

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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MONSON

Program highlights water protection

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Senior Center hosted a well-attended educational program on Thursday, Nov. 13, featuring “Eagles, Loons, and Bears, Oh My!” presented by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Water Supply Protection. The talk was led by wildlife educator Maria Beiter-Tucker, who has given two previous presentations on the Quabbin Reservoir, including an introduction to the reservoir itself and an in-depth exploration of how the valley was cleared to create it.

Before her presentation, Beiter-Tucker said she was excited to return to Monson, where the turnout was strong and audience members expressed deep interest in the wildlife topics. “One of the reasons we have them in our region is because the Quabbin was created and is managed a certain way. So it makes a great habitat for lots of different wildlife,” she said.

The Quabbin Reservoir, spanning 39 square miles, is

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PALMER



Submitted photo

Pack 164- Damien Gralenski, Adelyn Bessette, Lawrence Thompson, Gregory Smigelski, Lonnie Christie, Brooklyn Bessette, Jayden Riopel, and Adryan Kosnicki.

Troop 64 holds donation drive

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – Boy Scout Troop 64 and Cup Scout Pack 164 returned to Palmer Town Hall on Saturday, Nov. 15 for their fall Donation Day, continuing a growing partnership with Hart Springs that has become one of the troop’s most reliable

and community-supported fundraisers.

Troop representatives Karen Champagne and Rebecca Quinn said the event has steadily expanded since the troop first piloted multiple collection days last year. “Last year was our first time doing it twice,” Champagne explained. “We typically fill that whole truck and

more.” With the success of the spring and fall drives in 2025, the troop hopes to establish a three-times-a-year model beginning in 2026: spring, midsummer, and fall, to support its increasingly busy programming calendar.

Hart Springs reimburses Troop 64 based on the total volume of donated material, and the partnership

has consistently generated strong returns. “These days (the donation days) average anywhere between four and \$500... which is a phenomenal fundraiser for us,” Champagne said.

As with past drives, clothing and household goods were the most fre-

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MONSON

Electronics drop-off successful

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The First Church of Monson once again served as a regional drop-off point for unwanted televisions, computers, small appliances, and other electronic waste on Saturday, Nov. 15, as Green Day Recycling held its second local collection of the year. The long-running partnership between the family-owned recycling company and the church has now spanned roughly a decade, providing residents with a convenient way to dispose of outdated electronics while also supporting the church through shared proceeds.

Brian Wood, director of operations for Green Day Recycling, spoke by phone following the event. His father, Jim Wood, founded the company nearly 20 years ago and still owns it, though his son has gradually taken on day-to-day responsibilities. “My dad is almost 70. So at that stage of life where I’m doing a bit more now,” Wood said.

While many residents think of the event as a donation day, Wood clarified that it is technically a paid recycling service. Some smaller items are accepted for free, but most electronics, especially

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MONSON

Arts Council showcases local talent

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Arts Council once again put local creativity in the spotlight with its annual Members Show, an exhibition that celebrates the wide-ranging talents of art-

ists from across the community. The show, which was free and open to the public, featured an eclectic array of works from council members and offered visitors a glimpse into the diverse artistic spirit that defines Monson’s creative community.

“This is our members

show,” explained Sue James of the Monson Arts Council. “We have this once a year, and it’s a benefit to members...there’s no cost to them. They can come in and hang whatever they like.”

The exhibition, held in the art gallery space of the council’s headquarters, fea-

tures paintings, mixed media works, and other visual pieces contributed by participating members. The event offers a more personal and experimental showcase than the council’s well-known juried Spring Art Show, which has been running for over three decades.

“The Spring Art Show has been going for about 35 years now,” said artist and council member Dave Dupuis. “This member’s show grew out of that tradition. We decided to have this membership program where artists could share their work more freely, without the pressure of competition or theme.”

Unlike past exhibitions, the Members Show does not follow a set theme; a decision, James said, that gives artists more creative freedom.

“We used to do a theme every year,” she explained. “But we found that sometimes the theme limited us. If we picked something that didn’t fit everyone’s style... say we chose ‘landscapes’ then that might leave out all the people who do portraits. So we just leave it open now to whatever members want to bring in.”

The Monson Arts Council has long served as a cornerstone of the local arts scene, with roots dating back to the 1970s. Over the years, it has expanded into several creative branches, including theater, crafts, and museum programs. “We have a the-

PALMER



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Adrienne Terrizzi of AMT Originals displays her handmade baby baskets during her first year as a vendor at the bazaar.

Bazaar brings in many vendors, festive crowd

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – St. Paul’s Unitarian Universalist Church was bustling with holiday shoppers, volunteers and the smell of homemade popcorn on Saturday, Nov. 15, as the congregation welcomed the community to its third annual Holiday Berry Bazaar. Organizers estimate that nearly 30 vendors filled multiple rooms throughout the building, marking the largest and most varied fair the church has hosted to date.

“This is our third year doing it,” said volunteer Maria Nobile, who helped to

coordinate the food and bake tables. “Each year we seem to pick another room, we have more people here this year. And everyone has a great time, I think.” Visitors moved from room to room browsing handcrafted gifts and seasonal goods while sampling chili that had been made fresh the day before, along with hot dogs, fresh popcorn, pies, fudge, bread pudding, brownies, cupcakes, and homemade

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Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Dave Dupuis and his painting “Transfabulous”, Medium: Acrylic and Not For Sale.

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Baby bunnies draw a crowd at library

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Free Library was packed on Nov. 13 as families filled the DeSantis Room for a special “Meet the Bunnies” program hosted by local hobby farmer Olivia Flanagan of Lily Meadow Farm in Wales. With at least 45 children and caregivers streaming through by mid-morning, staff said the turnout was among the largest daytime children’s events they had seen.

Flanagan, who volunteers her time to bring young animals into community spaces, said she loves visiting Monson’s library. “The Monson Library is my favorite library of all time,” she said, praising children’s librarian Denise Newland and library director Hope Bodwell as “so kind.” Allowing kids to hold and interact with animals up close, she added, is what makes these events especially meaningful. “It’s a great time to interact with children and let them actually hold and touch bunnies instead of just looking at them behind a cage.”

The event featured seven five-week-old baby bunnies, known as “kits,” as well as one adult Holland Lop. Flanagan explained that the adult bunny and her sister, both two-and-a-half years old, were brought along simply “for snuggles, too.”

Children took turns sit-

ting on the floor and gently petting the tiny kits as Flanagan answered questions about their care, behavior, and early socialization. The DeSantis Room bustled with excitement as each new family entered. “Bunnies do bring a crowd...an adorable crowd,” Flanagan said with a laugh as more kids ran into the room.

Flanagan’s Lily Meadow Farm is a small hobby operation that she runs in Wales. “I have two horses and a pony, four goats, five or six bunnies, about 40 chickens, a dog and a cat,” she said. She also teaches riding lessons, offers after-school animal programs, and holds a morning “Mommy and Me” program for younger children. Her pony, Penny, frequently travels with her to public events for pony rides; though she joked, “Can’t bring a pony in the library. No, no, no, but you can bring baby bunnies.”

This year’s turnout was strong, but Flanagan recalled that last year’s after-hours bunny event drew more than 150 guests, with a line stretching out into the parking lot. As families continued to pour into the children’s room, Flanagan said she was delighted simply to share the joy animals can bring. “I love all the kiddies here,” she added. “It’s delightful.”

The Monson Free Library will continue offering hands-on youth programs throughout the remaining fall season.



The kits are kept in small sand pails filled with snacks and hay for comfort, so they don't get caught underfoot or crushed by a well intentioned child.



Young Audra holds a bunny in her arms.



Emment Gallant, age 4, holds a baby bunny in his lap.



Some of the bunnies don't like being contained in little buckets and take any opportunity to jump ship.

Community Cupboard open

MONSON – Monson Community Cupboard abounds in holiday spirit. The cupboard has been open since Sept. 1 and has been frequented by more than 80 families. Our goal is to help alleviate cases of food insecurity throughout our town.

The Monson Community Cupboard, located at 24 Green St. is currently open on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Fridays from noon - 4 p.m and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, and can be opened by appointment if you can't make those times.

“We are grateful for the citizens who have made both food and monetary donations because they want to help members of our community in need,” stated director, Karen Davis.

One customer declared that she “went to the food pantry on Green Street and the ladies in there are so sweet, kind helpful. Nobody makes you feel bad about needing help... We are blessed to have them. Karen and team - thank you so much for what you do.”

Donations of food may be dropped off at 24 Green St. when open. Monetary donations may be dropped off or mailed to Monson Community Cupboard 24 Green St. Monson, MA 01057.

Tree of Love fundraiser

PALMER – The Tree of Love annual fundraiser honors a loved one with a wooden ornament to be put on our tree near the Baystate Wing Gift Shop from November thru December.

A single name ornament is \$5 and a family name is \$10.

More information and forms are available in the Gift Shop or by our tree on the 1st floor.

MAC to present ‘It’s A Wonderful Life’

MONSON – The Monson Arts Council is proud to present “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at Granite Valley Middle School.

“When financial ruin threatens, George Bailey is wrought for a way out. As his options close in on him, a guardian angel is sent to show him that it truly is a wonderful life,” said director Amos Lake. “We’re excited to have you join this star-studded cast of talent as they transport you via the airways of WBOR to Bedford

Falls in this classic radio play.” Performances will be held at 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$20, available online and at the door.

“There is always hope. You never know what people crossing your path are really angels in disguise,” said producer Tony Esposito.

This show marks the first collaboration between Granite Valley and the Monson Arts Council theater committee. It is the group’s second radio play-style performance, and the Arts Council is proud to

partner with independent local radio station 97.7 FM to bring the radio-play experience to life.

“The story is one we can all relate to right now,” Lake said. “We may feel defeated, we may feel fear for the future, but this story also reminds us there is hope, and together we can overcome what seems impossible.”

A full cast list, ticket purchase link, and additional information is available at the Monson Arts Council’s website, MonsonArtsCouncil.org.

Baystate Wing Gift Shop annual January Lotto calendars now 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.

These make great stocking stuffers/gifts or recognition of someone in your daily life.



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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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Book sale continues legacy for Sandy Nichols

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The fifth annual Sandy Nichols Memorial Book Sale opened this week at the Palmer Public Library, continuing a tradition built on decades of dedication from two of the library’s most influential volunteers, the late Sandy Nichols and Stanley Skowrya. The sale, organized by the Palmer Public Library Association, will run through Thanksgiving week and conclude on the Saturday following the holiday.

This year’s event is again overseen by library staff member Rich Clark, who stepped into the role after Nichols’ passing in 2020. “When I started, she ran the annual book sale,” Clark explained. “When she passed, I started taking it over, and just thought dedicating the yearly book sale to her would be the right thing to do.” Clark said about 90% of the sale’s offerings come from library withdrawals, with the remaining 10% donated by community members.

Shoppers browsing the tables of fiction, nonfiction, children’s books, and specialty titles were also met with a printed tribute honoring both Nichols and Skowrya, who died within one month of each other in 2020. Their contributions, as described in the pamphlet, “are alive and well in the library and in our community.”

Sandy Nichols and Stanley Skowrya were more than dedicated library supporters, they were family. First cousins once removed, the pair grew up on neighboring farm properties that once sat along the Grand Trunk Railroad corridor. Their shared commitment to Palmer and its institutions became a signature part of the library’s modern identity.

Nichols, a Palmer native and world traveler, spent many years lending her skills, leadership, and vision to the library. A former AT&T manager with a degree in economics, she served on the board of directors, chaired the association, and played a major role in the restoration of the old library in the 1990s. She was instrumental in launching the original annual book sales, establishing the Library Loft used-book store in Schoolhouse Commons, and later running the in-house Library Loft II at Town Square until the pandemic closures in March 2020.

Nichols also served on the Building Expansion Committee that planned the current library, selecting interior color palettes, furniture, décor, and historic photographs. Her deep knowledge of Palmer’s history made her, as the tribute pamphlet notes, “a valuable extended member of the library’s reference staff.”

Her love of travel took her to Europe, the Middle East, and Australia, and she



The 5th Annual Sandy Nichols Book Sale happening in the community room at the Palmer Public Library.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

frequently presented travel talks at the library, sharing stories of culture, genealogy, and adventure. “If she died tomorrow,” she often said, “she knows she lived a wonderful life and was loved deeply.”

Skowrya, known throughout town as Stan, was equally woven into the library’s fabric. The youngest of nine children, he served in the U.S. Navy before beginning a 25-year career with New England Tele-

phone Company. A master woodworker celebrated for his craftsmanship and good humor, he contributed countless handmade pieces to the library over several decades, many of which are still in daily use.

He constructed display cases, built furniture for Top Floor Learning, installed the gallery hanging system in the Community Room, and created the upholstered bench on the staircase landing, a piece

he collaborated on with Nichols. His most famous creation, the intricate wooden railroad in the Children’s Room, remains one of the building’s most beloved features and a tribute to Palmer’s identity as the “Town of Seven Railroads.”

Skowrya volunteered for summer reading programs, constructed props for children’s events, and crafted custom bookcases raffled

annually. Even after multiple leukemia diagnoses, he continued to work with upbeat determination. “He was probably the most talented master woodworker I’ve ever known,” Mike Moran recalled in the pamphlet. “He never took himself too seriously and shared his skills generously.”

Both Nichols and Skowrya received the prestigious Robert M. Sullivan Award for “exceptional support of the library’s mission,” Nichols in 2010 and Skowrya in 2015.

The annual book sale, renamed in Nichols’ honor, has become one of the Association’s most recognizable fundraisers, and Clark says it will continue for years to come. For now, his focus is on getting books into the hands of community members and keeping the spirit of service alive. “Feel free to take any information,” he said, noting proceeds will support library programs and projects.

For those who worked alongside Nichols and Skowrya, the sale is more than a fundraiser; it is a celebration of two lives lived generously in service to their community. “We are grateful for this recognition,” their families shared in the pamphlet. “The memory of their contributions will live on in the library for generations.”

The book sale is open during regular library hours and will run through the end of Thanksgiving week.

History of Christmas tree decorations hosted by Keep Homestead Museum

MONSON – Have you ever wondered about the history of the decorations you place on your Christmas tree? Plan to visit the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road in Monson, when Lorraine German presents her program “Dressing the Christmas Tree” on Sunday, December 7, at 1:30 pm. It examines the evolution of Christmas tree ornaments.

Lorraine is the owner of Mad River Antiques in North Granby, CT and she will discuss the history of adorning

the Christmas tree in America, and she will provide examples of tree decorations from her own collection. Her antique Christmas collection began with an early 20th century German Santa and sleigh inherited from her grandparents.

This program starts at 1:30 p.m. in the barn and is open to the public free of charge though donations are welcome. Visitors are welcome to tour the festive museum from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to view Christmas button dis-

plays courtesy of the Monson Button Club and to enjoy light refreshments. Visit the gift shop where handmade note cards featuring buttons are for sale.

Join us outside for hot roasted chestnuts compliments of Replanting Monson Tree Committee and students from the Tantasqua Chestnut Club.

Mah Jongg Club open to all levels

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

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The Town of Palmer DPW is seeking **CONTRACTORS FOR SNOW REMOVAL** for the upcoming winter season.

Rates have increased for Fiscal Year 2026. If interested, contracts are available on the town website: townofpalmer.com or at the DPW office.

Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance forms can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St., Palmer.

Please call our office at (413) 283-2615, M-F, 7 am - 3:30 pm, with any questions.



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Did the Obama-era Social Security tax cuts hurt the program?

Dear Rusty:
I will be retiring early next year, but my question to you is: During the Obama administration, payroll taxes that employees pay were cut in half from 6.2% to 3.1%, while the employer's part stayed the same at 6.2%. This continued for around a year I think. This was an attempt at giving people a tax cut, which I think was a bad idea or maybe the wrong way to have done it. How much damage do you think this may have caused to Social Security?

Signed: Soon to Retire

Dear Soon to Retire:

FYI, the Obama-era cut in the employee portion of FICA payroll taxes and SECA (self-employment tax) was a temporary measure, which has long since expired. However, the legislation which enabled that cut in employee FICA/SECA taxes also included a provision to replenish the Social Security Trust Funds from the General U.S Treasury in an amount equal to the estimated loss of tax revenue to the Trust Funds. So, in effect, there was little or no impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

FYI, the Trustees of Social Security have been projecting for many years that the Social Security reserves would be fully depleted in the mid-2030s, unless Congress takes action to reform the SS program. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken any meaningful action to accomplish that reform and the current projection from the Trustees is that all Social Security reserves will be depleted in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% in everyone's benefit. Time is

running short and we see signs that Congress is finally starting to seriously discuss Social Security reform.

At AMAC, we have developed and submitted to various Congressional Representatives a reform plan, which would restore Social Security to full solvency. People can see AMAC's suggested plan by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee. And AMAC is working every day in Washington, D.C. to promote Social Security reform to avoid future cuts in benefits. We believe and hope that Congress will eventually reform the Social Security program to avoid future benefit cuts but, unfortunately, not until they can muster sufficient bipartisanship to make the hard choices needed. To this end, contacting your Congressional Representative to demand Social Security reform now would be a good thing to do. The longer Congress delays reform, the harder the choices will be.

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.



Thanksgiving questions for the Garden Lady

Eva, who has a big vegetable garden in Ware, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "We are supposed to have a low of 27 degrees one night this week. With that said, are my Brussels sprouts going to be OK? I was hoping to harvest them just in time for Thanksgiving." It has been a few years since I have grown Brussels sprouts, but I do remember that they do thrive well into late fall and early winter. A few frosty mornings won't hurt them!

For readers not familiar with Brussel sprout culture, I will elaborate. Brussels sprout seeds are started indoors, around the same time you would start their cousins, broccoli, cabbage or kale.

For me, seeds are sown off heat the first week of April through tax day. They are grown cool but under supplemental light to prevent stretching, and are transplanted once the first set of "true leaves" unfold.

I transplant mine into the cells of a six pack, although individual two or three inch pots are also a good option. Brussels sprouts can be moved into the garden a couple of weeks prior to Memorial Day, where fertile soil and eight-10 hours of direct sun are preferred.

They need to be given a lot more room than their cousins, about nine square feet of growing space per

plant! It will pay off! Placing transplants under floating row covers is smart, and will protect young plants from flea beetles and swede midge, then from various "cabbage" worms. The plants will grow tall over the course of their long growing season and will form buds along the stem.

It is the buds that we harvest, known as the "sprouts" we so enjoy. Experts recommend "topping" the plants in September, or cutting off the first couple of inches of top growth, so that the plant puts all of its energy into the sprouts it already has, making them bigger.

When I grew Brussels sprouts many years ago, aphid were a big problem. There are a number of varieties that have a spaced branching habit that seem to reduce the population of these pests. "Divino," "Speedia," and "Nautic" are all good choices.

Harvest the half-dollar sized sprouts after the first few frosts and you will be in for a great, sweet treat. Like carrots who endure a little cold, starches turn to sugars and yum!

Personally, I like to roast them for heightened crunch and a little more caramelization. I hope they will

be a wonderful part of your family meal, Eva! Melissa, who gardens in Palmer, just moved to a house that has a few "highbush cranberries" on her property.

"I was curious if this shrub is a tall version of the Thanksgiving cranberry and if so, if it is edible? The word 'highbush' reminds me of blueberries, so I thought maybe it worked out the same," she asked.

The American cranberry is not to be confused with *Viburnum trilobum*, an eight-12 foot multistemmed shrub sometimes called highbush cranberry, crampbark, or even cranberry viburnum.

The berries of this native shrub hang in clusters and are orangey-red in color. Although they are edible, birds generally find them a whole lot more appealing than we do, and will typically "gobble" them up before winter hits.

The shrub typically has great fall interest, too, with foliage that varies in hues of orange, red and purplish red.

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.

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POETRY CORNER

When They Were Children

*The old camp-ground – its breaking-up! boys –
And soon the ladies will tend the wildfire;
if they've left home an aborted place,
Since long ago when The Hayfields were ours:*

*Sing it to the rest – all you fine players –
Twanged on a battered Gibson guitar:
To the warring gods! of decades
At odds - as we follow our separate fevers.*

*So flow gently, sweet Rubicon –
But what makes your waters red?
We can roll up our britches, and not get
Wet, or worse, - to stay here instead.*

*For once was free and easy the time –
Tho' not far away, the blood of war;
And we would not die, but let them know,
In a child's voice, fixt, and clear:*

*That the greatest, gave way to the least?
Not, youth sent off to a slaughterpen;
Play it safe in your own backyard,
Than prove that the world still makes men.*

*Where soul separates from body so –
And you can not even feel it go...
And if not fight for beauty's worth –
What then has this place called earth?*

*But what to do with two worlds now –
Where we dwell apart on opposite shores?
One side that honor might need pay for death;
The other: life is not worth defending for.*

– Charles Barnes

In October, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a black-billed cuckoo at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and another was seen at a different location in Wellfleet.

The black-billed cuckoo is often heard more than seen. They spend a lot of time in densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. It is slender, brown bird with white belly, long tail and as its name implies a black bill. It has a red ring around the eyes and white tips on the underside of its tail. They also have a hunch backed look. It is about the size of a mourning dove 11 to 12 inches without the plump body.

Cuckoos eat lots of spiny caterpillars and can make quick work of tent caterpillars and webworms. The spines of the caterpillars stick to the lining of their stomachs. To rid themselves of the spines they periodically shed the stomach lining and coughing it up in one giant pellet, similar to an owl.

They sing especially at night in midsummer. Their song is a staccato with less of a knocking sound than the yellow-billed cuckoo. They also perch motionless for long periods of time so they



By Ellenor Downer



Black-billed cuckoo

can be tricky to find. A good location to look for them are areas with tent caterpillars or fall webworms, a favorite food of these birds.

Audubon bird sightings
On Nov. 9, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the following sightings at Wachusett Reservoir.

Sightings included: nine common loon, two horned grebe, one double-crested

cormorant, two great blue heron, 135 Canada geese, four mute swan, one immature gadwall, two black ducks, 63 mallard, five ring-necked duck, 95 greater

scaup, eight lesser scaup, 41 bufflehead, 11 hooded merganser, seven common merganser, one ruddy duck, one red-tailed hawk, three wild turkey, 11 ring-billed gull, one belted kingfisher, one northern flicker and one pileated woodpecker. Other birds included on common

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

Please send opinions to:
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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.

Wales Public Library events

Here are our upcoming events for December:

Nov. 29: Beeswax Ornaments, registration required, 10 a.m.

Dec 1-23: Gift Wrapping Station

Dec 1: Kids After School Art 4 p.m. Book Club 6 p.m. Holiday Party

Dec 2: Book Page Luminaries 5 p.m.

Dec 3: Wales Tales Story Time 12:15 p.m.

Dec 6: ASL 12 p.m.

Dec 7: Friends of WPL Wreath Fundraiser \$45 at WES 3 p.m.

Dec 9: Mom's Morning 10:30 a.m. Friends Meeting 4:30 p.m.

Dec 10: Wales Tales Story Time 12:15 p.m.

Dec 13: Author Visit: Santa Bill Barnsley author of, "If Mice Pulled the Sleigh" Fundraiser \$25/family/book receive autographed book Holiday Tea Party 1 p.m.

Dec 17: Wales Tales Story Time 12:15 p.m. Kids Holiday PJ Party 4 to 6 p.m.

Dec 24 & 25: Closed.

Dec 29: Book Buddies 11 a.m. Holiday Party

Dec 31: Closed

Candle painting brings festive creativity

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Free Library was aglow with creativity during its recent Tapered Candle Painting event, where community members gathered to design and decorate their own candles just in time for the holiday season.

Participants were invited to paint unscented taper candles using either acrylic paint or melted wax, allowing for endless possibilities; from festive holiday motifs to personalized year-round designs.

"I came up with the idea because I was looking for something that could fit the holiday season, but also let people express their own style," Rebecca Sawyer, the assistant library director explained. "They can go for the holiday route, or anything they want to do."

Acrylic paints were recommended for decorative purposes, while melted wax was a safer choice for those who wanted to light their candles afterward. "That's kind of why we went for a fall holiday theme," Sawyer added. "It's something people can bring out and enjoy during certain times of the year."



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Monson resident Gail uses unscented wax to paint the plain candles.



Lynn, a resident of Monson, shows off the fall themed candles she painted.



Another Monson resident, Pam, uses all the available unscented wax colors to create a Christmas themed candle.



Some of the example candles made by Rebecca Sawyer for the tapered candle painting.

Masonic Lodge donates to the Monson Senior Center



Submitted photo

Duane Miller, treasurer of Thomas Dayspring Lodge and member Bob Caprile present acting director Joanne Castonguay of the Monson Senior Center a check for \$200 from proceeds from this year's Car Show. Duane Miller stated that the Monson Senior Center has always supported the Lodge by attending our many dinners and we wanted to give something in return. Thomas Dayspring Masonic Lodge is one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Massachusetts, chartered in 1796 by Paul Revere. We continue to provide charitable donations and Scholarships to the towns of Monson, Palmer and Ware.

Enjoy musical delights of handbells on Dec. 7

MONSON – Join "Chime In" for a magical experience, enveloped in the musical delights of handbells hosted by St. Patrick's Church located at 22 Green Street, Monson at 3 p.m. on Dec. 7, 2025. This concert is free.

Ring, revel, and rejoice throughout this concert. One hundred twenty-five handbells plus chimes and gongs are sure to warm your hearts during this joyous season.

Chime In! Music With a Mission brings joy and fun to their handbell performances. Their concerts of secular and sacred music embrace audience participation.

Guests will be encouraged to try their hands at playing bells, chimes, and even some of their more unusual instruments after the concert

when they might try out the handbells themselves.

The choirs of Chime In! have been sharing their love of music with the community for more than 20 years, at multiple venues – from New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas, to the Bethlehem Fair, UMass, Carnegie Hall, and now right here in Monson.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert at the Parish Hall (Columbia Hall) across the street.

Melodies of joy and hope for the season

PALMER – St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church of Palmer announces a special Holiday Music Worship Service on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m., headlined by the Berkshire Hills Music Academy (BHMA) Woodwind Ensemble and led by Wes Hunter, St. Paul's Minister of Music and a BHMA faculty member. The morning's theme—"Melodies of joy and hope for the season."—invites the wider community to gather, listen,

and sing. "Music carries hope straight to the heart," said Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's. "This service creates space for joy and reflection—no pretense, just genuine welcome and the songs that help us breathe a little easier during a busy season."

The service follows a "readings and carols" format—stories and seasonal

JOY | page 13

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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library



November 23, 2025

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\$10

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Visit with Santa 11:00 - 2:00pm

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Sponsored by Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.

Proceeds will be used to support programs & services of the Wilbraham Senior Center

DONATION | from page 1

quently donated items, with residents arriving steadily throughout the morning to drop off bags and boxes. Troop volunteers assisted with unloading and sorting, an activity Champagne described as something the Scouts genuinely enjoy. "They like feeling involved," she said.

In addition to the primary collection, the troop hosted a food drive and accepted worn American flags for an upcoming flag retirement ceremony, which will be conducted by the Scouts alongside the Arrow of Light group next weekend, Nov. 22. At the conclusion of the food drive the pack had collected 221.85 lbs of food for the Palmer Food Share.

Money raised through the donation drives goes directly into youth programming, in-



Submitted photo
Troop 64 - Brian Quinn, Stephen Burnham, Cole Chevalier, Devin Chevalier, Zachary Champagne, Lincoln Quinn, Aiden Raymond, Jackson Quinn, Karen Champagne, Pierre Chevalier, Andrew Raymond.

cluding high-interest outings that the troop has been preparing for over the coming months.

"We have whitewater rafting coming up, snow tubing, and a couple camping trips,"

Quinn shared. The troop is also planning a visit to the New England Air Museum, departing later this season. The rafting trip is expected to take place in Charlemont, with the group likely to partner with

Soar Outdoor for a run down the Deerfield River.

With two successful drives completed this year, Troop 64 leaders say community support remains the driving force behind their ability



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Jayden Riopel and Adryan Kosnicki running the food donation table.

to offer robust programming at an affordable cost to families. As they look toward 2026, the Scouts hope to expand their schedule of donation events and continue collaborating with local residents who turn

out year after year. Champagne and Quinn encouraged anyone interested in following upcoming troop activities, including the Nov. 22 flag retirement ceremony, to reach out for details.

DROP-OFF | from page 1

televisions, carry a fee due to the cost of safely processing them in accordance with Massachusetts environmental regulations.

"What our service offers is a convenient Saturday collection," Wood said. "It's open to residents of all communities... in a central area where people can drop stuff off." He noted that many towns either do not accept certain electronics, require resident stickers, or charge higher fees than the weekend collection.

Green Day Recycling holds events across Massachusetts, from the Boston area to Central and Western Mass. Monson is typically on the list once or twice a year, and the company previously visited in July.

The partnership is particularly meaningful to the host

church. Wood recalled how the 2011 tornado caused severe damage to the church's steeple and other structures. Revenue from the recycling events became part of the long-term recovery.

"The church was able to repair the steeple in part because of the proceeds that had been coming in from the electronics recycling events we had done at the church," Wood said. Those funds have continued to support the church's ongoing work and community programming.

Behind the scenes, the process is far more complex than most residents realize. Electronics collected in Monson are first loaded onto a truck and then transported to partner facilities throughout the state. "Depending on where we are doing the event, we will partner with another company that then actually breaks down the materials," Wood explained.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Subcontractor Andrew Woods and volunteer Julius Cepeva help load and sort through all of the donated electronics.

Different categories of electronics require different handling:

- CRTs and old-style monitors contain lead and must be processed under strict regulations. "They are kind of one of the more expensive things to recycle with our company," Wood said.

- Air conditioners and dehumidifiers require refrigerant removal.

- Mixed electronics are sent through a "giant shredder" that breaks down plastic, metal, and glass for sorting.

"All the glass, the metal, the plastics are broken down and separated, and then

they're shipped off to other companies that will actually salvage the materials by melting them down," Wood said. "The plastic can be melted down and it might come back as a car bumper or something else." He emphasized that "nothing is shipped overseas. It's all in America."

On Nov. 15, residents dropping off equipment were met by volunteer Julius Cepeva from the First Church and Green Day Recycling subcontractor Andrew Woods, who helped unload vehicles and stage materials for transport.

Wood encouraged residents interested in future events to follow the company online. "If you're interested in learning more about the process and where we're going to be next and when we're going to be back in Monson... follow our Facebook page, which is under Green Day Recycling, or send us an email," he said.

Green Day Recycling hosts an event every Saturday somewhere in Massachusetts and expects to return to Monson again in 2026.

For more information, residents may contact GreenDayRecyclingMA@gmail.com.

Tickets are \$10 each. Tickets available at TJ's Tavern and will be sold at the B4 Mac Craft Fair on Nov. 29 & 30 downtown Monson or scan QR code. Drawing Nov. 30th.

~ Proceeds go to Monson Community Cupboard ~

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BAZAAR | from page 1

bread. Santa arrived promptly at 10 a.m., drawing families for photos and adding to the festive atmosphere. Noble noted that the bake sale supports the church directly, saying, "It helps cut the cost of everything."

Minister Rev. Steve Sousa and co-chair Joan O'Connor said the bazaar has become an important gathering for the congregation and wider community. While it functions as a fundraiser, Sousa said its deeper role is to build connection. "It's a time when people in the church can come together... kind of fellowship, friendship building. And it's also a way to reach out to the community," he said. The event has grown in significance as the church continues rebuilding attendance after the pandemic. "It has a very nice community atmosphere," Sousa added. "A lot of folks coming in that are friends of the church or just curious and bazaar-goers."

The fair drew creators of all experience levels, from first-time crafters to longtime artisans who make regular appearances on the local fair circuit. Among them was AMT Originals, run by jewelry maker Adrienne Terrizzi, who said all her designs are handcrafted and one-of-a-kind. "Somebody encouraged me to come out and do a craft show," she explained, noting that although she has made jewelry for years, the bazaar marked her first appearance as a vendor.

Across the hall, wood engraver Jerry Savary of Savary Designs showcased laser-cut pieces he has been perfecting for about two and a half years. Nearby, the familiar table for Petals and Loops displayed tie-dyed clothing and various accessories, with Amanda Cardenas greeting returning customers from previous craft fairs. Made by M, created by Mary Pease, offered newly sewn items crafted over just the past six months, and Uncle Dave's Crafts returned to the bazaar with seasonal woodwork and holiday décor. Soapmaker Amy Seelig of Bay Horse Soaps shared her naturally crafted soaps, explaining, "I started making soap about 10 years ago... It's a little business. I do it at home and I make everything myself." Another popular stop was KK's Sweet Treats, run by Kathleen Joyce and her daughter Kendall, who offered colorful desserts and custom sweets. "I've been baking my whole life," Kathleen said. "I've been doing this as a business in the past year, just because I love it." A table overflowing with shimmering wax melts, body glitters and scent diffusers belonged to Unicorn Embers, run by Mindy Dumont, who described her products as "all hand poured with a touch of magic." Her fragrances, she said, are designed to bring



Haley Sullivan of Crafts by Haley shows off her handmade jewelry and keychains.



Volunteers Adrienne Keefe and Barb Windoloski prepared the famous chili for the bazaar.



Amanda Cardenas of Petals and Loops returns to the Holiday Berry Bazaar with an assortment of jewelry, tie-dyed clothes, and trinkets.



Jerry Savary of Savary Designs shows his laser-engraved wooden creations, which he has been crafting for two and a half years.



Jeanette Tetreault of Snowflake Mittens displays her handmade winter mittens, a craft she began over a decade ago.



David Corriveau of Uncle Dave's Crafts participates in the bazaar with his seasonal woodwork and handcrafted decor.



Mary Pease of Made by M stands with her display of newly crafted goods, created over the past six months.



Kim Connors of Kim's Crafts and her friend Linda Durocher show her holiday-themed creations, including tumblers, ornaments and seasonal décor.



Logan Lilywright of Curly's Cookie sells her homemade dog treats, raising funds for driving school and her future car.



Amy Seelig of Bay Horse Soaps showcases her handmade natural soaps, a craft she has refined over the past decade.



Kathleen Joyce of KK's Sweet Treats offers homemade baked goods and festive treats.

"joy, nostalgia, and a little unicorn magic into your everyday life."

Several seasoned vendors returned for their third year, including Kim's Crafts, run by Kim Connors, who specializes in holiday items such as tumblers, ornaments and snowmen. At the next table, Auntie T's Crafts, run by Tonya Pina, offered ornaments and handmade jewelry alongside pieces created by her niece, Haley Sullivan, who displayed tiny Christmas-light earrings, ducks and other festive charms.

Another crowd favorite were the snowflake mittens, Jeanette Tetreault shared the personal story behind her business. Ten years ago, she began learning mitten-making with a social worker, and that project blossomed into a creative outlet she now shares with the public. "That's how I got into it," she said. Now in her fifth year of selling her work, she said, "I enjoy com-

ing. I love it."

One of the most striking displays came from Diane Barbe, whose handmade jean purses drew shoppers intrigued by their bold colors and unique designs. Barbe began sewing after a stroke left her temporarily paralyzed on her left side. "My therapist told me to do something I enjoy with both hands," she explained. "I love sewing. It's like...this is an addiction now." She gathers high-quality jeans from friends and relatives across the country. "I look for good jeans, I look for pockets mostly," she said. Her bags have found new homes as far away as Virginia Beach and Orlando.

The Second Congregational Church of Palmer also joined the vendor lineup. With their own church no lon-

ger hosting a craft fair, members rented a table and donated handmade items to raise funds. "The ladies all work to donate some items that we could sell so we can raise money for the general fund for the church," said Donna Mae Jones. "By putting it in the general fund it can go anywhere... for the missions, it can go in there too."

Even younger entrepreneurs took part, including Curly's Cookies, founded by Logan Lilywright, who began selling cookies two years ago to raise money for a Washington, D.C. school trip. "Now I am using it to pay for driving school and hopefully my car," she said. Her business is

named after her golden doodle Curly, the self-appointed "taster."

Santa Claus made his annual appearance, played this year by a Palmer resident named Bob, who stepped in when the church's usual Santa was recovering from knee surgery. His presence delighted children and families throughout the morning. The church also offered a full luncheon of chili, coleslaw, hot dogs and what organizers proudly called "the best homemade popcorn in town," a claim accompanied by the inviting aroma that filled the hall.

As the event drew to a close, Sousa said the fair is



Local resident and St. Paul's church member Bob appears as Santa Claus, greeting families.

now firmly established as a tradition the congregation plans to continue. "It's been wonderful on every level," he said. "A lot of hard work... but so worth it."

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ARTS | from page 1

ater group, a museum arm, and of course, the craft fair that happens around Thanksgiving weekend," James said. "And we're always part of Summerfest, too."

Membership in the council is open to anyone interested in supporting or participating in the arts. "If someone wants to join, they can go to our website (monsonartscouncil.org) and all the details are there," James noted. "Artist membership is one of the options."

Both Dupuis and James have contributed pieces to this year's exhibition. Dupuis, who also helps oversee the council's museum operations, said his featured artwork explores themes of empathy and identity. "I think trans people have gotten kind of a rough time," he said. "As a member of the LGBT community, my heart goes out to them. It's an important topic in this day and age, and it's very meaningful to paint about it."

James, too, has several works on display. "This is one of mine, and that's one of mine," she said, gesturing to-

ward two of her pieces. "David already did a pretty good job explaining the show," she added with a laugh when asked about her thoughts on the show.

For the Monson Arts Council, the Members Show represents more than just an

exhibition, it's a reaffirmation of the group's enduring mission to make art accessible and visible within the community. "The Monson Arts Council has been around for a long time," James said. "I think since the '70s. That's what we do...our whole pur-

pose is to bring arts to the world."

The Members Show re-

mains open to visitors, offering residents and art enthusiasts alike a chance to explore

the latest works from Monson's vibrant creative community.

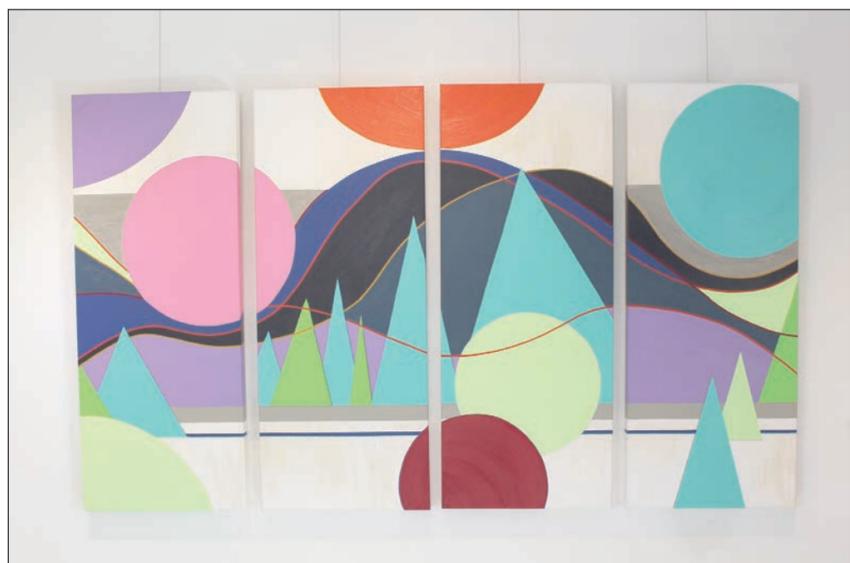


"A Murder of Crows" by Bill Devine. Medium: Mixed Medium. \$600



Sue James and her painting "End of Summer" Medium: Oil. \$700

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



"A Spring Landscape" by Jessica Lister. Medium: Acrylic. \$1,200



"Social Distancing" by Scott Rhoades. Medium: Acrylic. \$550

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FOOTBALL

Panthers, Lions set for Turkey Day tilt



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Matthew Santos passes on the run.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer Panthers wrapped up the 2021 football season with a dominating 34-0 victory over the Ludlow Lions at historic Legion Field in Palmer on Thanksgiving morning.

When the two rivals meet for the 78th time on the same grass field next Thursday morning, the Panthers will be looking to end their three game losing streak in the rivalry series.

“We always look forward to playing Ludlow on Thanksgiving morning, especially whenever the game is played at Legion Field,” said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. “We’re hoping to send our seniors off with at least one win against them.”

The seniors listed on the Panthers football roster are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Hunter White, Kodah Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Jared Perry, Gavin Smola, and Landon Couture.

Last year’s game was played on Ludlow’s turf field for the first time. The Lions managed to squeak out a 12-6 victory on a miserable morning weatherwise.

Ludlow enters this year’s contest holding a 43-31-3

PANTHERS | page 11

SOCCER

Lady Mustangs advance into semifinals state tournament



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hannah Murphy hustles her way up the field.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Prior to meeting in the Division 5 state tournament, the Monson boys’ and girls’ soccer teams had never faced Holbrook High School before.

Five days after the Mustangs boys team posted a home win against Holbrook, the fourth-seeded Lady Mustangs completed the sweep with a 7-0 shutout victory over the 12th-seeded Bulldogs at Larry Tassinari Field on November 10.

“We did a lot of very good things in today’s game,” said second-year Monson girls varsity coach Larry Pagliaro. “We just played our game and showed them what Monson soccer is all about. We’re now looking forward to our next game.”

The round of 16 victory evened the Lady Mustangs season record at 10-10-1. They also haven’t suffered loss on their home grass field since a 5-4 setback to Frontier Regional on September 29.

Holbrook finished their season with a 15-2-3 mark. Their only regular season loss came against the Boston Collegiate Charter School, 2-0, at home on October 17.

While Monson senior Hannah Murphy recorded another hat-trick, junior Avery

MUSTANGS | page 10

FOOTBALL

Pioneers, Orioles, set for holiday rivalry

BELCHERTOWN – The Thanksgiving rivalry between Belchertown and Pathfinder had a small new layer added to it as two teams now find themselves matched up in the regular season during conference action. The situation has taken place with other holiday rivals such as Agawam-West Springfield and East Longmeadow-Longmeadow.

Because of that, Belchertown will be looking to avenge two straight losses to the Pioneers.

In last year’s holiday game, Pathfinder and Belchertown were knotted 14-14. But a touchdown in the second half sealed the win for Pathfinder, giving the Pioneers its 10th win in the all-time series against the Orioles. The two teams were able to play the game on Palmer High’s Legion field with the Panthers on the road at Ludlow.

This year’s game will kick off from Belchertown High School at 9 a.m.



Anthony Arventos sends a kick away in Pathfinder's holiday matchup with Belchertown last year.

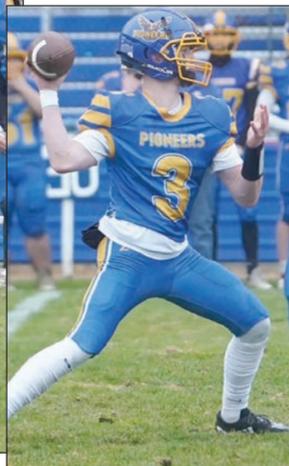


The Pioneers huddle up before a play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Jake Mastej looks to make a tackle.



Quarterback Anthony Arventos sends a throw up the middle.



Nicholas Pfister looks to avoid tacklers as he makes a run for the sideline.

Pathfinder vs Belchertown Belchertown leads series 13-10

2024: Pathfinder 20-14
2023: Belchertown 61-14
2022: Pathfinder 47-22
2021: Belchertown 44-8
2020: No game - COVID
2019: Belchertown 44-7
2018: Belchertown 46-6
2017: Belchertown 39-0

2016: Belchertown 30-0
2015: Pathfinder 16-0
2014: Pathfinder 3-0
2013: Pathfinder 30-6
2012: Pathfinder 30-8
2011: Belchertown 29-0
2010: Belchertown 9-7
2009: Belchertown 41-6

2008: Pathfinder 15-13
2007: Pathfinder 34-8
2006: Belchertown 8-6
2005: Belchertown 25-0
2004: Pathfinder 28-0
2003: Belchertown 27-6
2002: Belchertown 9-6
2001: Pathfinder 48-24

Belchertown Football (6-4)

Friday, Sept. 12 – Belchertown 40, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 19 – Belchertown 21, Ware 20
Friday, Sept. 26 – Belchertown 48, Ludlow 26
Friday, Oct. 3 – Belchertown 18, Monument Mountain 12
Friday, Oct. 10 – Smith Vocational 26, Belchertown 14
Friday, Oct. 17 – North 24, Belchertown 0
Friday, Oct. 24 – Pathfinder 40, Belchertown 25
Saturday, Nov. 1 – Belchertown 35, McCann Tech 12
Friday, Nov. 7 – Palmer 21, Belchertown 7
Friday, Nov. 14 – Belchertown 30, Athol 18
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 27 – vs. Pathfinder 9 a.m.

Pathfinder Football (5-5)

Friday, Sept. 5 – Bishop Guertin 35, Pathfinder 8
Friday, Sept. 12 – Palmer 7, Pathfinder 6
Friday, Sept. 19 – Westfield 52, Pathfinder 14
Thursday, Sept. 25 – Franklin Tech 21, Pathfinder 7
Thursday, Oct. 2 – Pathfinder 28, Smith Vocational 8
Friday, Oct. 17 – Pathfinder 32, McCann Tech 0
Friday, Oct. 24 – Pathfinder 40, Belchertown 25
Friday, Oct. 31 – Pathfinder 24, Monument Mountain 14
Friday, Nov. 7 – Ware 16, Pathfinder 12
Friday, Nov. 14 – Voc Tournament: Pathfinder 42, Smith Voc 12
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 27 – at Belchertown 9 a.m.

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Athlete of the Week

Avery Beaudoin
Monson High School

Beaudoin contributed two goals for Monson in its state playoff win over Holbrook last week.

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.



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MUSTANGS | from page 9

Beaudoin, who's a starting defender, contributed with two second half goals against the Bulldogs.

"Avery scored a couple of goals during the regular season, but she's the leader of our defense," Pagliaro said. "She's a huge part of our team."

Beaudoin has been a starter since she was a freshman. That season ended with the Lady Mustangs celebrating a 4-0 victory over Whitinsville Christian in the Division 5 state finals, which took place at Doyle Field in Leominster.

The Lady Mustangs other three starting defenders in the Round of 16 match were junior Mackayla St. George, eighth grader Ada Wojcik, and junior Lylia Ellis.

They made it very easy for junior goalkeeper Chelsea Hull (8 saves), who was filling in for sophomore Grace Berry.

"Chelsea is capable of playing several different positions," Pagliaro said. "We're very lucky to have several interchangeable players. It's one of the reasons why we've been so successful this season."

Hull was tested during the first five minutes of the first half. She made saves on a couple of shot attempts from seventh grader Aayanah Baker and eighth grader Brooke Saylor before the home team took a 1-0 lead.

The Lady Mustangs first goal of the match, which was unassisted, came on a break-



Audrey Gregoire is pressured by an opponent.

away shot from Murphy.

During the 12th minute, Monson seventh grader Lucy Maziarz delivered a pass to her older sister, Emma, who fired a shot into the back of the net.

Twenty minutes later, Emma Maziarz, who's a junior, sent a pass to Murphy, who completed the first half scoring by putting a shot into the left corner making the score 3-0 at halftime.

Following a free kick ten minutes into the second half, Beaudoin lined a shot into the net for her third goal of the season. She also scored goals against Palmer and Lenox.

It then started to rain and Murphy, who's the Lady Mustangs only senior, put the game out of reach by scoring a pair of goals in a span of four minutes.



Mackayla St. George focuses on the ball as she dribbles across the field.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – The first round of the 2025-2026 candlepin league season is complete for the Bondsville League.

After 11 weeks of bowling, the team that finished first in the west division was Sandri with a record of 47-30. The east division was won by Fire Mountain with a record of 47-30. Night Hawks finished in second place in the east division with a record of 45-32, just two points shy of first place.

In week 11, P&J Meats bowled against Sandri on lanes three and four of Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Sandri won a close game against P&J Meats, 467-464. Steven Fennyery filled in for an absent bowler of P&J Meats and began the match by bowling a 115. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game on his team, 108.

In game two, P&J Meats came up with the victory by a score of 467-442. In game three, Sandri won big by a score of 533-441. Lane

bowled well with a 132, Ron Gouin scored 121, and Sue Horton finished with a 131.

The final score was 1442-1372 in favor of Sandri, the first-place team in the west division.

The Snappers bowled against Slow Burners during week 11 of the season. In game one, Slow Burners got the win by a score of 483-457. Nate and Jody Orszulak each bowled a 110 in game one.

In game two, Snappers were victorious by a score of 489-470. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers bowled well with a 126 second game.

In game three, Snappers won again by a score of 469-450. Krasnecky bowled another 126 to end the match. The final score was 1415-1403 in favor of Snappers.

Team UMass bowled against Ironmen in week 11. In game one, Ironmen won by a score of 484-470. Ryan Drago of Ironmen had the highest game by scoring 134 in game one. Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled a 118. Keith Forenz of Team UMass began with a 115.

In game two, Team UMass won by a score of 502-472.

Drago bowled a 121 in game two and his teammate Jason Swistak bowled 119, but it wasn't enough to get the win against Team UMass.

In game three, Team UMass won by a score of 461-451. Drago finished with a 110 and a three-game series of 365. The final score was 1433-1407 in favor of Team UMass, who finish the round with a record of 31-46.

Night Hawks bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls in week 11. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 488-471. Ryan McCarthy of Flaming Bowling Balls began the match with a 125.

In game two, Night Hawks got the victory by scoring 471 to Flaming Bowling Balls' 465. Darryl Sinclair of Night Hawks finished the match by making a couple of clutch spares in the back half of his 129.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 490-468. McCarthy finished with a 109 and a series of 328. Sinclair finished with a 124 and a three-game series of 368. The final score was 1443-1410 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.



Mackayla St. George gets up in the middle of the field.



Emma Maziarz emerges with possession of the ball.



Avery Beaudoin goes after the loose ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ada Wojcik sends a pass away.

Beaudoin closed out the scoring in the Sweet 16 match with another line-drive shot during the 69th minute.

Three days later, Murphy added another hat-trick to her resume which helped the Lady Mustangs post a 5-3 home win over fifth-seeded Saint John Paul II in the Elite 8.

A year ago, Saint John Paul II defeated Monson, 1-0, in the Round of 16

The Lady Mustangs were scheduled to face the top-seeded and Central Division rival Granby Lady Rams in the semifinals at West Springfield High School on Monday night.

The Lady Rams squeaked out 2-1, and 3-2 victories against the Lady Mustangs during the regular season.

The semifinal match-up also featured two of the top goal scorers in Western Mas-

sachusetts. Murphy broke the state's goal record during the regular season, while Granby junior Kalli White scored more than 25 goals this fall.

The winner earns a berth in the Division 5 state finals.

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PANTHERS | from page 9

overall lead in the series, which began in 1947. The Lions have won 11 of the previous 13 meetings.

"Our number one goal on Thanksgiving Day is for our seniors to celebrate a win in their final high school football game," said Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio. "I'm probably in the minority, but I really enjoy getting up and playing a football game on Thanksgiving morning. We've been playing against Palmer for a very long time."

The Lions seniors are Victor Segarra, Andrew Ray,

Liam DiVenturo, Lucas Quiteiro, Drayden Keirse, Mason Morace, and Connor Walsh, who suffered a season-ending injury during the preseason.

Ludlow has a 3-7 record this fall. Their lone victory during the regular season came at home versus Commerce, 48-28, on October 10. They also won two non-playoff games against Taconic, 33-8, and Mahar Regional, 34-0, which is their only road victory.

"It might not show on the scoreboard, but these kids have improved a lot since the beginning of the season," Saloio. "We have a lot of younger players who have been getting

a lot of experience. It should bode well in the future."

Morace, who's the Lions starting quarterback, has played a couple of memorable games against Palmer.

"I've never lost a football game against Palmer," said Morace, who started a couple of games as a freshman. "I had four passing touchdowns against them when I was a sophomore. I threw two TD passes at home in the rain last year. We're hoping to beat them for the fourth time during my high school career."

Keirse, who joined the football team as a junior, is one of Morace favorite targets. He's also a defensive back.

A couple of the Ludlow running backs are sophomore Jake Marino and Quiteiro, who has also returned a couple of fumbles for touchdowns this fall.

The Panthers (5-5) biggest win so far this season was a 21-6 victory at archrival Ware on November 1. They also defeated Pathfinder Tech (7-6), Athol (30-0), Mahar Regional (41-6) and Belchertown (21-7). The Panthers had a three game winning streak before suffering a 36-28 loss in a non-playoff game at Springfield International Charter School on November 14.

Just like Morace, Santos

has been Palmer's starting quarterback since he was a freshman.

Another key player offensively for the Panthers is Doherty, who's a running back. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a junior. He didn't play in the first six games of this season due to an injury.

Junior Dylan Holbrook is a wide receiver and T.J. Smola, who's an eighth grader, is listed as a tight end.

Perry, who's an offensive lineman and defensive end, was selected as the 57th Annual Leonard J. Bailey Award winner at halftime of the Belchertown game.

Perry and Couture, along with sophomore Kayden Harvey, and freshman Dustin Moulton, attend Monson High School. They're able to play football for the Panthers as part of a co-op.

The two head coaches are hoping the weather for this year's game is a lot better than it was a year ago.

Kickoff is scheduled for 10 a.m.

The Lions assistant football coaches are Tod Hallway, Joe Nixon, Adam Kurta, and Mattingly Provost.

The Panthers assistant coaches are Jason Talbot, Jordan Talbot, Jeff Pardo and Maurice Payne.

Palmer vs. Ludlow
Ludlow leads series 42-31-3

2024: Ludlow 12-6	1998: Ludlow 12-0	1972: Palmer 33-8
2023: Ludlow 28-12	1997: Ludlow 20-6	1971: Cancelled
2022: Ludlow 14-0	1996: Palmer 27-0	1970: Ludlow 30-6
2021: Palmer 34-0	1995: Palmer 35-2	1969: Ludlow 20-0
2020: No game - COVID	1994: Palmer 40-8	1968: Ludlow 42-12
2019: Ludlow 41-8	1993: Ludlow 16-12	1967: Palmer 2-0 (forfeit)
2018: Ludlow 39-0	1992: Palmer 52-0	1966: Tie 12-12
2017: Ludlow 12-0	1991: Palmer 14-0	1965: Palmer 13-0
2016: Palmer 34-6	1990: Ludlow 21-0	1964: Ludlow 20-14
2015: Ludlow 28-21	1989: Ludlow 13-7	1963: Ludlow 22-18
2014: Ludlow 22-6	1988: Ludlow 41-20	1962: Ludlow 12-0
2013: Ludlow 26-0	1987: Palmer 6-2	1961: Ludlow 20-6
2012: Ludlow 26-6	1986: Palmer 42-0	1960: Ludlow 16-6
2011: Palmer 19-18	1985: Palmer 8-0	1959: Ludlow 26-6
2010: Palmer 19-12	1984: Tie 15-15	1958: Ludlow 7-6
2009: Palmer 21-2	1983: Ludlow 32-4	1957: Palmer 13-0
2008: Palmer 14-13	1982: Palmer 14-0	1956: Palmer 31-13
2007: Ludlow 26-6	1981: Ludlow 21-0	1955: Palmer 31-7
2006: Ludlow 21-0	1980: Palmer 24-13	1954: Palmer 18-13
2005: Ludlow 29-9	1979: Tie 6-6	1953: Palmer 13-0
2004: Ludlow 27-7	1978: Ludlow 35-30	1952: Palmer 13-6
2003: Ludlow 29-20	1977: Palmer 14-0	1951: Ludlow 13-6
2002: Ludlow 12-7	1976: Palmer 18-14	1950: Palmer 19-12
2001: Ludlow 53-0	1975: Ludlow 30-26	1949: Ludlow 20-0
2000: Ludlow 16-7	1974: Palmer 30-12	1948: Palmer 27-6
1999: Palmer 24-8	1973: Ludlow 22-0	1947: Ludlow 14-7

Palmer Football (5-5)

Friday, Sept. 12 – Palmer 7, Pathfinder 6
 Friday, Sept. 19 – David Prouty 28, Palmer 19
 Friday, Sept. 26 – Chicopee 12, Palmer 7
 Friday, Oct. 3 – Greenfield 26, Palmer 6
 Friday, Oct. 10 – Palmer 30, Athol 0
 Friday, Oct. 17 – Franklin Tech 49, Palmer 0
 Thursday, Oct. 23 – Palmer 41, Mahar 6
 Saturday, Nov. 1 – Palmer 21, Ware 6
 Friday, Nov. 7 – Palmer 21, Belchertown 7
 Friday, Nov. 14 – SICS 36, Palmer 28
 Thanksgiving Game
 Thursday, Nov. 27 – vs. Ludlow 10 a.m.

Ludlow Football (3-7)

Friday, Sept. 12 – Seekonk 55, Ludlow 12
 Friday, Sept. 19 – Smith Vocational 36, Ludlow 6
 Friday, Sept. 26 – Belchertown 48, Ludlow 26
 Friday, Oct. 3 – Northampton 36, Ludlow 29
 Friday, Oct. 10 – Ludlow 48, Commerce 28
 Saturday, Oct. 18 – SICS 35, Ludlow 14
 Friday, Oct. 24 – Chicopee 14, Ludlow 7
 Thursday, Oct. 30 – Frontier 39, Ludlow 0
 Thursday, Nov. 6 – Ludlow 33, Taconic 8
 Friday, Nov. 14 – Ludlow 34, Mahar 0
 Thanksgiving Game
 Thursday, Nov. 27 – at Palmer 10 a.m.



Hunter Baird goes for the tackle.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
 Right, Matthew Santos hands off the ball to Dylan Doherty.



The Panthers huddle before their next offensive play.



Dylan Holbrook tries to avoid being tackled.



Dylan Doherty tries to run through traffic during last year's Thanksgiving matchup.

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PROGRAM | from page 1

one of the largest unfiltered public water supplies in the United States. Managed by DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection, it provides clean drinking water to 2.7 million residents, primarily in the Greater Boston area.

Water travels 65 miles from Quabbin to the Wachusett Reservoir through an underground aqueduct before reaching regional treatment facilities. A separate system, the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct, serves nearby communities including Chicopee, Wilbraham, and parts of South Hadley.

Beiter-Tucker explained that the Quabbin is more than just the water itself; its surrounding 80,000 acres of protected watershed land are crucial to its purity. Much of that land, 56,000 acres, is forested, and not by accident. "A part of the project that doesn't really get focused on a lot is that as the valley was flooding after the clearing and construction was done, the foresters... were actually planting trees to create a forest as quickly as possible to actually filter the water," she said.

Staff working in the Division of Water Supply Protection include foresters, biologists, engineers, water-quality samplers, and rangers who enforce regulations designed to safeguard the drinking water. That includes one of the most misunderstood rules: no dogs allowed, due to the high potential for bacterial contamination.

"The potential for con-

tamination of water from the watershed... it's pretty big," Beiter-Tucker noted. "We're fortunate. In Massachusetts, we've got a lot of great regulations to prevent that, but obviously, with the drinking water supply, that has to be heightened."

The same strict land protections needed to keep the water clean have unintentionally produced one of the most intact wildlife habitats in southern New England. "All of that attention that we're paying to protecting the land actually creates a great habitat for wildlife," she said.

Her presentation highlighted several species whose populations have rebounded at Quabbin.

Moose: Initially native to Massachusetts but gone by the mid-1800s, moose returned about 35 years ago and now number around 1,000 statewide. Quabbin's vast forestland plays a major role in sustaining them.

Eastern Coyotes: A hybrid of western coyotes and wolves, they migrated into New England in the 20th century. As the region's top predator, they help balance deer, turkey, and small mammal populations. Their howls, Beiter-Tucker emphasized, are simply communication.

Common Loons: Loons were extirpated from the state due to pollution and shoreline development. Their first successful nest at Quabbin was recorded in 1976. With biologists placing floating nesting rafts to stabilize breeding sites, the reservoir remains a critical stronghold for the species.

Black Bears: Once con-

finied to the Berkshires and numbering fewer than 300, black bears expanded eastward as forests regrew. Today, Massachusetts is home to roughly 5,000 bears, though human food sources, including backyard bird feeders, have accelerated population growth and created conflict.

Wild Turkeys: Extirpated by 1851, turkeys were reintroduced in the 1970s and are now a common sight roaming across the state.

Bald Eagles: The centerpiece of the presentation focused on the dramatic return of bald eagles. The species crashed due to habitat loss and the chemical DDT, and by 1963 only 1,000 adults remained across the country. Massachusetts launched a reintroduction effort at Quabbin between 1982 and 1988, bringing 41 young eagles to "hacking towers" where they imprinted on the reservoir.

The first successful chicks since 1906 hatched at Quabbin in 1989, and the program's impact has been extraordinary. Eagles were removed from federal and state endangered lists in 2007 and 2010. Today, nearly 100 nests exist statewide, including in urban areas.

Beiter-Tucker called it an environmental success story. "It's a great story because it's a great story to remember that humans can have a positive impact on the environment and on wildlife when we take the time and spend money," she told the audience.

While much of her presentation focused on charismatic species, Beiter-Tucker reminded attendees that their presence at Quabbin is



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Citizens come to fill the Monson Senior Center to learn about the wildlife that affects our community.



DCR employee and wildlife educator Maria Beiter-Tucker giving her hour-long presentation on the wildlife of the Quabbin Reservoir.

a direct result of careful land management designed to protect public drinking water.

"Quabbin obviously is a vital resource. 2.7 million people get their drinking water from there. The way we protect the land keeps the water clean. But it has this other awesome impact where it

creates... wildlife habitat for all kinds of beautiful animals that we might not have the opportunity to see otherwise."

Audience members expressed appreciation for both the science and the stories woven into the presentation. Many stayed after to ask additional questions or share

personal experiences visiting the Quabbin region.

The program was part of the Senior Center's continued effort to bring engaging educational events to the community. Beiter-Tucker said she hopes to return with more wildlife programming in the future.





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JOY | from page 5

selections for choir, congregation, and instruments—with featured performances by the BHMA Woodwind Ensemble, whose musicians are young adults with developmental disabilities. “Our ensemble brings a vibrant, heartfelt energy to every performance,” said Wes Hunter.

All are invited. St. Paul’s emphasizes a warm, inclusive welcome for neighbors of any or no faith background. Congregational singing will be encouraged, with familiar carols and reflective pieces chosen to celebrate the beauty, quiet, and connection of wintertime.

About St. Paul’s UU Church of Palmer

St. Paul’s is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation rooted in compassion, conscience, and community—gathering people of many beliefs to grow in spirit and serve our neighbors.

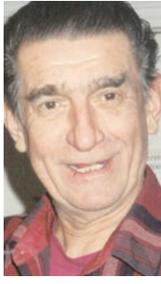
About Berkshire Hills Music Academy

Berkshire Hills Music Academy is a post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, using music to enhance communication, social, and vocational skills. Learn more at berkshirehills.org.

Obituary

Walter S. Maslon

Walter S. Maslon, a lifelong resident of Palmer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Nov. 12, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on July 10, 1941, in Palmer, he was the son of Stanley and Louise (Walas) Maslon, both of whom predeceased him.



Walter proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, earning an honorable discharge and becoming a proud lifetime member

of the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers.

A graduate of Palmer High School, Class of 1959, Walter exhibited a strong work ethic throughout his life. He spent over two decades as a mechanic for Cascade Diamond.

He was married to Carol A. (Zajac) Maslon for 45 wonderful years, who also predeceased him. Together,

they raised three sons: Mark Maslon of Brimfield, Steven Maslon (Patricia) of Palmer, and Jason Maslon of Bondsville. Walter is also survived by his three brothers, John and Philip Maslon of Three Rivers, and Stanley Maslon of Monson.

Walter had a deep passion for trains, enjoying both watching and collecting them. His fondness for this hobby was only matched by his love for socializing with friends at AMVETS, where he created lasting memories and friendships.

A graveside service will be held for Walter and his beloved wife Carol on Monday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m., at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, where military honors will be bestowed upon Walter for his service to his country.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages those who wish to honor Walter’s memory to consider a donation to the AMVETS Post 74. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. For more information visit www.beersandstory.com

Richard V. Dulude, Jr.

Nov. 16, 1956 – Oct. 29, 2025

Richard passed away suddenly on Oct. 29, 2025. He will be remembered for his support for the Sons of the Amvets and his enjoyment for the game of golf.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Nov. 23 at the Amvets, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donald E. “Don” Matrow, Jr.

WORCESTER – Donald E. “Don” Matrow, Jr., 76, passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2025. He was born on Nov. 4, 1949 in Palmer to the late Donald and Alice (Doyle) Matrow. Don graduated from Palmer High School in 1967 and earned his bachelor’s degree from Boston State College in 1981. He worked as an Investigator at the Alcoholic Beverage Control



Commission in Boston for many years before retiring. Don had a great appreciation for the outdoors. He enjoyed going to the beach, hiking, traveling, and spending time with friends.

Besides his parents, Don was preceded in death by his sisters, Donna Matrow in 2011 and Mary Matrow in 2014. He is survived by his brother,

Christopher Matrow and his wife Maryann of Palmer. He also leaves his niece, Stephanie Ward and her husband John of Chicopee. “Unkie Don” will be dearly missed.

A period of visitation will be held on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with a celebration of Don’s life to begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations in Donald’s memory can be made to the Audubon Society by visiting www.audubon.org.

DEATH NOTICES

Richard V. Dulude, Jr.
Died Oct. 29, 2025
Celebration of Life
Nov. 23 at Amvets,
2150 Main St., Three Rivers

Walter S. Maslon
Died Nov. 12, 2025
Services Nov. 24, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Donald E. Matrow, Jr.
Died Nov. 12, 2025
Services Nov. 20, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

BACKYARD | from page 4

raven, one winter wren, one Carolina wren, 46 eastern bluebird, five cedar wax-wings, 90 dark-eyed junco and 30 red-winged blackbird.

Black vulture

I received an email from a Palmer resident on Nov. 4. She said, “When I came home, I noticed two birds across from the house. I thought they might be vultures because of their face, but were not turkey vultures.” She googled vultures and said, “It was easy to recognize them because of their face white feet and legs. Plus the head appeared to be gray and like a helmet. They were definitely black vultures. They stayed in that one spot for quite awhile. They didn’t appear to be scared of anything. Cars going by did

not phase them.” Since then she has not seen them again. She said, “They are really a beautiful bird.”

Helping birds

Bird feeders and feeding platforms are also hotspots for disease. Many wildlife diseases, like mange and avian pox, are spread by physical contact between healthy and sick animals. It is important to clean bird feeders frequently and remove any molding seeds and debris from them especially during the rainy weather. Moving the location of feeders to different locations also helps prevent the spread of disease.

Flocking birds

Birds are migrating. Last week I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead. I also have seen flocks of about a dozen Canada geese flying overhead. Last week,

my granddaughter, Lizzie and I saw a flock of geese flying low over her house. We could hear their wings beating. The robins that head south have also been flocking in my field and along the roads. Some robins over winter living in the swamps.

Winter berries

Every year a flock of robins come and make short order of the winterberries on a bush in my yard. I’ve spotted the bright red winterberries in several spots during my travels. I will keep an eye out for birds at those bushes.

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

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

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Town of Worthington Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Department.
Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.
• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour
Further information can be found on the Town's website:
www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON INVITATION TO BID SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for seasonal plowing services for the 2025-2026 winter season. Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.
Minimum equipment requirements:
• ¾-ton truck or larger
• 8-foot plow (minimum)
Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:
Worthington Highway Department
64 Huntington Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-238-5830
Email: highway@worthington-ma.us
The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

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

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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.

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Public notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Sections 9 & 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 8th, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Palmer Police Station Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Vasif Shah, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.94(B)13 to display two signs larger than permitted by the ordinance in the Highway Business Zoning District, located on the property at 1239 Park Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessors Map 56, Lot 7.

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

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
11/20, 11/27/2025

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Palmer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing

The town of Palmer will conduct a public hearing regarding their ongoing Community Development Block Grant Programs. The performance of the town's current FY2022/23 and FY24 programs will be discussed, as well as the start-up of the FY2025 CDBG program. Future programs and initiatives will also be discussed. The hearing will be held on **December 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Town Council Meeting Room, located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The FY22/23 program provided funding for engineering design services for Maple Street and Maple Terrace, as well as construction funds for comprehensive infrastructure improvements to Maple Street. The FY24 program provided construction funds for comprehensive infrastructure improvements to Maple Terrace. Both programs provide funds for Domestic Violence prevention and for transportation services through the Quaboag Connector. The FY25 Palmer CDBG is just beginning, and the projects include engineering design for Front Street, Park Avenue and Kelley Street located within the Three Rivers Village, in addition to construction funds for Front Street and Park Avenue. Domestic violence prevention and transportation services are also being provided for through the FY25 program.

The hearing will also discuss the possibility of reprogramming funds from either or both the FY22/23 program or the FY24 programs. Several projects are being considered and they in-

clude fuel/heating assistance, emergency housing rehabilitation assistance, design for other various streets in the Three Rivers area; and support for ongoing initiatives as needed.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning Palmer's CDBG program and ongoing activities will have an opportunity to be heard. People who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to either meeting date at (413) 283-2614. Written and verbal comments will be accepted one week preceding the hearing, at the hearing, and for one week following the hearing.

These activities and programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Department of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts CDBG program.

John Latour,
Community Development
Director
Town of Palmer
11/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P2110EA

**Estate of:
James J. Hopkins
Date of Death: 07/11/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Luiza Hopkins of Brimfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Luiza Hopkins of Brimfield, 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.
11/20/2025

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

HD16P1332EA Estate of: Henry M. Jusko Date of Death: 02/24/2016 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/20/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN

[seal]
No. **20 TL 000053**,
20 TL 000054, and
20 TL 000056

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to any former stockholders, officers, creditors, and any other persons claiming any interest in Stan Kaitbenski, Inc., a dissolved Massachusetts corporation formerly located in Sturbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Chase

S. Kaitbenski, as he is President and Director of said Stan Kaitbenski, Inc. now or formerly of Sturbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Layne M. Kaitbenski, as she/he is Treasurer and Resident Agent of said Stan Kaitbenski, Inc., now or formerly of West Hartford, in the State of Connecticut; Donna M. Kaitbenski, as she is Secretary of said Stan Kaitbenski, Inc., and Brian P. Kaitbenski, as he is Director of said Stan Kaitbenski, Inc., both now or formerly of Brimfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors, and assigns:

Three Complaints have been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Holland. The Complaints asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaints are about three parcels of land located in the Town of Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaints as follows:

20 TL 000053

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 5.6 Acres located and known as Dug Hill Rd shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 13/C/03 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5697 on page 423 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds. Assessed to Stan Kaitbenski Inc.
20 TL 000054

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 8.52 Acres located and known as Brimfield Rd shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 13/C/20 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5852 on page 553 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds. Assessed to Stan Kaitbenski Inc.
20 TL 000056

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12197 Square Feet located and known as Dug Hill Rd shown on the Town of Holland Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 13/C/04.01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7183 on page 290 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds. Assessed to Stan Kaitbenski Inc.

To respond to the Complaints, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is January 5, 2026.

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

If you do not answer the Complaints by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default. You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaints or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the lands described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will

lose ownership of your properties. If the properties are worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in Journal Register a newspaper published in Holland.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this twelfth day of November in the year two thousand and twenty-five.

Attest with Seal of said Court.
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:
Amy J. Megliola Esq.,
1350 Main St., Suite 210,
Springfield, MA 01103
Tel: (413)732-3600.
11/20/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Ma. Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: MERCEDES VIN:55SWF4K-BXHU20026Y Raymond Ramotar 8744 Wellington View DR West Palm Beach, FL; BMW VIN:5UXFE435X9L261009 Rosaridpa Fell 111 Mimosa DR Cherry Hill, NJ; JEEP VIN:-1J4GW48S62C137014 Dillon Sezerms 130 School ST Warren, MA; HONDA VIN:2H-KRM4HSXE716059 Julie Gromosky 2268 Palmer, RD Three Rivers, MA; FORD VIN:1FAHP35N79W156895 Mark Bamford 2042 Main ST Apt 4 Three Rivers, MA; BMW VIN:WBA5B3C59ED537133 Devon Hawk 17 Old Thompson ST Palmer, MA; FORD VIN:-3FA6POH79FR301257 Joshua Crenshaw 217 Pasco RD Indian Orchard, MA; EV Bike Charlie Ricko 401 Liberty ST Springfield, MA; FORD VIN:-3FA6POHR4DR109615 Tracey Henderson 1262 S. Main ST Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on December 1, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M. @ LaBonte & Son, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA. 01069.
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2025

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 002945 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: LeAnn S. Martin as Personal Representative of the Estate of Denise M. Trombly; LeAnn S. Martin; Thomas P. Trombly, Jr.

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2015-6, U.S. Bank National Association as Indenture Trustee claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 205 Breckenridge Street, given by Denise M. Trombly to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated October 4, 2004, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of

Deeds in Book 14556, Page 354, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **December 22, 2025**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on November 13, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
27433
11/20/2025

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 003509 O RDER OF NOTICE

To: Teresa Wieslawa Hrynkiw a/k/a Teresa Wiestawa Hrynkiw and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Soundview Home Loan Trust 2005-OPT4, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-OPT4

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 114 Peck Brothers Road, 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, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **December 29, 2025**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court, on November 13, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
28623
11/20/2025

The door says a lot about a home. Let us help you find inspiration.



Nothing defines a home's aesthetic like the front door; it sets the mood for your entire home and calls for inspired design with superior quality.

Whether your style is casual, traditional, or modern, our door collections are expertly curated, drawing inspiration from the latest trends to bring your home design vision to life.

**Window
World**
OF WESTERN MASS

LOCAL.
FAMILY-OWNED.
NO SUBCONTRACTORS.