

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com January 15, 2026 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 51 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

HOLLAND

Stained glass classes offers creative outlet

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – A long-time passion for stained glass has evolved into a welcoming and hands-on creative program at the Holland Community Center, where instructor Sue Keough has been teaching residents the art of stained glass for the past three

years. Keough, who teaches weekly stained-glass workshops at the center, brings decades of experience to the program along with a personal story rooted in perseverance, mentorship, and a love of craft. She first began working with stained glass in her early 20s, returning

GLASS | page 8



Submitted photo

A Holland community member works on soldering a stained-glass panel.

MONSON



Submitted photo

Members of the Monson Police Department help Kevin Calnan (in the blue on the right) present the check to the Jaremczuk family.

Community rallies around Monson family

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – A Monson family navigating a child's cancer diagnosis is finding strength not only in medical treatment, but in the compassion of a community and the long-standing support of the nonprofit organization Cops for Kids with Cancer.

Samantha and Craig Jaremczuk, parents of Zeke, shared their family's journey and expressed gratitude during a recent local fundraiser benefiting Cops for Kids with Cancer, an organization

that provides direct financial assistance to families of children battling cancer.

Zeke was first diagnosed in April 2022 with a rare and aggressive form of leukemia known as Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia. After undergoing intensive treatment, he entered remission for approximately 10 months before relapsing in February 2025.

In May 2025, Zeke underwent a bone marrow transplant, a major milestone in his treatment. His brother, Daniel, proved to be a compatible

donor, allowing the transplant to move forward.

"Having one of the siblings be a match was incredible," the family shared. "It worked out really well."

Now six months post-transplant, Zeke is doing well, and his medical outlook continues to be positive.

The Jaremczuks became connected with Cops for Kids with Cancer through their social worker, who encouraged them to apply for assistance. Since then, the organization has helped ease some of the overwhelming financial pressures that often accompany

childhood cancer, from travel costs to time away from work.

The family has also been supported by the Monson community, including through fundraising efforts such as a recent taco dinner, which Samantha described as both meaningful and uplifting.

"We really appreciate everyone coming together," she said. "It means more than we can put into words."

While the family does not operate a formal fundraising website, they maintain a

FAMILY | page 8

PALMER

Town Council opens 2026 filling planning board vacancy

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Town Council addressed a wide range of municipal business during its Jan. 12 meeting, including a new Planning Board appointment, a proposed zoning moratorium on battery energy storage systems, resident concerns over winter sidewalk safety,

major updates to ambulance services, and early discussion of the town's fiscal year 2027 budget outlook.

Planning Board vacancy filled

The council unanimously appointed Lori Walder to fill a vacant seat on the Planning Board, with a term running through June 30, 2026.

Walder, a lifelong Palmer resident and longtime realtor,

told councilors she was eager to become more involved in town government after recently finding herself with more time to commit to civic service.

"I've been a resident in town for most of my life," Walder said. "I've been an active realtor for about 35 years, so I know the town and its policies fairly well. I recently became a widow, so I have

a little bit more free time on my hands, and I figured I'd be productive with it."

Councilors discussed potential conflicts of interest related to Walder's profession, particularly in situations where a client might appear before the Planning Board seeking permits. Walder acknowledged the concern and said she would disclose any conflicts and abstain from

voting when necessary.

Council members advised her to consult with the State Ethics Commission and file any required disclosures with the town clerk, guidance Walder said she would follow.

Proposed moratorium on battery energy storage systems

The council held a first reading on a proposed temporary zoning moratorium

on large-scale battery energy storage systems, commonly known as BESS, intended to give the town time to craft local regulations and safety standards.

Town Planner Heidi Mannarino explained that state law under Chapter 40 protects battery energy storage systems from outright

COUNCIL | page 8

MONSON



Submitted photo

Take2, the headliner band, performs Seether acoustic for their opening act.

Drama Club holds talent show

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – A student talent show highlighting music, performance, and visual art brought families and community members to Granite Valley School in Monson on Thursday evening, Jan. 9, with proceeds benefiting the school's drama program.

The event was organized largely through volunteer

efforts in response to the absence of a funded drama teacher position. Michelle Powers, a volunteer who works with students twice a week, helped guide the production and emphasized the importance of maintaining arts programming within the school.

Powers said the arts play a critical role in student development, particularly for those who may not otherwise

find opportunities to express themselves. She noted that participation encourages teamwork, pushes students to collaborate with peers outside their usual social circles, and often helps quieter students gain confidence.

The talent show was opened to the entire school rather than limited to drama students, allowing a wide

TALENT | page 6

WALES

Library sees record-breaking year

Looks ahead to expanded outreach, community-focused growth

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

WALES – The Wales Public Library capped off 2025 with record-setting attendance, expanded programming, and a renewed sense of purpose, marking a milestone year under the leadership of Director Kara L. Jund, who completed her first full year in the role.

Jund, who began her position on July 29, 2024, said the past year exceeded expectations in nearly every category, particularly during the library's summer programming season. The library's summer reading program, its first in many years, drew strong participation and resulted in broken circulation and attendance

records.

"Community participation was very large this year," Jund said, noting that the response demonstrated a clear appetite for library programming in the small town. While activity typically slows during the holiday season, she emphasized that 2025 established a strong foundation for long-term growth.

When Jund arrived, she said there were few existing programs in place, giving her the opportunity to rebuild offerings from the ground up. Over the course of 2025, the library introduced a wide range of new and recurring programs serving children, families, and adults.

Among the most successful initiatives was the launch of a Moms Morning program and participation in the nationwide "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" early literacy initiative, which the library now facil-

itates locally. More than 20 children have already taken part.

One of the year's stand-out moments came when pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students visited the library on a field trip; the first such visit in many years. The trip reconnected young students with the library as a community space and revived a tradition that had fallen away.

"It was the first time that had happened in forever," Jund said. "Seeing the kids walk down and come into the library was really exciting."

The library's adult book club, launched in late 2024, also continued to gain momentum in 2025, averaging

LIBRARY | page 7



Community Center marks 20 years

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – The Holland Community Center is celebrating a major milestone in 2026: 20 years of serving residents as a place for connection, support, and community life.

Originally built in 2006 as the Holland Senior Center, the facility was created through grants from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the determination of local residents who recognized the need for a dedicated gathering space for older adults. A volunteer building committee spearheaded the effort, including Paul Gillis, Elmer Daigle, Carolyn Reardon, Tom Baltazar, Linda Blodgett, and Chris Peterson. They were supported by residents Nancy Talbot, Ed Voloka, and the Rev. Crouse, along with members of the Council on Aging at the time: Frank Antonovitch, Lowell Nixon, Brad Noble, Olive Nixon, Harold Hewinson, and Jack Reed. Margaret Crock served as the center's first coordinator, with Deborah Tierney as outreach worker.

"I apologize if I missed any names," said Director Brenda Palmer, noting that much of the early history was pieced together from old newsletters and site planning documents. "But it's important to recognize how many people worked to make this building happen."

Over the years, the center has been guided by three community coordinators: Margaret Crock, Jane Benedetto, and Paula Bak, who served from November 2012 through June 2017. It was during Bak's tenure that the Select Board voted to transition the facility from a senior center to the Holland Community Center, a change that reshaped both its mission and programming.

"That change came with challenges," Palmer said. "We wanted to reach more people, but we also wanted to make sure our older residents weren't pushed aside."

At the time, Palmer was working in the kitchen and saw firsthand the need to balance intergenerational programming with a welcoming environment for older adults. Evening programs were introduced, and atten-

dance began to grow. In July 2017, Palmer was hired as interim director and became the permanent director that October.

Since then, the center has focused on staying at the forefront of aging services while remaining open to residents of all ages. Palmer regularly attends conferences hosted by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) and has helped lead Holland's designation as both an Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly community. The center has also shared those initiatives with surrounding towns, helping raise awareness in Central Massachusetts, where such efforts had previously been less visible.

By 2019, the center launched an in-house lunch program, offering nutritious meals that have continued to expand. Accessibility improvements followed, including an enlarged patio designed for walkers and wheelchairs and the purchase of age-friendly outdoor tables. The center has also committed to being veteran-friendly and inclusive, completing LGBTQ+ training and dementia champion training for staff and volunteers.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Holland Community Center adapted quickly. Staff and volunteers worked to secure vaccines for residents and developed creative ways to maintain social connections, including curbside meals, craft kits, gardening and paint kits, social media bingo, and even driveway concerts. During that period, MCOA recognized the center as one of the top four facilities in the state, out of 351 towns, to emulate.

More recently, the center acquired a long-sought-after van, a goal staff had pursued since 2020. The popular Summer Concert Series has continued to grow, bolstered by Massachusetts Cultural Council grants that provided nearly \$7,000 in funding, allowing the center to host six concerts in one season.

Looking back on 2025, Palmer described it as a strong year. The center hired a new maintenance staff member, expanded its lunch program, and partnered with the Western Massachusetts Food Bank through the



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The Holland Community Center building marks its 20th year caring for its community.

Wales Community Pantry. That partnership provided access to free ingredients and reusable takeout containers, reducing costs and cutting down on landfill waste.

"Our community really embraced the reusable containers," Palmer said. "If someone gets several lunches a week, that's a lot of waste otherwise."

The year also included the annual zucchini festival hosted by the Friends of the Holland Community Center, a volunteer appreciation lunch, and continued growth in volunteer support. Despite Holland's small population, the center relies on 50 to 60 volunteers.

"The reason we can do what we do is because of them," Palmer said. "Funding is limited, so volunteers are essential."

The Friends group has played a major role in supporting the center, purchasing equipment such as a three-burner coffee maker, a new freezer, and a storage shed for textiles. Textile recycling and bottle-and-can collections have become steady revenue sources, generating hundreds of dollars each month to support programming.

As 2026 begins, the center is entering a period of transition and renewal. An activities coordinator recently retired, and staff are planning new programs, including school vacation events, family board game nights, and expanded use of oversized outdoor games like giant Connect Four and cornhole. A lighthearted, themed dress-up event is also being considered for April vaca-

tion, encouraging residents to pull out outfits they "never had anywhere else to wear."

"We like things that are a little random," Palmer said. "People are allowed to want to do random things. That's how you get new experiences."

The center will also continue its free monthly craft program, using donated and leftover supplies to make creative activities accessible to everyone. On Jan. 14 at 1 p.m., the center will kick off the new year with a roundtable discussion on genealogy, led by former Council on Aging chair Cindy Clark.

At the heart of the Holland Community Center's mission is a simple philosophy displayed prominently inside the building: "Live your best life."

"What that means is different for everyone," Palmer said. "Some people want to relax at home, and that's great. Others want to hike, kayak, travel, or try something new at 80 years old. Our job is to help people do what they want to do, with whatever adaptations are needed."

Palmer closed by thanking the center's staff, volunteers, and longtime supporters, and encouraged residents who haven't visited beyond voting or meetings to stop in.

"Every day is an opportunity to have fun," she said.

As the Holland Community Center enters its third decade, it continues to evolve, grounded in its roots as a senior center, but proudly welcoming residents of all ages with respect, patience, and care.

Central Park comes to Brimfield via local author

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock will proudly host its first Brown Bag Speaker Series installation of the new year on January 21 - Gail Ward Olmsted will present "Designing America: The Olmsted Effect". The talk will begin at 12:30 p.m. with an optional lunch at noon. Attendees may reserve a lunch ahead of time or bring one in. Reservations are required for both (\$10 for the talk with an additional \$10 due for the lunch at the event). The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

Frederick Law Olmsted is considered the father of American landscape architecture. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut April 26, 1822. His most famous work is Central Park in New York City designed in 1857. Other works include the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, the grounds of the United States Capitol, the grounds of the White House, the 1893 Columbia Exposition (The White City) in Chicago, Illinois, and the Main Quad at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Mr. Olmsted also was informally involved in the design of Forest Park in Springfield. He retired in 1895 and his sons John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. continued their father's firm doing business as the Olmsted Brothers which lasted until 1980. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr died in 1903.

Married to a descendant of Olmsted, Massachusetts author Gail Ward Olmsted will discuss Olmsted's body of work, share some little-known facts about him and read an excerpt from her critically acclaimed historical novel: Landscape of a Marriage. Signed copies of all her books will be available for sale.

Gail Ward Olmsted was a marketing executive

and a college professor before she began writing fiction on a full-time basis. A trip to Sedona, AZ inspired her first novel Jeep Tour.

Three more novels followed before Landscape of a Marriage, a biographical fiction featuring landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, a distant cousin of her husband's, and his wife Mary. Olmsted enjoys writing about quirky, wonderful

women in search of a second chance at a happy ever after. When not writing, she loves being on the water, especially in a kayak.

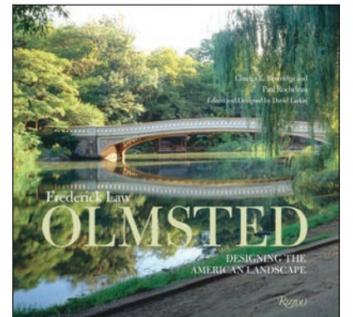
The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

Also offered is a "Baking Bread Made Easy" workshop on the Jan. 31. Local baker Lee Fernandez of Turnabout Farm Bakery and Brimfield Farmers' Market will share her baking secrets while guiding attendees in the preparation of their choice of Honey Wheat Oatmeal or an Italian loaf with roasted garlic and Italian herbs to bake and take home. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and costs \$65. Regular fitness offerings such as Yoga, UpBeat Barre, Pilates, Fencing, High Fitness, Judo/Ju-Jitsu continue, along with Music Lessons, K-9 Nosework and additional workshops routinely added.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.



Gail Ward Olmsted



NESCO SALES INC.
COMPLETE AUTO BODY CENTER

We Make It Easy For You! RS #1688

- Collision Specialists
- Free Estimates (By Appointment)
- We Help with Insurance Claims!
- Expert Color Matching

89 1/2 State Street, Bondsville, MA 01009
www.nescoautobody.com

413-283-6403

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

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

\$1200/week
207-607-9333

TOWN OF MONSON Public Hearing – January 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM FY 2026 Application Forum

The Town of Monson, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a hearing to serve as the first public forum to solicit community input on potential activities to be included in a potential FY26 Community Development Block Grant application. All community members and stakeholders are invited to share thoughts on potential CDBG-eligible activities to be included. The hearing will take place at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026**, in person at the Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance hearing will have an opportunity to submit comments up until and through the public hearing. Please submit comments to Evan Mastroianni at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ emastroianni@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the hearing date at 413-267-4100.

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.

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list.

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

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

413-477-6496

TDD (800)439-2379



HPL adapts, expands programming to meet changing needs

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – As the Holland Public Library closed out 2025 and stepped into the new year, staff focused on adapting services and programming to reflect shifting community use; while continuing to serve as a welcoming hub for residents of all ages.

Library Director Elizabeth Crosby said one of the most visible changes introduced at the end of 2025 was the creation of a new game corner inside the library. Previously stored behind the circulation desk, the library's growing collection of board games has now been moved to a more prominent, accessible location around a central table.

"People can actually see them now," Crosby said.

"They can play in the library or take them home."

Building on that change, the library also launched a new weekly program, Board Games With Friends, held Thursdays at 3 p.m. The drop-in program is designed for children and teens who want a place to meet up, socialize, or simply find someone to play with.

"They can come with friends or just show up," Crosby explained. "If they don't have anyone to play with, there are usually other kids there who want to play too."

Looking ahead to school vacation week, the library is preparing to debut a first-ever "Escape the Library" game in February. Developed by one of the library's volunteers and tested with teen volunteers, the program is geared toward elementary school-aged children.

Despite its name, Crosby emphasized that participants are not locked inside the building. Instead, the experience introduces a new character to the library and challenges children to work together to solve a series of clues in order to help locate lost items.

"It's really about teamwork and problem-solving," she said. "We're really excited about it."

Crosby said 2025 marked a noticeable shift in how the community uses the library. In previous years, particularly 2023 and 2024, preschool-aged children and story time programming drove much of the library's foot traffic. As those children entered school, the library began seeing an increase in teenagers using the space after school.

"We're seeing a lot of teens come in after school to

wait for rides, take the late bus, or just get out of the cold," Crosby said.

In response, the library adapted by offering after-school snacks, expanded access to board games, computers, and quiet study areas. While some teens socialize, many use the time to complete homework or listen to music while waiting to be picked up.

"Our goal is to make sure whoever is using the library feels welcome and accommodated," Crosby said. "That's always been important to us."

Programming will continue to expand in 2026, with the library's annual summer reading challenge once again kicking off with a popular animal show that drew strong attendance last year. This year's summer reading theme will celebrate America's 250th birthday, tying national his-

tory into local literacy efforts.

The library is also currently running a Winter Reading Bingo challenge, where participants complete reading-related activities on a bingo card to earn prizes.

Behind the scenes, Crosby said the library has focused on improving visibility and functionality rather than expanding its physical footprint. In 2025, the building was painted and the library's sign, an older sign refurbished by Brimfield Sign, was relocated to a more visible location.

"A lot of people thought it was a new sign," Crosby said. "It's actually been there for years. We just moved it and gave it a better spot."

While there are no plans for building expansion, the library continues to make increased use of outdoor spaces and collaborates more frequently with the Holland

Community Center, which offers additional room for larger programs.

The library is also exploring a partnership with the local high school to revamp its shelving system, potentially adding stronger and taller shelves to create more room for books.

Crosby said she feels fortunate to work in a town that strongly values its library.

"Holland is a community that really appreciates and supports the library," she said. "They like new programming, they want to see more, and they really get the most out of what we offer."

As the Holland Public Library moves forward, Crosby said flexibility and responsiveness will remain at the core of its mission; ensuring the library continues to evolve alongside the community it serves.

Lotto calendars available

PALMER – Baystate Wing Gift Shop Annual January Lotto Calendars are now available through Jan. 30, 2026.

The drawing will be held Feb. 3, 2026.

The price is \$5 for one calendar with 31 chances to win and \$10 for three calendars with 93 chance to win. The winner need not be present.

Funds are used for scholarship awards for seven local high school graduates and towards the gift shop's pledge of \$200,000 (in installments) to Baystate Wing to a specific department.

St. Paul's Church launches "Bread & Belonging" supper

PALMER – St. Paul's Church of Palmer is launching a new monthly community supper ministry, "Bread & Belonging at St. Paul's of Palmer," offering a free, home-style meal to anyone in the greater Palmer area who would welcome some good food and friendly company.

The first Bread & Belonging community supper will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Paul's Church in Palmer. The meal is free of charge and open to everyone. A donation jar will be available for those who wish to give, but donations are welcome and never expected.

The meal costs are being sponsored by Gem Exhibits Co. of Palmer and its proprietor, Scott Wharton, whose support is helping St. Paul's launch this new ministry on a firm foundation.

The opening menu will feature a classic pasta dinner with spaghetti and meat

sauce, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. Going forward, the ministry plans a simple rotating menu that may include a pasta night, a Polish-style dinner (such as gołąbki and pierogi), and other home-style supper offerings. The focus will be on meals that are nutritious, basic, cost-conscious, and easy to scale as the number of guests grows.

"Bread & Belonging is meant for anyone who could use a hot meal, anyone who feels a bit isolated or lonely, and anyone who simply wants more connection with neighbors," said Rev. Steven Sousa, minister at St. Paul's. "Our hope is that people will feel they're coming not to a program but to a shared table where everyone belongs."

For more information about Bread & Belonging, to volunteer, to attend, or to discuss donations, please contact St. Paul's Church of Palmer at 413-283-8185 or email: StPaulsUUChurch@gmail.com.

Community Pantry open house Jan. 24

BRIMFIELD – The Wales Community Pantry is about neighbors helping neighbors.

We are inviting the public to join us at an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Pantry located at 172 Palmer Road, Rte. 20 in Brimfield, Mass.

We are looking for community members to share their skills and talents to expand our team of Board Members.

If you enjoy organizing events, love writing, have a talent with social media, love working as a team, please join us for some information.

For more information email walescommunityfoodpantry@gmail.com or call 413 245-0055.



Submitted photo
Wales Community Pantry Board members L-R Sue Gregory, Ella Peterson, Annette Farrington, Meghan Matczak



Palmer Senior Center

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

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

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

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

Jan. 16: Memory Café - Ben & Ed Show - see this

musical duo perform, songs and have some laughs.

Jan. 21: Lunch & Learn - 5 Wishes - The 5 Wishes is a legal advance directive document used to outline medical, personal, spiritual, and emotional preferences for end-of-life care. It helps people clearly communicate their wishes to family and doctors, so loved ones do not have to guess what you would want if you became incapacitated.

Jan. 26: Quabbin Pre-

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

Feb. 23: Introduction to Quabbin

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal

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

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

FC & P

Ferrara Consulting & Properties
Consulting all Matters of Real Estate
Art Ferrara
(413) 348-5827
Facebook.com/FCPconsult
WWW.FCPCONSULT.COM

Lost Sock Laundry & Dry Cleaning

111 Main Street, Monson (In the Adams Plaza)
413-893-9329

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- Drop-Off & Pick-Up Service
- Clean, Safe, Comfortable
- Sewing & Alterations
- Coin-op Machines

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why didn't my friend's wife get all her SS immediately?

Dear Rusty:

A friend told me about what he believes is a strange thing in the Social Security system.

His wife reached her full retirement age of 66 several years ago. She delayed filing for Social Security past her FRA and claimed on her 68th birthday in June of that year, exactly two years after her FRA. When she filed, she was told she would receive approximately \$300 per month, which, of course, was more than she would have received at her FRA.

She was told however that she would only receive \$300 per month as of Jan. 1 of the following year. Between June of the year she turned 68 and filed for SS until the end of that year, she would receive an amount less than \$300. This lower amount was the amount she would have received if she had filed in December, the year she turned 67. She said she was told that was how SS works. She would never receive the difference in benefits she lost from June through December of the year she filed. If the above is true, can you explain?

Signed:
Astounded Friend

Dear Astounded:

What your friend described is, indeed, a unique methodology for how Social Security handles benefit payments for those who choose to wait beyond their Full Retirement Age to claim SS benefits. To understand it, let me first describe how Social Security retirement benefits are calculated.

At Full Retirement Age, a person is entitled to 100% of the SS benefit they have earned from a lifetime of working. That FRA benefit amount is known as the person's "Primary Insurance Amount" and is based upon the highest earning 35 years over the individual's lifetime.

From those past years, average lifetime monthly earnings are computed,

known as the person's "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings." Their AIME is subjected to a formula which yields their Primary Insurance Amount – the benefit the person is entitled to in the month they attain their full retirement age – typically about 40% of the person's average monthly lifetime earnings. However, if the person chooses to do so, they can wait beyond their FRA to claim Social Security to get a monthly benefit even higher than their PIA, by earning Delayed Retirement Credits.

DRCs are applied to the person's PIA when they claim Social Security. For each month after FRA the person claims, they will have .667% added to their PIA. That means that for each full year of delay, that person will get an extra 8% added to their PIA. For someone (like your friend's wife) who claimed 24 months after her FRA, she would receive a benefit 16% higher than her FRA amount. However, Social Security normally only applies DRCs in January of each year.

So, even though your friend's wife claimed her SS benefits in June, 24 months after her FRA, she would initially only get the DRCs she had accumulated through the end of the previous year - in this case, about 18 months' worth of DRCs or an SS payment about 12% higher than her PIA (her FRA amount).

She would not get her remaining earned DRCs (another 4%) until January of the following year. So, in effect, the wife's initial benefit didn't reflect all her earned DRCs until her later January benefit payment. Thus, the wife essentially lost that extra benefit money for the period between June and December of the year she claimed Social Security. In other words, she wouldn't get the full 16% amount until SS applied the additional 4%

SECURITY | page 5



Baking bread with herbs

There has been a resurgence lately in doing things the "old fashioned way!" I am definitely all for that, since I have often felt I was born a century too late.

People are making their own soap and laundry detergent, growing gardens, and canning and preserving the harvest. Many have also gotten the sourdough itch, and are baking all sorts of breads, rolls and treats using sourdough starter. My niece shared some of her starter with my husband and I! I traveled several states to make it to us and boy was our first loaf delicious.

I don't feel as if I will give up making yeasted bread entirely, though, especially since my favorite bread of all time is a braided bread that incorporates herbs. (You knew that eventually I would weave in a gardening topic!) I'm excited to share the recipe with you.

Maybe you will even become inspired to grow your own herbs to use in this or any number of recipes down the road.

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs on hand, so before we begin, I'd like to give you some tips for using dried herbs.

First, remember to break them up finely just before you incorporate them

COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST
1 envelope active dry yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
¼ cup water (110 degrees)
¼ stick unsalted butter, melted (2 tablespoons)
2 ½- 3 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

into any recipe. Honestly, there is nothing worse than coming across a full-size piece of Rosemary foliage, for example. It's like you are chomping on a pine needle!

Besides making the herbs more palatable, the flavor will be released ever so nicely once they are finely ground. Small amounts of herbs can be crushed between your fingertips – larger amounts can be ground up using a mortar and pestle.

Pulverize whole spices in a coffee grinder. Some folks gently roast them first to intensify their flavor. If you want to substitute fresh herbs for dried in any recipe, use at least twice as much; likewise in this recipe you would use only have the amount if using dried.

Store dried herbs and spices away from heat and light; even so, they will start to lose their flavor after about a year. When I buy a new jar of dried herbs, I find it helpful to mark the date right on the bottle.

Without any further ado, here is the recipe for that wonderful bread – as pretty as it is flavorful. Certainly a nice addition to a bowl of soup on a winter's night! And it makes the best croutons, too!

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over ¼ cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve. Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).
Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Combine 2 ½ cups flour and salt.
Stir into yeast mixture ½ cup at a time to form a slightly sticky dough, adding up to ½ cup additional flour if necessary.
Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place dough in a large bowl that has been lightly buttered.
Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 ½ hours.
Punch dough down. Divide into thirds.

GARDEN | page 5

A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen



Male evening grosbeak

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

Other birds at Lake Lashaway

The Lake Lashaway resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, "Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder."

Christmas bird count

He said, "My wife and I did the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club again this year. We cover the town of Ludlow. The

BIRDS | page 5

POETRY CORNER

Winter's A Worrisome Time And All

Play your dirge, O' January – and on...
For the slow solemn days that are –
And clouds scudding by, are no fair bloom,
To call it a thaw in the weather.
Soon as it's cold, the fiddle out of tune -
So for warmth - we'll keep on gabbin:

No neighbors to join in, since New Year's -
When enough a last dance with the ladies?
Someone once saw the world, under a Carolina moon
And looking to get back and see.
An' this nice wool scarf bright as a tanager -
(Whatever comes of it, will be:)...
The Royal Stuart wrap all around;
Or, raise on high, one good hour!
But let the winds come throw it off -
We wait out our discontent til it's over.

– Charles Barnes

LOCAL BUSINESS

ADVERTISING SPECIALS

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

www.turley.com • 413.283.8393

CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS



The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



@ Journal Register

WEB

www.journalregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

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

Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

**WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AUXILLIARY SHOP
40 Wright St., Palmer**

January Vendors

Jan. 21 - How Charming
Jan. 29 - Hollow Hobbit Herbs

ONGOING

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

trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

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

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

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

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

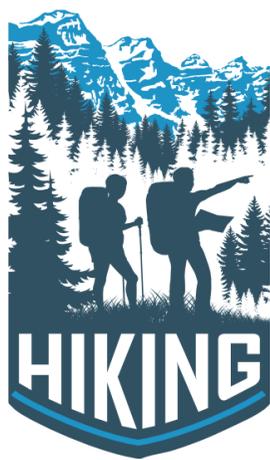
low them on Facebook for more.

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

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

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

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



A final hike of 2025 - Mt. Jackson

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

“You know, honey, we always talk about how we’ll REALLY start living ‘some day.’ Once the kids are grown. Once we have more time and more money. Once we retire. But how do we know that we’ll both be physically capable of doing something so demanding if we wait for ‘some day’ to arrive? How do we know that

we will even reach that elusive ‘some day’?”
It was a beautiful August day in 2016, and Tom and I were standing on the summit of Mt. Lafayette in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We were completing Tom’s lifelong dream of hiking the Franconia Ridge Loop—a majestic 9-mile hike featured on a National Geographic List of the 20 Best Hikes in the World.
On that summer afternoon almost ten years ago,

I was trying to convince my husband that we should attempt to hike all of New Hampshire’s 48 tallest peaks. I was 51, and he was 59 at the time. There were numerous reasons not to pursue such a time-consuming and physically challenging endeavor. One of which, as Tom stated, was because “We’re far too old and there’s no way we can hike up all those mountains in our lifetime.”

HIKING | page 6



SECURITY | from page 4

DRCs to her benefit payment the following January. And that is why your friend’s wife initially received a payment a bit less than the \$300 Social Security said she was entitled to by waiting two years after her FRA to claim.

This surprises many who choose to wait beyond their full retirement age to claim Social Security. But, curiously, this process doesn’t apply

to those who wait until age 70 to claim their SS benefits. For those who wait until age 70 to claim, Social Security will immediately apply all DRCs that they have accumulated and provide them with their maximum SS benefit immediately.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for

information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN | from page 4

One by one, take each third and knead in the individual herbs. Roll each dough ball between the palms of your hands into a rope about 20 inches long. Taper the ends.

When complete, lay the three side by side and working from the middle, braid each end. Transfer the bread to a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with

a clean cloth.

Allow to rise in a warm place for 45- 50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush loaf with remaining 1 tablespoon of melted butter and bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool for 30 minutes before serving. Serve it warm with a pat of butter or have some olive oil handy for

dipping.

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

BIRDS | from page 4

weather was fine but the birds were not cooperating. We managed 26 species which is a few below our average. Woodpeckers (only 1 downy) and sparrows (3 junco) were hard to find.”

He also said, “At the Ludlow Reservoir there was a good amount of open water but few birds, eight hooded mergansers and four mallards. Curiously last year there was a lot less open water at the reservoir but a lot more birds. Go figure.”

People may visit <https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx> to obtain Christmas Bird count results. Enter the county and state to get Massachusetts counts. He said he did not know the Springfield count results, but

the Worcester count had 78 species.

Snowy owls

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

Barred owl and pileated woodpecker

I saw a barred owl and a pileated woodpecker in the same day, Jan. 6. The barred owl was perched in a tree and stayed awhile before flying off. When I went to pick up my grandson at the bus stop, I saw a pileated woodpecker on Lincoln Road.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mail-

ing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Barred owl



Low cost tutoring & scholarships are available!

We’re a private, non-profit organization at the Palmer Public Library, here to help you meet your educational and professional goals.

1455 N. Main St
3rd Floor
Palmer, MA
01069

We’re on Facebook!



TUTORING AVAILABLE
Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals
Tutors Needed

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

Call to ask about our next Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

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

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org

<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

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

HIKING | from page 5

It took a bit of persuasion on my part, but he finally agreed to chase after those 48 mountain peaks.

Since that day, Tom and I have not only completed the entire White Mountain 4,000 Footer List once, but twice including climbing every peak during the winter season. And we've repeated several of our favorites over a half dozen times. In addition, we've backpacked 800 miles on the Appalachian Trail, completing 8 of the 14 states. We have also climbed the second highest peak in the continental United States—14,440' Mt. Elbert in Colorado—when I was fifty-eight and Tom was sixty-six years old.

The thousands of miles we have walked over the past ten years have not just proven what our bodies and minds are capable of. Every mile has been a journey of adventure, self-discovery, courage, humility, resilience, contentment and gratitude. And every footprint we have left on every woodland trail and every slab of granite has propelled us forward to the next.

Our final hike of 2025 in New Hampshire, just two weeks ago, continued to do the same.

It's minus 2 degrees when we start up the trail toward the summit of Mt. Jackson at 4:15 a.m. The sky is black and the beams of our headlamps pierce the darkened forest. When we lift

our heads upward, our lights illuminate the trees, and they appear like figures standing guard over the landscape. The snow-laden evergreens groan under the weight, pressing closer to the ground, seeming to bow to us as we pass. The silence is full, broken only by the crunch of our boots on the hard-packed snow.

When we break treeline, everything changes. We brace ourselves against the onslaught of howling wind. The sheer force pushes our bodies backward. We slam our trekking poles into the hard-packed snow to steady ourselves, while hoping that our spike-clad boots anchor us to the icy granite. The final steep pitch makes my heart tremble. Adrenaline is coursing through my body. I grab onto rocks and pull myself upward, eyes watering, skin pierced with the sting of icy needles. I breathe a sigh of relief when we reach the plateau, and we rush to the leeward side to escape the wind's torment.

We find a partially sheltered ledge and quickly spread our bright green sleeping bag over our sleep pads atop several feet of snow. We crawl inside of the double-wide down bag and snuggle close together. Based on the weather, we know we can't remain immobile for long. Movement keeps the body warm. Stillness allows the cold to penetrate the numerous layers of clothing we are wearing. Today, even the trees are shivering.

We sip hot apple cider in

an attempt to warm our insides while waiting for the sun to crest the distant horizon. The cold kisses our cheeks and the wind fills our ears. We inhale the frigid mountain air and watch plumes of vapor rise as we exhale. We remain snuggled in our lofty sleeping bag on this snowy perch for over an hour, unwilling to leave in spite of the cold settling into our bones. For we don't want to miss ONE. SINGLE. MINUTE. of this unforgettable moment that is unfolding before us.

The earth itself seems to be holding its breath, waiting for the show to begin. With eyes focused eastward, we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn. The stars above are being replaced with an inferno of fiery reds and blazing oranges-like molten lava spreading as the horizon slowly burns.

And there it is. The shimmering golden sphere we have been waiting for, spreading its golden light down the mountainside and awakening the earth from its slumber. The brilliant rays stretch from the heavens and dance upon the earth, giving life to everything they touch.

This experience is just one of the many that will burn in our hearts and memories for as long as there is breath in our lungs. An experience that we may never have witnessed had we not decided to chase a dream ten years ago. Had we waited until we retired. Had we waited for 'some day' to arrive.

I implore you to not allow your age, fitness level, current circumstances, past failures or ANYTHING ELSE dictate what you are capable of! I encourage you to chase the dream, seize the opportunity and never live regretting what could have been if only you had taken the chance. We have but one wild and crazy life. TODAY is the day to go out and LIVE it.

Tom and I have lived life to the absolute fullest over the past 10 years. Adventuring on weekends and vacations from work. But for one of us, at least, life is opening up to even more possibilities and opportunities. I'm thrilled to announce that after dedicating fifty years of his life to his career, Tom completed his final day as a working man on the last day of 2025. See you in the wild places, my friends!



TALENT | from page 1

range of performers to participate. Students were responsible for creating and organizing their own acts, making the show both a fundraiser and a student-led creative showcase.

Headlining the evening was Take2, a student band made up of local high school musicians. The band includes Max Morwin, Rylan Seguin, Caden White, and Michael Yurkunas, with members attending Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and Monson High School. The group has been performing together for about a year and marked its first appearance at a Monson school event with a setlist featuring rock favorites. Their performance included "Fine Again" and "Remedy" by Seether, "Molly's Lips" by Nirvana, and two songs by Foo Fighters, drawing enthusiastic reactions from the audience.

In addition to live music and skits, the event also highlighted visual arts. Monson High School art teacher Nathan Pluta organized a gallery-style display featuring work by Advanced Drawing and Rendering students. The pieces were part of the students' ongoing portfolio development for college submissions. Pluta said the display was created to ensure that visual artists were represented, noting that artwork is often overlooked in traditional talent show formats.

Student leadership played a key role in organizing the event. Drama Club

President Hailey Fournier assisted with planning and publicity, including helping coordinate the venue setup and promotion. Fournier said the idea for the talent show came about while searching for an engaging fundraiser that would showcase the wide range of talent among students. She also participated in the show herself, performing a skit with a friend.

Throughout the evening, audience members were invited to vote for their favorite acts using tickets distributed at the door. Votes were cast between performances and during intermission, with prizes awarded for first-, second-, and third-place performances, along with a club favorite award.

The event underscored both the enthusiasm of Monson students and the challenges facing arts programs without dedicated funding. Organizers expressed grat-

itude for the strong turnout and community support, emphasizing that continued involvement is essential to keeping creative opportunities available for students.

As the show concluded, organizers thanked attendees for supporting student performers and school clubs, noting that the success of the evening demonstrated the value of arts education and the impact it can have when a community comes together to support it.



The members of Take2 after their performance, Caden White, Michael Yurkunas, Rylan Seguin, and Max Morwin.



Drama club president Hailey Fournier doing a skit with friend, Ariya Kenyon.



Two 7th grade students, Maddy Morales and Eliana Prunier, perform The Best of Wives and Best of Women from the musical "Hamilton".



One 7th grade student, Ben Moreau, does an entire performance of dad jokes



Members of the Monson Drama Club all go on stage for one large performance.

Submitted photos

NEW YEAR SALE! 2026

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99
Regularly \$149.99
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99
- 50" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$269.99
- 55" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$349.99
- 65" HDTV Television..\$329.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99
Regularly \$699.99

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199
(REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269
(REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299
(REGULARLY \$599)

SLEDS, SKATES AND TOBOGGANS!

TOY CLEARANCE!

SAVE UP TO 70% Off!

21 CU. FT. FREEZER
Reg. \$999.99
\$799.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$599.99
\$489.99

GE DELUXE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$399.99
\$399.99

G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE
Reg. \$699.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$399.99
\$299.99

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER
Pair - Reg. \$1199.99
\$999.99
AFTER REBATE!

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$1999.99
\$1399.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER
Reg. \$189.99
\$189.99

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$699.99
\$599.99

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE
Reg. \$249.99
\$229.99

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER
Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99
\$1399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$699.99
\$549.99

WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE
Reg. \$1499.99
\$1199.99

WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

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

WEB
www.journalregister.turley.com

@ The Journal Register

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

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOALES.COM

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-7pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

In the classroom

Free HCC line-cook training program offered

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26.

The six-week daytime program starts Monday, Jan. 26, and runs until March 6. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 11-week evening program runs from Jan. 26 until April 8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Additional spring semester line-cook training programs will start on March 30 (daytime), April 27 (evening) and May 11 (daytime).

“HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times,” said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culinary arts programs. “Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them.”

The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills as well as unemployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new careers.

“We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking



for a second career,” Sheehan said. “The course is perfect for anybody who’s looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.”

All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St.

Participants will learn all the essential competencies they need to become successful line cooks: knife skills; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish

and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

Offered as part of HCC’s Business & Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.

COLLEGE NOTES

STCC announces fall Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 1,198 students who were named to the fall 2025 dean’s list.

The dean’s list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Student names are listed under the towns or cities in which they reside.

Brimfield

Emily Anne Ogden, Sophia Riendeau, Marah Zeni Wedderburn

Fiskdale

Nicholas C. Beaulieu

Monson

Luke Andrew Beaulieu, Zoey Sophia Cardano, Alan F. Caswell, Ella Marie Corthell, Precious Lourdes Dias, Adeline Danielle Escobedo, Emma M. Forest, Tanya M. Gosselin, Brenda Lynn Gustafson, Kyle Howell, Carol Hunt, Mackenzie Lee Miller, Thi Ngoc Nguyen, Courtney K. Piendak, Elizabeth Leigh Smith, Erica Strout, Sebastian Leszek Szot, Sonia Fatima Wright

Palmer

Victoria Rose Harvey, Charles E. Hastings, Jasmine Marie Hicks, Alex Jamieson Jaworski, Nathan Paul Keith, Sydney Rose Larocque, Madelyn Lorion, James F. Nallett, Joshua Pasquini, Isali Marie Silva, Hannah Rosemarie Wood, Jiyu Xu

Thorndike

Andrew Gifford Hartley

Three Rivers

Loryn Elizabeth Crutchfield, Naomi Ellis, Evin Paul Reedon, Brianna Marie Solis

Wales

Briana G. Bathrick, Andrew Maurice Ross

Saint Anselm College releases fall 2025 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Saint Anselm College has released the Dean’s List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester there were a total of 702 students from 25 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Caraline Stewart, a Mathematics Major in the class of Brimfield, Massachusetts was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby to be held on Jan. 31

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club will host its 37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Quaboag Pond in Brookfield.

The event remains the largest single-day ice fishing derby in Massachusetts, attracting anglers and families from across the region.

A \$20 entry ticket qualifies participants for more than \$15,000 in cash prizes, including the \$5,000 Grand Prize, \$5,640 in “every five minutes” cash drawings, and \$4,375 in fish categories. Every ticket holder is automatically entered into the major cash drawings whether they choose to fish or not.

Derby headquarters will be located at the Quaboag Pond boat ramp in Brook-

field. Weigh-ins will take place from 7 a.m. until the derby closes at 3:30 p.m., with the children’s division ending at 2 p.m. and youth prizes awarded at 2:30 p.m. The \$5,000 cash drawing for all ticket holders will take place at 4 p.m., and a complete announcement of all derby winners will air on The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM (WARE Radio) at 5 p.m.

In the event that no safe ice exists by Thursday, Jan. 29, the derby itself will be cancelled, and all drawings will be held at the North Brookfield Legion Post 41, located below Subway in North Brookfield. No fish prizes will be awarded, but all tickets will still be valid for the five-minute cash drawings and the \$5,000

Grand Prize drawing.

As is customary for this derby, there is a “one fish per category per ticket” rule that helps ensure broader distribution of prizes and encourages a fair, community-minded competition. All qualifying fish must be caught within the Central Wildlife District.

Children up to age 12 compete separately using state minimum lengths, while young anglers who meet the adult minimum lengths may also qualify for the main leaderboard.

Tickets for the derby are available from any Brookfields Lions Club member, and at many long-time partner locations including: K&S Bait Shop (Barre), Central Package (Brookfield), R&R Sport

Shop (Belchertown), 308 Lakeside Restaurant (East Brookfield), Fred’s Variety & Package Store (Fiskdale), Granby Bait Shop (Granby), Ben’s Bait (Leicester), Red Ridge Bait & Tackle (Ludlow), Still Hart’s (North Brookfield), Nick’s Sport Shop (Palmer), Glenda’s and River Town Bait Shop (Warren), Mathieson Bait Shop (West Brookfield).

Following the derby, all winners will be posted at www.brookfieldslionsclub.org, and at all ticket vendor locations.

For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club’s Facebook page at facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub.

LIBRARY | from page 1

ing about 12 participants per month; a strong turnout for a town of Wales’ size.

New creative offerings included an after-school art program for children, now held on the first Monday of each month with support from the library’s Friends group, as well as American Sign Language classes, which will continue as long as the instructor is available. Seasonal tea parties have also proven popular, drawing double-digit attendance and prompting plans for future themed events around holidays such as St. Patrick’s Day and Mother’s Day.

Recognizing the need to better tailor programming for younger patrons, Jund recently announced the creation of a Kids Advisory Board, open to children, tweens, and teens. The group is expected to meet monthly and provide direct input on what young residents want from their library.

The move follows challenges in sustaining a traditional tween book club, which Jund said placed too much



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The Wales Public Library at 77 Main Street in Wales.

pressure on children already balancing schoolwork and extracurricular commitments.

“I want them to tell me what they want,” she said. “It’s more important to react to what the community needs rather than deciding for them.”

The first Kids Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 4 p.m., complete with snacks to encourage participation.

Beyond programming, the library also made strides in infrastructure. A new cross-

walk installed near the library in September improved pedestrian safety, while building improvements are on the horizon. The library has been approved for full window replacement and exterior painting, both of which are expected to take place this spring.

Additional upgrades include new lighting through Team Nascua, addressing what Jund described as long-standing lighting challenges inside the building.

The library has also completed a full re-cataloging and

weeding of its collection, applying modern library science principles to reorganize and streamline materials. With those foundational tasks complete, Jund said she is now able to focus more fully on outreach and community partnerships.

One of the most promising developments came through an unexpected grant and outreach opportunity involving the Norcross conservation organization. After a conversation at a recent trustees meeting, Jund learned that Norcross could support programming and outdoor improvements at the library.

The partnership has already sparked plans for a nature-themed book initiative and a potential story walk; an outdoor, page-by-page reading experience designed to engage families and promote literacy and outdoor activity. Funding and coordination efforts are ongoing, with further meetings scheduled.

Jund also hopes to enhance the library grounds with a pollinator or butterfly garden, creating an inviting outdoor space that comple-

ments the library’s role as a community hub.

The Friends of the Wales Public Library have played a key role in the library’s resurgence. Since Jund’s arrival, the group has grown from just a handful of volunteers into an active organization supporting programs and purchases. The Friends recently funded a new television for the library and helped facilitate children’s art programming.

The group will also be recognized by the Springfield Thunderbirds, with volunteer Anne receiving a “Game Changer” award in acknowledgment of the Friends’ contributions.

Additional amenities coming to the library include after-school movie programming, made possible by the donation of hundreds of popcorn boxes and the purchase of a popcorn maker.

Perhaps most significantly, the library has secured two Wi-Fi hotspots that will be available for checkout, expanding internet access for residents who may lack reliable service at home or need

connectivity while traveling.

“That’s pretty big for here,” Jund said, emphasizing the importance of digital access in a rural community.

Plans for 2026 include a locally designed summer reading program themed around America’s 250th anniversary, pending grant funding. Proposed programs include a colonial reenactor talk, historic crafts, a “Patriots and Pottery” workshop, and historical painting activities.

Jund said her overarching goal is to continue growing the library into a true community hub; one that serves residents whether they come for books, programs, internet access, museum passes, plant swaps, or simply social connection.

“Not everyone reads books,” she said. “It’s our job to reach people the way they need to be reached.”

With expanded programming, new partnerships, and a focus on listening to the community, Jund believes the Wales Public Library is well positioned to build on its momentum in the year ahead.

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation
June 9-12
\$899

May 248-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN	\$12.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF WHOLE EYE ROUND.....	\$4.75 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.11 lb	USDA INSP. GRADE A DOZEN JUMBO BROWN EGGS.....	\$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG.....	\$1.66 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI					
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS	\$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK..	59¢ lb
USDA INSP. MUEENSTER CHEESE.....	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED BREADED CUT UP CHICKEN.....	\$1.99 lb
TAILGATE SPECIALS					
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$3.35 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN PICANHA STEAKS.....	\$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CAPTAIN AL'S SEAFOOD ENTREES LINGUINE & CLAMS MARINARA LINGUINE & CLAMS WHITE SAUCE.....	\$1.49 ea

90 Meat Outlet
90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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

SALE DATES: 1/15/26-1/21/26 **BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE**



Submitted photo

The Jaremczuk family holds the check given to them by Cops For Kids With Cancer.

FAMILY | from page 1

Facebook group, recently made public, where community members can follow Zeke's journey and offer support.

Longtime Cops for Kids with Cancer volunteer and board member Kevin Calnan also spoke about the organization's mission and impact. Calnan, who has been involved with the nonprofit for several years, currently serves on its executive board and assists with grant disbursements to families across Massachusetts.

Calnan's involvement began through his career in law enforcement, including his role as president of the State Police Commissioned Officers Association. Annual golf tournaments once raised funds for both scholarships and Cops for Kids with Cancer, and after retiring, Calnan continued his service by formally joining the organization's leadership.

"I find it incredibly rewarding to give back," Cal-

nan said. "Cancer affects every family in some way."

Cops for Kids with Cancer provides grants, often around \$5,500, to families facing serious financial strain during treatment. These funds help cover everyday expenses such as rent, transportation, gas, tolls, meals at hospitals, and lost income when a parent must stop working to care for their child.

"In some cases, families are facing eviction, or they're struggling to get reliable transportation to Boston for treatment," Calnan explained. "Transportation is always an issue. These grants help take a little bit of the burden off."

The organization's largest annual fundraiser is a marathon run by the State Police Running Team, whose certified runners raise money through pledges and donations. Additional fundraisers include a motorcycle run out of Florian Hall in Weymouth each August and a golf tournament typically held in late summer or early

fall. Information about upcoming events can be found on the organization's website and Facebook page.

Calnan emphasized that the gratitude from families is overwhelming, but so are the needs.

"Some families need that check immediately," he said. "They're behind on rent, or their car isn't reliable, and they need to get their child to treatment. When you see how much it helps, it stays with you."

For the Jaremczuk family, that help has made a profound difference during one of the most challenging periods of their lives.

"We're just really thankful," Samantha said. "To the organization, and to everyone in the community who has supported us."

As Zeke continues his recovery, his story serves as a reminder of the power of community, compassion, and the vital role organizations like Cops for Kids with Cancer play in supporting families when they need it most.

GLASS | from page 1

to the art intermittently over the years as family responsibilities took priority.

"I did some then, and I had children, and things got put off," Keough said. "I got back to it a few times."

Her commitment deepened after studying under longtime stained glass artist Tom Balzar, whom Keough described as having worked in the medium for about 17 years. She assisted Balzar in his classes before his passing, at which point Keough purchased his equipment and glass from his estate; a decision that helped her continue both practicing and teaching the craft.

"I figured, well, I wanted to do it, and that was a way to secure me into continuing," she said.

Today, Keough leads stained glass classes every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holland Community Center. The workshops are structured to accommodate both beginners and more experienced participants, allowing students to progress at their own pace while working on individualized projects.

Participants typically begin with a small introductory project designed to teach the fundamentals of stained-glass creation, including glass cutting, foiling, and soldering. That initial project can usually be completed in the first class, giving students a finished piece to take home and display.

"Once they learn the process, I tell them to think about what they really like: butterflies, flowers, whatever it is," Keough said. "We have books they can look through, and then we work on their interests."

Unlike many art classes that follow a single project format, Keough's workshops allow students to pursue different designs simultaneously, fostering a relaxed and collaborative environment. Newer students receive more guidance, while experienced participants may work independently, using the space and materials to continue honing their skills.

"We don't all work on

the exact same thing at the exact same time," she said. "Some people come in and need very little instruction. They just enjoy working with the materials, and this gives them a space to do so."

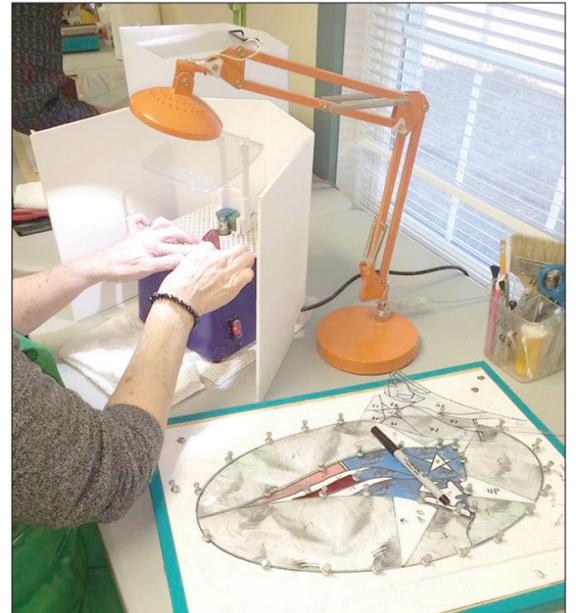
The program is designed to be accessible, with a weekly cost of \$20 that includes all materials and tools. Participants are not required to purchase any equipment, making the class an easy entry point for those curious about stained glass as a hobby.

"All the glass is provid-

ed, the tools are provided," Keough said. "They don't have to buy anything extra."

For those who discover a lasting passion for the craft, Keough said students are welcome to eventually invest in their own equipment, but only if they choose to do so.

The stained-glass workshops are part of the Holland Community Center's broader effort to offer engaging, skill-based programming that brings residents together while encouraging creativity and lifelong learning.



Submitted photoS

A class member grinds down the glass using a special glass grinder to prevent cracks.



Some of the materials provided for the class to create the stained-glass pieces.

COUNCIL | from page 1

prohibition or unreasonable regulation, limiting the town's authority. The moratorium, she said, would allow Palmer to carefully consider setbacks, citing requirements, and emergency planning before adopting permanent regulations.

"This moratorium will give us time to put in safeguards and really consider regulations specifically for standalone battery energy storage systems," she said.

Councilors focused heavily on fire safety concerns associated with large lithium-ion battery installations, which can burn for extended periods once ignited. One councilor noted that such fires "will burn for days," raising concerns about the town's ability to respond to an emergency.

Mannarino clarified that the moratorium itself would not impose new fire code requirements, but would allow the town to determine what documentation and emergency response plans developers must provide. Fire Chief William Bernat explained that battery storage systems are often used because the electrical grid cannot immediately accept generated power, requiring energy to be stored until capacity becomes available.

Plans for battery storage facilities would continue to be reviewed under the Massachusetts Fire Code and by the state Fire Marshal's Office, with developers required to coordinate directly with local fire departments.

Residents raise safety concerns over winter

sidewalks and parking

During public comment, longtime downtown resident Bonnie Rathbone urged the council to take action on winter sidewalk conditions and parking enforcement, describing what she said were increasingly unsafe conditions for pedestrians.

"I've lived in downtown Palmer since 1974, and I've never seen the sidewalks like they are today," Rathbone said. "People are being forced off the sidewalks and into the road. I don't want anyone getting hit by a car."

Rathbone cited several downtown properties where sidewalks had not been cleared days after snowstorms, including Dunkin', the former Friendly's site, and the old Quaboag School. She also expressed frustration with cars remaining parked on streets during storms, making it difficult for DPW crews to plow effectively.

Town Manager Brad Brothers acknowledged the concerns and explained that the town recently revised its winter parking policy. The former blanket ban, which prohibited on-street parking overnight from Nov. 1 through March 1, was rarely enforced and considered unmanageable. The updated policy allows the Police Chief, DPW, or Town Manager to declare emergency parking bans during storms and specify which side of the street may be used.

"If we can't enforce it, why do we have it in writing?" Brothers said, adding that DPW has not yet requested an emergency ban during this winter.

Councilors said the town is compiling a list of proper-

ties that are not complying with sidewalk clearing requirements and plans to send warning letters. While several officials expressed reluctance to issue fines, they acknowledged enforcement may eventually be necessary.

Brothers confirmed that sidewalk clearing is required under both state law, specifically MGL Chapter 40, Section 7, and a town ordinance, making property owners responsible for maintaining sidewalks in front of their properties.

Rathbone also asked about road conditions following recent gas pipeline work on Main and Park streets. Town officials said the gas company remains responsible for winter maintenance and will complete permanent repaving in the spring.

Fire District ambulance service reaches ALS level

Palmer Fire District Number One officials reported that the district's ambulance service successfully transitioned to the Advanced Life Support level on Jan. 1, ahead of schedule.

Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald said the upgrade required extensive preparation, including meeting state and hospital requirements, but the service passed inspection with high marks.

"When the state inspector came in, he was very impressed," Fitzgerald said, noting Palmer was among the fastest communities in Massachusetts to move from EMR to BLS to ALS service.

The district is working toward full 24/7 ALS coverage, currently staffing three full-time paramedics and seeking to hire a fourth, along with six part-time paramed-

ics. While state regulations require only eight hours per day of ALS coverage during the first three years, Palmer is already providing between eight and 24 hours daily, reducing reliance on mutual aid services.

The service operates two ambulances, with one full set of ALS equipment that can be transferred as needed, and maintains a third ambulance as a mechanical spare. Billing collections remain stable at approximately 80 percent of billable revenue, after contractual allowances for Medicare and Medicaid. Billing is handled by Comstar, which receives a five percent fee based only on collected revenue.

Brothers said discussions with the fire district regarding the town's ambulance service contract are nearing completion.

FY27 budget outlook shows uncertainty

Town Manager Brad Brothers outlined the early timeline for the fiscal year 2027 budget, cautioning councilors that rising health insurance costs remain the largest unknown.

"I put in 16 percent as my preliminary number," Brad said, explaining that each one percent increase represents roughly \$40,000. "Until I get that number firmed up, I don't want to create panic that may not be needed."

Departments submitted level-service budgets by Jan. 1, which are now under review to avoid double counting following recent changes in how facilities costs are tracked. A preliminary budget is expected by Feb. 1, followed by subcommittee review later in February and formal submission

to the council by March 1.

Brothers also noted a projected one-year reduction in Hampden County retirement contributions but recommended maintaining current funding levels. Cannabis tax revenue will reflect a full year of collections but will remain conservatively estimated due to market saturation and increased competition.

Town manager report highlights community initiatives and staffing changes

In his Town Manager's report, Brothers highlighted a mix of cultural programming, youth initiatives, staffing updates, and economic development efforts across Palmer.

Brothers reported that the Palmer Cultural Council recently approved 18 grants totaling approximately \$15,000. While the grants comply with state guidelines, councilors raised questions about more than half of the funding being directed toward school field trips rather than community-wide events. Brothers said school field trips are an allowable expense under state rules and encouraged councilors to engage directly with the Cultural Council for further clarification. He also noted the council is actively seeking new members.

Youth programming was another focus, with Brothers noting a town-sponsored bowling event earlier this month that drew 25 participants. While he said marketing for the event began later than intended, the turnout was encouraging. Plans are underway for additional programs during February vacation, as well as discussions with school officials about hosting open pool nights as community events, with the town

potentially covering lifeguard costs.

Brothers also reported a significant increase in the town's social media engagement. According to Facebook data, views on the town's page increased by 142 percent over the last two quarters, jumping from roughly 49,000 to more than 141,000 views. Brothers credited more frequent and timely updates for the increase and encouraged residents to follow the town's official page for information.

The Palmer Historical Commission is preparing for a Jan. 17 event commemorating the 250th anniversary of Henry Knox's winter expedition, which transported artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. Brothers noted that Palmer is home to a Henry Knox Trail marker on Wilbraham Street and said additional events tied to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence are being planned.

Staffing updates included the start of Dennis Clark as Palmer's new DPW Director, as well as the resignation of the town's Recreation Director. Brothers said he is exploring a shared services model with Monson, noting challenges in filling the position, declining youth enrollment, and the potential benefits of combining resources to strengthen programming.

Councilors also discussed winter recreation opportunities, including flooding outdoor skating areas in Bonds-ville and Thorndike. Brothers said the town's preference is to maintain one location properly rather than multiple sites and that DPW is waiting for sustained cold weather before moving forward.

Second Chance Animal Services helps more than 64,000 pets in 2025

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services announced today that the nonprofit helped a record breaking 64,143 pets in 2025, far surpassing its previous annual high of 56,000.

This milestone marks one of the most impactful years in the organization's history. Every Second Chance veterinary hospital experienced growth in the number of pets helped, with some locations assisting thousands more animals than in prior years. This is a remarkable triumph for the nonprofit hospitals that continue to break down barriers to access to veterinary care by offering affordable care to everyone and additional subsidies to those that qualify.

In 2025, Second Chance's adoption team responded to an increase demand for care for pets with complex and long-term medical needs, including several large-scale rescue efforts such as the 52 cats taken in from a single home and the intake of 26 golden retriever moms and their puppies who were under two weeks old at the time of rescue. The organization supported an unusually high number of mothers with underage puppies and kittens who required extended foster care before becoming adoption ready. These intensive cases resulted in a slight decline in the number of pets adopted. As a no kill shelter, Second Chance does not euthanize pets for space and remains committed to provid-

ing care for animals who need time, medical treatment, and specialized support.

"We were hoping to reach 60,000 pets helped, but in the last two months things truly skyrocketed," said Sheryl Blancato, Founder and CEO of Second Chance Animal Services. "Each year we think we may start to level out, and each year we reach new heights. It is incredibly exciting for the pets we are able to help every day, but it is also a sobering reminder of the growing challenges facing pets and the people who love them."

Blancato added that Project Keep Me, which provides temporary boarding and care for pets while domestic violence survivors secure safe housing and while veterans focus on in-patient treatment, saw need more than double in 2025. The program helps ensure that pets and the people who love them can stay together by offering peace of mind during times of crisis and transition, allowing families to heal and reunite without the added fear of losing a beloved companion.

Demand also rose sharply for the Second Chance pet food pantry program, which now supplies pet food to 26 local human food pantries. New partner pantries joined the program in 2025, and requests for pet food surged as more pet owners faced financial hardship. The pantry

CHANCE | page 10

Palmer Police Logs

Sunday, Jan. 4
10:15 a.m. – Annoying/ Obscene phone calls, North St.
4:23 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, W. Ware St.
9:25 p.m. – Fraud, Main St.
10:28 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Tables Restaurant, Palmer St.
Monday, Jan. 5
9:42 a.m. – Gas leak/ odor, Thorndike St.
11:59 a.m. – Vandalism, Second St.
2:30 p.m. – Fire, Barker St.
9:52 p.m. – Arrest, Anthony Joseph Brosseau, 43, charged with operating under the influence of liquor, second offense, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, light violation, failure to stop, and speeding.
Tuesday, Jan. 6
10:22 a.m. – Accident

w/ property damage, Palmer St.
11:57 a.m. – Arrest, Destiny Anne Marie Marlow, 27, charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, three counts of children in a motor vehicle without a car seat, lights violation, and number plate violation
5:09 p.m. – Disorderly conduct, Baystate Wing Hospital, Wright St.
6:47 p.m. – Disorderly conduct, Baystate Wing Hospital, Wright St.
7:28 p.m. – Drug/narcotics violation, Shearer St.
8:11 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Stimson St.
Wednesday, Jan. 7
1:04 a.m. – Fire, Michael Dr.
9:06 a.m. – Vandalism, Boston Rd.
9:45 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Tables

Restaurant, Palmer St.
10:03 a.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Shearer St.
3:34 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Three Rivers Rd.
9:42 p.m. – Missing person, Main St.
Thursday, Jan. 8
2:28 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Pathfinder Tech, Sykes St.
3:14 p.m. – Harassment, Palmer Public Library, N. Main St.
4:19 p.m. – Larceny, Baystate Wing Hospital, Wright St.
8:52 p.m. – Gas leak/ odor, Park St.
10:13 p.m. – Threat report, Vigeant St.
11:10 p.m. – Threat report, Walnut St.
11:29 p.m. – Threat report, Grove St.
Friday, Jan. 9
4:45 a.m. – Burglar

alarm, Steaming Tender Restaurant, Depot St.
6:16 a.m. – Breaking and entering, Cabot St.
12:25 p.m. – Animal complaint, Old Farm Rd.
2:36 p.m. – Animal complaint, Pinney St.
6:47 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, McDonald's, Thorndike St.
6:50 p.m. – Larceny, Pine Hill Dr.
Saturday, Jan. 10
12:11 a.m. – Disturbance, S. Main St.
1:57 a.m. – Arrest, Tyler Colby White, 32, charged with possession of a Class B drug, and not having an inspection sticker
9:53 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Thorndike St.
3:22 p.m. – Accident w/ property damage, Central St.
3:27 p.m. – Water leak, Barlow St.
9:58 p.m. – Larceny, Kelley St.

Railroad Hobby Show returns to Eastern States Exposition

REGION – America's largest railroad-themed trade show will be back at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds in West Springfield on Jan. 24 and 25, 2026.

Occupying four buildings and 400,000 square feet of space, the show covers all facets of the railroad hobbies - model railroads in all scales, railroad art and photography, railroad history and preservation, tourist railroads, railroad artifacts, and railroad books and videos.

Major railroad publications and model railroad manufacturers attend the show, and many use the Railroad Hobby Show as the setting to introduce new products.

In addition, operating models of Thomas, Lego trains, and the ever-popular wooden train sets are all at the show.

The Railroad Hobby Show is sponsored by the Amherst Railway Society.

For additional information and show tickets, visit: railroadhobbyshow.com.

Monson Fire Logs

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of Jan. 5 through Jan. 11, 2026. The department responded to 24 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 8:11 a.m. the department responded to 15 Homer Drive for the co alarm activation. The department returned to service at 9 a.m.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 10:59 a.m. the department responded to the area of 157 Upper Palmer Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 11:41 a.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 8 at 2:51 p.m. the department responded to 12 Aldrich Road for the lockout/public assist. The department returned to service at 3:24 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 10 at 7:12 a.m. the department responded to the area of Sandhill Road at Wilbraham Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 7:39 a.m.

On Sunday, Jan. 11 at 8:20 a.m. the department responded to 92 Cote Road for the gas leak. The department returned to service at 8:40 a.m.

Public notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2287EA
Estate of:
Joseph F. Handzel
Also Known As:
Joseph Francis Handzel
Date of Death: 08/13/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Laura A. Davis of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Laura A. Davis of Palmer, MA

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/15/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Teresa Wieslawa Hrynkiw to H&R Block Mortgage Corporation, dated September 21, 2005 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15355, Page 570, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: H&R Block Mortgage Corporation to Option One Mortgage Corporation, recorded on December 21, 2005, in Book No. 15587, at Page 81 Sand Canyon Corporation f/k/a Option One Mortgage Corporation to Deut-

sche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Soundview Home Loan Trust 2005-OPT4, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-OPT4, recorded on January 30, 2013, in Book No. 19661, at Page 194 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 AM on February 9, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 114 Peck Brothers Road, Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: Lot 4 A certain parcel of land on the southeasterly side of Peck Bros. Road, Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, known and designated as Lot 4 on a plan entitled "Plan of Lots in Monson, Mass., Surveyed for Lawrence D. Tassinari, Scale 1" = 100', Jan. 11, 1982, Kenneth C. Sherman, Engineer-Surveyor, Palmer, Mass.," which plan is recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 203, Page 121, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the southeasterly line of Peck Bros. Road at the westerly corner of land now or formerly of Cynthia A. Lloyd (see Book of Plans 177, Page 116);

thence S. 51° 41' 30" E. along a stone wall, twenty-eight and 69/100 (28.69) feet to a point; thence S. 62° 27' 30" E. continuing along said stone wall, ninety-nine and 28/100 (99.28) feet to a point;

thence S. 75° 21' 30" E. continuing along said stone wall, one hundred two and 84/100 (102.84) feet to a point;

thence S. 66° 39' 15" E. two hundred seventy-one and 56/100 (271.56) feet to a point in a stone wall, the last four courses being along land now or formerly of said Lloyd;

thence S. 29° 54' 15" W. along land now or formerly of Lawrence D. Tassinari, one hundred thirteen and 00/100 (113.00) feet to an iron pin at the easterly corner of Lot 3;

thence N. 75° 56' W. along Lot 3, five hundred seventy-six and 09/100 (576.09) feet to an iron pin in the southeasterly line of said road; thence N. 45° 6' E. along said road, two hundred nineteen and 94/100 (219.94) feet to the point beginning, all as shown on said plan. Containing 1.847 acres.

Lot 4A A certain parcel of land

on the Southeasterly side of Peck Bros. Road, Monson, Mass., known and designated as Lot 4A on a plan entitled, "Plan of Lots in Monson, Mass., surveyed for Lawrence D. Tassinari dated January 11, 1982, Revised June 10, 1983, Kenneth C. Sherman, Engineer-Surveyor", which plan is recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 210, Page 58, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pan in the southeasterly line of said road at the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Thomas J. Barry, Jr., and Annette B. Barry, being Lot 4 on a plan in Book of Plans 203, Page 121;

thence S. 75° 56' E. one hundred ninety and 00/100 (190.00) feet along last named land to a point;

thence S. 70° 24' 45" W. one hundred four and 16/100 (104.16) feet along remaining land of Gene W. Burbee et ux to iron pin;

thence N. 28° 41' 45" W. seventy-two and 26/100 (72.26) feet along last named land to a point;

thence N. 71° 1' W. fifty-four and 43/100 (54.43) feet along last named land to the iron pin at the point of beginning, as shown on said plan. Containing 4,150 square feet of land.

Together with the right to maintain the existing leach field on remaining land of Gene W. Burbee and Louann M. Burbee.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 9247, Page 25. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., New-

ton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2005-OPT4, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT4 Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 28623 01/15, 01/22, 01/29/2026

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:10 PM at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer on the application from Kavita, Inc DBA Jane Alden Convenience Store located at 1469 North Main Street, Palmer MA for a new all-alcohol off-premises license through Special Legislation under Chapter 76, Acts of 2025.

Any persons interested in being heard should appear at the time and place above stated.

Town of Palmer Licensing Commission 01/15/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2517EA
Estate of:
Wilfred L. Jarvais
Also Known As:
Wilfred Lee Jarvais
Date of Death: 11/01/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Peti-

tion of Petitioner **Shelly Savicki of Wales, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Shelly Savicki of Wales, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/15/2026

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer on the application from J. Lukos, Inc DBA Luke's Beer and Wine located at 1478 North Main Street, Palmer MA for a new all-alcohol off-premises license through Special Legislation under Chapter 76, Acts of 2025.

Any persons interested in being heard should appear at the time and place above stated.

Town of Palmer Licensing Commission 01/15/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25E0051PP
CITATION**

To Margery J. Wilburn, of Carroll County, Taneytown, Maryland, as herself and as Personal

Representative of William Stanton; James E. Stanton, as himself and as Personal Representative of Sandra Stanton, Jacqueline A. Stanton, and Donna Stanton, all from Hampden County; Ralph I. Stanton, Jr., and Prudence Neilsen, both of Worcester County; Janet Arborio, of Hartford County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Charles L. Stanton, of Brimfield, representing that they hold as tenants in common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Brimfield, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **5th day of March 2026**, the return day of this citation.

WITNESS, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 31st day of December 2025.

01/08, 01/15, 01/22/2026

TOWN OF PALMER LICENSING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Licensing Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:20 PM** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer on the application from Ernestina's LLC located at 2054 Bridge Street, Palmer MA for a new all-alcohol on-premises license through Special Legislation under Chapter 76, Acts of 2025.

Any persons interested in being heard should appear at the time and place above stated.

Town of Palmer Licensing Commission 01/15/2026

Obituaries

Shirley A. Gouvin

1936-2026

PALMER – Shirley Ann Gouvin, a beloved member of her family and community, passed away on Jan. 8, 2026, at the age of 89. Born on May 11, 1936, she was raised as Shirley “Ann” Sankey in England. Throughout her life, she displayed a true love of family and an unwavering passion for reading, flower gardening, and watching the Blue Birds and Hummingbirds.

Shirley enjoyed a long career, initially working at Sanderson MacLeod, also known as Better Brush, before later retiring from Capital Cleaners, where she contributed greatly to customer service. Her dedi-



cation to her work was matched only by her commitment to her family.

In her younger years, Shirley was an accomplished equestrian, a hobby that reflected her adventurous spirit and determination. Her love for horses was a significant part of her life, adding to the richness of her experiences.

Shirley is lovingly remembered by her sons, Robert Russo Jr. and his wife LeeAnn of Brimfield, Darren Russo of Wales, and Dino Russo of Monson. She also leaves behind her daughter, Connie-Jo Russo, and her partner Rick Crockwell of Palmer. In addition, Shirley was proud of her five grandchildren and eight great-grand-

children, who brought much joy to her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Gouvin, and her parents, William C. and Ada Jeannie (Edwards) Sankey. Shirley’s legacy of love and dedication will continue to inspire those who knew her. She will be deeply missed by all.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home located at 3 Bridge St in Monson, Mass. Visiting hours will be held Monday, Jan. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. with a service being held at 4 p.m. to conclude the afternoon. Burial will be held privately in the Spring.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Hospice 280 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor Springfield, MA 01199. For on line condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Ardis M. Kostreba

PALMER– Ardis M. Kostreba, 92, passed away Jan. 9, 2026. She was born on Dec. 15, 1933 in Palmer, MA to the late Frank Kenyon and Ida (LaBelle) Chapman and graduated from Monson High School. In years past, Ardis enjoyed going on beach camping trips with her family and friends. Camping trips included her favorite destinations, including Cape Cod, Myrtle Beach, and beaches in Florida. She was also an avid Pitch player and loved caring for her home.

Besides her parents, Ardis was preceded in death



by her loving husband, Edward Kostreba; her daughters, Laurie (Kostreba) Warren and Diane Kostreba; as well as by her siblings, Elsie, Frank Jr. and Robert. She will be dearly missed by her son, Edward Kostreba Jr. and his wife, Angela; grandchildren, David Kostreba and Nicholas Warren; great-grandchildren, Jack, Olivia, and Addison Warren; and her half-sister, Marylou Kenyon, and half-brother, William Kenyon.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be held later in the spring.

DEATH NOTICES

Shirley A. Gouvin
Died Jan. 8, 2026
Services Jan. 19, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

Ardis M. Kostreba
Died Jan. 9, 2026
Services Jan. 19, 2026
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Suzanne C. Lagacy
Died Jan. 13, 2026
Services Jan. 23, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

Edward F. Miodowski
Died Jan. 7, 2026
Services Jan. 14, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

Christine E. Slaney
Died Dec. 23, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Anthony “Tony” Valley
Died Jan. 5, 2026
Services will be private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Suzanne C. Lagacy

1947-2026

MONSON – Suzanne Cecile Lagacy (Cote/Henrye), 78, of Monson, passed away on Jan. 13, 2026 following a long and courageous battle with dementia. She was born on Sept. 30, 1947,

in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Suzanne was predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Cecile (Nadeau) Henrye; her first husband, Gerald Cote; her sister, Cecile Henrye, a stepdaughter Linda Lagacy and stepson-in-law Joey Aikey.

Suzanne grew up in the Springfield area, where she spent many years before meeting and marrying her husband Edward Lagacy in



1985, whom she lovingly referred to as her “Fuddy.” Together, in 1994, they fulfilled their shared dream of building their forever home in Monson. Suzanne is survived by her devoted husband, Edward Lagacy, and son, Michael Cote as well as her stepchild

Deborah Aikey, Kathleen & Gerald Celetti, Stephen & Laurie Lagacy, Suzanne & Mitch Kupiec, Danny Lagacy, Connie & Scott Burleson as well as several grandchildren.

Like her sister Cecile, Suzanne cherished her childhood memories and family traditions. She fondly recalled growing up in the North End of Springfield, camping trips to New Hampshire, and many

joyful summers spent at the family cabin along the Connecticut River. As an adult, she took great pride in achieving a personal milestone by earning her bachelor’s degree in accounting & finance from Western New England University in 1997. She went on to build a successful career as a Senior Accountant at JGS Lifecare, retiring in October 2015.

Suzanne had many passions and hobbies, including flower gardening, crocheting, arts and crafts, decorating, antiquing, and watching the birds in her yard. She and Edward shared a special love for Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, where they enjoyed the ocean and attended the annual Seafood Festival for more than 20 years. Suzanne was also a proud and generous

supporter of Tunnel to Towers, Wounded Warriors, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

She will be remembered for her kindness & good heart, determination in accomplishing goals, her creativity, and the quiet joy she found in life’s simple pleasures.

Visiting hours will be Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, from 10 to 11 a.m. with a funeral home service at 11 a.m. at Lombard Funeral Home located at 3 Bridge Street in Monson. Burial will immediately follow at Hillcrest Cemetery, 32 Wilbraham Road, Monson, Mass.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers or Wounded Warriors. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Anthony ‘Tony’ Valley

ANTHONY “Tony” Valley, born on Sept. 3, 1970, in Springfield, MA, passed away peacefully at his home in Bonds-ville on Jan. 5, 2026, at the age of 55 with his family beside him. Tony was the beloved son of Matthew J.

and Phyllis (Borowiec) Valley of Monson, and a cherished father to his children, Anthony C. Valley, Jr., and Mikayla Valley. In addition to his immediate family, he leaves behind a loving brother, Vincent Valley, along with his wife Terri; a devoted sister, Christina Valley, and her fiancé Michael McGill; his cherished nieces and nephew, Brady and Kelsi Valley and Alaina Coache; caregiver and longtime girlfriend, Amanda Meli as well as many aunts, uncles, and extended family. Tony grew up in Monson, before eventually making Palmer his home in 2005. From a young age, he demonstrated a profound passion for music, starting to play at the age of 12. This love for the art led him to various careers, including becoming a local musician, a dedicated music teacher, and a vibrant personality in the community. He was the owner of Tony V. Entertainment and the popular Tony’s Happy Valley Pizza, a family tradition that began with his grandfather and transitioned from making pizzas at St. Stan’s and Amvets into a beloved food truck that frequented fairs, breweries, and



wineries. Known for his jovial spirit, Tony volunteered his musical talents at nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, bringing joy to those in need. He was also a highly regarded substitute teacher at Pathfinder and Palmer High School, as well as being a music

teacher at Hitchcock Academy and Valley View, where he left an indelible mark on his students. Beyond his artistic endeavors, Tony led an organic lifestyle, passionately engaging in outdoor activities such as running and hiking. A notable achievement was his completion of a marathon, alongside numerous breathtaking climbs of Mt. Washington and explorations of the White Mountains. He was an active member of several bands throughout his life, always eager to share his love of music with others. A private family service will be held at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, with plans for a celebration of life to take place during the warmer weather. In lieu of flowers, Tony’s family kindly requests that donations be made in his honor to cancer research, reflecting his enduring spirit and the compassion he shared with all he encountered. Tony Valley will be lovingly remembered as a devoted father, a talented musician, and an inspiring teacher whose legacy will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Edward F. Miodowski



1941 - 2026

PALMER – Edward F. Miodowski, lovingly known as Ed, passed away at home in Palmer on Jan. 7, 2026, at the age of 84. Born on July 10, 1941, in Springfield, he lived a life dedicated to service and the pursuit of knowledge. Ed had a rich and varied career. He was a tax preparer, self-employed at Ed’s Tax Services, and worked for several prominent organizations including SIS Banks and H & R Block. Earlier in his working life, he was a machinist at American Bosch. His deep understanding of numbers earned him a reputation as a “numbers guy,” reflecting his outstanding skills in this area. He graduated from Holyoke Community College in 1989 with an Associate’s Degree in Business Management, followed by a degree in Sociology of Legal Systems/Sociol-

ogy from UMASS Amherst, University Without Walls in 1999. Ed was also a Marine, having served honorably after enlisting in 1958.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Ed was a devoted member of the Masonic community. He proudly held several positions, including Past Master for the Thomas Masonic Lodge and Day Spring Lodge, where he also served as Secretary. His dedication to the craft was evident during his over 25 years with the A.F./A.M. Masons, including roles in the previous Thomas Lodge in Palmer, Day Spring Lodge in Monson and now the Thomas Day Spring Lodge in Monson.

Ed’s commitment to helping others was highlighted through his involvement



with Friend’s of Bill. A member since April 1979, he celebrated 46 years of sobriety, helping many along their journeys as well. In his personal life, Ed enjoyed teaching self-defense, Jujitsu, and Karate in Springfield, sharing his skills and passion with those around him. He had a fondness for cats, which added warmth and companionship to his life.

Ed is survived by his sons, Edward Miodowski Jr. of Connecticut and Timothy Miodowski of Ludlow, Massachusetts. He is also survived by his brother, Fred Miodowski and wife Donna of Windsor, Connecticut, and his grandson, Anthony Wales and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his fa-

ther, Edward Frank Miodowski, and his grandmother, Joanna Miodowski.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, knowledge, and support for those he encountered throughout his life. Ed will be remembered by all who knew him for his generosity and unwavering spirit.

Visiting hours were held Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. A Masonic Evergreen Service was conducted at 6:30 p.m. during Ed’s visitation. Gathering of family and friends will take place Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home to form a funeral procession to Oak Knoll Cemetery in Palmer for committal prayers and Military Honors.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Christine E. Slaney

1945-2025

PALMER – Christine E. Slaney, a woman of sharp wit, boundless curiosity, and a legendary love for life, passed away on Dec. 23, 2025, in Palmer, Massachusetts, at the age of 80.

The Life of the Party. Christine was never just a guest at a gathering; she was the heart of it. Known for her “life of the party” energy, she could often be found on the dance floor or singing along to her favorite Beatles tracks. Her intelligence was matched only by her in-

quisitiveness. Though she never held a press badge, Christine was a natural interviewer; she possessed a genuine interest in people, frequently engaging friends and strangers alike in deep, insightful conversations to truly understand their stories.

Adventure, Refinement, and Maine. A woman of refined tastes, Christine found great joy in travel and fine dining. However, her favorite destination was always her summer home in Maine, where she could find peace and spend quality time with those she

loved. Her compassion extended to all living things. Christine was a fervent supporter of animal welfare and was deeply charitable toward animal organizations. Her home was never complete without her animals; she cherished dogs and cats—Ethan, Lucy, and Ollie—who were her constant and beloved companions.

Legacy and Family. Born in Bennington, Vermont, Christine spent her career as a dedicated bookkeeper for the Sysco Food Company in Norton, Massachusetts. Her meticulous nature and work ethic

were hallmarks of her professional life.

Christine was predeceased by her cherished husband, C. Alan Slaney. Her legacy of laughter and curiosity is carried on by her daughter, Kara Levinson; her granddaughter, Christine E. Gloekler; and her stepsons, Timothy Alan Slaney and Michael Slaney.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Christine’s memory to the MSPCA-Angell @ <https://www.mspca.org/>. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. *Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

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

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

BASKETBALL

Pioneers fall to Putnam Voke

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday evening, Pathfinder Tech girls basketball suffered a power outage late in the game, falling to host Putnam 52-39.

The Pioneers managed just four points in the final quarter, making a big difference in the result.

Putnam was led by Addison Doktor, who scored 25 points to lead the Pioneers in the matchup. Megan Clark added eight points. Pathfinder would fall to 2-3 on the season.



Cassandra Hykiel tries to cut to the hoop.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Jinx Ripley catches a high pass.



Taylor Allen heads down the court.



Megan Clark crosses midcourt with the ball.

SWIM

Girls swimming gets win

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Palmer girls swimming turned in a solid performance in a 75-30 win over Holyoke. Neila Lachance won the diving competition and took the 200 freestyle. Taylor Verda was a winner in the 500 freestyle and the 200 individual medley. Palmer's relay teams took all three events in the meet. Palmer is 3-2 this season.



Taylor Verda does a lap in the individual medley.



Neila Lachance makes a dive.



Maddy Roy comes up during the medley relay.



Sammi Opielowski does the backstroke.



Abby Shirzadi makes her way down the lane. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

BASKETBALL

Monson gets independent win over Indians

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In a matchup between independent opponents, Monson High School boys basketball

defeated North Brookfield 72-50.

Monson led throughout the matchup, taking advantage of good ball movement and some good shooting early.

The Mustangs were led

by Austin Meacham with 33 points, while Jake Beaupre had 17 points. Brady Ronaldson added 10 points.



Brady Ronaldson shoots in traffic.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Austin Meacham goes for the three-pointer.



Shane Szado fakes a shot and makes a pass.



Jake Beaupre heads for the side of the court.



James Bridges eyes a shot from short range.



Niko Mathieu sends a shot away.

BASKETBALL

Panthers offense can't match Indians

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – It has been so long since it had taken place that Ware boys' varsity basketball coach Gene Rich couldn't remember the last time his team defeated archrival Palmer on the road.

The Ware players and coaching staff made the short trek to the Palmer High gymnasium last Monday night (Jan.5) looking to celebrate a road victory in the rivalry series for the first time since February 6, 2019.

Led by senior tri-captain Brady Guimond, who made three huge 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, the Indians defeated the Panthers, 49-35, in a Bi-County East matchup.

"This isn't a very easy place to play, and it has been a while since we've won a game in this gym," Rich said. "This is a very important win for us against a very good basketball team."

Ware and Palmer split the season series on the hard-

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

Turleysports



Athlete of the Week

Taylor Verda
Palmer High School

Verda was a winner in the 500 freestyle and the 200 individual medley in Palmer girls swimming win over Holyoke last Monday.

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

MOULTON
Insurance Agency

A Trucredia Business

**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

Safety Insurance®
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

PANTHERS | from page 11

wood a year ago.

Four of the players listed on this year's Indians boys' varsity basketball roster were also members of the football team, which lost to Palmer, 21-6, in a home game at the beginning of November for the first time in a decade.

"It was heartbreaking losing to Palmer on the football field for the first time. That loss also knocked us out of the state playoffs," said Ware senior Alex Orszulak, who's an outstanding football player. "We really wanted to come here and win tonight's game. It took an entire team effort to get the job done."

Orszulak, who's one of the five senior starters on the Indians basketball team, finished the game with seven points.

The other three Ware basketball players who played football are senior Sean Bernier, junior Dalton Marquis, and junior Troy Jurczyk, who was the Indians starting quarterback.

The Indians hoop team had a 2-4 overall record and a 1-2 league record following the road win.

"Every game that we play is going to help us prepare to make a run in the postseason tournament," Rich said. "We

also play in a very competitive conference."

Palmer also has several players who play both football and basketball. They are junior Hunter Baird,

junior Griffin Nawrocki, senior Dylan Doherty, senior tri-captain Gavin Smola, and senior tri-captain Matt Santos, who was the Panthers starting QB this past fall.

Not only did the Panthers (4-1, 3-1) suffer their first loss of the basketball season, but they also scored just ten points in the second half, including only three points during the final quarter.

"I reminded my players in the locker room at halftime that our defense is our best offense," Rich said. "I told them the better that we play defensively in the second half, the better we're going to be offensively. We held them only 10 points in the second half."

The two teams combined to score 48 points during the first 16 minutes of the contest.

Guimond, who led the way offensively with a game-high 19 points, hit a floater in the lane twenty seconds into the first quarter.

Then senior tri-captains Jack Gaudreau (11 points) and Brodie Koczur (9 points) made an inside hoop and a free throw respectively, which helped the visitors build a 5-0

lead with 6:20 left in the opening quarter.

The Indians' largest lead of the opening eight minutes was 15-6 following a Gaudreau free throw with 1:48 remaining.

Then back-to-back lay-ups by Palmer junior tri-captain Taydem Haley, who finished with a team-leading 12 points, sliced the deficit to 15-10 entering the second stanza.

With 3:12 left in the first half, another Haley lay-up tied the score, 21-21, for the first time.

Smola, who scored seven of his eight points before halftime, made a put-back hoop giving the home team a two point advantage.

The Panthers held a 25-21 lead with a minute remaining after Nawrocki hit a jumper from the right side of the key.

Another inside hoop from Gaudreau made the score 25-23 at intermission.

Less than a minute into the second half, Guimond, who also plays baseball, made his first 3-pointer from the left corner giving his team the lead back.

Palmer briefly retook the lead following a Santos reverse lay-up before Guimond

Warriors able to get by Orioles

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE – Because of the MIAA's power ranking system, athletic directors are always looking to schedule the best non-league opponents for their teams.

Belchertown High School Athletic Director Kevin McNeill and Tantasqua Regional Athletic Director Marcus Backlin were able to schedule a non-league girls basketball game.

The first ever meeting on the hardwood between the two squads was a very entertaining affair from start to finish.

The four freshmen players listed on the Tantasqua varsity roster combined to score 43 points which helped the Lady Warriors secure a 58-53 home victory over the Belchertown Lady Orioles, last Tuesday night.

"Belchertown is a very good basketball team and they're well coached," said Tantasqua head coach Andy Haley. "Marcus always does a very good job of finding different opponents for us to play against. It was also nice playing a solid non-league opponent before beginning our league schedule."

Belchertown is the only Western Mass. opponent listed on Tantasqua's regular season schedule.

The Lady Orioles posted a 56-24 victory at Quaboag Regional in their final game of 2025.

Belchertown and Tantasqua are both young teams this year with only two seniors. They're trying to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament.

Freshman Myah Lewis and Teagan Baker led Tantasqua with 12 points apiece. The Lady Warriors' other two freshmen are Ellie Barnes (10 points), and Milayna Bousquet (9 points).

"I thought our four freshmen took a step forward in tonight's game," Haley said. "The older players are doing a very good job of being leaders. It's a close knit team."

Sophia Ezzo, who's one of the Tantasqua seniors, netted six of her 10 points after halftime.

Junior Tessa Sheldon also scored five points in the second half.

The five-point victory

improved the Lady Warriors overall record to 5-2, while the Lady Orioles had a 3-3 record.

"Both teams played well and it was a fun game tonight," said Belchertown head coach Jason Woodcock. "I would rather lose a game against a very good team than beat a weaker opponent by 30 points."

The Lady Orioles were outrebounded by the Lady Warriors.

"My players played very hard, but we were outrebounded which was the difference maker," Woodcock said. "They're not much taller than us, but they were a little more physical and wanted the ball a little bit more. We just kept giving them four or five chances to score."

One of the three Belchertown sophomore starters is Gabriella Slovack, who led the way offensively with a career-high 17 points. She scored two field goals in each of the four quarters. She also made a free throw in the third quarter.

"Gabby played very well in tonight's game," Woodcock said. "We decided to spread the floor, and she scored most of her points by cutting to the basket."

Belchertown's other two starting sophomores are Aubrey Klingsmith, who scored eight of her 10 points in the first quarter before getting into foul trouble, and Kina Roy, who scored six of her eight points during the final minute of regulation.

"I took a chance leaving Aubrey in the game with two fouls in the first quarter," Woodcock added. "She's a smart basketball player, but she picked up a third foul and had to sit on the bench for rest of the first half. She scored eight quick points and had a hard time getting into a rhythm offensively again in the second half."

Junior Morghan Litz also reached double digits for the Lady Orioles with 10 points. Junior Aubrey McCain added five points.

Ezzo and Sheldon also picked up two personal fouls during the opening quarter.

"We always seem to be in foul trouble," Haley said. "We just need to fine tune a few things."

The score was tied four times and there were several

lead changes during the first 16 minutes of the contest.

The game was tied for the first time at 11-11 before a Slovack lay-up and a Litz 3-pointer from the left corner gave the Lady Orioles a 16-11 advantage entering the second quarter.

With 3:55 remaining in the first half, Bousquet made a 3-pointer from the left corner giving the home team a slim 21-19 lead.

The Lady Warriors also held a two point lead less than two minutes left before Roy hit a jumper in the lane and Slovack made another lay-up.

Belchertown also scored the first five points of the second half and held a 30-23 lead.

Tantasqua would then put together a 15-2 run during the final five minutes of the third quarter.

The duo of Barnes and Sheldon scored seven of those points. A put-back hoop from Ezzo increased the Lady Warriors lead to 38-32 at the end of the third quarter.

A Litz 3-pointer and an inside hoop by sophomore Cassidy MacLean (3 points) sliced the Lady Orioles deficit to 38-37 less than a minute into the final quarter.

A Sheldon fast-break lay-up and a Lewis inside hoop began the Lady Warriors 14-4 run.

Tantasqua built a 52-41 lead following an Ezzo lay-up with 2:30 left in regulation.

The Lady Warriors also led 56-45 with 42 seconds left before the Lady Orioles made one final comeback attempt.

While Roy was making a 3-pointer from the top of the key, Klingsmith was fouled. She made both foul shots, making the score 56-50 with 33.5 seconds left.

Another foul shot by Bousquet pushed the lead to seven points before Roy was fouled while attempting to make a three-point shot with 23.8 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock. She sank all three free throws, but the Lady Orioles couldn't get any closer than four points.

Unless the two teams face each other again in the Division 3 state tournament, Tantasqua will most likely be making a trip to the Belchertown High School gymnasium during the 2026-27 regular season.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea?

Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

fourth quarter gave us a little bit of a cushion. I gained a lot of confidence after I made my first one. This is also the first time that we've won a game in this gym since I've been playing for the varsity team. It's definitely very special."

The Panthers closed the gap to 39-35 before Guimond hit his final trey with 1:50 left.

Then Koczur made six free throws and Jurczyk also added a foul shot, which sealed the Indians first victory at the Palmer High gymnasium in seven years.

Saturday, January 16th ~ 7pm-10pm

Moonlight Saints

Saturday, January 17th

Karaoke

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Glenda's

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 31st
7pm-11pm

Country Rock

EVERY SUNDAY

DARTS

LUCK OF THE DRAW

5:30pm • All Welcome

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**.

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

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



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693



CAREER Education

HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars: From robotics, drone, and science olympiad clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

Join Us for an Open House
Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS
Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampden-charter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here.

HCSS High School
20 Johnson Rd.
Chicopee, MA 01022
Tel. 413-593-9090
HCSS Middle School
511 Main Street
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel. 413-278-5450
hampdencharter.org



HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10



Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

WELCOME SATURDAYS

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

January 10th
January 24th
February 7th
February 28th

VISIT:

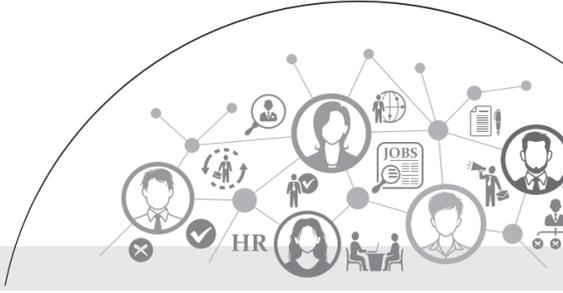
WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE



MARCH 1, 2026





CAREER Education

St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO, Book and Newspaper Clubs.

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

- Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity.
- Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.
- Language Learning: The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit www.sjachicopee.org.

We look forward to meeting you.

ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475

sjachicopee.org

Learning Rooted in Christian Values



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 31st, 9am-12 noon

No Appointment Needed

Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, Feb 5th, 3pm-7pm

By Appointment Only



Affordable Tuition & Extended Care ~ Free Breakfast & Lunch

Extracurricular Programs ~ Technology ~ Physical Education

Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo

Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community

Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness Tuition Assistance

Easy Access to I391 & I90



St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.

The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and after school program, and one-to-one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to spend a day with us. To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

We can't wait to meet you.

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.



To learn more



Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!





CAREER Education

HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfiction,



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.





HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

- + Nursing
- + Radiologic Technology
- + Medical Assisting
- + Veterinary and Animal Science

hcc.edu/healthcare



CAREER Education

Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://Milesofhopeforautism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
 - Reasonable tuition
 - Family-friendly hours
- Feeding Hills:**
7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- West Springfield:**
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
 - Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development. A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills. A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.



• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills. A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.

Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the **2026-2027** School Year!



Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

Research-based curriculum that builds confidence & excitement about learning

- Social & Emotional Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Physical Skills

Jump Start Preschool provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

Ages 2.9 to 5 years old



Two Beautiful Locations!



For more information, call or visit our website:

www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694

Full Day & Half Day Programs



Interested in a Career with Jump Start Preschool? Please Contact Us



WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!

www.grsd.org



JOIN US! Apply today!

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!



You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit: www.grsd.org for more information!



CAREER Education

Well-rounded education benefits students

Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-round-

ed education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6–12.

Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6–8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

Join the

Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit www.grsd.org.

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: www.grsd.org

Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.



CAREER Education

PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

Students are encouraged to find their artistic voice through a range of introductory courses and audition level course options, with multiple performance opportunities, all integrated with

their core academics.

PVPA students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

Visit for an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 22, and see why PVPA is consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley.

As a public charter school, admission to PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students by lottery; no tuition or audition required.

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at pvpa.org/admissions.

For more information, please email admissions@pvpa.org.



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts
Charter Public School
15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley
413-552-1580

Apply Now!

Grades 7-11

2026/27 school year



PVPA

Open House

Thursday, Jan 22
4:00-6:00pm

registration encouraged

Free, Arts-focused

College-prep

Education

Dance, Music, Theater
Visual Arts
Technical Design/
Production

Free Bus Transportation
within PVPA region

www.pvpa.org/admissions

APPLY NOW!

Deadline Feb 11, 2026

REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE






Teaching the Next Generation

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on young minds within a dynamic public school environment? Springfield Public Schools is seeking knowledgeable, highly effective, diverse educators, to join our K-12 district!

Join Our Team!

WE'RE HIRING!

TO APPLY
Visit our website or scan the QR Code!



Be part of a school system that is thriving in
A Culture of Equity and Proficiency serving over 26,000 students.



springfieldpublicschools.com

   [springfieldk12](https://twitter.com/springfieldk12)

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

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

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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

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

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

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

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

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

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

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

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at **(413)206-6509**
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

INSTRUCTION

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

LANDSCAPING

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

MASONRY

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

PAINTING

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

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099.**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

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.**

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

PETS

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

AUTO

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

Buying? Selling?
Our Classifieds Get Results!

HELP WANTED

Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER.** Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095.** More information at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**

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

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

PALMER: 1 BR Apt. No Pets/No Smoking. **Breton Estates 413-283-6940**

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

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

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

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

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
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: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Post your job openings in our classifieds. We get results! Call 413-283-8393

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

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

turleynews
TurleyPublications

Watercolor workshop brings creativity, community together

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND—The Holland Community Center was filled with color, conversation, and creativity on Jan. 12, when residents gathered for a watercolor workshop focused on creating handmade greeting cards.

The workshop was led by Holland resident Sanna Hart, who has been hosting regular art and craft programs at the community center to provide accessible, low-cost creative opportunities for the public. This session marked the first time Hart had organized a watercolor-specific workshop, though she has previously hosted other painting and craft events on a near-monthly basis.

Hart said her interest in watercolor is relatively recent but stems from her long-standing love of painting. While she also works with acrylics, she explained that watercolor's simplicity and portability make it especially well-suited for small projects and shared spaces.

"With acrylics, it takes over my whole kitchen," Hart said. "Watercolors let you sit down, make something small like a card, and if you need to stop, you just fold everything up and you're done. There's no big mess."

The idea to focus on greeting cards was inspired by the time of year, with Valentine's Day approaching, though participants were encouraged to create whatever they wished; from birthday and get-well cards to pure-



Hart brought many of her painted watercolor cards to show as examples for the students.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
A watercolor possum painted by Holland Resident and artist Sanna Hart.

ly artistic designs. Hart described the workshop as an open, flexible craft session rather than a formal class.

"I'm not a teacher," she said. "I just want to give people the opportunity to do something creative, with a little guidance if they need it."

All materials, including paints, paper, and supplies,

were provided for a \$15 per-person fee, a deliberate effort to keep the program affordable.

Hart noted that similar workshops at commercial studios often cost \$30 or more, and sessions led by professional instructors can run even higher.

"Most people can't afford that," she said. "I try to fill that gap and offer something artsy and social that's accessible to everyone."

For Hart, the workshops are as much about building community as they are about

art. As more participants arrived during the afternoon, the atmosphere became increasingly social, with conversation flowing alongside brushstrokes.

"In the winter especially, there's not much to do," Hart said. "These are the kinds of things you can do without needing a giant space or a lot of equipment. You can even do it while watching TV at home once you learn."

In addition to watercolor painting, Hart also hosts felting sessions and other craft-based programs, encouraging residents to explore different artistic skills. Proceeds from the workshops are reinvested into the community center, helping fund future programming and events.

Hart moved to Holland four years ago and said she quickly found a sense of belonging through the community center.

"It happened almost in-



Sanna Hart showing off some of the acrylic paintings made from a previous class she taught about acrylic paints.

stantly," she said. "The community center really brings people together. When you find your niche, this is it."

Looking ahead, Hart hopes to continue expanding arts programming at the center, including potentially showcasing work created by local artisans and participants

in future displays or community art events.

As attendees finished their greeting cards and admired each other's work, the workshop reflected the center's broader mission; fostering connection, creativity, and community in a welcoming, low-pressure environment.

Find your MARKET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

Business planning & marketing classes starting soon.

Build your skills and strengthen your business through QVDC's hands-on workshops and group training sessions. Designed for both new and established businesses, these sessions cover **business planning, marketing, and financial management**. Financial assistance may be available for qualifying participants.

Foundations of Small Business Marketing \$25
2 dates to choose from: Sat. January 24 or Sat. April 18

With tight resources & limited time, having a clear, focused marketing plan can help cut through the noise and make an impact. This hands-on workshop is designed to help simplify your marketing and make more confident decisions. We will cover core marketing and social media fundamentals, including defining your audience, clarifying your message, developing a value proposition, creating an ad, and building a practical marketing plan. Participants will sharpen their focus, reach customers more effectively, and build a marketing strategy that supports steady growth in uncertain times.

5-part Business Planning Workshop \$99
Mon. Jan 26 • Wed. Jan 28 • Mon. Feb 2 • Wed. Feb 4 plus a one-on-one individual session.

Starting or growing a business can feel especially uncertain in changing economic times, and having a clear plan can help steady the path forward. The Quaboag Valley CDC Business Planning Workshop is a hands-on series that helps new and growing business owners bring structure to their ideas, understand their options, and plan with greater confidence. Participants learn how to build a support team, create a practical roadmap, explore marketing approaches, and better understand financing and cash flow through guided sessions and a one-on-one financial projection, all designed to support thoughtful decision-making.

REGISTER NOW at
[QVDC.org/learn](https://www.qvdc.org/learn)
or call 413-967-3001.

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

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

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
JOB POSTING

Senior Center Clerk/Transportation Coordinator/Kitchen Manager

Part time position: 13.5 hours per week
Monday through Wednesday 8:30am-1:00pm
Pay: \$20.13 per hour

Skilled secretarial, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Senior Center Director in discharging the functions of the office; performs all other related work as required.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Performs administrative and clerical work overseeing the daily operations of a busy office.
- Manages all incoming communication with the Senior Center by answering phones, greeting guests, and answering questions at the Reception Desk; triages inquiries to determine need and directs to appropriate staff member; provides information regarding programs and activities, and oversees program and activity check-ins.
- Schedules transportation for Brimfield Seniors and Disabled residents.
- Responsible for food preparation, kitchen clean-up, and general kitchen oversight.

For a complete job description go to: <https://www.brimfieldma.org/select-board/pages/jobopportunities>

Please apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume to the Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or by email to selectboard@brimfieldma.org