 hours’ notice, with an entrance fee of \$5. These lunches are sometimes

paired with other activities and seminars, which Sommers said tend to draw in more residents, according to attendance numbers and feedback from the community.

“We definitely see an increased attendance, so we try to pair bigger activities with meals when we can,” Sommers said. “That’s why sometimes you’ll see something like ‘Lunch and Learn.’”

Recently, the center held one such “Lunch and Learn” session about elder abuse, which Sommers said was popular.

Next Monday, on Jan. 8 at noon, the center will hold a lunch with an Elvis theme in honor of Elvis Presley’s birthday. This will include a meal of The King’s favorite, fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches, followed by a screening of the 1961 classic “Blue Hawaii” at 1 p.m.

The movie screening is a separate event from the lunch and is free of charge.

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Pet of the Week



SOPHIE

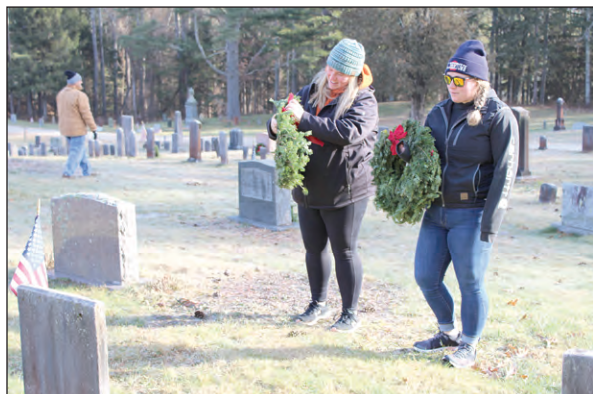
This is Leeanna's girl Sophie! She is a 4-year-old Siberian husky who is very outgoing and funny. She loves long car rides and walks along the river.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Volunteers joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation staff at the Quabbin Park Cemetery to honor and remember veterans through the Wreaths Across America program.



Nicky Dexter and M. Dexter of Belchertown placed wreaths on veterans gravestones at Quabbin Park Cemetery the Saturday before Christmas.



Robert Bruso of Ware saluted a veteran after placing a wreath at his gravestone.



Nicholas Bousquet of Ware placed a wreath at a gravestone, making sure the ribbon was in the 1200 position.



Volunteers came from surrounding towns to lay wreaths at Quabbin Park Cemetery.



Ware's Wreaths Across America Coordinator Frank Bateman speaks to volunteers.



Over 260 wreaths were gifted to the town of Ware after its inaugural Wreaths Across America Day ceremony.

Applications open for young women award

Applications for the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs Award are available from the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley. Applications can be obtained from the high school guidance counselors in local towns and on its website: ZontaQV.org/scholarships/.

A local recipient will receive a \$1000 award, funded by the Zonta Club of the Quaboag Valley and will be entered for the District YWPA award. The District recipient will be eligible for a \$5,000 award from Zonta International.

According to Zonta Club President Dana Burton, the goal of the award is to encourage young women to participate in public and political life by recognizing a young woman's involvement in government, policy-making, and volunteerism. "The YWPA program looks to the young women of today for leaders of tomorrow and advocates the Zonta International's mission of advancing the status of women worldwide," noted Burton.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 19, have an active commitment to volunteerism, leadership achievements, and experience in local or student government. Applicants must be pre-university or pre-college students.

Completed application and supporting documentation are due to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley by March 8.

QUABBIN | from page 1

came a nonprofit organization in 2007, continuing the wreath-laying tradition started by Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine over 30 years ago.

It all began one year when Worcester's company had a surplus of wreaths and he decided (with the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snow) to place those wreaths in one of the older sections of Arlington National Cemetery, to pay tribute to those who gave their all for their country.

That section of the cemetery received fewer visitors each year that

passed, and Worcester wanted to thank those veterans whose sacrifices gave him the freedom and opportunity to build his successful career.

Last year, more than 2.7 million wreaths were placed at 3,702 participating locations in every state of the U.S., Puerto Rico and in 24 overseas cemeteries.

Wreaths Across America requires that in order to place the wreaths, whoever owns the cemetery has to approve participation in the program.

In order to secure enough wreaths for the four cemeteries, Bateman has

paired up with two sponsorship groups, the Ware Middle School PTO and Scouts BSA Troop 281. Sponsoring a wreath is \$17, of which \$5 goes to the sponsoring group.

Wreaths can be sponsored by visiting the link for either sponsoring group: Scouts BSA Troop 281, <https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/175907> and WMS PTO, <https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/176743>.

Now through Tuesday, Jan. 16, all wreaths sponsored through a registered Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Group will be matched by the organi-

zation for placement on next year's National Wreaths Across America Day to be held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

There is always an opportunity for other groups to become a sponsorship group. For more information, email Bateman at logman26meb@hotmail.com or call 413-949-6517.

"This a great start but we have work to do to make sure that every hero that rests here in town is honored with a wreath for next year," Bateman said.

CARBONNEAU | from page 1

want to ensure that all of our volunteers are doing something that they enjoy,"

said George.

The Volunteer Services program is open to anyone interested in giving back to their community. All potential volunteers must be age 16 or older and complete a volunteer application, submit to and pass a background check, and meet all vaccination requirements.

The program is an ideal opportunity for seniors and young adults who wish to volunteer in a healthcare setting. Volunteers will receive training and support and can receive credit for school (if they require it) and grow personally through service to others.

For more information or to fill out an application online, visit www.baystatehealth.org/about-us/volunteer or call Becky George at 413-370-5295.

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEADLINE

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

Blood Donation Team is coming to Palmer

PALMER—The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drives at Baystate Wing Hospital in 2024, beginning on Feb. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year at Baystate Wing on April 10, June 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11.

"There continues to be an urgent need for blood, when you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services. "Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

"There is no substitute for human blood," said VanZandt. "Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks."

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10.00 Gift card. For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location you would like to make your donation at when you make your appointment.

LIBRARY | from page 1

taste-testing of Oreo flavors and ranking them from best to worst.

A stuffie Storytime and sleepover will be held on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 4 p.m., where children are invited to bring stuffed toys for a snack and Storytime, and then leave them at the library overnight so the toys can have a sleepover after hours.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Garine Arakelian will hold a candle-making class for teens, and then on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 4:30 p.m., the library will screen the Studio Ghibli classic, Ponyo, while serving ramen.

For information about the library's programs and services, call 413-283-3330 during business hours.



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Legislators help launch Browse Borrow Board in region

State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) joined his colleagues in the Western Mass Delegation, representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, and the Massachusetts Public Library System to launch the Browse Borrow Board Program in the Pioneer Valley.

Browse Borrow Board will bring MassDOT and PVRTA riders the opportunity to browse digital audiobooks, eBooks, newspapers, and magazines while waiting for their bus to arrive before borrowing and enjoying their reading materials on the go. The program was made possible through Oliveira's fiscal year 2024 budget amendment that increased state aid to regional public libraries by \$750,000.

For Oliveira, the program extends far beyond what riders can access.

"Like our public libraries, Browse Borrow Board is about more than just books. The program is a reflection of the values of equity, inclusivity, and accessibility upheld by our public libraries across the state. I'm thrilled to see the program expanded across the Commonwealth from Boston to the PVRTA and to our regional transit authorities to provide the regional equity we strive for in the Legislature," Oliveira said in a press release.

Oliveira went on to thank his colleagues in the legislature, the PVRTA, and the Mass Library Sys-

tem for making the expansion possible.

"I want to thank the partners in this who have joined me today and were instrumental in making Browse Borrow Board a reality, Senator Adam Gomez and State Representative Carlos Gonzalez, as well as our partners at the Massachusetts Library System, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, and the Boston Public Library," he said.

Senator Adam Gomez (Hampden District) was grateful to Oliveira and expressed excitement about the potential of further expanding the program through the upcoming West-East Rail.

"Launching the Browse Borrow Board program at Union Station with Mass Library, MassDOT, and the PVRTA is exactly the kind of engagement we as legislators want to partake in," said Gomez. "This pilot program, coupled with PVRTA's Try Transit program, can entice families to browse digital audiobooks and eBooks while riding the bus. I look forward to seeing this program succeed and entertaining its viability down the line when East-West Rail is up and running."

Also on hand were PVRTA Administrator Sandra E. Sheehan and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Library System, Sarah Sogigian.

"We are happy to join the Browse Borrow Board program that brings riders a vast assortment of reading options to ride the bus with an enjoyable read. Browse Borrow Board makes it as easy as one, two,

three," said Sheehan.

Browse Borrow Board strives to promote literacy, local libraries, and public transportation. The program is multilingual and provides riders of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to browse digital audiobooks, eBooks, newspapers, and magazines while waiting for their bus to arrive and enjoying their reading materials on the go.

No library card is needed to access the collection. It's free and very easy to use. Just scan the QR code, create an account, and start browsing.

Browse Borrow Board's primary goal is to reach riders who may not already be familiar with the library's offerings.

Library cards are not required to use this service. The program gives riders access to books, magazines, and other material through QR code links and doesn't need an app.

The program builds on efforts to make public transportation more enjoyable while also connecting residents to the resources the Boston Public Library offers.

Since the start of the program in Boston, there have been a total of 4,145 QR scans, including 3,829 unique scans. 1,371 people have created accounts since March, and some of the most checked-out items are those in Spanish and Portuguese.

The top rented item is "La Ladrona de Libros" (The Book Thief).

QVC lists free indoor/virtual events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free indoor/virtual programs in January and February.

Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

All ages are welcome.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Presentations will be offered in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and chose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

Construction of the Winsor Dam

On Sunday, Jan. 21 from 2-3 p.m. join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn more about how the Winsor Dam and the Good-nough Dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir.

Quabbin Reservoir is so noted for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it is a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike.

Secrets Beneath the Trees

On Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2-3 p.m. join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at

UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the traces of historical settlements, like stone walls and road cuts - and you'll discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin in Secrets Beneath the Trees: Exploring the Quabbin's Hidden Historical Landscape with Lidar.

Lidar is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree canopy to model the surface of the earth.

Project Mishoon: Underwater Treasures of the Nipmuc

On Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2-3 p.m. join Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band member and Project Mishoon Director, Cheryl Stedtler, as she shares the history of Project Mishoon.

A recreational diver exploring the dark waters of Lake Quinsigamond happened upon a dugout canoe. For nearly 400 years, this canoe and others found nearby have rested quietly in the lake's silty bot-

tom awaiting the return of their Indigenous paddlers.

Not until 2001 would Nipmuc descendants return to them and become the first Indigenous community in Massachusetts history to secure an archaeological reconnaissance permit from the Commonwealth's Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

Understanding Watershed Forestry Management

Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-3 p.m.

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Monson Community Preservation Comm. accepting 2024 applications

The Monson Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is now accepting applications for 2024 projects. If you have a community-based project relating to Historical Preservation, Open Space, Recreation, or Community Housing, we encourage you to apply for funding. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28.

Interested applicants can refer to the town website at www.monson-ma.gov for the CPC guidelines, the application, and qualifications. Applicants are reminded that prior to submitting their applications they must get approval from the appropriate town committee for your project. This contact information can be found on the first page of the application.

Although the Committee vets the projects, the residents of the town of Monson make the ultimate funding decisions regarding CPC funds at the town meeting. The committee also welcomes voter participation and inquiries during its process of evaluating projects to be voted on at the town meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to attend a CPC meeting, which normally commences at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the small meeting room of the town administration building at 110 Main St.

The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 2024 to have your application considered for the town meeting in May.

The Committee would prefer that an application be e-mailed to us up to two weeks prior to the deadline at: monsoncommunitypreservation@gmail.com. In addition, 8 copies of the proposal must be mailed to or dropped off either inside or outside the building to Monson Community Preservation, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057.

HOLLAND | from page 1

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 1 - 2:30 p.m., acoustic guitarist and singer Frank Lind is said to be "making his debut at the Community Center." Lind hails from Hamden, Conn. and has been playing classic rock locally from the '50s, '60s, and '70s since 1992. This event is also free to attend.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 3 - 5 p.m., there will be a Beginners' Toy Crochet Class, led by Norah Proper from Norah's Fabric Creations, where attendees will make a felt snowman.

Space for this event is limited, with a cost of \$35 per person, or \$25 for Holland Seniors. Registration and payment for this event must be received by Jan. 24.

"Holly has been very busy planning some great events for 2024," Palmer said. "She has booked lots of new singers, new crafts and stay tuned for news on a Mini Quilt and Craft Retreat at the Center. I'm looking forward to all of it."

To contact the Community Center about lunches, events, and other activities, you can call 413-245-7037.

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FREE FLY TYING CLASSES



Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen, the Ludlow Elks Lodge 2448 and Turley Publications are starting January 11th, 2024.

Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge located at
69 Chapin St. Ludlow Mass.

**Thursday nights for eight weeks
from 7PM to 9PM.**

The classes are open to the public with children 8 years and up accompanied by an adult. Classes are geared to the beginner or novice. Course materials and tools will be supplied. Should you have your own tools, feel free to bring them.

No Registration is Necessary!

Should there be Bad weather please contact the Ludlow Elks after 4:00 PM for any cancelations at (413) 583-2448 or check our website <http://www.wmffclub.org>

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Glenda's

Saturday, January 6th ~ 8pm-12am
The Gypsy Six

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights
8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Upcoming Events
Saturday, January 20th
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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

If my wife claims now, will it hurt my Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty
I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better. I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire.

Signed Anxious Husband

Dear Anxious
The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible.

I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or your local office right away to request an appointment to apply for her benefits and she should be sure to request six months of retroactive payments. SS will pay up to six months retroactively.

If your wife has a "my Social Security" online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the "Remarks" section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting six months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim.

Even though you plan to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason, your benefit will reach maximum when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to four months in advance and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70.

If you haven't already done so, you may wish to create your own "my Social Security" online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won't get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that information is received from the IRS, after you file your income tax return.

If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn't delay past age 70 to claim Social Security because you're working; you'll still get credit for those earnings, automatically.

So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money and that you plan to apply for your benefits to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

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.



Native plants often need to be coaxed into germinating

Are you interested in starting your own perennials from seed this year?

This column, straight from the archives, will be of use to you! Sadly, not all seeds sprout as quickly and easily indoors as tomatoes do.

Some seeds can be a bit tricky to germinate, and we must go through extraordinary measures to get them to sprout. In the grand scheme of things, you will learn that this is actually a good thing.

Take the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) for example, and imagine what would happen if this late bloomer dropped its seed on the ground in October and the seed came up immediately? Likely, the seedlings would be so small and tender that they would not survive the winter.

On the other hand, if germination occurred in early spring (and it does!), success could almost be guaranteed.

The Cardinal Flower, along with many other native plants, has a built-in dormancy that is broken only by a period of moist-cold. Until "winter" has passed — either for real or simulated by us, these plants will simply not sprout. In addition to Cardinal Flower, Columbine, Delphinium, Gas Plant, Great Lobelia, Lupine, Iris, Monkshood, Border Phlox, Primrose, Purple Coneflower and probably more that I am unaware of, all benefit from what is called "stratification." The term, which admittedly sounds a bit intimidating, refers to the practice of "stratifying," or storing seeds in layers alternating with moisture-holding material and exposing them to cold temperatures.

This can be accomplished both indoors and out, and I will go through the pros and cons of each.

No doubt the easiest way to expose seeds to a period of moist-cold is to sow them outdoors in the fall in a nursery bed or cold frame. They will go through the winter and when conditions are right (cross your fingers!) germinate neatly in their rows.

But because you are outside, seeds can sometimes disappear thanks to ants, rodents and birds. Weeds can also pop up in the seed bed, making it hard to tell which plant is which!

The elements can likewise take their toll and unless the beds are protected, soil can either dry out or get completely waterlogged.

Another way to stratify seeds outdoors is by using the milk-jug method. Taking a gallon size clear milk container and starting just below the handle, cut it almost all the way across.

If you begin just after the handle on one side and end up just before the handle on the other, you will make a hinge. Punch a few drainage holes in the bottom and a couple more on the sides, up and down from the cut so that you can "twist-tie" the jug shut after you are done.

Fill the bottom half with well-moistened seed starting mix and plant the seeds according to the directions on the packet — if they are tiny don't cover; simply press them into the soil. Connect the two halves of the jug with twist ties (or just use duct tape) and label with pencil.

Keep the cap off to provide ventilation, then place in a spot protected from hard winds. As seedlings emerge in the spring you can flip back the top on nice days, but remember to replace each night and water as needed.

If you prefer to start your seedlings indoors you can mimic winter by placing your seeds in the refrigerator to "chill." Don't put them in there in their seed packets, though, since they must also be kept moist.

If you have enough room in the refrigerator, you can simply sow them in their flats, cover the flat with a loose plastic bag and place it inside for the recommended length of time, usually anywhere from one to three months. Afterwards, set them out to germinate as you normally would, with supplemental light and bottom heat (in other words, fake spring this time around!).

Most folks don't have a spare refrigerator to fill up with seedling flats. In this case put a small amount of moist seed-starting medium in a tiny plastic bag and sprinkle in the seeds.

After "winter" has elapsed, sprinkle the contents on to the top of moistened soil in your container and firm down. Large seeds can be covered with an additional sprinkling of growing medium. Proceed as above to promote germination.

If you plan to order perennial seeds by mail, do so soon, so that you can stratify and have them sprout at the normal time. This may sound tricky, but it's really pretty simple, and the pay-off is lots of new plants for your perennial border!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

WE'RE ALL EARS

Questions? Comments? Story Ideas? Let us know how we're doing.

Your opinion is something we always want to hear. Call or contact us via email journalregister@turley.com.

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A Turley Publications, Inc. Community Newspaper

Letters to the Editor

Seniors give thanks

To the editor,
On behalf of the seniors in Palmer, we would like to thank all of the merchants, and everyone who helped making and passing out the thoughtful Christmas bags to us.

**Thank you all,
G. David Bishop
Recipient**



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Female Bufflehead

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who along with his wife, participated in the Allen Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 16.

One unexpected species they saw were three female buffleheads at the Springfield Reservoir.

The bufflehead is a small duck about 14 inches long. It has a distinct, large rounded head.

The male has a white wedge behind its black head. The male also has white flanks and breast. The female is gray brown with a small patch of white behind the eye.

They are diving ducks and feed on mollusks, fish, snails and crustaceans. They summer on wooded lakes, rivers and winter on lakes and coastal waters.

The female lays eight to ten ivory to buff eggs in a tree cavity or nest box. There courtship begins in January and these ducks show a high level of aggression during that time.

Buffleheads are generally silent. However, the female makes guttural sounds during courtship.

Bird count

In his email, the Brimfield resident said he did his first Allen Bird Club count in the late 1970s. He said, "We have been covering the town of Ludlow, excluding the Westover Conservation Area covered by others, since 1989. The club's count circle center is in Springfield and includes adjacent towns.

He also said, "We had an excellent day weather wise, but the songbirds were hard to come by. With all the water ice free, we had high number of Canada geese (93), common mergansers (170, mostly males) and mallard (115). The common mergansers and many of the mallards were at the Springfield Reservoir."

He reported 20 ring-necked ducks at a pond near the Ludlow Country Club was another unexpected species in the count. In all, they had 32 species on their list, slightly more than the average of 29 species. Following the time in the field, the participants held a zoom meeting to discuss the results. No one mentioned seeing any winter finches i.e. redpoll, siskin or evening grosbeak.

Large flock of Canada geese

Recently, I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a cornfield in Spencer. There must have been at least 100. I did not stop to take an accurate count, but it was the largest flock I've seen.

Christmas card count

Years ago, Thelma Crawford, told me she kept a Christmas card bird count every year. While she was alive, we would share our card counts. Often the bird fell into the unspecified species category. I wven received a Christmas card one year with a loon with an evergreen wreath around its neck. This was the first year I did not receive any Christmas cards with birds even one perched off in a distant tree in the background.

Suet feeder

I now have my suet feeder out all the time as I have not seen any sign of wandering black bears in awhile. I also feed a combination of mixed bird seed, black oil sunflowers and shelled peanuts, which I mix together to put out daily. I have the usual juncos, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays, mourning doves and of course, squirrels. I have not seen the cardinal pair yet, but then I don't have a lot of time to spend watching my feeders.

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.

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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:
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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.

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BUSINESS

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

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

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

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Consider becoming an organ donor in the new year

SPRINGFIELD – Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions.

"Every nine minutes a new person is added to the national transplant wait list, which is already overcrowded with more than 100,000 men, women and children waiting for a lifesaving organ. Over 40,000 transplants were performed in 2022, a record year for transplants in the United States, but many more people could benefit from a lifesaving organ transplant," said Dr. Kenneth McPartland, Medical Director, Transplant Division, Baystate Health, in a press release.

Making your wishes known is easy. If you would like to become a donor, your wishes can be indicated on your driver's license, or you can register online at www.donatelife.net/register.

While doing so, let your family know about your decision to become an organ donor so that they along with friends know and understand your wishes in advance.

There are many common misconceptions about donation that persist today.

Donate Life America offers the following facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or social status.

An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it.

"Deceased donors leave a legacy by giving the gift of life after they pass, but did you know that this gift can be given during your lifetime? As a living kidney donor, an individual can live a long and healthy life with one kidney while giving someone else a second chance at life," said Nancy Dias,

BSN, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Baystate Medical Center.

Baystate Medical Center offers many options in living kidney donation. The transplant program works closely with the National Kidney Registry as a Donor Care Center of Excellence to facilitate national exchanges or kidney swaps, as well as voucher donations.

Compatible and incompatible pairs can donate and receive kidneys with one of the many options available. Visit the NKR website for more information <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/>.

Baystate Transplant Program offers the only Transplant Services in western Massachusetts for adult patients requiring kidney transplantation. In 2023, Baystate has performed close to 70 kidney transplants, the most ever performed in a single year since the program started over 30 years ago.

The program has over 150 patients on the national transplant waiting list and is continuing to find ways to increase access to kidney transplantation.

Today, more and more people are making a difference in someone's life by becoming a living kidney donor to a patient on the Baystate Health waiting list, an alternative to waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor. More information about the process of living donation is available on the Baystate Health Transplant Program website at baystatehealth.org/transplant.

Transplant surgeons use the latest techniques, including minimally invasive surgery, so that patients experience a faster recovery and spend less time in the hospital. In addition to experienced surgeons, the Baystate Transplant Team includes nephrologists, nurse transplant coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, financial counselors, as well as administrative and clinical assistants to help guide patients through the process.

Living or deceased donor renal transplants are offered as treatment of end-stage renal disease.

Life is meant to be shared. It takes only five minutes to sign up as an organ donor at www.organ-donor.gov/sign-up.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Program at 413-794-2321 Option 2 and speak with the living donor coordinator or sign on to the Baystate Transplant website at baystatehealth.org/transplant for a confidential screening process.



Dr. Kenneth McPartland

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 5

FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS will be held today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to STEAM based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

SATURDAY STORY TIME will be held today from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room at the library. The program is recommended for ages three to six. Each week Ms. Katie will read a story and pair it with a craft or related activity. To request sign language interpretation or other accommodation for special needs for any program, people should call the Library Director at least two weeks before the program date at 978-355-2533 extension 101 or email jhood@barrelibrary.org.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

MEET AND GREET, a new program, begins today at starting 12:15 p.m. with Town Clerk Ellen Glidden. She can answer questions regarding voting, census, meeting notice information or any other questions people may have.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

TWEEN AND TEEN BOOKEND DECORATING will take place today from 6-7 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St. Barre in the multipurpose room. All materials are provided. In person registration at the library is required. There are 15 seats available.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS will resume tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. The next concert will be Saturday, May 18 at the Barre Town Hall. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, or call 978-257-1192 or show up at the Barre Town Hall, on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

BOOK SIGNING EVENT will take place today from 2-5 pm. at Barre Players Hall on Barre Common, 64 Common St. Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge will read from their new book, "Many Hands Make a Farm: 47 Years of Questioning Authority Feeding a Community, and Building an Organic Movement." In addition there will be music from groups they are part of and some special surprises. A potluck will follow. This special event will recognize the thousands of acts of thoughtfulness and learning that Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge have provided over the last 40 plus years through NOFA/Mass, the Barre Farmers Market, Circle of Song, Quabbin Community Band, annual plays at Quabbin Regional High School, Barre Players Theater, Many Hands Organic Farm, Many Hands Sustainability Center, meals at their table and more.

ENGLISH SOCIAL TEA, the first 250th Anniversary event, will be held today from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. Admission is free. Reservations are required by Friday, Jan. 5 by email at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com or by signing up at either the Barre Senior Center or Grand View Terrace. Snow date is Sunday, Jan. 21.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

MASS ADVANTAGE REPRESENTATIVE will be at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre today at 2 p.m. People in the special enrollment period may stop in and meet with the representative to ask questions.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

BREAKFAST WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT will take place today at 9 a.m. at the Barre

Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. The menu includes scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, toast and coffee. Sign up is required by Monday, Jan. 11 as seating is limited.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

SUPPORT GROUP for grandparent raising grandchildren will be held today from 9:30-11 a.m. at Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday of every month. People should call 508-796-1411 or email yiwfrycyouice@sevenhillsorg to register or for more information..

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

SOUP BAR will be held today at 11:45 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. People, who bring their favorite soup, will eat free. Those, who do not bring a soup, the cost of \$4 is due at the time of signing up.

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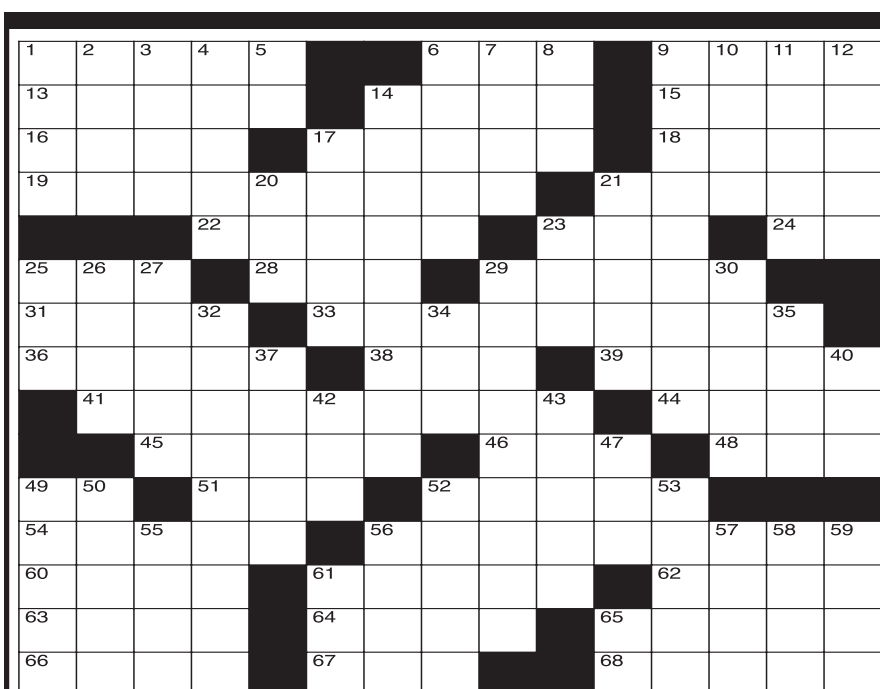
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David ____, US playwright

CLUES DOWN

38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

1. Curved segment in L.A.
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Overhang
7. Christmas and New Year's have them
8. Type of bulb
9. Lacking a plan
10. Tattle
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been canonized
14. Indicate time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Olaf
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. From which a later word is derived
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A way to dedicate
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large, influential bank
50. Portended
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Napoleonic Wars general
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Decorative scarf
65. Delaware

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Local artists rock open mic night



Dennis Doyle played guitar and sang at the open mic.



James Cook played guitar and sang on the stage at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center.



Amanda Meli hosted the event with help from Tony Valley.



Eric Troy came from Spencer to sing and promote his upcoming music releases.



Robin Duff sang for the first time last week.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão
In spite of technical difficulties, the audience was very excited to hear Jules sing.



In addition to playing guitar and singing, Bill Cole encouraged other performers not to be shy.



Jackie, age 6, with her mom, Chepina Rumsey, after playing Christmas carols on the piano.

OPEN MIC

cluding "Two Pints of Sierra Nevada" and "Get Out of Dodge."

Michaela Nelson then performed "Orange Show Speedway" by Lizzy McAlpine, followed by "We Used to Be Friends" by the Dandy Warhols.

Though Nelson hadn't prepared a third song, she elected to share an original song that she wrote when she was 16 years old, titled "Profound Fears". The song was one of the highlights of the evening, featuring lyrics that referred to some very relatable anxieties and loneliness.

Following Nelson was John Thorpe, who told of the history of "Nut Factory Shuffle", which was composed by Gil Anderson after observing patrons of a nut factory across from where he was busking. Thorpe then performed the plantation ballad "Follow the Drinking Gourd", and closed out his set with "Parting Grass".

In a break from the musical performances, Ernie Brooks held a spoken word reading of two short stories he had written, starting with "A Piece of Me".

Brooks followed this with "The NICU Calls", based on his experiences as an EMT in Worcester for three years. The story told of angels helping a team revive an infant patient, and it was left ambiguous whether the angels were apparitions or merely the narrator's interpretation of the medical technicians that helped to save the patient's life.

A performance by the usual closer, Michael Critelli, was followed by first-timer Robin Duff, who performed "Call Me When You're Sober" by Evanescence, "Titanium" by David Guetta, and "Roar" by Katy Perry.

A young girl named Jules then tried to perform but was setback by technical difficulties. Bill Cole took the stage instead, and then Jules returned to sing afterwards.

"It's a forum for people of varying talents, whether it's music, poetry, acting, magic," Haveles said. "It's an opportunity for them to perform before an audience, and the audience ranges from the performers themselves, to people generally interested in having a night out."

The Historical Cultural Center continues to hold open mics on the fourth Thursday of every month.

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BASKETBALL

Palmer mounts comeback to beat Pathfinder

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— After falling behind early in the first quarter, the Palmer Panthers boys basketball team responded by scoring 14 unanswered points and they coasted to a 53-37 non-league victory over the Pioneers in front of a capacity crowd inside the Pathfinder Tech gymnasium.

“This is a really big win for us because a lot of the kids know each other,” said Palmer first-year head coach Missy Rocker. “We also held them to less than 40 points, which is one of our team goals in every game. Whenever we’re able to do that, there is a very good chance that we’ll win the game.”

The Panthers headed into the new year with a 4-1 overall record.

The Pioneers (3-1) suffered their first loss of the regular season.

“Obviously, this wasn’t the result that we wanted, but I think we’re heading in the right direction,” said second-year Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. “You just have to give Palmer a lot of credit because they played an outstanding game against us tonight.”

The last meeting on the hardwood between the two high schools, which are separated by less than a mile, took place at Palmer High on February 17, 2021. The Panthers won that contest by 28 points.

Both head coaches are hoping that the series can continue during the next couple of years.

“It would be nice if we could continue playing Pathfinder in the future and make it more of a rivalry game,” Rocker said. “I think it’s a very good thing for the community.”

“This was a huge game for us,” Button said. “I’m really hoping that Palmer and Pathfinder Tech can play each other every year. It was a great environment tonight.”

A couple of the Panthers supporters who attended the road game were Palmer High School Principal Susan North and Athletic Director Matt Marciniac.

“The players have been working very hard

at practice, so it was fantastic for them to have a lot of support at tonight’s game.”

Rock-er added. “I’m hoping that we can keep building our fan support throughout the course of the regular season. The players really deserve it.”

Pathfinder Athletic Director Tyler Simons, along with several Palmer Police Officers, did an outstanding job of keep everything under control throughout the j.v. and varsity games.

It was a very memorable game for Palmer senior captains Andrew Menard and Shawn Troche.

“It was awesome getting an opportunity to play against Pathfinder for the first time,” said Troche, who scored all seven of his points during the third quarter. “When I was in the eighth grade, a couple of the Pathfinder players were my teammates on a Palmer Youth Basketball team. We won a championship title that season.”

Menard, who was a force at the

defensive end, finished the contest with five points.

Palmer freshman Taydem Haley, who’s also a captain, led the way offensively in the road victory with a game-high 16 points, which was also his season-high. He has scored ten or more points in four of the first five games.

“Taydem has been a catalyst offensively for us so far this season,” Rocker said. “He has been consistently scoring in double digits. That’s what we’re expecting from him.”

The seven Pathfinder seniors, who were hoping to celebrate a victory against Palmer, are Trevor Allard, Hunter Griswold, Richie Gula, Branden Hnitechki, Luke Magnus, Adrien Moskovitz, and Adam Slonka.

The home team raced out to a 5-0 lead less than two minutes into the contest.

The Pioneers got on the scoreboard on the game’s first possession following a Slonka (10 points) old fashion three point play. Then following a steal by Gula, who led the home team with 12 points, Mitchell (3 points) hit a jumper in the lane.

A pair of inside hoops by Palmer sophomore Gavin Smola (8 points), which were sandwiched around a made free throw from sophomore Dylan Doherty (5 points) tied the score for the first and only time.

Taydem Haley dribbles toward the hoop.

BASKETBALL | page 8

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Cali Zielinski passes the ball away.

Late run sinks Mustangs

MONSON – Last Thursday night, SICS made a late 12-4 run that would ultimately prove costly for host Monson girls basketball as the Mustangs fell 49-44. In the

loss, Olivia Chrzan, who reached 1,000 points last year, led all scorers with 25 points. Emily Provost added eight points. The Mustangs fell to 1-4 on the season.



Olivia Chrzan goes for shot near the hoop.



Chelsea Hull keeps the ball moving around the perimeter.



Emily Provost gets the open layup.



Aniah Myrie dribbles toward the hoop.



Abdell Jenkins gets ready to shoot.



Angel Torres goes for a layup.



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw.



Adrien Moskovitz takes a shot.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Goalie Ethan LaPlante reins in the puck.

Rockets fall in close match with Minnechaug

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN— Auburn High School is one of the six non-league

opponents from Central Massachusetts listed on the Minnechaug Regional hockey schedule.

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ICE HOCKEY

Amherst ice-hockey improves to perfect 7-0

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—Amherst began 2024 as the only undefeated high school hockey team in Western Massachusetts.

The Hurricanes, who co-op with Hopkins Academy and Pathfinder Tech, closed out 2023 with a perfect 7-0 record following a hard fought 5-2 victory over Fay Division rival Agawam at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Saturday night.

“I would’ve been satisfied with a 4-3 record at this point of the season. Being 7-0 is a gift,” said Amherst head coach Mike Rousseau. “We still haven’t played a full game and there are a lot of very good teams left on our schedule. It was a hard-fought battle tonight, and we

just made a few more plays than they did.”

One of the Hurricanes upcoming opponents is Easthampton, who entered the final weekend of 2023 with a 6-0 record. Easthampton’s winning streak came to an end following a 4-2 loss to Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester, last Saturday night.

The last time Amherst had an undefeated record on New Year’s Day was during the 2018-19 regular season. They won their first nine games of that season before losing back-to-back games against West Springfield and Minnechaug Regional in the middle of January.

At that time, Amherst had a co-op with Palmer High School. That relationship ended a couple of years ago and Palmer was replaced by Pathfinder Tech.

“When we lost the co-op with Palmer, we reached out to Pathfinder,” Rousseau said. “We have a couple of players from Pathfinder on this year’s team. They’ve fit right in.”

One of the Pathfinder Tech players listed on the Amherst hockey roster is senior center Ethan Nompleggi-Hawk, who’s an assistant captain.

“These guys welcomed me to their hockey team last year, and it has been an awesome experience,” said Nompleggi-Hawk, who was credited with an assist in last Saturday’s game against Agawam. “We’re a very close team this year. We’re like one big family.”

The other student-athlete from Pathfinder Tech listed on the Hurricanes varsity roster is sophomore Ethan Mooney, who’s a defenseman.

an. Brandyn Wilson, who’s a freshman at Pathfinder, is a member of the Amherst junior varsity hockey team.

“I’ve been trying my best to get more kids from Pathfinder to come play for this hockey team,” Nompleggi-Hawk added. “Coach Rousseau is the best hockey coach that I’ve ever played for.”

Agawam, who also lost to Amherst, 3-2 in overtime, at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College Campus on December 14, entered the new year with a 4-4 overall record.

“Frustrating is probably the best way to describe tonight’s game,” said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. “A lot of things just

ICE HOCKEY | page 8

Offense falters in loss to Falcons

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday, Tantasqua girls basketball fell to Minnechaug 36-30. It was a rare power outage for the Warriors, which led in the third quarter before giving up the lead. Maya Gidopoulos had 10 points while Gabby Scanlon added eight points. The Warriors are now 4-2 on the season.



May Gidopoulos looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.



Sophie Webb makes a pass on the run.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Nikki Vejak makes her way down the right side of the court.



Sophie Ezzo makes a pass inside the paint.



Riley West tries to hold on to the ball.

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Athlete of the Week

Ethan Nompleggi
Pathfinder

Nompleggi is an assistant captain for the Amherst hockey team, which co-ops with Pathfinder. He had an assist in a win over Agawam last Saturday. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed League

PALMER – The Thursday Night Mixed League met for their final league night of 2023.

The standings as of Dec. 14 have Team Six as the #1 seed at 34-22. In second place, Team One has a record of 31.5 wins and 24.5 losses. Team Three is in third place with a record of 30.5 wins and 25.5 losses. Team Two is in fourth at 27-29, Team Five in fifth (23-33) and Team

Four at 22-34.

Every bowler was ready to finish off strong heading into the new year.

One match featured Team Five bowling against Team One. In game one, Team Five was victorious over Team One by a score of 433-398. Joe Danek of Team Five began the night with an opening game of 104.

In game two, Team One was the winner of the game by a score of 404-378. In game three, Team Five won the last game 409-383. Team Five won total pinfall with a final score of 1220-1185.

Another match took place between Team Three and Team Six. In game one, Team Three was the winner by a score of 401-398. In game two, Team Three won 419-389. In game three, Team Three won the third and final game 422-401.

Team Three won total pinfall by a final score of 1242-1188.

Team Two bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 430-401. The final two bowlers on Team Four, John and Nick started off their night strong with 108 and 100.

In game two, Team Four won again by a score of 389-374. In game three, Team Four went for the clean sweep and won the last game 417-387.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1236-1162.

The Thursday night Mixed League will continue their season into the new year and will return to Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes on the first Thursday of 2024.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 N. Main St. Reach the alleys by calling 413-289-0013.

T-Birds fall hard against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-10-3-1) had few answers for a confident opposing attack, falling 8-2 to the Providence Bruins (17-12-2-2) on Saturday night in front of a sold-out MassMutual Center crowd of 6,793.

The Bruins were opportunistic off a self-inflicted T-Birds mistake to jump to a 1-0 lead at 3:44 of the opening period. Will Bitten directed a pass back toward the Springfield bench, where a pair of defenders were in the process of a line change. Out of the confusion, Anthony Richard jumped on the loose puck and quickly snapped a wrist through Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the game's opening goal.

Rookie Bruins blueliner Ethan

Ritchie would add his first career AHL goal just 60 seconds later, jumping up into a 3-on-2 rush and ripping a shot through Zherenko at 4:44 off a drop pass from Jesper Boqvist. Providence also made life difficult on the T-Birds' offense, as the Springfield attack mustered only five shots in the opening 20 minutes.

After going unsuccessful on a power play early in the second, the T-Birds saw a familiar bout of adversity when Justin Brazeau whipped a turnaround wrist through Zherenko at 6:21 to make it 3-0 for Providence.

The T-Birds gave the sellout crowd a glimpse of another comeback bid when Jakub Vrana extended his point streak to four games

with a beautiful wrist shot under the crossbar behind Brandon Bussi, cutting the lead to 3-1 just 18 seconds after the Brazeau goal.

The two-goal deficit proved only temporary, though, as Jesper Boqvist scored on the front end of a four-minute power play, one of his three points on the night, at 8:40 to make it 4-1.

Zach Bolduc had the opportunity to give the T-Birds another jolt when he was awarded a penalty shot with Springfield down a man at the 10:46 mark. However, Bussi had the answer with the leg pad, shutting the rookie's bid down and keeping Providence ahead by three.

The Bruins rewarded their goalie in kind with back-to-back

power-play goals from John Farnacci at 11:31 and Trevor Kuntar at 15:11, upping the margin to 6-1 before Bitten finally got Springfield on the board again with a power-play tip-in at 19:27 of period two.

Patrick Brown would add to the Providence lead with a rush up the left side at 7:17 of the third, and Jayson Megna capped off the scoring by netting the first shorthanded goal against Springfield all season at 18:00.

The T-Birds finish up the homestand as they begin a 3-in-3 weekend against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

ICE HOCKEY | from page 7

didn't go our way. My kids battled very hard, and they showed a lot of pride."

Senior Peyton Buffum, who's the Brownies captain, had a couple of shots on goal during the first ten minutes of last Saturday's contest.

The Hurricanes took a 1-0 lead at the 10:23 mark of the first period when senior Josh Goodhind stole the puck at the red line before firing a wide open shot into the net past Agawam junior goalie Frankie DiSanti (20 saves) for an unassisted goal.

The second period, which took about 40 minutes in real time to complete, was action packed.

Less than a minute into the period, Agawam tied the score on a power-play goal by junior Evan Connery, which was assisted by senior Drew Scherban.

A couple of minutes later, Amherst junior goalie Spencer McDonald (18 saves) was forced to leave the game because of an issue with his equipment. He was replaced in goal by sophomore Jason Kim, who didn't have to make any saves during the two minutes that he was in the game.

A power-play goal by senior Skyler Ferro gave the Hurricanes the lead back with 9:35 remaining on the score-

board clock. The go-ahead goal was assisted by senior Liam Flynn, who also scored a goal and had an assist in the first meeting of the season against Agawam.

The Brownies, who don't co-op with another high school, tied the score for the second time 37 seconds later.

The tying goal was scored by junior Landon Ashford and sophomore Thomas Connery was credited with the assist.

It was Ashford's second goal of the season against Amherst.

Agawam was never able to take the lead, as Amherst entered the final 15 minutes of the contest holding a 4-2 advantage.

Sophomore Ben Remensnyder netted the go-ahead goal at the 8:48 mark of the second period.

Junior Jack Dyjach, who assisted on Remensnyder's goal, added a goal to his tally a couple of minutes later. Nompleggi-Hawk assisted on the Hurricanes fourth goal of the game.

Amherst put the game out of reach when senior Cooper Beckwith scored a power-play goal in the middle of the third period.

The Hurricanes outshot the Brownies, 25-20, in the final meeting of the season between the two squads.

BASKETBALL | from page 1



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shawn Troche goes for an easy layup.



Gavin Smola holds the ball before going for a shot.



Richie Gula tries to send a shot over the defense.

With 4:55 left in the opening quarter, a Haley steal and lay-up gave the Panthers the lead and they never looked back after that.

Palmer entered the second stanza with a 14-5 lead following back-to-back lay-ups by sophomore Angel Torres (8 points) and a Haley coast-to-coast lay-up.

A little more than a minute into the second quarter, the Panthers were only trailing by three points (14-11). Gula buried a 3-pointer from the left side and Moskovitz (5 points) was fouled while making a lay-up. He added the bonus free throw completing the old fashion three point play.

The Panthers closed out the first half with a 13-4 run and headed into the locker room holding a 27-15 lead.

A Troche 3-pointer from the left corner increased the Panthers lead to 31-17 three minutes into the third quarter.

"I didn't score any points in the first half, so it felt very good after I made the 3-pointer in the third quarter," said Troche, who joined the varsity basketball team as a sophomore. "I also scored a few more points, which helped us keep the momentum."

A put-back hoop by Palmer sophomore Stephen Fredette capped off a 9-0 run and it pushed the Panthers lead to over twenty points (40-19) for the first time.

The Panthers outscored the Panthers, 17-9 over the final eight minutes of the contest, but they couldn't get any closer than 16 points.

The two boys' basketball teams are scheduled to meet again down the street at Palmer High School during the 2024-25 regular season.

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Owen Stattenfield flicks the puck away ahead of pressure.



Ethan McDermott makes his way up the ice.



Nathan Dono turns play around.

ROCKETS | from page 7

The Rockets, who co-op with both Shepherd Hill, and Tantasqua Regional, entered last Wednesday afternoon's contest with a perfect 4-0 overall record. The Falcons players enjoyed the bus ride back to Wilbraham following a thrilling 3-2 non-league victory at the Horgan Skating Arena in Auburn.

"They're a quality hockey team and this is probably one of the best wins of my coaching career," said Minnechaug head coach Kyle Bousquet. "We put a lot of pressure on them, and we capitalized on their mistakes. It was a great all-around team effort."

The Falcons (4-1), who also defeated the Rockets, 2-1, a year ago, won their fourth consecutive game since a season opening loss to Longmeadow.

One of the key players in the Falcons victory against the Rockets was senior goalie Gage Vedovelli, who made a total of 52 saves. He also made 39 saves in the Falcons 2-1 win against West Springfield at the beginning of the regular season.

"Gage played a phenomenal game today, along with our defensemen," Bousquet said. "He made a couple of huge saves during the third period."

The Falcons senior-laden defensive unit is led by Derek Semanie, Tim Harrigan, Mike Roy, and Jake Klakotskiy, who returned to action after missing a few games with an injury.

Freshmen defensemen Cam Faneuff and Jameson Murray also played in their first varsity games against Auburn.

Eleven of the players listed on the Auburn varsity hockey roster attend Tantasqua. They are senior Gabe Rice, sophomore Nathan Dono, senior Sam Panek, senior Peter Casine, junior Austin Dono, who's an alternate captain, senior Owen Stattenfield, sophomore Jake Tully, sophomore Max Sealey, senior Emmet O'Brien, senior captain Braeden Rich, and sophomore starting goalie Ethan LaPlante, who's also an alternate captain.

"This is probably the most players that we've had from Tantasqua during the six years that we've been co-oping with them," said Glen Bombard, who has been the Auburn hockey coach for the past 34 years. "It gives those kids an opportunity to play hockey and it also helps our program."

LaPlante (6 saves), who's one of the best goalies in the Quinn Conference, didn't see as much action as Vedovelli did.

The Rockets outshot the Falcons, 18-3, during the first period, but they were trailing 1-0 entering the second.

"We just ran into a hot goaltender," Bombard said. "He just stood on his head in today's game, which was the difference. This is our first loss of the season, but we'll be fine. We weren't going to go 20-0."

Minnechaug senior Gabe Tassinari scored a short-handed goal, giving the visiting team an early 1-0 lead with 11:18 remaining in the opening period.

It looked like the Rockets had tied the score on a goal by freshman Logan Rada just as the power play had expired. The goal was disallowed by the referees because the net had come loose from its pegs prior to the shot attempt.

The Falcons also killed another power play in the first period, which was the only other penalty committed by either team for the remainder of the contest.

"We played a game earlier this season where we only had one penalty and the other team had two," Bousquet said. "I would rather play a game without very many penalties than have a game where they call every little thing. It also allows you to play all your lines."

A little more than five minutes into the second period, Auburn scored the equalizer on a goal by junior Sullivan O'Brien. The game tying goal was assisted by senior Erik Dupuis, and Emmet O'Brien.

The Falcons retook the lead again two minutes later when Tassinari fired a shot from the right circle for another unassisted goal.

Then a tip-in goal from senior Tristen Hottin at the 10:32 mark, gave Minnechaug a 3-1 advantage.

Junior Brayden O'Sullivan and Klakotskiy were credited with the assists on the Falcons third goal.

Rich scored the only goal of the final period, which cut the Rockets deficit to 3-2 with a little less than ten minutes remaining in regulation. Austin Dono was credited with the assist.

With 2:45 left on the scoreboard clock, Auburn had a golden opportunity to score the tying goal, but a shot attempt sailed wide of the net.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads, but they could possibly meet again in the Division 2 state tournament.

Police/Fire

NFPA warns against Christmas tree home fires

More than one-third (34%) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January according to data collected by the National Fire Protection Association.

With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the NFPA strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk."

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest statistics from NFPA, there was an estimated annual average of 150 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in one civilian death, 10 civilian injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017 and 2021. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration at www.nfpa.org.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

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

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email journalregister@turley.com.

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Fire Logs

Bondsville

For the period Dec 26 to Jan 1, Bondsville fire responded to 4 calls.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

10:48 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for a motor vehicle accident. The department returned to service at 11:28 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

6:22 p.m., the department responded to High Street for a smoke detector activation. The department returned to service at 6:44 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

6:58 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for a smell of smoke in the building. The department returned to service at 7:46 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

9:36 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for a smell of smoke in the building. The department returned to service at 11:32 p.m.

Palmer

Palmer Fire Department also responded to three Medical Assist calls for the week.

Dec. 29

5:07 a.m. CO incident, Beacon Drive, Back in service at 6:16 a.m.
10:50 a.m. Detector activation, North Main Street, Back in service at 11:11 a.m.

3:12 p.m. Overheated motor, High Street (Thorndike), Back in service at 3:39 p.m.

Dec. 30

8:27 a.m. CO incident, Commercial Street, Back in service at 9:42 a.m.

08:38 a.m. Motor vehicle accident (no injury), Mass Pike, Back in service at 9:07 a.m.

Dec. 31

8:36 p.m. CO detector activation, Pine Street (Thorndike), Back in service at 9:18 p.m.

Jan. 1

7:54 a.m. Detector activation, Wright Street, Back in service at 8:21 a.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls for the week of Dec.24-30.

On Sunday, Dec. 24 the Department responded to a smoke scare/odor of smoke on Laurel Road.

On Tuesday, Dec. 26 the Department provided medical assist with EMS crew on Palmer Road.

On Wednesday, Dec. 27 the Department responded to an EMS call for a motor vehicle accident with injury on Overlook Drive.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, the Department was dispatched and canceled en route to a call on Chudy Street.

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Saturday, January 20

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Introduction To Foraging:
Rachel Goclawski

Rachel Goclawski, forager and certified educator, State-Certified in Mushrooming, is a Programmer for the Museum of Natural History, Sudbury Valley Trustees, New England Botanic Garden and other organizations. She is a contributing writer for The Cook's Cook: Now Forager magazine and has been featured in The Boston Globe, WBZ, Edible Worcester and Baystate Parent magazines, other news, and documentaries and print.

Saturday, February 24

1-2 p.m.
Geological History of Wales and Vicinity
Professor Richard Little

Professor Richard Little will present a program on the geological "deep history" of Wales and vicinity. Included will be a story of the birth and death of the Pangea Supercontinent including continental collisions and great rift faults that create the Connecticut River Valley region, plus dinosaur footprints, glaciers and Lake Hitchcock. He will bring examples of the rare Jurassic armored mud balls, unique to Franklin County.

Saturday, March 23

1-2 p.m.
Spring Butterflies
Dave Small

Dave grew up living at the US Army Corps of Engineer's Tully Dam in West Royalston, Ma. Which was managed by his father. Dave is president of the 260 member Athol Bird and nature Club and currently the Director of the Millers River Environmental Center. Dave shares his passion for Birds, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Herps, and most recently moths through workshops, lectures, and field trips around New England.

Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary is located at 20 Peck Rd., Wales, Mass.

Quabbin Visitor Center offers outdoor programs

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free outdoor programs now through March.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events and follow the link in each program description.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. For more information email Quabbin-Visitor.Center@mass.gov.

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

Join DCR staff for a 4.4-mile lollipop loop hike in the Ware River Watershed on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Participants will meet at the Mass Central Rail Trail parking area located on Route 122 in the town of Rutland. The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>

Explore the Road to Dana Common

On Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. explore the road that leads to Dana Common. Along the old road to Dana Common are foundations, walls and trees that tell the story of the towns now long gone.

Join DCR staff on this 1.8 mile (3.6 round trip) hike to Dana Common and discover what life was like in the Quabbin Valley and how the landscape has changed since the reservoir was built 84 years ago. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and a snack.

Participants will meet at Gate 40 on Route 32A in Petersham. Dogs are not allowed.

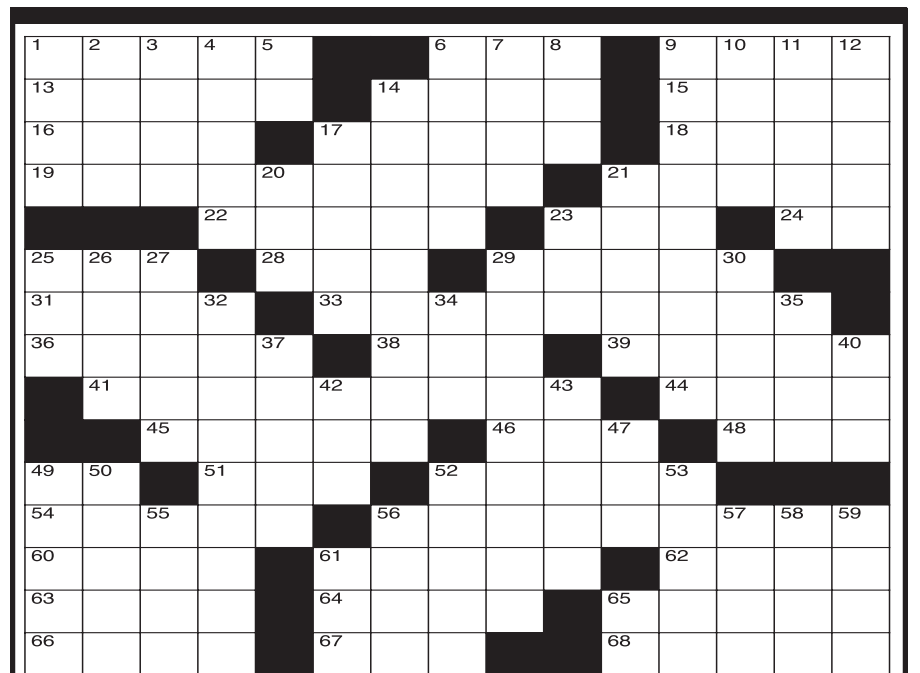
Rutland Prison Camp

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison?

Join DCR staff as they explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment at Rutland Prison Camp on Sunday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ticks may be active, so protection is advised. The terrain is uneven.

Participants should be in the main parking lot of Rutland Prison Camp, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bleated
- 6. Snake-like fish
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Russian-American violinist
- 14. Wendy's founder Thomas
- 15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 16. Negatives
- 17. Rescued
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks to
- 21. Island nation native
- 22. Trade
- 23. Detergent brand
- 24. Famed NY Giant
- 25. Before
- 28. Split pulses
- 29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
- 31. Body part
- 33. American state
- 36. David __, US playwright

- 38. Move one's head slightly
- 39. Secret rendezvous
- 41. Improved
- 44. A place to exercise
- 45. 18-year astronomical period
- 46. Automobile
- 48. You can take it
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of an animal
- 52. Short-billed rails
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Shameless and undisguised
- 60. Horizontal passage into a mine
- 61. Adult males
- 62. Fail to entertain
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. City in north-central Utah
- 65. Southern U.S.
- 66. German river
- 67. Oxygen
- 68. Make law

- 1. Curved segment
- 2. Wings
- 3. From pentane (Chemistry)
- 4. Gradually gets into
- 5. Commercial document (abbr.)
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Christmas and New Year's have them
- 8. Type of bulb
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Tattle
- 11. Rockers like it "heavy"
- 12. One who's been canonized
- 14. Indicate time and place
- 17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
- 20. The voice of Olaf
- 21. Fragmented rock
- 23. They __
- 25. Master of Philosophy
- 26. Backside
- 27. Landmark house

- in L.A.
- 29. An act of undue intimacy
- 30. From which a later word is derived
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A way to dedicate
- 43. Challenges
- 47. British Air Aces
- 49. Large, influential bank
- 50. Portended
- 52. Cavalry-sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Napoleonic Wars general
- 56. Italian Seaport
- 57. Hip joint
- 58. __ Clapton, musician
- 59. Insect repellent
- 61. Decorative scarf
- 65. Delaware

CLUES DOWN

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

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Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am - 4pm • Sat. 10am - 2pm

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Public notices

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



Town of Warren, MA Town Accountant JOB POSTING

Full-Time – Town Benefited Position

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant oversees the proper expenditure of all Town funds and the proper recording and maintenance of financial records, approves all financial payments and audits financial records and transactions. The Town Accountant is responsible for maintaining and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her direction and control. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Recommended minimum qualifications include graduate of a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in finance or accounting with three years of related work experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge of the position. Preferred experience with Vadar accounting module and municipal accounting. The anticipated salary range for this position is between \$56,000.00 to \$66,000.00 based on relative education and professional work experience. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until **January 16, 2024**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Town of Monson Legal Notice
In accordance with Section 7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing, **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:10 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson to review a petition for Site Plan Approval from Ryan & Lindsay Richard. The petitioner proposes to reuse the existing building as a childcare facility located at 17 Palmer Road, Map 112, Parcel 92A. The property is zoned General Commercial. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Planning Board Office and is available for viewing during regular office hours.
Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

TOWN OF WALES Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **January 11,**

2024, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at 6:00 PM, for a Notice of Intent filed by Dan Wilder, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, located at 30 Peck Rd., Wales, MA 01081, for a prescribed spring burn within the project site of Chapin Meadow. Please contact the Conservation Commission if you have any questions. 413-245-7571 x101 or conservation@townofwales.net
01/04/2024

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 003694 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:
Sherrie L. Blain; Richard Blain
And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):
Penny Mac Loan Services, LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 42 Washington

Street, given by Sherrie L Blain and Richard Blain to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation, dated October 15, 2021, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24186, Page 523, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **February 5th, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on December 22nd, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
01/04/2024

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. HD23A0152AD In the matter of: Jaxson Dominick Daley CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Eric Duval
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by:
Angela Edgerton of Monson, MA Daniel Edgerton of Monson, MA
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Jaxson Dominick Edgerton
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 02/12/2024.**

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/21, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF PALMER

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The Town of Palmer is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time position of Inspector of Buildings/ Building Commissioner. Must have certification as a local inspector by the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards and obtain Certification as an Inspector of Buildings/ Building Commissioner within the time limit allotted in Massachusetts State Building Code 780 CMP Section 110.R7. For a full job description please visit www.townofpalmer.com/jobs. Qualified and interested applicants should submit their cover letter and resume to Robert Reed reed@townofpalmer.com.

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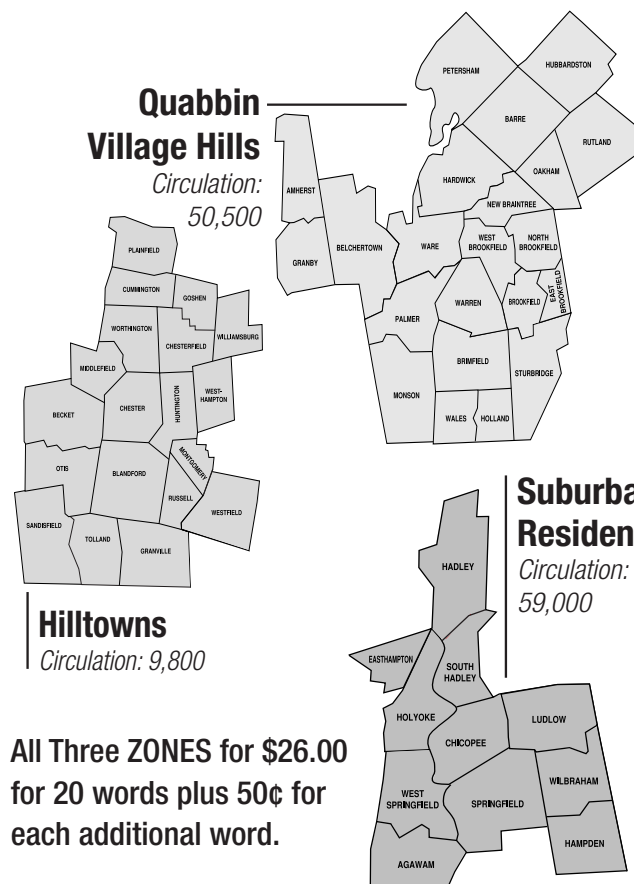
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O B I T U A R I E S

Brenda Mae (Quale) Cole, 75

PALMER — Brenda Mae (Quale) Cole, 75, passed away on Dec. 28, 2023. She was the daughter of the late Harold and Olga (Glittre) Quale, she was born Dec. 27, 1948, in Willmar, MN. She was baptized at the Spring Creek Lutheran Church in Kerkhoven, MN and confirmed at the Vanje Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN. She spent her early childhood on the family farm in Kerkhoven Township, Swift County. The family moved to the town of Willmar in 1956. She graduated from Willmar High School in 1966.

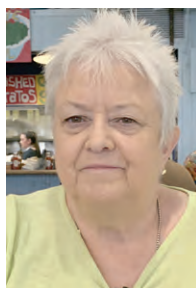
After completing high school, Brenda attended Concordia College where she met her husband, Wayne Cole. They were married in Willmar on August 9, 1969. After the birth of their son, Matthew, Brenda and Wayne moved to Palmer, MA. They were soon blessed with a second son, Justin.

Brenda finished her degree at Westfield State University. For the next 40 years, Brenda worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts within the Department

of Developmental Services. She worked in various positions culminating in Quality Enhancement Director for the DDS Central/West Regions. She was responsible for licensing providers of developmental disability services in the Central and Western area of Massachusetts.

Brenda was a renaissance woman who was never afraid to try anything. She built a 3-season porch for her mother-in-law in Three Rivers without any building experience. She researched and learned as she built. The porch is still in use today. Unusual for her generation, she had two tattoos. One was “Kijierste”, the name of her father’s mother, Christine, called her. It means “cherished”. The other is of the GPS coordinates of the farm she grew up on.

Brenda enjoyed writing, birding, cooking and photography. She exhibited her photos at UMASS and at the Southbridge



Art Association. She was well-versed in art history and was an avid art collector. She was an accomplished conversationalist. If she didn’t understand something, ran across a word she didn’t know or was just curious, she’d google it on the spot. Also, she was an active member of the Palmer Conservation Commission. But, above all, she enjoyed attending her grandchildren’s baseball and basketball games and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her two sons, Matthew Cole and Justin Cole, her two grandchildren Tyler Cole and Madison Cole, and her partner, Sandra McConathy all of Palmer, MA.

Calling hours will be Mon., Jan. 8, 2024, at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. A graveside service will follow at Four Corners Cemetery in Three Rivers.

Russell C. Marier, Sr.

PALMER — Russell C. Marier, Sr., passed away peacefully at The Veterans’ Home of Holyoke on Dec. 27, 2023, at the age of 87. Russell was born in Three Rivers to the late Felix and Florence (Roberts) Marier on Jan. 11, 1936. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and was a lifetime member of the Amvets in Three Rivers. Russell, a lifetime resident of Palmer, was not only a carpenter/foreman for HP Cummings Construction for many years, but also owned Marier’s Bait & Tackle and ran Marier’s Flea Market for over 40 years. When he wasn’t spending time with friends and family, he could be found crocheting, building things, playing bingo, scratching his weekly scratch tickets, but only the “easy kind”, or spending quality time with his great-grandson, Alex Russell

Czech.

Russell is survived by his daughter, Rosemarie Swiechowicz and her husband Ross, of South Carolina. He will also be missed by sister, Ruth Solglia of Natick and his granddaughter, Lori Czech and her husband Jason of West Brookfield. Russell will be mourned by his great-grandson, Alex Russell Czech. He will also be remembered by his grandchildren: Elizabeth Marier of Westfield and Jessica Gagnon of North Carolina. In addition to his parents, Russell is predeceased by the mother of his children and ex wife, Catherine Marier (2023), his children, Wendy Dion in 2017, Florence Marier in 2005, Russell C. Marier, Jr. in 2013 and Donald



Marier in 2011 and his brother Robert Marier (2005) sisters; Regina Schlesinger (2020) and Olive St. Germain(2022).

A calling hour will be held on Sat., Jan. 13 from 9:00 am - 10:00 am followed by a service of remembrance at 10:00 am at the Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 N. Main St., Palmer. Burial with military honors will immediately follow services in St. Anne’s Cemetery in Three Rivers. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Russell’s honor to the Veteran’s Home of Holyoke’s Activity Fund, 110 Cherry Street, Holyoke, MA, 01040. For more information visit www.beersandstory.com

DEATH NOTICES

Brenda Mae (Quale) Cole, 75
Died on Dec. 28, 2023
Services on Jan. 8, 2023
Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home

Russell C. Marier, Sr.
Died Dec. 27, 2023
Services on Jan. 13, 2023
Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

BBB warns of prescription medication scam

When demand for something exceeds its supply, scammers are quick to take advantage the Better Business Bureau warned in a press release.

It’s happened recently with popular toys, baby formula, and even rental cars. Now, it’s happening with Ozempic, a prescription-only drug for people with Type 2 diabetes.

Scammers are aware of the drug’s popularity for weight loss, and they’re targeting folks looking for a convenient way to purchase it. Here’s what you need to know to stay alert.

How this scam works

You are looking online for a pharmacy that carries Ozempic and are pointed to a website claiming to sell the drug at a reduced price. You may find the website through a web search, an ad, or even a friend’s post on social media.

The website claims that buying Ozempic is easy, and you can save a few hundred dollars by purchasing it online versus through a doctor. All you must do is make a payment through a digital wallet app like CashApp or Zelle (CashApp and Zelle are BBB Accredited Businesses as of this writing in December 2023).

Many such websites don’t even ask for a prescription before “selling” the drug, but some sites work harder to appear that you are dealing with a legitimate pharmaceutical company. One consumer reported having a “tele-consult” with a “doctor” before paying to receive Ozempic.

The consumer told BBB: “I have not received the drug. When I reach out to customer service, they send automated responses. They refuse to

refund my money, even though they claim not to know when or if the drug will be shipped.”

In some versions of the scam, the con artists claim to encounter issues when shipping the drug, all of which require additional fees. For example, after your initial payment, scammers may insist that you need to pay for insurance or a discreet shipping fee to get the package past customs.

If you refuse, scammers may resort to threats. For example, they may claim to report the transaction to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and you’ll be held responsible for buying illegal drugs without a prescription.

In reality, scammers never planned on sending you anything at all. Any problems encountered when “shipping” the medication is only a trick to get even more money from you. If you give in and use a digital payment app to send funds, your money is gone for good.

How to avoid similar scams

Don’t buy medicines from foreign countries. The FDA warns consumers that non-FDA-approved products sold by internet pharmacies in other countries can be downright dangerous.

Avoid risking your health and getting scammed by sticking with pharmacies based in the country where you live.

Don’t buy prescription-only medications from a seller who doesn’t ask you for a prescription. This is a huge red flag and one of the biggest signs that you are dealing with a scammer.

Even if they are selling the drug, offering it to consumers without a prescription is illegal.

Watch out for unreasonably low prices. This is another red flag.

Ask yourself, why is a vendor offering a high-demand, name-brand prescription at such a low price? It’s probably a scam. After paying, you could end up with counterfeit products or no products at all.

Don’t use digital wallet apps to pay for a prescription. A reputable pharmacy won’t ask you to make a payment using a digital wallet app, prepaid debit cards, or wired funds.

These payment methods are a common denominator in countless scams.

Only buy from reputable pharmacies. If you come across a pharmacy online that you aren’t familiar with, research is a must.

Make sure the business has legitimate contact information and a working phone number. Look for consumer reviews, keeping a sharp eye out for reports of scams or shady business dealings.

Remember, your personal information, some of your medical details, and your money are all on the line.

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The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23A0153AD
In the matter of:
Jesserica Rachel Daley
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
TO:
Eric Duval
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.**

A petition has been presented to said court by:
**Angela Edgerton of Monson, MA
Daniel Edgerton of Monson, MA**
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
Jesserica Rachel Edgerton
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield** ON OR BEFORE TEN

O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **02/12/2024.**
WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/21, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE
Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on **Tuesday, January 16, 2023, at 6:00 P. M.** on the application from MB’s Taste of The Sea located at 2052 Main St. Three Rivers, for a transfer of license from Kenneth Stacy to Sam Paixao.
Licensing Commission, Town of Palmer
01/04, 01/11/2024

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LIQUOR LICENSE
Notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing in the Meeting Room of the Palmer Town Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA on **Tuesday, January 16, 2023, at 6:00 P. M.** on the application from Turtle Pond Tavern located at 349 Wilbraham St. Palmer, for a transfer of license from Karl Benware to Maria Donato.
Licensing Commission, Town of Palmer
01/04, 01/11/2024

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01/04, 01/11/2024

New Year’s financial resolutions

Now that we’ve reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others — why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

• **Boost your retirement savings.** If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer’s match, if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k).

• **Reduce your debts.** It’s not always easy to reduce your debts — but it’s worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can’t afford something that’s nonessential, don’t go into debt for it. “Live within your means” is an old piece of advice, but it’s just as valid now as ever.

• **Build an emergency fund.** If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that’s separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

• **Avoid emotional decisions.** Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn’t mean you need to sell investments to “cut your losses” — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you’ll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that’s designed to meet your needs.

• **Review your goals.** Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you’d like to work a few more years. If that’s the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

• **Revisit your estate plans.** If you’ve married, divorced, remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work on them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
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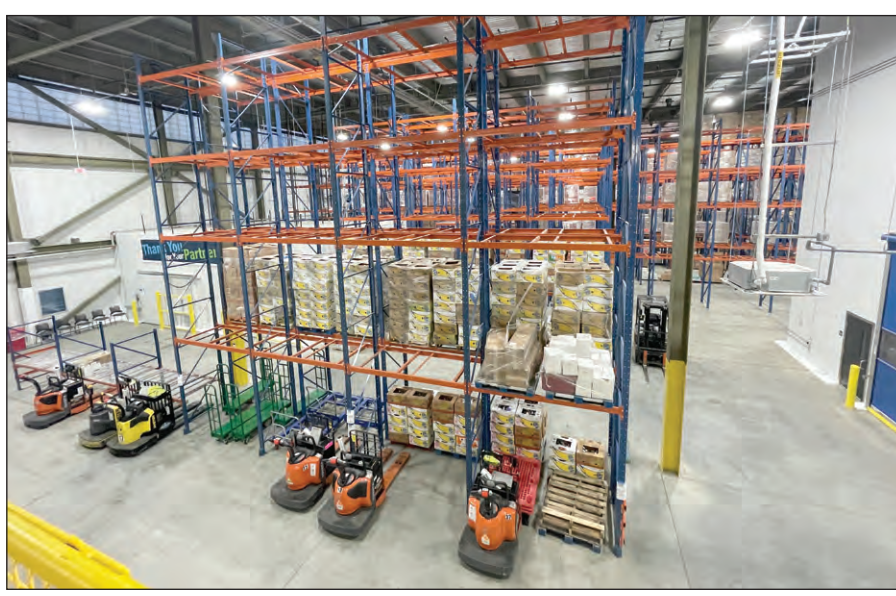
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Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Food Bank of Western Mass debuts new Chicopee facility



Turley photo by Tedy Makuch, CHS senior.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.

A variety of activities and programs will be held out of the Food Bank's teaching kitchen.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.

Local and state officials, and members of the community, visited the Food Bank on Dec. 14.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts officially opened on Dec. 14.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts' new 62,000 square foot facility includes this state-of-the-art warehouse.

By Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Dec. 14, 2023 was a banner day for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, as its newly constructed, state-of-the-art food distribution facility on Carew Street officially opened.

Food Bank employees showcased the 62,000 square-foot building during an evening ceremony attended by elected officials, donors, partners and invested residents from Chicopee and neighboring communities.

Since 1982, the Food Bank has been feeding neighbors in need in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and the strategically located warehouse and office

space will allow the operation to further pursue its mission of ending hunger.

"It's at the crossroads of the major interstates of Western Massachusetts, so we selected this location because it will really enable us to provide healthy food to anyone and everyone who needs it, when they need it, across all four counties in Western Massachusetts," Food Bank Executive Director Andrew Morehouse said.

The new structure is far larger than the food bank's previous home in Hatfield, enabling it to serve more people than ever. Last year, the Food Bank distributed the equivalent of 11 million meals to about 107,000 people monthly, and Morehouse expects

the number to rise, as residents battle inflation and the end of federal pandemic benefits.

"So, they turn to the Food Bank and our 175 partners, the local, front-line food pantries, meal sites and shelters, to seek food assistance so they can carry on with their lives and get ahead in life," Morehouse said.

The Food Bank employs 64 people, but that number could rise as management capitalizes on the facility's "incredible" capacity. Morehouse said the staff is currently in a "learning mode," getting accustomed to the space and repeatedly rearranging inventory to maximize efficiencies and food flow.

Statistics are already proving the larger warehouse to be more effective than the previous site.

"In the last three months, we've provided 25% more healthy food than the same period last year, and we're confident we'll be able to sustain that growth moving forward," Morehouse said.

Being able to serve the community better than before is fantastic, said Director of Programs Christine Maxwell. She described the building's teaching kitchen.

"We'll be using that for community programming, for food demonstrations and for cooking classes and nutrition workshops.

We weren't able to do that in our old building, so we're excited about that," Maxwell said.

Director of Development Jillian Morgan said moving into a facility that allows the Food Bank to serve its communities at a higher clip is significant. She said the staff is dedicated to making sure food is delivered to as many people as possible who are facing food insecurity, and the larger warehouse pays dividends.

"This was a really important move for the food bank to be able to increase our capacity and efficiency," she said. "We already have distributed more food in this building, so we know that it's going to serve us for decades to come until we end hunger."

Farm Manager Lee Gadway estimated that the new warehouse can store twice as much food as the old one. He said even the parking lot is twice the size.

"This is amazing," Gadway said. "Just being able to warehouse this much food and being able to think of it as a hub and spoke system on a bicycle. Everything's brought in on the spokes to the hub, and then we deliver it back out."

Gadway said the larger space makes the operation more efficient, as the Food Bank delivers food to places that smaller farms are unable to reach.

Morehouse said people are blown away when they enter the building and see its size and magnitude. He said the Food Bank looks to lever-

age the power of community to create a hunger free Western Massachusetts.

"The way we're going to do that is by talking to one another and cooking up new ideas, so this new facility and food distribution center has a lot of space for us to invite community groups in, whether they want to volunteer or just collaborate and plan how we can work better together to get more done," Morehouse said.

Morehouse pointed out that the dream could not have become a reality without the assistance of state and federal legislators. The Food Bank raised \$30 million to build its new home, and about half of the money came from state and federal government.

He also expressed gratitude for private donors, as 246 businesses and individuals invested in the food distribution center.

"We couldn't have done it without them, large and small," he said.


Morgan said she is humbled by the amount that was raised, noting that it displays the community's investment in addressing the underlying causes of hunger and making sure that the operation can help alleviate hunger in the community or get rid of it entirely.



Photo courtesy of the Food Bank.

(L to R) State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Food Bank Executive Director Andrew Morehouse and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), pictured on Dec. 14.

"(The \$30 million raised) is a real testament to how much people in this area care about addressing the needs of people who are facing hunger," she said.



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