



**HISTORY**  
**Pet of the week**  
**Molly**  
 Page 2



**MONSON**  
**Library forget**  
**me not cafe**  
 Page 2



**SPORTS**  
**Panthers fall**  
**to Sutton**  
 Page 7

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 9, 2025 | Vol. CLXXIII, No. 50 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

**PALMER**

## Town shares electric vehicles

Departments comply with state regulations

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Editor  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At a recent Town Council meeting, the town discussed the purchase of electric vehicles for town departments.



The Department of Environmental Protection has announced changes to emissions regulations for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The state's Municipal Association has been working with DEP to help ensure a full understanding of the requirements of the Heavy-duty Omnibus and Advanced Clean Truck rules.

This has affected the vehicles available for purchase by the town, which are necessary to fill the needs of various town departments.

"For a long time, we had departments using their own personal vehicles, which is a significant liability to the town," said Town Manager Brad Brothers.

DEP adopted the Low Emission Vehicle program from California in 1991, and the adoption of those vehicle emissions standards were codified through the state's Clean Air Act. In December 2021, DEP adopted California's Heavy-duty Omnibus and Advanced Clean Truck regulations in 310 CMR 7.40.

The state was set to require compliance with these standards by 2025, but DEP plans to delay implementation by a year. The state also plans to adopt the 2024 amendments

PALMER | page 5

**Favorite Griswold Christmas**  
 27 Fieldstone Drive

## LIGHT UP PALMER

*Contest Winners*

**Favorite Traditional/Classic**  
 298 Emery Street

**Favorite Blow Ups**  
 39 Taft Street

**Favorite Through a Child's Eyes**  
 199 Breckenridge Street

**Favorite Business**  
 115 Griffin Street

**MONSON**

## Board approves final request for ARPA funds

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Editor  
 mgusmao@turley.com

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

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

\$21,235." "We did have projects in the amount of \$53,045 close back," Farnum said. "So as a committee, we had to make recommendations for the remaining balance of \$74,280."

The committee put forth the following revenue replacement requests for ARPA funds; fire equipment to include AEDs and Active Shooter Equipment for \$10,000; a guardrail for the playground at Flint Park for \$7,280; and digitization of record, software, equipment, a keycard locking system, and miscellaneous technology needs for \$57,000.

Farnum told the board that though there are some projects that are still being completed that may end up costing less than was allotted to them, the funds had to be committed by the end of 2024. She said that the way to make best use of the funds, according to guidance

MONSON | page 5



**CONSERVATION**

## Commission hearing for Bondsville property

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Editor  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At its Jan. 7 meeting, the Conservation Commission held an administrative hearing for an enforcement order at Main Street in Bondsville.

Gina Strovsky, one of the partners on the property in question, approached the commission with wetland scientist Sam Spelman to propose a solution. Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin explained that a letter was sent out in December to address a possible violation that was flagged by the Board of Health.

There were references to tires that had been placed in a buffer zone, but were removed by the time the Board of Health visited the site, and so this item was removed from the violation.

"There is still fill that was placed in the wetland," Ladin said. "We just need to figure out what type of plan is amenable to everybody and what that would look like."

Ladin expressed appreciation

that the property partners moved quickly and arranged a notable wetland scientist to help handle the issue. This sentiment was echoed by Commissioner Nicholas Zeo.

"I really appreciate the response on this, this has got to be the quickest I've seen a response" Zeo said. "I really appreciate the cooperation. You're somewhat of a model."

According to Strovsky, the violations were done unintentionally, and that he was interested in curing the issue and abiding by the commission's rules so that he could proceed with his business venture.

"Unfortunately, we did not realize, when everything got shuffled around, that's where that stuff ended up," Strovsky said. Spelman presented a restoration plan that he determined would restore the area back to its original condition.

"Before the new year, a colleague of mine and I went out to the site and delineated the wetland resources present," Spelman said. "We focused on the area surrounding the debris pile to determine how much of the debris pile was in the wetland resource area and how much was in the buffer."

CONSERVATION | page 10

## Mustangs edge Indians



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com  
 Austin Meacham peruses the defense as he readies this jumper. More photos on page 8.

**COMMUNITY**

## Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for Girl Scout Free Libraries

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Editor  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, the Girl Scouts are going to hold a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for her Gold Award Project on Saturday, Jan. 11, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

Kassandra Perry has been with the Girl Scouts for 13 years, since she was in kindergarten. Perry is pursuing her Gold Award, the highest rank in the Girl Scouts, which she compared to the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts.

To earn the Gold Award, Perry will complete an 80-hour project that involves the community outside her family and other Scouts, and gives back to the community. The project she is working on is a set of specially-designed Free Libraries that will be set up in the town's parks, for which she recently got approval from the Town Council.

This weekend's fundraiser will be held at St. Thomas Church on Thorndike Street. Perry said they will be serving spaghetti with meatballs and pasta sauce, and that there would be salad, ice

cream cups, cookies, and brownies as well. The event will also include a 50/50 raffle and several raffle baskets that were donated by local businesses.

"I talked to people at my church who've done these fundraisers before to put it together and came up with ideas as we

*"Reading is something kids should enjoy, not something they're mandated to do"*

— said Kassandra Perry

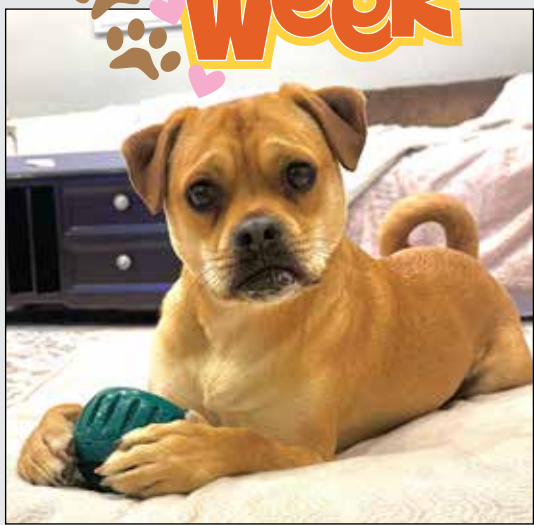
went," Perry said. "I worked with some people at the church that had done spaghetti dinners for veterans and we decided it would be the easiest thing to do to help out my project."

Perry's mother, Deb, added that the church sponsored the

GIRL SCOUTS | page 5



# Pet of the Week



**MOLLY**

This is Molly. She is three-year-old pug/terrier mix that was rescued from a kill shelter from Texas. She love treats and her Kong. The Costa Family described her as "very photogenic." We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## Stay off the ice this winter

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - How thick is safe ice? Ice on moving waters in rivers, streams and brooks is generally not safe.

The thickness of ice on ponds depends on factors such as water currents, depth and natural objects like stumps or rocks. Daily changes in temperature can cause ice to expand and contract, which affects its stability.

Because of these factors, no one can declare the ice to be safe. The only safe ice is at a skating rink.

A message from fire and life safety educators of Wilbraham and Hampden.

# Library hosts Forget-Me-Not Café

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)

MONSON – This Monday, the Monson Free Library opened its monthly Forget-Me-Not Café as part of an effort to combat feelings of isolation in our community.

The library holds a Memory Café once a month for people affected by Alzheimer's or dementia and their caregivers. Director Hope Bodwell said that the café is made possible through collaboration through various groups in the community, particularly the Council-on-Aging.

"We only do ours once a month," said Bodwell. "I offered to do it at the library because we're closed on Monday, so it's a really nice comfortable spot for people to come and gather."

The Café offers a number of different programs and activities, including games, local musicians, and "Name That Tune." Bodwell mentioned that previous events have included a presentation about birds by Robin DesRochers, and one about the town's history by Bill Dominic.

"We played Bingo all day yesterday," Bodwell said. "And if people don't want to participate, they can go off and read a book or newspaper or magazine, or use the computer."

Bodwell said that this event is a great way to get people with Alzheimer's or dementia out of the house.

"Isolation is a huge problem,"

Bodwell said. "There's no pressure here because they're among people in the same situation. It's just fun; you can relax and caregivers can relax."

Bodwell added that the café provides a much-needed opportunity for the caregivers and loved ones to interact with other people in similar situations.

programs," said Bodwell. "Most of the time we have fun, talk, laugh, and share memories. I just love it."

The library is offering a number of other programs over the next few months, including a screening of Robert Putnam's documentary *Join Or Die* on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. Then, on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the library will hold its Volunteer Fair, where local organizations from around town set up tables in the library to offer information to potential volunteers.

Bodwell also talked about the Community Coral Reef project, based on a large-scale project created by Christina Harkness and Shanna Smith Suttner in 2015.

"The premise is, people crochet pieces of coral reef," Bodwell said. "We provide crochet hooks, yarn patterns, and classes on crochet 101."

Bodwell said that the five-month program will include informational presentations about the ocean and coral reefs, as well as creating a work of art that engages the entire community.

The library offers a variety of other fun activities, including chess clubs and the Teen Time youth group that meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 2 p.m.

If you'd like to learn more about events being held at the library, you can visit their pages on Facebook or Instagram, or check out the calendar on their website at [MonsonLibrary.org](http://MonsonLibrary.org).



Submitted photo  
**Roseann Vinciguerra of Wales and her 12-year-old granddaughter Maddie from Virginia crocheted the first piece for the library's Coral Reef Project.**

"That's another side of this whole thing," Bodwell said. "These people are caring for someone all the time and need a break. Everybody can socialize and it's a no-judgment zone, so they can just have fun."

"It's one of my most favorite

# QHMA seeks nominations for 2025 Choice Awards

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2025 Choice Awards.

Award categories include: Community Hero and Educator of the Year, as well as Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year. The Chamber will also be recognizing a member Business and Volunteer of the Year at a special event on May 1 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware honoring this year's recipients.

"We are thrilled for the return of the Chamber's annual Choice Awards event. And to specifically shine a spotlight on the difference making individuals and businesses that help make our communities so special," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce official website, [qhma.com](http://qhma.com) from now and until Jan. 31. While online voting for this year's winners will be conducted from Feb. 1 through March 16.

The criteria for specific categories are: Community Hero of the Year – An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The individual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Educator of the Year – An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Food/Drink Establishment of the Year – An outstanding local food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

Retail Establishment of the Year – An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered

in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.



## McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

## Free Girl Scout event Embrace Possibility

PALMER—Palmer and Ware area girls are invited to a free Girl Scout event Embrace Possibility on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Girls and their guardians will sample Girl Scout badge projects, and take home their first Girl Scout patch. Girl Scout troops will be selling Girl Scout Cookies and answering any

questions. Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form a new leadership team (3-4 volunteers) so that the troop responsibilities are fun and can be shared. No previous Girl Scout experience is necessary. The event will take place at

Second Congregational Church  
1080 Pleasant St., Palmer  
This event is for girls entering grades K and 1, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Jan. 25 <https://go.gscwm.org/EmbracePalmer>. For information contact Angie at [Arodriguez@gscwm.org](mailto:Arodriguez@gscwm.org) or call 413-584-2602 x4028.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!	INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS	PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIB END or LOIN END ROAST ..... <b>\$1.96</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE <b>\$10.88</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIP LOIN STEAKS FAMILY PACK..... <b>\$5.99</b> lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS..... <b>\$1.79</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST <b>\$5.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$2.39</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK..... <b>\$1.33</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BRIOCHE TO GO STRAWBERRY FILLED 7.9 OZ..... <b>99c</b> ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI ITALIAN ROAST BEEF..... <b>\$5.55</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN MAHI MAHI FISH FILLETS..... <b>\$4.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD BBQ MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS..... <b>\$2.99</b> lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI PROVOLONE CHEESE..... <b>\$4.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... <b>\$2.79</b> lb	SALE DATES: 1/9/25-1/15/25

**90 Meat Outlet** 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 [www.90meat.com](http://www.90meat.com)

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

## ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010  
508-641-5249 • [office@robinsontreeservice.net](mailto:office@robinsontreeservice.net)  
[www.robinsontreeservice.net](http://www.robinsontreeservice.net)

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

# COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONNECTION

## Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!

### 3 Day Hampton Beach Getaway

March 15.....8-Night Bahamas Cruise..... from \$1499  
May 23.....7-Night Bermuda Cruise..... from \$1699  
June 10-12.....Hampton Beach Getaway..... \$529  
June 28.....Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise..... \$175  
Sept 12-26.....Portugal & The Azores..... \$6549

Share the Adventure with us soon!  
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursforwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursforwarren.com)

## JOHN'S PAINT STORE

California PAINTS 1977

46 Years and Counting...

- ✓ Interior/Exterior Paint
- ✓ Wallpaper
- ✓ Hardwood Flooring
- ✓ Carpeting
- ✓ Tile & Vinyl Flooring
- ✓ Window Treatments
- ✓ Interior/Exterior Stains
- ✓...and more

Everything You Need to Complete Your Project

[JohnsPaintStore.com](http://JohnsPaintStore.com) • 413-283-9427

Pioneer Plaza: 1240 Park Street, Palmer  
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm - Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm

## The Optical Shop

at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available

Frames to Fit Any Budget

Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages

### SUNGLASSES

Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 413-283-3511  
362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA 413-589-1806

Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

## ROADHOUSE CAFE

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

Open extended hours Tues.-Sun. 7am-1pm  
Check our Facebook & Instagram pages for updates

Bay Road & Rt. 9, Belchertown  
413.323.6175  
[www.roadhouse.cafe.net](http://www.roadhouse.cafe.net)

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

### NOTICE

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

**DEADLINE**

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

## Illusionist Jeff Klempton to perform at Magic Show at St. Paul's

PALMER – St. Paul's Church is calling every-one young and young at heart to enjoy a show of magic, humor, and illusions with Jeff Klempton.

St. Paul's is proud to present "Illusions and Humor," Klempton's highly praised magic show that features sleight-of-hand tricks, original magic, and comedy in an intimate setting.

The show will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. for popcorn, drinks, and snacks, provided by the church. Children get in for free, and adults can attend with a suggested donation of \$5.

Magician Jeff Klempton said, "I fell in love with magic at a young age. At 34, I decided to pursue that passion and become a professional magician. I bring my personality into every show, filled with laughs, surprises, and memories that will last a lifetime."

Reverend Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's Church, added, "Magic Time is the perfect family-friendly event to brighten our spirits during the winter months. Come escape the harshness of the season and enjoy the warmth and joy of magic."

For more information, please call 413-283-8185 or visit www.StPaulsPalmer.org.

## Artists needed

HOLYOKE— All submissions must be submitted by Feb. 7. Wistariahurst Museum is seeking artist submissions for the Third Annual Women's History Month juried art showcase for the month of March.

This year, the theme is Love, in all forms. Love, in all forms, aims for artists to consider how love impacts lives. Love can be painful, a process, joyful, romantic, platonic, a feeling, an object, a memory; love, in all its forms, is beautiful.

Any medium for submission is encouraged. Submissions are open to anyone who identifies as a woman and non-binary artists of any age.

Submissions should include 3 to 4 quality images with information (title, date, medium, and size), an artist statement (approximately 300 words about your art and its relationship to the theme), and an artist bio (approximately 150 words about you as an artist) in one PDF.

Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. All questions are welcome and encouraged.

Five artists will be selected and awarded a \$100 stipend. Submissions are due Feb. 7, please send them to info@wistariahurst.org.

## Cultural Council grants awarded to Palmer

PALMER— Beth Zelazo, chairperson of the Palmer Cultural Council, has announced the award of 16 grants totaling \$15,743 for cultural programs in Palmer.

The Palmer Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Palmer Cultural Council are: Beth Zelazo, Kathy Scarglia, Judy Bechard, Janice Fountain, Jan McCoy, Chris Reim, Tyler Allen, Lisa Newton and Josephine Fitzgerald.

It's the local volunteers who really make this system work. They make limited resources go as far as possible, and they make the tough decisions about

which projects should be supported. Thanks to them, the arts, sciences, and humanities are part of people's everyday lives in every community across the state.

Statewide, more than \$5 million will be distributed by local cultural councils in 2025. Grants will support an enormous range of grassroots activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historical preservation efforts, lectures, First Night celebrations, nature and science education programs for families and town festivals. Nearly half of LCC funds support educational activities for young people.

The Palmer Town Council will seek applications again in the fall. For guidelines and complete information on the Palmer Cultural Council, contact palmerculturalcouncil@gmail.com. New members are always needed. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

## Physician resolves allegations involving controlled substances

BOSTON – A family medicine practitioner based out of Three Rivers has agreed to pay \$220,000 in civil penalties to settle allegations that he violated the Controlled Substances Act by prescribing controlled substances outside the usual course of professional practice.

As part of the settlement agreement, Dr. Stephen Holuk, 75, of Three Rivers, admitted that he regularly prescribed schedule II-controlled substances for his patients. For four of his patients, Dr. Holuk prescribed opioids in combination with benzodiazepines and muscle relaxers. During the covered period, Dr. Holuk wrote 280 prescriptions for opioids for these four patients alone, while also prescribing them benzodiazepines and muscle relaxers.

Moreover, Dr. Holuk prescribed opioids for his patients without consistently conducting functional pain assessments or opioid risk assessments. He also rarely checked the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (formerly the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program), before prescribing his patients schedule II controlled substances, as required by Massachusetts law.

Under the Controlled Substances Act physicians, and other prescribers registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration, may only issue prescriptions for a legitimate medical purpose and in the usual course of professional practice.

"When doctors prescribe addictive opioids outside the scope of proper professional practice, they put patients at risk

of overdose and undermine efforts to address the opioid crisis," said United States Attorney Joshua Levy. "Our office and our federal law enforcement partners will continue to hold medical providers accountable for irresponsible prescribing, especially when it threatens the safety of our communities."

"This settlement resolves allegations that Dr. Stephen Holuk abused his prescribing privileges," said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Boston Division. "Doctors willing to illegally distribute and prescribe opioids only deepen the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our area. We encourage the public to report any information about prescription abuse to us or our law enforcement partners."

"Medical practitioners who prescribe controlled substances have an obligation to do so responsibly and for legitimate medical purposes," said Special Agent in Charge Roberto Coviello of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. "We will continue to investigate allegations of dangerous and irresponsible prescribing as we work to protect patients from such conduct."

U.S. Attorney Levy, FBI SAC Cohen and HHS-OIG SAC Coviello made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lindsey Ross of the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit handled the case.



Submitted Photo  
Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO, and Shannon Ortona, Monson Savings Bank Ware Branch Manager (center), presented Quaboag Valley Community Development Executive Director Melissa Fales (left) with a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the bank.

## MSB donates \$5,000 to support QVCDC's Learn & Save Program

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank is deeply committed to empowering residents by supporting initiatives that provide them with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve financial independence and long-term success.

The local bank is proud to be a supporter of the 2025 Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation's Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program.

The QVCDC is a nonprofit organization based in Ware. The QVCDC is once again offering a 12-month matched savings program for low to moderate income residents of the Quaboag Valley and southern Worcester County.

The Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program, formally known as the Financial Fitness Club, combines monthly financial literacy classes with an incentive to save.

"The Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program began in 2017," explained Melissa Fales, Executive Director of the Quaboag Valley CDC. "It is a matched savings program that has helped participants save \$21,217 over the past three cohorts. The program matches the savings of participants up to a capped amount. We are very proud of this program that helps people learn about finances, establish healthy financial habits, and save toward a goal. At the end of the program, the savings and matched funds are combined to purchase an asset. Eligible assets include

vehicle purchase or repair, new appliances, housing, or business equipment. Our students have purchased approximately \$51,000 in assets over the past three cohorts. It is a very effective program."

Fales continued, expressing her gratitude for Monson Savings Bank's support.

"We are so happy to welcome back Monson Savings, our community partner since 2017. This year the Bank is not only donating a generous \$5,000 to the program, but they are also going to be directly involved in teaching classes," she said.

To learn more about the QVCDC and their Learn and Save Program, please visit: <https://qvcdc.org/learn-save/>

"We are proud to support the Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program, an incredible initiative by the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation," said President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank Dan Moriarty. "By empowering our low-to-moderate income neighbors with the tools and resources to build financial security, this program strengthens our community and aligns perfectly with our mission as a community bank."

To learn more about how Monson Savings Bank supports local communities, please visit: <https://www.monson-savings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>.

## Free COVID/flu vaccine clinic is Jan. 21

WARE – A free COVID and flu vaccine clinic will be held at Ware Housing Authority, 20 Valley View, on Monday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Patients aged 12 and older will receive a \$75 gift card after vaccination. Only 100 gift cards are available per clinic.

Vaccines are available for people

ages 6 months and up. People are asked to bring their ID and insurance card, but it is not required to receive the free vaccines.

The clinic will be held indoors. There are accessible doors and drop off/pick up location for persons with disabilities.

### Corrections

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



### KELLY & VELÁZQUEZ EYE CENTER

PETER J. KELLY, M.D., P.C.  
LEONARDO J. VELÁZQUEZ, M.D.  
DENNIS M. DORANS, O.D.  
KELLY N. POULIOT, O.D.

1504 North Main St. 362 Sewall St.  
Palmer, MA 01069 Ludlow, MA 01056  
(413) 283-3511 (413) 589-7308

PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call

**STIHL** Husqvarna  
**PARK SAW SHOP**  
LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY  
1292 PARK ST. 1-800-232-6132  
PALMER, MA 01069 (413) 544-9027  
Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon  
Shipping Can Be Arranged  
RENTALS AVAILABLE

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal  
**Clean Out Solutions**  
Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts  
Shed, Pool & Arthur "Skip" Gervais  
Hot Tub Removals (774)397-6500

**Glenda's**  
Saturday, January 11 ~ 7pm-12am  
**Brother Earl**  
CT's Premier Southern & Classic Rock Party Band!  
Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm  
**Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!**  
Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm  
**Karaoke**  
Upcoming Events  
Saturday, January 18  
7pm-10pm  
**Moonlight Saints**  
EVERY SUNDAY  
**DARTS**  
LUCK OF THE DRAW  
5:30pm • All Welcome  
948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

**Top Floor LEARNING**  
**TUTORING AVAILABLE**  
Meet Your Professional And Educational Goals  
**TUTORS NEEDED**  
For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors: English, Writing & Math  
**Computer Security Class**  
• Basic Computer Use —  
• Resumé Building & Updating  
• English Language Learning  
• GED/HiSET Preparation  
• Reading, Writing, Math  
• Citizenship Exam  
• SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep  
1455 N. Main St  
3rd Floor  
Palmer MA 01069  
We're on Facebook!  
**Contact Us**  
For More Information  
413-283-2329  
email:  
info@topfloorlearning.org

**3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US**

PHONE  
413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7107  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393  
EMAIL  
Advertising Sales  
Dan Flynn  
dflynn@turley.com  
Staff Writer  
Marcello Gusmao  
mgusmao@turley.com  
Subscriptions  
www.turley.com  
\$35 per year pre-paid  
(\$40 out of state)  
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy  
WEB  
www.journalregister.turley.com  
@ The Journal Register  
The Journal Register is published by  
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

#### Dear Rusty

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed Veteran Seeking Answers

#### Dear Veteran Seeking Answers

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org) website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

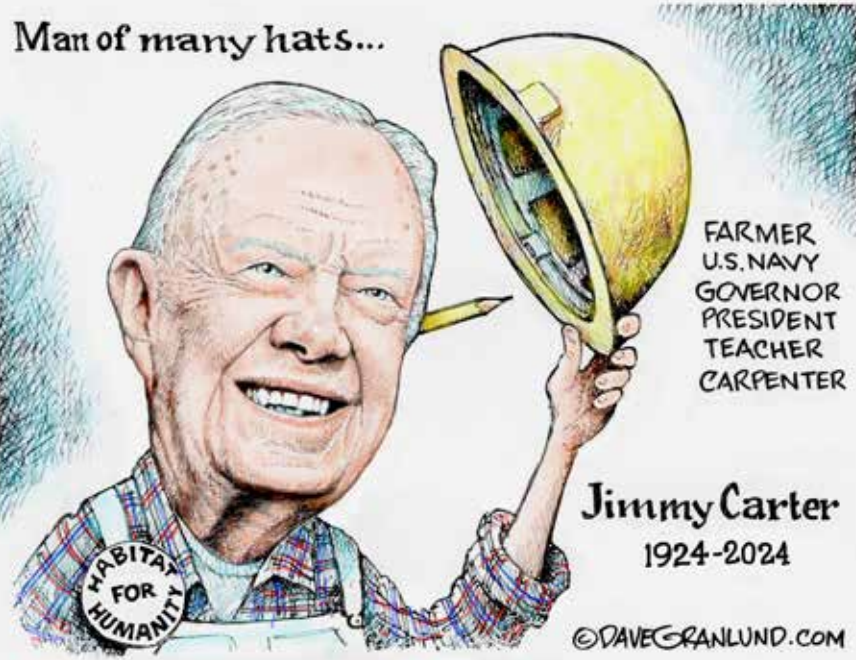
It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's Tri-Care-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your Tri-Care-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/)

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



### Prepping for this year's big garden

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after. While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just

one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed ([www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this year's efforts.

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly! Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

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



## Letters to the Editor

### Seniors say thank you

#### To the editor

The residents of the Palmer Senior Housing would like to thank all the merchants of Palmer area for the thoughtful Goody Bags that were hung on our doors. We really appreciate your kindness.

Thank you  
G. David Bishop

### Project 351 food drive

#### Letter to the Editor

I, Jannat Khan, am a Project 351 ambassador, proudly representing the town of Palmer, and I am a freshman at Palmer High School. Project 351 is a state-wide, nonprofit organization which unites ambassadors from all 351 cities and towns across Massachusetts for a year of unison, action, and leadership through significant services, such as our annual Fall Service, which I share the success of. Our local food drive in support of the Palmer Food Share food pantry is dedicated to households who lack the resources needed to receive the bare necessities, because no one should have to worry about when their next meal will be. Although I in 3 Massachusetts households struggle with food insecurity, my commitment to end hunger was driven by the fact that hunger is a solvable problem, and we could be the first state to do so! From Dec. 2 to Dec. 13, the food drive was held at Palmer High School as well as the Palmer Town Hall. I express my gratitude towards the residents in our community, along with restaurants Burgundy Brook Cafe, Figlio Restaurant, Roadside Pizza and Grinders, and Day and Night Diner, who decided to pitch in in our mission to make hunger history by donating gift cards. Together, we were able to collect 266.5 pounds of food, and raise \$184! I am proud to be part of such a compassionate community which contributed to the success of our food drive. This positive impact wouldn't be possible without the support of our neighbors. I hope you can amplify the influence of this Fall Service which has provided local families with the supplies needed to thrive!

With Gratitude,  
Jannat Khan



## What to ask when considering outpatient surgery

Having cataract surgery? Chances are it will be at a stand-alone ambulatory surgery center (ASC). Ditto for joint replacements, tonsillectomies, endoscopies, colonoscopies, some spine surgeries and a number of other procedures.

In fact, more than 23 million surgical procedures are performed annually at the nation's 6,300 Medicare-certified ASCs. (I account for three of those: two knee replacements and one hip replacement.)

By and large, the safety records of ASCs and hospitals are comparable, but outpatient surgery is not suitable for everyone.

#### Why an ASC?

The ambulatory surgery market is expected to grow exponentially in the next decade because of a variety of factors. Our aging population means that more people require joint replacements and cataract surgery, and ASCs are helping to meet the demand.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the surgical-site infection rate at ambulatory centers to be around .1 percent, compared with about 1.0 percent for hospitals. In addition, more patients today prefer treatments that don't require an overnight stay in the hospital, which can expose them to various pathogens and sicker patients.

The cost of ASC procedures tends to be lower than if they're performed in a hospital. One study found that outpatient joint replacements at an ASC cost 40 percent less than those performed in a hospital.

Insurers certainly like that. So do patients, who experience lower co-pays and co-insurance – a win-win for health-care costs. Meanwhile, technological advancements (lasers, robotics) are making surgeries safer, and ASCs (65 percent of which are owned by physicians) often have the latest and greatest equipment.

ASCs live and die by favorable patient reviews, so they tend to place greater emphasis on providing a patient-centered experience. Cost, convenience, customer service and positive experiences are all reasons why ASCs are growing in popularity.

#### Low risk, but not risk-free

Any medical procedure, especially if it involves sedation or anesthesia, has the potential for harm. Joan Rivers is the poster child for what can go wrong.

In 2014, while undergoing an endoscopy at a Man-

## The Journal Register TEAM

EDITORIAL  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)



STAFF WRITER  
Marcelo Gusmao  
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Dan Flynn  
[dlynn@turley.com](mailto:dlynn@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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



@ Journal Register

WEB  
[www.journalregister.turley.com](http://www.journalregister.turley.com)

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager



[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

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

## Letters to the editor policy

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

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

## THIS WEEK IN History

Amelia Earhart made the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California on Jan. 11, 1935.

### Week History Jan. 11

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

On Jan. 8, in 1918, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson announced his Fourteen Points, an outline for peace following World War I.

On Jan. 9, in 2005, Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority.

On Jan. 10, in 1776, Thomas Paine published Common Sense, a 50-page pamphlet that called for the American Revolution.

On Jan. 11, in 1935, Amelia Earhart began the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California.

On Jan. 12, in 2010, a magnitude-7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti, killing more than 200,000 people and leaving more than 1,000,000 homeless.

On Jan. 13, in 2021, Donald Trump became the first U.S. president to be impeached twice after the House of Representatives approved



an article of impeachment that accused him of "incitement of insurrection" for allegedly encouraging his supporters to storm the Capitol in an effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, in which Trump was defeated by Joe Biden.

Finally, on Jan. 14, in 1526, the Treaty of Madrid was signed by the Habsburg emperor Charles V (Charles I of Spain) and his prisoner Francis I, King of France, who was captured during the Battle of Pavia and held prisoner until the conclusion of the treaty.

**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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

The Journal Register  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
413.283.8393  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

A Turley Publications, Inc. Community Newspaper

**GIRL SCOUTS** | from page 1

fundraiser so that Cassandra wouldn't have to pay for use of the hall.

"I'm an altar server there, I'm in there every week helping out," Cassandra said.

After her original concept for a Gold Award project, a fundraiser for cancer, fell through, Perry decided to indulge her love of reading and help address concerns over youth literacy in town.

"I'm a big reader myself," Perry said. "I wanted to see teens get more into reading and off their cell phones, and I figured that putting (book boxes) in parks would get kids outside and outdoors, and also help with literacy rates, because a lot of parents feel their kids are not reading enough."

The free libraries will be located in parks in Bondsville, Thorndike, Three Rivers, and Depot Village, as well as one in Burleigh Park that will move to Town Hall when the park is closed. Perry said that, in addition to encouraging kids to use the parks and enjoy the outdoors, she chose the locations for her free libraries to make sure that there wasn't overlap between her book bins and the existing free libraries all over town.

"Reading is something kids should enjoy, not something they're mandated to do," Perry said.

Though she is still waiting on materials from retailers, Perry reported that much of the work towards this project is complete.

"I would say I'm probably halfway through it," Perry said. "I already submitted the proposal and got it approved. I have some materials, but we're still trying to figure that out; we don't have the right saws, but one of our Girl Scouts is in carpentry, so we've been working with that."

Perry said she has enjoyed her time with the Girl Scouts, citing camp, selling cookies, trips to New York, and meeting other scouts at headquarters as highlights of her time with the organization.

The book boxes, designed to resemble a train engine to fit with the town's Seven Railroads theme, will also have a donation section where people can drop off books that will then be sorted and distributed by the Girl Scouts.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for kids, and are available through Jan. 10 by calling 413-813-7183. Limited tickets will be sold at the door.

The fundraiser dinner will be served on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church on 1076 Thorndike St.

**MONSON** | from page 1

through the ARPA interim rule, would be to dedicate the funds to a project within the same scope so the town doesn't need to return the money to the federal government.

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

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

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

"For example, we had committed funds for the Main Street project," Farnum said. "We know that that project cost has grown, so when it gets to that point, what we would do is offset from either the Stabilization Fund or Free Cash or another funding source."

Farnum added that for smaller projects under a certain dollar amount, the town would determine if the department taking on the project had money in its

operating budget to meet the costs, or else a vote would be held at Town Meeting to set aside additional funds.

Fire Chief Brian Harris was asked to speak to the request for Active Shooter Equipment.

"Last year, the Fire Department applied for the Firefighter Safety Grant and was successful," Harris said. "With that grant, we bought some active shooter equipment."

Harris explained that the department was eligible for non-consumable materials, such as bags and things to carry the consumables.

"The consumables is not something that we have in our normal operating budget to currently purchase to fill those bags that we bought, so that was the request for ARPA," Harris said.

Harris said that both the fire and police departments will attend two-day classes to be trained and certified in Active Shooter Hostile Event Response, and that this equipment would be needed for that training.

The board voted unanimously to approve this use of the ARPA funds.

**YOUR HEALTH** | from page 4

hattan surgery center, her oxygen saturation dropped to a dangerous level when her airway became compromised. She later died from brain damage caused by lack of oxygen. Her family sued and received a "substantial" settlement. Her treatment was described as "a perfect storm" of errors, leading to her death.

Think very carefully about whether to choose outpatient surgery if you :

- Are 80 or older
- Have cardiovascular disease, COPD or obstructive sleep apnea
- Have a history of complications, especially from anesthesia
- Have anxiety, depression or another mental health disorder
- Have poorly controlled diabetes
- Take pain medications, especially opioids

**Questions to ask**

If an outpatient procedure is in your future, you can give yourself peace of mind by asking a few questions – something a private patient advocate could certainly help you with.

**Here are some examples:**

- Accreditation: Is your facility accredited by the Joint Commission on Health Care or the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC.org)? You can also search for AAAHC-accredited organizations on the website.
- Ownership: Is this center physician-owned, or is it owned by a hospital or a corporation?
- Customer satisfaction: What is your patient satisfaction rating?
- Staff: Who will be performing my procedure?
- Track record: How many of these procedures have been performed here and what is the complication rate?
- Just in case: What are your emergency procedures? If there's an emergency, where would I be transported?
- Sedation: What kind of sedation will be used, and who is the anesthesiologist?
- Recovery and complications: What is my expected recovery time, and what are the most common complications?
- Financial: What is the estimate of my costs? If insurance isn't available, do you have payment plans or other financial arrangements?
- Scheduling: What are your policies regarding cancellation and rescheduling?

Since the first ambulatory surgery center opened in Phoenix in 1970, ASCs have made surgical procedures more available and convenient in most regions of the country. Because of lower costs, they've allowed patients to access care who might not otherwise be able to afford a hospital stay. They are continually evolving, adding more procedures.

So, when deciding where to have a procedure, ASCs deserve your consideration because of cost, convenience and comparable outcomes. But do your homework and then choose the place that seems right for you: the hospital operating room or the ambulatory surgery center.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NSHore). She is

also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

**PALMER** | from page 1

to HDO legacy engine provisions and exemptions from emissions standards for transit buses, emergency vehicles, and military tactical vehicles.

The Advanced Clean Truck rule requires zero emission vehicle sales percentages for new medium- and heavy-duty on-road vehicles starting with model year 2025 and increasing until model year 2035. In Massachusetts, the rule requires 7% ZEV sales in

classes 2b-3, 11% in classes 4-8; and 7% for tractors classes 7-8.

Emergency vehicles, such as vehicles for fire and police departments and other emergency medical services are exempt from ACT requirements, as are publicly owned vehicles for forestry departments.

In order to gain a special exemption, state and local government agencies must submit written requests to DEP and manufacturers detailing the make, model, model year, and number


of vehicles to be purchased. DEP then makes a determination as to whether enforcement discretion is allowable for the proposed purchase.

Brothers said the town is looking forward to receiving a new Ford Lightning EV, and also received an incentive grant of \$7,500 to help offset the purchase price. "We purchased a Ford Lightning in Plymouth for one of our departments and it received high reviews," Brothers said. "It will be

nice to trial the EV to determine what makes sense as we move forward in future fiscal years' replacements."

Enforcement discretion requests can be sent to Ngoc.Hoang@mass.gov under the subject line "Enforcement Discretion Purchases." Further questions about the enforcement discretion and the ACT and HDO rules can be emailed to Deputy Division Director for Air and Climate Programs Sharon Weber at Sharon.Weber@mass.gov.

You are cordially invited to a special screening of the film "Taking Care"



# TAKING CARE


THE LEGACIES WE'LL ACCEPT, AND THOSE WE WON'T

Taking Care is a 38-minute documentary that follows Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they face the challenges of Lauren's mother's early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Directed by award-winning filmmaker James Keach, the film captures the Rogen's unique blend of humor and honesty as they navigate the challenges of caregiving.

By sharing their story, Lauren, Seth, and their families turn grief into action and let the millions caring for loved ones with the disease know that they are not alone.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> at 5:00PM**

LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED



Scan the QR Code to watch the trailer

Seating is limited. RSVP by Jan. 13th to Mary at 413-758-5377.

---

**Cedarbrook Village**  
at Ware

An Everbrook Senior Living Community

INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE

413-758-5377 • CedarbrookVillage.com • 73 South Street • Ware, MA 01082

**and Beyond!**



**WB&CA**  
Ware Business & Civic Association

**Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!**

Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Beyond!

- **Our Mission**  
We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.
- **Why Join Us?**  
Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.
- **A Legacy of Achievement**  
Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.
- **Events that Sparkle**  
Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.
- **Network that Expands**  
With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.
- **An Investment in Success**  
For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem.
- **Seamless Entry**
- **Embrace Uniqueness**

**Visit warebca.com**  
**email warebca@gmail.com**



**JOIN TODAY!**

Ready to take your business to new heights while having a blast? Join us on this exciting ride! Let's be partners in growth and partners in fun.





# Oliveira sworn in for second term



Submitted Photo  
Oliveira Sworn in for Second Term Representing the Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District.

BOSTON — State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Ludlow, D) officially began his second term in the Massachusetts State Senate today, taking the oath of office during a formal swearing-in ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Oliveira reaffirmed his commitment to the residents of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District, vowing to continue his work to strengthen communities, advocate for regional equity, and build a brighter future for all in his district.

“It has been my sincere honor and an incredible privilege to serve the people of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District,” said Oliveira. “As we enter this new legislative session, I remain committed to fighting for regional equity for Western Mass and the priorities that matter most to our communities: ensuring access to quality education, addressing the housing crisis, creating pathways for economic opportunity, and safeguarding our environment for future generations.”

First elected in 2022, Oliveira has established himself as a tireless advocate for his district. He joined his colleagues in the Senate to champion key initiatives such as free community college through MassReconnect and Universal School

Meals for All. Oliveira also secured funding for investments in local infrastructure and critical support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. During his first term, he also worked to secure increased funding for public education, strengthen healthcare accessibility, and support local workforce development programs.

Looking ahead, Oliveira plans to build on this momentum by advancing legislation that addresses the unique challenges faced by the district. He emphasized his commitment to working collaboratively with Legislators, community leaders, and constituents to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard on Beacon Hill.

“Over the last two years, we’ve worked collaboratively to secure more than 2 million dollars in additional funds that directly impacted the residents of the district, supporting our veterans, our seniors, and initiatives impacting workforce development, providing mental health services, and growing our region’s economy,” said Oliveira.

“The Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District is more than just a collection of communities. It’s my home. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent it in the Legislature and for the trust the residents of the district have placed in me by electing me to a second term.”

# Senator Oliveira applauds passage of the PACT Act

BOSTON – Last Monday, State Senator Jake Oliveira and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Legislature celebrated the successful passage of the PACT Act, or An Act Relative to Pharmaceutical Access, Costs, and Transparency, landmark legislation aimed at improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription medications for residents of the Commonwealth. Sponsored by Senator Cindy Friedman (4th Middlesex District) and Representative John Lawn, Jr. (10th Middlesex District), this transformative bill reflects a unified effort to combat rising drug costs and ensure transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.

“This legislation marks a critical step forward in making life-saving medications affordable and accessible to everyone in Massachusetts,” said Senator Oliveira. “The people of the Commonwealth should not have to choose between their essential prescriptions and the other necessities needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. With these reforms, we are holding pharmaceutical companies accountable while protecting the health and well-being of our communities.”

Approximately nine percent of Massachusetts residents have been diagnosed with diabetes, and 6.2 percent of adults over 35 live with heart disease. In 2015, more than 10 per-

cent of residents lived with asthma. Black residents face these conditions at even higher rates-over 12 percent live with diabetes, and nearly 14 percent of Black adults live with asthma.

The legislation is designed to address these disparities, ensuring access to life-saving medications for communities disproportionately impacted by chronic illnesses.

Key provisions of the bill include:

Cost-sharing caps for chronic illnesses: Insulin co-payments are capped at \$25 for a 30-day supply, with coverage guaranteed for one generic and one brand-name drug for diabetes, asthma, and chronic heart conditions.

Equity in cost sharing: The bill ensures that out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs do not exceed retail prices, offering immediate financial relief to patients at the pharmacy counter.

Creation of the Office for Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis: This new office within the Health Policy Commission will monitor pharmaceutical trends, spending, and affordability. It will also publish annual reports with recommendations for mitigating pharmaceutical spending growth and promoting accessibility.

Expanded oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers: PBMs will now be licensed and regulated by the Division of Insurance. They must also report cost data and are prohibited from engaging in practices that inflate drug prices or harm consumers and independent pharmacies.

MassHealth and GIC Reforms: These reforms aim to reduce financial barriers to vital medications for low-income residents and state employees.

Transparency through hearings and reporting: The Center for Health Information and Analysis will collect detailed drug cost data, while pharmaceutical manufacturers and PBMs will participate in the Health Policy Commission’s Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing.

PACT | page 11



## CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

40 E. Main Street, Ware, MA  
(413) 967-4545

*Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities*

**DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 RABBITS 🐾 FERRETS**  
**AND NOW REPTILES!**

★ **Now offering same day urgent care appointments** ★  
**Monday - Thursday**



[www.richardgreeninsurance.com](http://www.richardgreeninsurance.com)  
Fax: 413-267-3496  
Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

**• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE**

- Great Locations • Registry service
- Quotes gladly given • We make housecalls

**Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes**

**Two Locations:**




128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495    32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028



**GREEN GOLD GROUP**

**Take a right off the ramp and we are "420" feet from you!**

- **Operations:**  
Open 7 days a week 8AM - 9PM
- **Address:**  
1140 Thorndike Street  
Palmer, Ma. 01069  
next to Mass Pike exit 63
- **Contact:** 413-289-9503  
Website: [www.greengold.group](http://www.greengold.group)
- **Social:**  
Instagram: @greengoldgroup, @muncheascannabis, @liquidgoldcannabis  
Facebook: @green gold group  
X: @greengoldgroup
- **Menu:**



## Green Gold Group Cannabis Dispensary

### OPEN NOW FOR REC ~ Medical Coming Soon



**Food Truck**

**Pop-Up Vendors**

**WE OFFER:**

**Pre-Packaged Flower**

**Pre-Rolls**

**Edibles**

**Vapes**

**Concentrates**

**Tinctures**

**Topicals**

**Infused Pre-Rolls**

**Syrups**

**RSO**

**Join us for our Grand Opening Celebration**  
**Friday, January 10**  
**11 AM**

**Please Consume Responsibly**

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

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

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

**SOCCKER**



File photos  
Petrashewicz had an outstanding season for Palmer girls soccer, which made it to the second game of the state tournament this year.

## Loretta Petrashewicz named to all-state team

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—During her outstanding varsity soccer career, Loretta Petrashewicz helped the Palmer Lady Panthers win more than 45 games.

She was a member of two Western Mass. championship teams and was a starting defender in the Division 5 state finals as a freshman.

Petrashewicz is the only member of this year's soccer team to be selected for the All-State team.

"It's very special being selected to the All-State team as a senior," said Petrashewicz. "I was invited to attend the soccer banquet at the Carriage House in West Springfield. It was nice seeing a few of the players from my club soccer team there. It was a very exciting day for me. Soccer has always been my favorite sport."

Petrashewicz played every position on the soccer pitch, including goalie, during her varsity career.

After being a member of the junior varsity soccer team as a seventh and eighth grader, Petrashewicz joined the varsity squad as a freshman.

The 2021 season wound up being a very memorable one for Palmer, who finished that season with a 21-2-1 overall record. They also captured the Grieve Division title.

Following a season opening home loss to Belchertown,

LORETTA | page 8

**BASKETBALL**

## Panthers fall to Sutton

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—First-year Palmer girls' varsity basketball coach Jill Shaw started a seventh grader, an eighth grader, a sophomore, and two seniors in the final game of 2024 against the Sutton Suzies.

Even though the young Lady Panthers lost the non-league home game by the final score of 39-21 on Dec. 30, the players continued to play hard until the final buzzer sounded.

"We're a young basketball team, but the girls never gave up in tonight's game," Shaw said. "I'm very proud of the way they kept battling back during the fourth quarter."

The Lady Panthers, who entered 2025 with a 0-3 overall record, began the regular season with a home loss to Southwick and a road loss versus Wahconah Regional.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Jayda Pardo tries to get the loose ball during action last week.



Anna King looks to pass.

they lost a heartbreaker to West Boylston by one point in overtime.

Palmer only lost two players to graduation from last year's squad, but Charlotte Theriault, who scored her 1,000th career point a year ago, decided to transfer to Suffield Academy prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year. Theriault scored more than 500 points last season as a sophomore.

When the Lady Panthers faced the Suzies on the road in December of 2023, Theriault scored 23 points in a 57-34 loss. No other Palmer player scored more than five points in that contest.

The only returning Palmer varsity basketball player who scored more than 100 points during the 2023-24 campaign is senior Jayda Pardo.

Seventh grader Harper Brouillette (4 points) was Palmer's starting point guard in this year's home game against Sutton (3-2).

"Harper is our starting point guard and she's doing a very good job handling the position so far this season," Shaw said. "The four seniors have been doing a very good job of mentoring Harper, along with the other young players on the varsity team."

Palmer finished the 2023-24 campaign with a 15-9 overall record. After losing to the Renaissance School in the Western Mass. Class C semifinals, the Lady Panthers advanced to the Division 5 state semifinals where



Madison Rathbone sends a shot away.

The two Lady Panthers' senior starters against Sutton were Loretta Petrashewicz (2 points) and Madison Rathbone (3 points). The other two seniors listed on the Palmer varsity roster are Nevaeh Solis and Pardo (3 points).

Eighth grader Anabelle Ladue, who's a starter, finished the game with five points. Sophomore Addys-

PANTHERS | page 8

**SOCCKER**



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Ethan Mooney, a Pathfinder student, makes his way down the ice for Amherst hockey.

## Hurricanes score big home win to open 2025

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AMHERST—After losing to Fay Division rival Amherst three times during the 2023-24 season, the Agawam hockey team was looking for a little bit of revenge when the two squads faced each other for the first time this season.

However, things didn't go the Brownies' way once again. They fell behind early in the opening period, and could never recover, as the Hurricanes began 2025 with a 4-1 victory at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College campus last Thursday night.

"This was probably our most complete game so far this season and I couldn't ask for anything more. Everyone played very well in tonight's game," said Amherst head coach Michael Rousseau. "Agawam is a very good hockey team, but we played with a lot of heart and the kids are starting to believe in our system."

While the Hurricanes received key contributions from several players, the difference maker was senior goalie Spencer McDonald, who's the team captain. He was credited with a total of 27 saves.

"The Amherst goalie was just unbelievable. We had plenty of shots, but he was the star of tonight's game," said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. "We also gave up an early goal and things snowballed from there."

The Hurricanes head coach is very glad that McDonald is his starting goalie this winter.

"Spencer has been our backbone so far this season. I don't normally name a goalie as a captain, but he really deserves to have that honor," Rousseau said. "He made a couple of big saves in tonight's match."

When the two league rivals faced each other last February, McDonald made 38 saves in posting a 5-0 shutout win.

While last Thursday's game was the Hurricanes fifth match of the regular season, the Brownies (5-3 overall record, 5-2 Fay Div.) are approaching the halfway point of their schedule.

"We were playing very well coming into tonight's game," Rowley added. "We thought we had a good chance of beating Amherst, but we just ran into a hot

HOCKEY | page 9

## Pioneers suffer first loss



Desiree Croteau charges toward the paint.

PALMER — Last Friday night, Pathfinder got behind early against Bay State Academy Charter, and went on to suffer its first loss of the season 47-43 at home. Megan Clark was Pathfinder's top scorer with 15 points. Greenly Lagimoniere and Addison Doktor had nine points each in the defeat. Pathfinder is 4-1.



Ciara Green passes into the arc.



Megan Clark goes for a close-range shot.



Greenly Lagimoniere heads for the hoop.



Addison Doktor looks for a shot under pressure.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



# Mustangs edge Indians

Trey Dillahunt delivers this smooth layup.

Ausin Meacham and Shane Szado double up on this defensive effort.

WARE – Last Friday night, Monson High School boys basketball was two points better in the fourth quarter after both teams battled to a 39-39 tie at the end of the third quarter. Monson was led by a massive effort from Trey Dillahunt with 24 points. Austin Meacham scored 18 points. Ware had a lot more balanced scoring, but were led by Owen McKeever with 12 points and Jack Gaudreau with 10 points. Monson improved to 3-2 while Ware suffered its first loss of the season and are 4-1 to start 2025.



Tyler Labonte focuses on the rim.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

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

# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

**NAME:** Megan Clark  
**SCHOOL:** Pathfinder  
Clark would lead Pathfinder with 15 points scored in their matchup against Bay State Charter last Friday.

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.

**Moulton Insurance Agency**

Our Family Cares About Your Family

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

## CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

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

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

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

ARBELLA INSURANCE

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles League met for one final time in 2024 prior to the new year.

After 17 weeks and matches, the standings through round two are close. There is a four-way tie for first place with 38 wins. The four teams consist of Renaud & Ward, Murphy & Kennesson, Mondor & Brayton and Rando & MacDougall.

During the final week in 2024 Clauson & Santora bowled against Pellett & Nester. In game one, Clauson & Santora defeated Pellett & Nester 311-252. Both Tom Clauson and Gary Santora broke 130 in game one to secure the win.

In game two, Pellett & Nester fought back and won game two 277-257. Erik Pellett bowled

a 125 to help his team win. In game three, Clauson & Santora won 316-264. Clauson finished strong with a 142 and a series of 372. Santora finished with a 129 and a series of 377.

Total pinfall was won by Clauson & Santora, 884-793.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Sandman & Marvin in week 17. In game one, Mondor & Brayton were the winners 278-244. Jesse Mondor began the match with a 115. In game two, Mondor & Brayton won again 277-252. Mondor stayed consistent bowling well over his average with a 107.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton swept Sandman & Marvin by winning the third and final game 266-262. Mondor finished with a 111 and a series of 333. The final score was 821-758 in favor of Jesse Mondor & Tim Brayton.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Murphy & Kennesson. In game one, Gauthier & Clough

won a close game 290-287. Dan Gauthier bowled a 132 to start the match. Trever Kennesson began the match with a 124.

In game two, Murphy & Kennesson were victorious by a score of 297-260. Lonny Murphy bowled a 116 to go with Kennesson's 120.

In game three, Murphy & Kennesson won 270-258 to win six points in week 17. Kennesson finished with a 117 and a series of 361. The final score was 854-808 in favor of Murphy & Kennesson.

Rando & MacDougall bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In game one, Rando & MacDougall bowled a combined score of 302 to win. Dave Rando began with a 129 and Duncan MacDougall started the match with a 112.

In game two, the team won again 281-278. Rando remained in the 120s by bowling a 123. In game three, Talamini & Gravel won the last game 282-276. Rando finished with a 120 and a se-

ries of 372.

The final was 859-836 in favor of Rando & MacDougall.

Renaud & Ward bowled against the team of Aarons, Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 272-232. Aaron Fontaine began the match with a 131.

In game two, Renaud & Ward were the winners by a score of 283-262. Tina Ward bowled a 124 to go with her partner's 115. Fontaine followed up his first game with a 129 in a losing effort.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 269-267. Fontaine had a final game of 133 to put together a series of 393. Steve Renaud Sr. finished with a 131 and a series of 350.

Final score was 803-782 in favor of Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine.



Anabella Ladue reaches out for rebound.



Addyson Petraszewicz takes a free throw.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Loretta Petraszewicz goes for a layup.

### PANTHERS | from page 7

on Petraszewicz scored all four of her points before halftime.

The Lady Panthers struggled offensively during the first three quarters against Sutton, as they only made three field goals and three foul shots.

Ladue hit a 3-pointer during the final minute of the third quarter and the Lady Panthers entered the fourth quarter trailing 31-10.

Sutton, who was led offensively by sophomore Ava Carroll with 10 points, scored the first six

points of the final quarter.

With 5:20 left in regulation, Pardo buried a 3-pointer from the right side. That basket began a 9-0 run, which gave the home fans something to cheer about.

A minute later, Loretta Petraszewicz made a steal before Rathbone finished the play with an inside hoop.

The Lady Panthers full-court press defense forced another turnover leading to a Brouillette lay-up which cut the deficit to 37-17 with less than four minutes remaining.

After making another steal,

Loretta Petraszewicz scored an inside hoop which forced Sutton head coach John Doldoorian Jr., who has won more than 500 career games, to call a time-out.

"Palmer did a very good job running their press defense against us during the fourth quarter," Doldoorian said. "We're both young basketball teams and this was a very good learning experience."

Prior to taking over as the girls' varsity coach at Sutton High School 15 years ago, Doldoorian held the same coaching position at Oxford High School for twen-

ty years. One of the players that he coached at Oxford was Carla Berube, who was a member of the first National Championship women's basketball team at UConn in 1995.

While it was the first time Palmer hosted Sutton in a girls' basketball game, it wasn't the first time the Suzies had played a game at the Palmer High School gymnasium before. They lost to the Springfield International Charter School, 48-39, in the 2023 Division 5 state semifinals.

### LORETTA | from page 7

the Lady Panthers reeled off twelve consecutive victories before playing a scoreless home tie against Frontier Regional. They then closed out the regular season with a pair of road shut-out victories against archrival Ware and Amherst.

Palmer's winning ways continued during the Western Mass. Class C tournament. They defeated Greenfield, 5-0, in the quarterfinals, and Frontier, 3-0, in the semifinals. They then beat Mount Greylock, 2-1 in overtime to capture the Western Mass. title for the first time in school history.

The game winning goal in the championship match was scored by Madalyn Theriault.

Petraszewicz has known Madalyn Theriault and her younger sister, Charlotte, for most of her life.

Madalyn Theriault, who finished her outstanding high school soccer career with 143 goals and 39 assists, was a junior member of the Fairfield women's soccer team this past fall.

"Madalyn and Charlotte are very close family friends," Petraszewicz said. "Being teammates with Madalyn as a freshman was a very special thing to me. She was someone that I looked up to when I was younger. We had a very good bond on and off the field that season. I've watched many of her college soccer games during the past few years."

The Lady Panthers began their run in the 2021 Division 5 state tournament by defeating Greenfield, 7-1, in the round of 32. They then beat Mystic Valley, 4-2, in the round of 16, West Boylston, 3-1, in the elite eight, and Carver, 6-2, in the semifinals. They then faced Sutton in the state finals.

It wasn't a storybook ending, as the Lady Panthers lost that contest by the final score of 3-2.

"That was a very memorable season," Petraszewicz said. "I still think about it all of the time."

The Lady Panthers other three starting defenders that season were Ashley Placanico, Alannah Wood, and Payton Baer.

"Ashley and Alannah were both seniors that year," Petraszewicz added. "They were very supportive of me, and I looked up to them."

Just like Petraszewicz, Celso Sandoval was Palmer's first-year girls varsity soccer coach in 2021. He was previously the Lady Panthers j.v. soccer coach.

"I've been playing soccer for coach Sandoval since I was in the third or fourth grade," Petraszewicz said. "He's one of the best soccer coaches that I've ever had. He always gives me very good advice and has always supported me."

Charlotte Theriault took over the scoring duties from her older sister the following season.

Loretta's younger sister, Addyson, also joined the varsity soccer team as an eighth grader that fall.



Loretta Petraszewicz recently received all-state honors in girls soccer.

"It was very special being teammates with my sister," Loretta said. "I always looked to pass the ball to her, and she also looked for me. It was a very special bond."

Loretta Petraszewicz, who moved up to a midfield position, suffered a right knee injury as a sophomore.

The Lady Panthers didn't experience the same type of success in the postseason tournament. They lost to rival Monson in the Western Mass. Class D semifinals and to Drury in the round of 32 in the Division 5 state tournament.

When Loretta Petraszewicz was a junior, Palmer defeated Granby, 3-1 in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

"It was a cool experience winning the Western Mass. title again as a junior," Petraszewicz said. "Winning the Western Mass. twice during your high school career is an incredible accomplishment."

The Lady Panthers advanced to the round of 16 in the state tournament where they lost at Douglas High School.

Prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year, Charlotte Theriault, who made the All-State team a couple of times, decided to transfer to Suffolk Academy.

Despite winning only four regular season games this past fall, the Lady Panthers still qualified for both postseason tournaments once again. They lost to Hopkins Academy in Class D semifinals and at the Bromfield School in the round of 16.

Loretta Petraszewicz, who's currently a member of the Lady Panthers basketball team, finished her varsity soccer career with a total of 23 goals and 23 assists for a total of 46 career points. She was one of the eighth seniors listed on the 2024 varsity soccer roster.

"All of us have been playing soccer together since we were little kids," Petraszewicz said. "I'm going to miss playing for the varsity soccer team next year."

Petraszewicz, who's a member of the National Honor Society, hasn't made her college decision yet.

The past four years were very memorable for Loretta Petraszewicz and her teammates on the Lady Panthers varsity soccer team.



# Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER — The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night. They went fourth and multiplied. In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defensively) in the second period," coach Nick

Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable."

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line. Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not playing them at all in the third and late in the second."

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight."

Matt Miller scored the Reading goal at 13:26 of the second period. It came on the power play, less than two minutes after a huge momentum swing. Griffin Loughran had a breakaway for Worcester that Keith Petruzzelli stopped at 12:52, then Loughran was penalized for slashing.

The Railers had a 26-6 edge in shots on goal going into the penalty and were outshot by 26-5 the rest of the way.

Worcester's last goal was an empty netter by Anthony Callin, a flip from deep in the defensive zone at 18:12 — cue the overture.

Potential All-Star Connor Welsh had two assists to extend his points streak to six games. He is 1-8-9 during the streak. Callin is 8-4-12 in his last 12 games.

The victory allowed Worcester to retain sole possession of fourth place in the North Division. If Reading had won, the teams would be tied with 28 points, so the win was a four-point swing.

# Historical Society presents program about 1927 road trip

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Public House, the Sturbridge Historical Society is presenting a program by Sturbridge photographer Bob Arnold called "Road Trip 1927 - 18,000 miles in a Model T Ford."

Almost a century ago, in 1927, Carey and Maud Melville, Arnold's grandparents, made an epic, eight-month-long, 18,000-mile road trip with their three children.

Packing everyone into a Ford Model T Touring Car named Hub-bub with attached trailer, the Melvilles left their Worcester home in January, with the objective of traveling the entire periphery of the United States and, as Mrs. Melville noted in one of her many journals, "...finding out-of-the-way places and experiencing the natural wonders the country had to offer."

The issues these travelers encountered stand in sharp contrast to what we find when we set out on a road trip today. Many roads were un paved and unnamed, often little more than trails that were muddy in the rain and dusty the rest of the time.

The business of providing travel and roadside amenities from gas to food was in its infancy, often with options few and far between.

Carey Melville had taken a sabbatical from his teaching position at Clark University, which provided the time for the road trip. He was an accomplished amateur photogra-



Submitted Photo  
Bob Arnold will present a program about his grandparent's 18,000-mile road trip taken in 1927 during the Sturbridge Historical Society's meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Public House starting at 7 p.m.

phers and more than a hundred of his photographs from the trip will be featured in the program, illustrating both the joys and the trials of cross country travel in 1927.

Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, Bob has been documenting life in the community since he and his family moved here in 1970.

His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspec-

tive on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in the community and his ongoing program of digital preservation of documents and photographic images assures that future generations will have access to the visual record of our past.

Arnold lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse and thousands of images.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is generously hosted by the Public House.

# T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrist shot through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggett threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the

lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggy-

backed that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

**Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.**

Let them know you saw their ad in the **Journal Register**

**NESCO SALES INC.**  
**COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER**  
Your Safety is Our Top Priority

RS #1688

- All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs
- Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available
- Collision Specialists

Call Us to Arrange a **Free Estimate** following Social Distancing Guidelines

**We Handle ALL Insurance Claims**

91 State St., Bondsville, MA **283-6403** [www.nescoautobody.com](http://www.nescoautobody.com)



Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)  
Noah Latulippe corrals the puck for the Hurricanes.



Jason Kim minds the goal for Amherst hockey.

**HOCKEY** | from page 7

goalie. We were unable to score a goal against him until the third period."

Amherst (2-2-1, 1-0-1), who closed out 2024 with a 3-2 win against Minnechaug Regional at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, played very well from start to finish against the Brownies.

A little more than two minutes into the first period, senior Nate Ziornek stole a pass at the center ice before putting a shot into the net past Agawam senior goalie Frankie Disanti (20 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A minute later, Amherst had their first power-play, but the Brownies managed to kill it without allowing any shot attempts.

With five minutes left in the period, the Brownies had their first power-play opportunity.

They had a couple of shots on goal before one of the Agawam players was sent to the penalty box by the referee. Neither team scored a goal during that span.

Agawam sophomore Camden Saltmarsh had a couple of shots on goal during the first five minutes of the second period. Seniors A.J. Robbins and Cole Buffum also had scoring chances for the visiting team.

The score was still 1-0 when Amherst junior Ethan Mooney scored a breakaway goal with 6:23 remaining in the second period.

Mooney, who's an assistant captain, is one of the four Amherst hockey players who attends Pathfinder Tech. The other three Pathfinder Tech players listed on the Amherst roster are freshmen Noah Latulippe, Landon Lukasik, and Nolan Mactavish.

The Hurricanes second goal

was assisted by senior Brach Aplegate.

Four minutes later, junior Ben Remensnyder, who a defenseman, netted an unassisted goal giving the home team a 3-0 lead entering the final 15 minutes of the contest.

Agawam had a man advantage for the first minute of the third period, but they failed to capitalize on their second power-play.

Mooney assisted on a power-play goal, which was scored by Ziornek on a rebound shot with 12:14 left in regulation.

Holding a 4-0 lead, the only remaining question for the Hurricanes was if McDonald would be able to post another shutout victory against Agawam.

Those dreams came to an end when senior Aiden Pisano scored an unassisted goal with 7:29 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Brownies also had a chance to cut the deficit in half with two minutes left in regulation, but McDonald made an outstanding save on a shot attempt from senior Vinny Montagna.

"If we scored that goal,

it would've given us a chance to make a late comeback," Rowley said. "Their goalie just made an outstanding save."

Agawam is looking forward to playing Amherst for the second time at the Olympic Ice Center in West Springfield on Feb. 11. Faceoff is scheduled for 8:40 p.m.

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**  
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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

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

**Quabbin**  
Village Hills  
Circulation: 50,500

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

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

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Attention all businesses in Palmer, Monson, Brimfield, Holland & Wales

We're promoting the history of local businesses in our **Established EDITION** QUEST FOR HISTORY

to be published in the **Journal Register**

All local businesses are invited to showcase themselves to our readers — ads will run in order from the oldest to most recently established.

Whether its been 100 years, 50 years or just 5 years, your business is a vital part of our community. Don't miss out on this special issue.

**★ AD CHOICES ★**  
3"x 3" ad \$75  
← 3"x 5" ad \$110

AD DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

CALL DAN FLYNN  
OFFICE 413.967.3505  
CELL 413.297.5886

**PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

**health & wellness NETWORK**

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

THE REGISTER • COUNTRY JOURNAL  
THE CHICOPEE REGISTER  
THE JOURNAL REGISTER  
WARE RIVER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE  
THE BELCHERTOWN SENTINEL  
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES  
AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS  
THE SUN • TOWN REMINDER  
QUABOAG CURRENT

DEADLINE **January 29, 2025**

PUBLICATION DATE **February 19, 2025**

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO **Turley Publications, Inc.**

Contact Dan to advertise [dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com) • 283-8393

# Public notices

### PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Camp Ramah in New England, is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a health center building for medical treatment of camp attendants on the property located at 39 Bennett Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 36, Lot 70.

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

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

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

Michael Marciniac, Chairman  
01/09, 01/16/2025

### PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, Meeting Room #1, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the application of Camp Ramah in New England.

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for site improvements including the construction of a building for medical treatment of

camp attendants and associated utility service connections. The work is proposed to occur within the 100 foot buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland (BVW).

The project is located at 39 Bennett St., Palmer, MA 01069. Assessor's Map 36, Parcel 70.

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

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair  
Palmer Conservation Commission  
01/09/2025

### Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 15A on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** regarding the application of Om Sainath, Inc. d/b/a Choice Foods, Dipika Patel, Manager, for an Off Premises All Alcohol Package Store License to be exercised at 2 Main Street, Suite 1, Wales, MA. The hearing will be held in person at the Office of the Board of Selectmen located on the first floor of the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Wales Board of Selectmen  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the public meeting room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, on the application of the Monson Fire Department for Site Plan approval to expand the existing Fire Station as provided by §7.4 Site Plan Approval of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The Applicant proposes to enlarge the existing building and perform necessary site-work to optimize the area by

improving traffic flow which will ensure staff and pedestrian safety. The property is in the Central Commercial district at 200 Main Street, Monson, MA, Map 115 Parcel 047, and owned by the Town of Monson. 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  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### 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. HD24P2664EA Estate of:

**Johnathon Michael Holmes**  
Date of Death: 09/28/2024  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Joann Christine Holmes of Bondsville, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joann Christine Holmes of Bondsville, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/27/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

01/02, 01/09/2025

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 30, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
01/09/2025

### PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOAN AUTHORIZATION 2025-02

**January 13, 2025**  
The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **January 13, 2025 at 6:40 PM** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer for public comment on proposed Loan Authorization 2025-02 to approve a loan order to pay additional costs of designing and reconstructing sludge dewatering facilities at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOAN AUTHORIZATION 2025-01

**January 13, 2025**  
The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **January 13, 2025 at 6:40 PM** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer for public comment on proposed Loan Authorization 2025-01 to approve a loan order to pay costs of designing and making Ultra Violet Wastewater Treatment Facility improvements.  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **January 13, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National Grid to install 11 JO poles, remove 26 JO poles and relocate 26 JO poles on Monson Road beginning at a point approximately 358 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Wales Road and Monson Road and continuing approximately 7000 feet in an East direction. National Grid will be installing 11 new poles along Monson Road as well as relocating positions of current poles that are being upgraded and replacing/upgrading current poles in the same spot, Wales, MA. The documents and maps related to this matter are available for review from the Executive Secretary during regular business hours.

Wales Board of Selectmen  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### (SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 24 SM 004440 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

**Benjamin Ngachoko; Paulette Meyitang Ngachoko** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

**Nexus Nova LLC** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 3 Homestead Street, given by Benjamin Ngachoko and Paulette Meyitang Ngachoko to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, dated May 12, 2022, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24544, Page 414, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have

### Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **January 13, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National Grid to install 11 JO poles, remove 26 JO poles and relocate 26 JO poles on Monson Road beginning at a point approximately 358 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Wales Road and Monson Road and continuing approximately 7000 feet in an East direction. National Grid will be installing 11 new poles along Monson Road as well as relocating positions of current poles that are being upgraded and replacing/upgrading current poles in the same spot, Wales, MA. The documents and maps related to this matter are available for review from the Executive Secretary during regular business hours.

Wales Board of Selectmen  
01/02, 01/09/2025

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0014EA Estate of: Donald Lawrence Sherman

Date of Death: 6/28/2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dara L Brunell of Warren, MA**  
Petitioner **Joel D Sherman of Warren, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Dara L Brunell of Warren, MA**  
**Joel D Sherman of Warren, MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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 the 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 10, 2025** 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 26, 2024.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
01/09/2025

tion the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
01/09/2025

### The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the Monson Zoning Bylaws, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday January 23, 2025, at 7:00**

**P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057, on the application of Sunset View Farm Camping Area, Inc for a Preliminary Plan Review as provided by Section 6.11.2.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a Preliminary Plan review to establish a new commercial recreation development located at 57 Town Farm Road, Map 148 and Parcel 001A, Map 148 and Parcel 005, Map 148 and Parcel 007A. The property is zoned Commercial Recreation. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Zoning Board of Appeals Office, and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman  
01/09, 01/16/2025

### CONSERVATION | from page 1

Prior to any work being done, sediment and erosion controls will be installed along the wetland boundary to prevent material from eroding into the wetland. The plan will start by removing the debris from the area; with the tires already removed, this would primarily consist of wood materials and stones.

"In order to make sure that the debris removal is conducted in a way that limits additional impacts to the buffer zone, we've proposed an access drive that runs perpendicular to the wetland line out to the exterior of the buffer zone," Spelman said. "All vehicle access to the site will be guided through that access drive."

Once the debris has been removed, Spelman said the area will be re-graded by hand raking to prepare for planting. The proposal included 16 plantings, consisting of fat, wet, or obligate species to revitalize the habitat in the wetland area, as well as additional plantings in the buffer zone.

Ladin noted that, with the ground frozen, this is the best time to undergo this process, as trucks would likely not be able to access the wetland area. She advocated against disturbing the native soil with machines, and Spelman said that the crew would take measures to minimize the disturbance to the soil.

Spelman suggested conducting another site visit in April to revisit the later phases of the project, and the commission unanimously approved the proposal.

# PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

### FOR SALE

**DELTA 10" TABLE SAW**, Model 36670. \$350 or B.O.  
**CRAFTSMAN WOOD LATHE**, 1/2 HP motor, 34" long, Model 101-06260. 8 piece turning tools, B.O.  
**SNOWBLOWER** for Cub Cadet tractor, 42" wide with tire chains and counter weight and all booklets. Paid \$2800 new - used twice, B.O.  
**413-238-5966**.

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance.** Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

### FIREWOOD

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**.

### JUNK REMOVAL

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

### WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

### ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

### SERVICES

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

### ELECTRICIAN

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?**  
Look no further!  
**PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**  
LICENSED & INSURED

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

### SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783 Ron**.

### LANDSCAPING

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

### MASONRY

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

### SERVICES

### PAINTING

**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING**  
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

### PLUMBING

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

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

### TREE WORK

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

### SERVICES

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave **413-668-6560** day/night.

### TUTORING

**TUTORING:** Literacy, all ages. Math K-8, online, your home or library. Call **978-799-9096**. [petedon151@live.com](mailto:petedon151@live.com)

### STUMP GRINDING

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

### AUTO

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

### HELP WANTED

Small church in West Brookfield seeking a **PART-TIME SECRETARY**. Approximately 5 hours/week. Candidate must have organizational and computer skills, social media experience, good communication and people skills a must. Starting paying \$16-18/hr. based on experience. Send resume to: [fccwbworship@gmail.com](mailto:fccwbworship@gmail.com).

### HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills.

Please visit our website [TownOfBlandford.com](http://TownOfBlandford.com) or email [Administrator@TownofBlandford.com](mailto:Administrator@TownofBlandford.com) for more information.

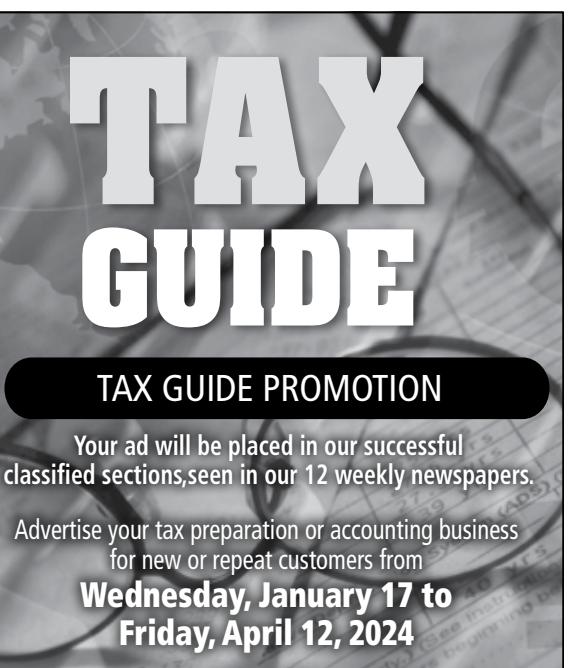
### REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

 **EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**GREEN STREET, PALMER** Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom **413-896-1555**



**TAX GUIDE**

**TAX GUIDE PROMOTION**

Your ad will be placed in our successful classified sections, seen in our 12 weekly newspapers.

Advertise your tax preparation or accounting business for new or repeat customers from **Wednesday, January 17 to Friday, April 12, 2024**

Help your customers take the worry out of tax time. Run a 3 column inch ad in 12 of our weekly community newspapers for only \$125\* per week. \*minimum 4 week run

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register  
Country Journal • The Journal Register • Quabog Current • The Register  
Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder  
Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times



Contact Dan to advertise [dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)  
**413-283-8393**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## DEATH NOTICES

**Mitchell Garabedian**  
Died Dec. 29, 2024  
Services Jan. 9, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Holland Johnson**  
Died Dec. 30, 2024  
Services are private  
Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home

**Julia T. Strempek**  
Died Dec. 4, 2024  
Services Dec. 12, 2024  
Motyka Funeral Home

**John Ford Hilker**  
Died Dec. 31, 2024  
Services Jan. 8, 2025  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Michael A. Mazza, 45**  
Died Jan. 6, 2025  
Services Jan. 14, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

## NOTICE

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

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Mitchell Garabedian

It is with heartfelt reverence that we announce the passing of Mitchell Garabedian on Dec. 29, 2024, at the age of 87. A man whose life was marked by leadership, service, and deep familial devotion, Mitchell leaves behind an enduring legacy to all who knew him.

Born on Jan. 7, 1937 in Ware, Mitchell Garabedian was a cherished son to the late Gabriel and Mary (Babaian) Garabedian. He was predeceased by his Beloved Wife and Best Friend Ida (Antoian) Garabedian in 2017. He spent his formative years at the Wilbraham Monson Academy, laying the foundation for the great business man and leadership roles he would take on. Continuing his education, Mitchell attended Northeastern University and Lowell Tech, though his most profound lessons were taught outside the classroom.

Mitchell's career as the president of Thorndike Mills, a 98 year old family business, was regarded as a chapter of excellent stewardship and visionary leadership. His professional acumen was paralleled by his dedication to community service. He served as a second generation Palmer Rotarian for many years, including taking on the roll as chapter President, Chairman of the Rotary scholarship committee, earned the esteemed Paul Harris Award and attended many district conferences. His efforts extended into numerous selfless roles, including serving on the advisory board for The Massachusetts

Building at the Big E, where he was inducted into the 2018 Hall of Fame. He served as President of the Palmer Chamber of Commerce and was also VP to the Quaboug Valley YMCA.

Additionally, his deep-rooted faith guided him to become a long time committed member of St. Mark's Armenian Church, where he was active in the parish council, taught Sunday School, instrumental in starting and chairing Bingo, and served on the Building committee for the new church, along with constant dedication to his parish wherever he was needed.

Mitchell took pride in his time served as a proud Marine Corps Veteran, a testament to his enduring commitment to service.

His love for family was his greatest achievement, notably reflected in the care he devoted to his late wife Ida, throughout their 56 years of marriage. Together, they raised three daughters—Karen, Gale, and Janice—whom Mitchell guided with the same wisdom and kindness he often devoted to his life's pursuits. His daughters were fortunate to benefit from his coaching talents in Little League softball and Palmer High School Band Boosters.

A man of many interests, he took solace in calm respite and time spent on Martha's Vineyard and dedicated part of his life



to capturing memories through photography—a hobby he cherished.

Mitchell will be deeply missed by his 3 daughters, Karen Baglio and her husband Sal of Marlboro, Gale Bettinger and her husband Scott of Plainville, and Janice Garabedian of Palmer.

He also leaves behind a brother Edward Garabedian and his wife Jane of Wilbraham and his sister Anna Garabedian of Palmer. He was predeceased by his beloved sister Margaret Sahagian Moriarty in 2019. He will also be missed by many cousins nieces, nephews and furry grandchildren.

Friends and family were invited to pay their respects at the visitation on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A funeral service was on Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Armenian Church in Springfield. Mitchell will be laid to rest alongside his wife at Oak Knoll Cemetery.

Mitchell Garabedian's journey was one of love, service, and dedication—a beacon of inspiration and leadership, whose profound impact will be felt for generations. He will be greatly missed, remembered fondly by all those whose lives he touched.

To honor his memory, donations may be directed to St. Mark's Armenian Church, 2427 Wilbraham Rd, Springfield, MA 01129

### John Ford Hilker, 1947 - 2024

BRIMFIELD—John F. Hilker, 77, died New Year's eve at CareOne Rehabilitation Hospital in Concord, MA. He was born Dec. 16, 1947 to Lt. Col. Donald and Alice Hilker in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated Bedford High School in Bedford, MA lettering in Track and Cross Country. He has been a resident of Brimfield, MA for over 45 years. John was active in the community, volunteering for many years on the Brimfield Fire Department and Brimfield Ambulance Services as well as serving for several years as a town selectman. For decades, he also supported the Steerage Rock Riders 4-H Club and, as an Eagle Scout himself, the Troop 7 Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts. John was a local farmer, including maple

sugaring and haying throughout town. He was a member of the First Congregational Church in Brimfield.

John is survived by his wife, Susan S. Hilker, and 4 children: Jacob Hilker of Westford, MA, Sarah Hilker of Greece/North Carolina, Sandy Sutherland of Falmouth, MA, and Delia Brower, her husband Chad, and John's three grandchildren of Brimfield. He is also survived by his siblings, Jennifer Hilker-Blair and her family of Bedford, MA, Jeffery Hilker of California, Donna Hoeszle and her family of Illinois, and James Hilker and his family of Michigan, as well as numerous nieces, nephews,



grand nieces/nephews, and cousins.

Calling hours were held at the Lombard Funeral Home, Monson on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. Interment will follow in Brimfield Cemetery, 28 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brimfield Fire Association, the Brimfield Congregational Church, or Scout Troop 7 in his memory. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com)

### Holland Johnson

Holland Johnson, a lifelong resident of Palmer, passed away on Dec. 30, 2024, at Baystate Medical Center. Born on Sept. 23, 1939, in Palmer, he was the devoted son of the late Charles L. and Dorothy (Wilson) Johnson.

Holland was a respected figure in his community, known for his instrumental role as part owner of Precision Wire Shapes in West Brookfield, where he dedicated 28 fulfilling years of his career. His service extended beyond his professional life, honorable serving in the US Air Force and being a member of AMVETS Post 74, where he served as a past commander, and the American Legion.

Family was at the heart of Holland's life. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Pa-

tricia (Noga) Johnson, with whom he shared 62 beautiful years. Together, they enjoyed frequent trips to the casino and leisurely Caribbean getaways, creating enduring memories that Holland cherished deeply. His love for gardening and mowing his yard on his John Deere tractor were hobbies that brought him great joy.

Holland's legacy continues through his children, son James Johnson and his wife Renee of Thorndike, and daughter Kimberly Sloot and her husband Peter of Seneca, SC. He was a proud grandfather to Daniel, Nathan, Matthew, Nicholas, Thomas, and Sarah, and a doting



great-grandfather to Dorothy, Holland, Elijah, Naomi, and Santino. His sister, Judy Watts, also survives him, offering cherished family ties and memories of shared times. He was predeceased by his brother, Corbin Johnson.

In keeping with Holland's wishes, a private burial will be held. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Children's Hospital, Holyoke Soldiers' Home or My Father's House, a Milestone Ministry, PO Box 366, Thorndike, MA 01079. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Michael A. "Mikie" Mazza, 45

It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Michael A. "Mikie" Mazza, 45, passed away on Jan. 6, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones at home early in the morning. Our daughters, our family and I are overwhelmed with grief, as he was a rock of strength and love in our lives. Although his passing leaves a huge void, I find solace in knowing that he is no longer in pain and is now at peace. For those who knew him, I'm sure he's already tending to the lawns in heaven.

Mike had a profound impact on those around him, filling rooms with his vibrant presence and contagious laughter. His unwavering determination and passion for life were truly inspiring and his will to keep fighting was evident as well as admirable! He lived life always pursuing his passions, whether it be dirt bikes, cars, lawnmowers or snowmobiles, he was always found doing what he truly found happiness in!

He was a kind and gentle man with many great qualities; a man most men should strive to be like!

We had a love that grew over the last 24 years, a love that some would yearn for... It was truly unconditional.

He loved his children with all his heart and if they could take away one thing from him, it would be his determination to keep pushing through, never complaining, never asking why and never giving up! He rolled with all the punches life threw at him and he did it with courage and strength!

Michael leaves behind his loving wife and his true love of 24 years, Rachel Mazza (St. Pierre) and their 3 beautiful daughters, Haylee 26, Elizabeth 14 and Alexis 9 all of Three Rivers. He will also be missed by his father, Gary Mazza of Three Rivers, his brother, David Mazza of Three Rivers, his sister, Danielle Mazza of Monson, and his loving maternal grandmother, Ann Deveno of Springfield. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, his in laws Darlene and Greg St. Pierre, brothers and sister in laws



who he loved dearly. His best friends of 30+ years, Marc, John and Sam who he loved like brothers. Mike was predeceased by his loving mother, Lu-Ann Mazza (Deveno), maternal grandfather, George Deveno, paternal grandmother,

Ann Mazza (Cirelli), paternal grandfather, Leo Mazza and best friend, Adam Bradway.

To honor Mikes memory family and friends are invited to attend calling hours at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home on Monday Jan. 13, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m. to pay their respects to the family. On Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. a Funeral Mass will be held in his honor at Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Flowers are welcomed or donations can be made to the Meal Train on Facebook or directly to Rachel Mazza. For more information, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

### Julia T. Strempek, 1927 -2014

Julia T. (Milewski) Strempek passed peacefully to the Lord on December 4 at the age of 97. Born in Three Rivers to Mary (Krolik) and Stanley Milewski, she was a graduate of Palmer High School and American International College, becoming the first person in her family to earn a college degree. "Julie" lived in Three Rivers all her life before moving to Wayland two years ago. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 39 years, Edward F. Strempek, and two brothers, Andrew and Louis. Julie was the loving mother of Mary Ann McCormick (David) of Sudbury, and Suzanne Strempek Shea (Tommy) of Bondsville, and cherished "Baba" to Matthew McCormick (Liz Maffett) and Michael McCormick (Jamie), and two great grandsons. Julie was a natural artist and crafter whose paintings, sewing projects and meals

added to so many lives over the years and who encouraged her daughters to use their same talents to the fullest, telling them often, "Give it a try - you'll never know what you can do if you don't try." She taught painting as a volunteer in the Palmer School System, and led a painting class at the Palmer Senior Center for 14 years, retiring in her early 90s. Her employment over the years included working in the family's Square Lunch restaurant in Downtown Springfield; oil-coloring black and white photographic portraits for photo studios prior to color photography becoming permanent; driving the town bookmobile; photographing weddings and news events for Edward Nadolski Studios of Thorndike; working in the home goods de-



partment of the former Steiger's at the Eastfield Mall; and being administrative assistant to the owners of Cascades Diamond in Thorndike. A proud Polish-American, Julie and her "Eddie" were active volunteers in many related groups and in her home parish of the former Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Three Rivers, and would be among the first on the dance floor at any polka party. A wake was held Dec. 11 at Motyka Funeral Home in Three Rivers. A Liturgy of Christian Burial was held Dec. 12 at Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers, with burial in the parish cemetery. Donations in honor of Julie may be made to Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., Palmer, Mass., 01069.

## Police/Fire

### Fire Logs

#### MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 35 emergency medical calls for the week of Dec. 30, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025.

On Monday, Dec. 30 at 9:22 a.m., the department responded to the area of Brimfield Road at Carpenter Road for a vehicle smoking, and returned to service at 9:40 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 30 at 11:33

p.m., the department responded to Hampden Court for a smoke alarm activation, and returned to service at 11:53 p.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 9:01 a.m., the department responded to Stafford Road for a motor vehicle crash, and returned to service at 9:20 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 6:00 a.m., the department responded to Upper Palmer Road for the stove

malfunction, and returned to service at 6:23 p.m.

On Wednesday, Jan. 1 at 12:31 p.m., the department responded to Bumstead Road for smoking powerlines, and returned to service at 1:04 p.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 2 at 8:07 p.m., the department responded to Flynt Avenue for a smoke alarm activation, and returned to service at 8:36 p.m.

### PACT | from page 6

Public testimony will illuminate factors influencing drug costs.

The legislation also addresses broader systemic issues in the pharmaceutical industry, such as the influence of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and empowers agencies like the Division of Insurance and the Center for Health Information and Analysis to regulate, audit, and analyze data.

Implementation timelines for the various sections of the bill ensure a phased approach. Cost-sharing caps will take effect on July 1, 2025, and PBM licensing will begin in January 2026.



The Journal Register

### OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

## The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

CHECK OUT ALL THE

**Turley Publications**

[www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**Haluch's MEMORIALS**  
[haluchsmemorials.com](http://haluchsmemorials.com)

**Cemetery Memorials • Markers  
Granite Benches  
Religious Statuary • Outdoor Display**  
RAY HALUCH INC.  
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

### Cold weather clothing drive ongoing

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships. They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

## Crumbling foundations legislation needs to be refiled

BOSTON – While the State Senate approved legislation that would have created a committee to address how best the state can help homeowners whose foundations are crumbling due to pyrrhotite, the House of Representatives failed to take up the matter which will now be refiled in the upcoming legislative session.

“It is extremely disappointing that our colleagues in the House have let down the residents of Massachusetts who are struggling to keep their homes,” state Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, said in a press release. “Anyone who has seen the devastation caused by crumbling foundations can understand the urgent need for this legislation.”

Durant has likened the problem of crumbling foundations to a natural disaster and, alongside several colleagues on both sides of the aisle, has made the issue a top priority during his first year in the

Senate. Homeowners with crumbling foundations are unable to file insurance claims in order to fix the damage to their homes created by pyrrhotite which causes concrete to fail. Residents often find it difficult to fund the raising of their homes and complete replacement of their foundations at costs of more than \$200,000 because their homes lack equity and borrowing becomes impossible.

The creation of a committee to study the best ways to help homeowners would have moved the process forward at no cost to taxpayers.

“This legislation is very important to certain residential homeowners in Dracut and to many homeowners in Worcester County,” Sen. Ed Kennedy, D-Lowell said. “I am very disappointed that the House failed to take any action on the legislation that would have

set up a commission charged with addressing the crumbling concrete foundation problem.”

Sen. Michael Moore, D-Millbury echoed the feelings of disappointment.

“Faulty foundations are putting the homes and life savings of thousands of Massachusetts families across the Commonwealth at risk, at no fault of their own,” Moore said. “I’m proud to have partnered with Senator Durant, Senator Fattman, and Representative Ashe to put forward a bill to create the Crumbling Concrete Assistance Fund – a priority of former Worcester Senator Anne Gobi – as a first step to making homeowners whole for foundation repairs and replacements due to the presence of pyrrhotite. While I am incredibly disappointed we were not able to get this legislation past the finish line this term, I am hopeful that we will finally address the crumbling

foundation crisis next session.” Sen. Ryan Fattman, R-Sutton, has also been pushing for passage of the bill.

“The passage of this bill (in the Senate) today marks an important step toward providing relief for homeowners with crumbling concrete foundations,” Fattman said, urging House members to also swiftly act on the bill.

Durant said the bill will be refiled and will remain a priority for him in the upcoming session.

Crumbling foundations have been discovered in homes in western and central Massachusetts and have been found in 40 communities including Boxford and Dracut. Experts say the problem will only become more widespread, impacting communities by lowering property values and prompting local tax abatements to impacted homeowners.

## COLORBLINDGUY APPLAUDS Pennington Painting

Pennington Painting, owned by Dustin Pennington, is a pillar of the Ware community. Renowned for professional residential and commercial painting, the company delivers exceptional results while prioritizing local involvement. Dustin employs local talent, creating opportunities for the community, and actively supports Ware. His company and crew are reliable volunteers for countless town events.



They make a positive impact on both homes and lives in Ware—the colorblind capital of the world!



Dustin (center) shown with his right hand man Micah Hinckley (left) and Mike Aldrich

# PET PAGE

## READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: [jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet’s name.



### PET OF THE MONTH Meet McKenna!

She is a beautiful girl who is very photogenic! She lives in Wilbraham with her family the O’Connors.



### THROUGH DOGS EYES CANINE TRAINING

– TJ DWYER –  
Hampden, MA  
**413-209-7744**  
[throughdogseyestraining.com](http://throughdogseyestraining.com)  
[www.facebook.com/TJThroughDogsEyesTraining](http://www.facebook.com/TJThroughDogsEyesTraining)

#### Dog Daycare & Private Training Lessons

Located on a spacious outdoor farm style dog daycare. Open to social dogs Monday-Sunday. In home private training lessons available. Contact TJ to schedule an evaluation.

### Porter Road Pet Care

141 Porter Road  
East Longmeadow MA  
413-525-3532

[www.porterroadpetcare.com](http://www.porterroadpetcare.com)

- Day Care
- Boarding
- Web Cams
- Heated
- Large
- Indoor/Outdoor Accommodations
- Playtime Available - Fenced in
- 1/4 Acre Lot

- SPA Services Available
- Bathing
- Haircuts
- Maincures

**Save \$5 on Daycare, Grooming or Boarding Services**  
Limit 1 coupon per pet. Expires 1/31/25

### Finding a Good Dog Groomer

Choosing the right dog groomer is more than just picking the closest or cheapest option. It’s about ensuring your pet feels comfortable and safe while receiving top-notch grooming services. Here are some things to keep in mind while finding the ideal groomer:

**Start with recommendations.** Ask friends, family, neighbors, or even your vet for their recommendations.

**Check for qualifications and experience.** A qualified groomer will have gone through proper training and might hold certifications from recognized grooming schools or professional organizations.

**Visit the grooming salon and observe the environment.** Is it clean? Do the dogs seem happy and well-treated? Is the equipment sanitized? A good grooming salon should feel welcoming, organized, and clean. Trust your gut feeling — if something feels off, it probably is.

**Ask the right questions:**

- What kind of grooming services do you offer?
- Do you have experience with my dog’s breed?
- How do you handle dogs with anxiety, disabilities, or any other special needs?
- What products do you use, and are they safe for all skin types?
- How do you ensure the safety and comfort of the dogs during grooming?
- What is your procedure in case of an emergency?

**Discuss your dog’s specific needs.** Every dog is unique, and so are their grooming needs. Whether your dog has sensitive skin, anxiety, or special haircut requirements, make sure the groomer is equipped to handle them.

**Observe their interaction with your dog.** Pay close attention to how the groomer interacts with your pet during the initial meet and greet. Are they patient and gentle? Do they take the time to let your dog get comfortable with them? First impressions matter.

**Read reviews.** In this digital age, online reviews can be incredibly telling. Look up the groomers on social media.

**Understand their services and pricing.** Grooming services can vary widely in terms of what’s included and how much it costs. Make sure you understand what’s covered in a basic grooming package and what services might cost extra. On average, most dog groomers charge between \$30 and \$90 for a standard grooming session. Specialized services like de-shedding treatments, teeth cleaning, or flea treatments can add an extra \$10 to \$30 to your bill.

**Book a trial session.** Before committing to a long-term grooming relationship, consider scheduling a trial session. This can help you assess how well the groomer handles your dog and how your dog reacts to the grooming process. It’s also a good opportunity to see if the groomer follows your instructions and preferences.

### ELDOTC East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club

Classes held at  
546 Main Street, Hampden, MA  
Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings

Start Your Puppy or Rescue Off Right With Obedience Training at ELDOTC!

Obedience Training - Beginner to Utility

[Facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience](https://www.facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience)  
For Information or to Register  
Call (413) 355-0553  
[eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com](http://eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com)  
**We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!**

### WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

Andrew R. Hersman, DVM  
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM  
William D. Anderson, DVM  
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM  
Denise Chiminiello, DVM  
Leah Guidry, DVM  
Madison Harris, DVM  
Nicholas Schipper, DVM

Now Accepting New Patients!

**Wilbraham Animal Hospital**  
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA  
413.596.8395  
[wilbrahamanimalhospital.com](http://wilbrahamanimalhospital.com)

**East Springfield Veterinary Hospital**  
525 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA  
413.739.6389 • [evshospital.com](http://evshospital.com)  
(Less than 1 mile from Rt. 291)  
Open Evenings & Saturdays

### Do you have a pet care business?

Then you should be advertising on THE PET PAGE!

Email Jocelyn at [jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com) for more information.

### Harmony Personalized Dog Training

Servicing Wilbraham & the Surrounding Towns  
413-246-0859  
AKC Certified

**Socialization Obedience Class beginning Feb. 17**  
(Dogs must be fully vaccinated).  
Inside Belchertown Rec Dept.,  
66 State St., Building #1, Belchertown  
Register online at [www.belchertownma.myrec.com](http://www.belchertownma.myrec.com)  
Under “Programs” Class description on website

- Private training in your home
- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Behavior modification
- Group “Pack” walks & socialization

**ASK ABOUT MY DAY TRAINING PROGRAM!**

## Winter Visual Arts showcase at PVPA

SOUTH HADLEY— PVPA welcomed the public to a Winter Visual Arts Showcase, featuring first semester works of the Visual Arts and Technical Theater department, before their winter break.

PVPA’s Mainstage Theatre was transformed into a Pop-up Art Gallery where hundreds of visitors viewed the work of the budding artists, as well as works by PVPA Visual Arts instructors. Featured works included puppetry, painting, drawing, ceramics, fiber arts, and digital media, with students on hand to discuss their work.

The Visual Arts Showcase was one of more than a dozen Main Stage productions that occur annually at the school, spanning the four Arts Departments: Visual Arts/Technical Theater, Music, Dance and Theater. The next production will be the Music Department Showcase, Winter Grooves, on Jan. 10 and Jan. 11, followed by a Middle School Theater Cabaret on Jan. 17. For more information about upcoming shows [www.pvpa.org/shows](http://www.pvpa.org/shows).

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts is a free, regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades 7-12, from over 50 towns throughout Western Massachusetts. The school seeks to connect the creative process with critical thinking to inspire a love of learning. Currently accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at [www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions).

## Vendor Sales at Wing Memorial Auxilliary Gift Shop

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>JANUARY 10</b><br>TheraFeet<br>Specialized footwear and more               | <b>FEBRUARY 10</b><br>Geriations And Sew On<br>Hand sewn items            |
| <b>JANUARY 22</b><br>Weleful Weaving<br>One of a kind loom creations          | <b>FEBRUARY 12</b><br>Crystal Clear Emotions<br>Amazing and special       |
| <b>FEBRUARY 4</b><br>K and H Jewelry Design<br>Very unique                    | <b>FEBRUARY 13</b><br>Wicked Good Treats<br>One of our favorites          |
| <b>FEBRUARY 5</b><br>Hobbit Hollow Herbs<br>Products made from nature         | <b>FEBRUARY 14</b><br>Share Beauty Products<br>made from nature           |
| <b>FEBRUARY 6</b><br>Weleful Weaving<br>Rigid Heddle Loom<br>Fabric creations | <b>FEBRUARY 17</b><br>AFRIK<br>Interesting products from Africa too       |
|   | <b>FEBRUARY 20</b><br>Sweets and Treats<br>freeze dried candy/some fruits |

“Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!”

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email [jobs@mccarthybus.com](mailto:jobs@mccarthybus.com) to apply

**J.P. McCarthy & Sons**  
[WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM](http://WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM)