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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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**PALMER**

## Council appoints Interim Town Manager

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER – Town Council held interviews for the interim town manager last week, and ultimately appointed Charlie Blanchard, who previously served as both Palmer's town manager for a number of years and as its interim town manager in 2011.

Each candidate was interviewed for approximately 30 minutes, and the same questions were asked of each of them.

The first interview was with Blanchard, who has actually served as interim town manager before, back in 2011. He has since served as town manager for Williamstown, a role he took over shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently has served for six months in Southbridge in the same role.

"I think the role is really to just keep the town on track, to keep things moving," Blanchard said. "And really provide a good level of support for the department head and the employees."

"The interim town manager is the town manager, only for a shorter period of time," Blanchard said. But really you're doing the same work. You have to have the same relationships, the same concern about making sure that the direction and the goals of the Town Council are being carried out."

In the interest of keeping the town moving towards the council's goals, Blanchard said that he did some preliminary work.

"Once I realized I was a finalist," Blanchard said, "I took out the

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Palmer High School student volunteers Zack Andre, Braundin Martel and Sophia Braskie share a photo in Depot Park as they aid Light Up Palmer in holiday decorating efforts.

Turley Photos by Deanna Sloat

## Light Up Palmer spreads holiday cheer

PALMER – With the holiday season in full swing, festive lights and decorative outside ornaments have made their way onto many lawns and communal areas.

Light Up Palmer, an organization dedicated to spreading holiday cheer and decorating

Palmer's downtown, was joined by volunteers in their efforts to prepare for a holiday season kickoff.

Residents, local businesses and Palmer High School students volunteered their time to help the organization hang lights in Depot

Park. Organization lead Chris Smith thanked "the Light Up Palmer volunteers and also the Palmer High School students who gave up their day to help make the

LIGHTS | page 5

**COMMUNITY**

## Giving back to those who give their all

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Correspondent  
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MONSON – To help bring a little piece of home to those leaving an empty seat at the table, family, friends and community members gathered to stuff boxes with goodies, toiletries and gift cards for military men and women in the midst of the holiday season.

The Monson Military Care Package Drive hosted the organization's ninth annual packing event, on Sunday, Nov. 19.

This year, the organization raised over \$7,000 in donations to mail out special holiday packages; each package containing a \$200 Visa gift card, a \$50 Amazon gift card courtesy of the Monson Food Truck Festival, sweet treats and personal care items.

"When we started this nine years ago, it was because people said we needed to do something more for our people serving," said MMCPD Chair Karen King.

She said her father was a World War II veteran and had shared stories of citizens sharing candy with troops as an act of appreciation.

"My parents were very involved with offering service to oth-

ers," said King. "It's something they passed onto us."

She said when she saw a need for more communal support of local servicemen and women, she naturally wanted to help and recalled her father's candy story.

Since starting the committee, over 32 Monson service members have been recognized by the organization and will receive care packages from their family.

All supplies sent to servicemen and women are donated by community members and local businesses.

The annual event featured words of wisdom from veterans, volunteers and state representatives sharing their beliefs about the committee's efforts and the cause.

Wilbraham Veteran Services Director Jered Sasen, a U.S. Navy veteran, said he has been on the receiving end of a military care package.

"I've missed Christmases, birthdays (and) anniversaries," said Sasen. "There are some real hard times...you (ask yourself) what is all this for? Then you get one of these...It reminds you of why you are doing what you are doing."

American Legion Post 241

MILITARY | page 12



Girl Scout co-leader Tara Parker and Girl Scout Noella Parker help box care packages for families who were unable to attend the event.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon



Kendall Bodak (center) celebrates being signed by Clemson University.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

## Clemson University signs Kendall Bodak on National Signing Day

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
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MONSON – Clemson University recently announced the addition of five student-athletes on National Signing Day, including the high school's own Kendall Bodak.

A small assembly was held in the school gym to celebrate

Bodak's signing, with her friends, parents and faculty who have helped her on her journey. Bodak said that she is excited about the opportunity, and hasn't chosen a major yet.

"She embodies everything that you would hold a high-level student," said Eric Degnan, Bodak's soccer coach. "She's a fantastic student here in the building; she's an incredible talent on the soccer field."

Degnan has been coaching Bodak since she joined the soc-

BODAK | page 3

**QUABOAG CHAMBER**

## Ruggerio takes place as new Board chairperson

By Paula Ouimette  
 pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomed incoming Board of Directors Chairperson Josh Ruggerio of Smith Brothers Insurance during its annual meeting and dinner held at Salem Cross Inn.

On Nov. 9, outgoing Chairperson Lena Buteau of Monson Savings Bank spoke about the changes the Chamber has seen in

the past few years, and where it stands now.

"We've come such a long way this year," Buteau said. "From 2020 to 2022 we were driven to survive. In 2023 we were driven to thrive."

Buteau credited the Chamber's newest Chief Executive Officer, Robert Lavoie, with strengthening ties with businesses in the region, as shown by the dinner's

CHAMBER | page 5

**FUNDRAISER**

## Annual cook-off and toy round-up

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Correspondent  
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MONSON – Many locals participated in an afternoon filled with toys, soup and baked goods at the annual soup cook-off on Saturday, Nov. 18, at TJ's Tavern.

The event offered participants an opportunity to warm up with a cup of soup while supporting Toys for Tots, Hugs for Monson and the business' annual children's Christmas party.

While the Toys for Tots donations allowed for locals to spread holiday cheer to children within and beyond the community, monetary donations and funds raised from the soup cook-off and bake sale allowed participants to sup-



U.S. Marine Corps. Cpl. Dakota Butler, resident Dot Jenkins, U.S. Marine Corps. Sgt. Leroy Mateaki, Diana Wysocki and TJ's Tavern owner Deb Lawrence were all at the event.

Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

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# Adams Hometown Market helps give the gift of food



Monson Fire Department Capt. Lisa Hamill was joined by Mason Savage, Firefighter Jake Haley, Police Officer Paul Mayo and Firefighter Dwight Gregoire in supporting Adams Hometown Market's effort to collect donations for the Open Food Pantry.



Residents Karen and Keith Valley generously donate food items to the Open Food Pantry. Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon



Monque Shipman, Pack 164 Committee Chair, packs food received at the food drive.



Lori Henrickson holds a brown paper bag filled with food donations in support of the cause.



Carriages are stuffed with countless bags donated by shoppers. Bags were sold in shares worth \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20.



Prepacked bags consisted of Thanksgiving meal ingredients as well as every day meal items for the Open Food Pantry.

MONSON – In light of “the giving season,” shoppers donated filled bags of food to a local Open Food Pantry during Adams Hometown Market annual food drive, Sat. Nov. 18.

The Monson fire and police departments showed their support by volunteering their time to collect donations and spread holiday cheer with festive Thanksgiving headbands.

Residents could be seen carrying several bags to help others put more than food on the table to provide a Thanksgiving feast with memories to last a lifetime.



Submitted photos  
Food items collected by Pack 164 will go to Palmer Food Share.

## Be safe cooking this holiday

REGIONAL — The holiday season is almost here, and it is a time when home cooking activities are at their peak. Unfortunately, all this cooking leads to a related peak in cooking fires, says Donny McKendall of SERVPRO of South Worcester. Cooking fires are responsible for nearly half of all home fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

“To help keep your holidays from, literally, going up in smoke, it’s

critical to know and use safe cooking practices,” says McKendall. According to the NFPA, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home cooking fires, with more than three times the daily average for such incidents. The NFPA urges home cooks to take some basic safety steps to help prevent cooking fires. Keep your cooking area clean and keep anything that can burn (dish towels, oven mitts, packaging) at least three

feet away from cooking equipment. Keep a close eye on what’s cooking, setting a timer to help you monitor foods with longer cooking times. Keep in mind that the leading contributing factor to cooking fires and to fire deaths overall is unattended cooking, so plan to be at home and in or near the kitchen at all times when cooking.

“For those who use a turkey fryer to cook their Thanksgiving bird,” says

McKendall, “it’s important to note that more than two-thirds of home cooking fires begin with the ignition of cooking materials, including food, fat, and grease. The NFPA strongly discourages the use of these fryers. They use large amounts of oil at high temperatures, which can lead to the type of fire seen here. If you do use one, follow all placement, use, and safety instructions carefully.”

## Scouting for food collects again this year

PALMER — Every year Pack 164 participates in the Boy Scouts of Americas Scouting for Food. All food items collected by the pack goes to Palmer Food Share. Pack 164 is chartered by Second Congregational Church.

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**Correction** **Monson Arts Council 44th Annual Holiday Craft Fair**  
 Sat. Nov. 25th 9 am - 4 pm ★ Sun. Nov 26th - 11:30 am - 4 pm

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**Corrections**

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

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

**DEADLINE**

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

**Interactive Christmas program Dec. 3**

MONSON— The program "Victorian Christmas Traditions" featuring actress Anne Barrett as "Victoria Yule" will be presented at the Keep Homestead Museum on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Victoria will welcome you into her 1865 parlor where she will share the history of many Christmas traditions passed down to her. She will read Dickens, display toys and handmade gifts that the family will exchange around the tree and sing songs of the season.

Anne Barrett is an actress, historian, and reenactor specializing in portraying women in history. Her characters come to life with costumes and settings that transport the audience back in time.

This creative and engaging performance starts at 1:30 p.m. in the decorated house and is open to the public free of charge although donations are welcome. The museum is open from 1 – 3:30 p.m., and information about the museum can be found at [www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org](http://www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org).

**TOWN MANAGER** | from page 1

last budget that I prepared, which was (fiscal 2020), and I compared the numbers to FY23-24, your current budget, to see what changes were made, and so forth."

"I took out the rate study that was done on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, reviewed that, and looked at the stuff on the Stonewater Enterprise Fund, and got up to speed on that," Blanchard said.

He even noted that the town was missing a Town Report for his last year in 2019, speculating that it got lost in the transition between town managers. Blanchard was able to provide a copy of the report so it could go on the town's record.

The council interviewed two other candidates on the same day before appointing Blanchard to the position.

"Typically, I'm in Town Hall three days a week, but it's not a three-day-a-week job," said candidate Robert Reed, "I've worked days off, sometimes those can be the busiest days. I've worked weekends if Town Meeting was coming up or if there was an emergency."

Following the interviews, Town Council had an interview with Bernie Lynch, of Community Paradigm, about the search for a long-term town manager.

"[Community Paradigm is] the most active recruiting firm in Massachusetts," Lynch said. "In the last eight years, we've done 100-plus town manager and town administrator searches, more than all the other firms that are out there combined."

Lynch said that this activity will be very helpful in selecting a town manager, as the firm already knows of candidates in the area.

The Town Council expects to speak to finalists for the town manager position in late February or March of next year.

**Correction**

In a brief about Dorothy P. Jenkins, retired Monson town collector, who has had her designation as Certified Massachusetts Municipal Collector renewed for an additional period of five years, the Journal Register incorrectly spelled her name. The paper regrets the error.

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

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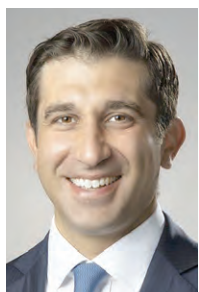
**Gullini named president of Massachusetts DAs Association**

In a unanimous vote by the Commonwealth's district attorneys, Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has been elected as the president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

This is the second time Gulluni has been elected president of the association, the first coming in November of 2019. He has been serving as vice president for the past year, and will now serve as president for the next year.

MDAA is an independent state agency whose mission is to support the eleven elected Massachusetts District Attorneys, their staff, including approximately 785 prosecutors and 260 victim witness advocates, while promoting public safety practices and policies on a state-wide basis.

Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am honored by the trust of my fellow district attorneys in electing me as president of our association. I am enthusiastic about representing my colleagues on matters affecting public safety throughout the Commonwealth and advancing



**Anthony D. Gulluni,**  
Hampden District Attorney

our shared commitment to justice, fairness, and integrity."

First elected in 2015, Gulluni is currently serving his third term in office.

He currently sits on the Massachusetts Victim and Witness Assistance Board, which is the governing body of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, which is the only state-wide board representing victims' rights. He also serves on the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.

His appointments first came under Governor Charlie Baker and has been reappointed to both by Governor Maura Healey.

Gulluni is a pragmatic prosecutor whose work in promoting public safety includes strong partnerships, focused and strategic prosecutions, and ground-breaking preventative programming, such as the Emerging Adult Court of Hope, Future Lawyers of Springfield, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, and his office's prolific outreach and programming within the many school districts of Hampden County.

**Tax rate to lower Monson residential taxes**

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – Last week, the Select Board held the annual tax classification hearing for 2024.

"This is my favorite night of the year," joked Kathy Barnes, the principal assessor, before introducing the Board of Assessors and launching into her presentation.

Barnes said that the tax value for the town is a little over \$1.1 billion, which is \$71,300,000 higher than last year, increasing by about 1.07%. According to the valuation, residential carries 91.5% of the tax burden, while commercial, industrial, and personal property carries about 3.5%.

For fiscal 2023, the tax rate was \$15.86, but Barnes said that for 2024, it's estimated to go down to \$15.50.

Barnes then presented the board with the options for next year's property tax allocation that were being voted on.

"There are three options that the board has to vote on tonight," Barnes said. "The first option is the minimum residential factor, the second option is the residential exemption, and the third option is the small commercial exception."

"The minimum residential factor is the lowest residential percentage allowed by the Department of Revenue," Barnes said. "This option benefits the residential property, and it burdens the commercial properties."

By adopting the minimum residential factor, Barnes indicated that the tax rate would lower by 72 cents, and for the commercial, industrial, and personal property tax rate would increase by \$7.75, for a total of \$23.25.

By adopting this option, residential properties would see a reduction in taxes of \$235, while commercial properties would increase to \$2,500.

The Select Board voted to adopt the minimum residential factor for 2024, and voted not to adopt the residential or small commercial exemptions.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

**Kendall Bodak and Coach Eric Degnan**

**BODAK** | from page 1

cer team in her freshman year. He said that what really stood out for him with Kendall is her work ethic.

"She's incredibly talented, but her work ethic is unlike anybody else. This kid is a tireless worker," Degnan said. "She's so incredibly committed to the game of soccer, she's a tremendous amount of fun to be around, and she's a wonderful teammate. She's a leader."

Guidance Counselor Kristen Sorel described Bodak as being at the top of her class. She described how Bodak would need to complete her educational requirements in order to graduate at the end of the semester and start college early.

"Her and her family have been very mindful about this being the goal the whole time," Sorel said. "So we set up her schedule where we got the requirements all completed in the first semester so she's able to graduate early."

Principal Arthur Murphy was also present for the assembly, and spoke highly of Bodak's efforts.

"The opportunity that she just had to go play for the United States at the PanAm games was off the charts," Degnan said. "To put it this way, she's got a lot of very, very proud people here today in this building; teachers, administrators, townspeople. She's a real gift."

**Holly Berry Bazaar held on Dec. 9**

PALMER— St. Paul's of Palmer announces its first Holly Berry Bazaar! Come enjoy the Christmas spirit of an old-time church bazaar. A visit from Santa, Holiday arts & crafts and gifts, luncheon meal, bake sale and more will be featured at St. Paul's Church on Saturday Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This church bazaar's offerings will be provided by the people of St. Paul's, and also include a numerous selection of vendors from the greater Palmer community.

Some of the unique crafters represented will include Karens Sweets,

Memere's Country Cupboard, Color Street, Havelock Farm, the Northern Venture, and Jo's Specialty Cards.

A visit from Santa, and the Christmas Kid's Corner, complete with North Pole Post, free children's crafting activities and sweet treat bags will be highlighted. Come and take photos of your child with Santa and Mrs. Claus as you enjoy holiday shopping.

The Holly Berry Christmas Kitchen will be serving luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Hot spiced apple cider, gingerbread and corn bread, hot dogs and beans,

chili and more will be on the menu. St. Paul's Bake sale will offer homemade fruit pies, including apple pie with fresh apple filling, as well as a large assortment of other baked goods. TJ's specialty popcorn of Palmer will round out the bazaar's varied food offerings.

A holiday silent auction, a raffle, and gift baskets will all be included in the Holly Berry Bazaar. Attic Treasures tag sale, a basement filled with gently used items of all kinds including books, games, toys, glassware, and Christmas décor round out the bazaar's offerings.

**Second Chance Veterinary hospitals recognized**

EAST BROOKFIELD— Last week, Second Chance Animal Services founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato had the honor to accept not one, but two awards recognizing the nonprofit's vet hospitals in a single day.

The Springfield Regional Chamber awarded Second Chance's Springfield Community Veterinary Hospital with a Super 60 Award in the nonprofit category at a ceremony held on Nov. 9 at the MassMutual Center. The award recognized organizations that have displayed selfless dedication to serving the community through exceptional programming and support.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible diversity and innovation within our business community through this year's Super 60 program," said Diana Szydal, president of the Springfield Regional Chamber. "Small businesses are the heart and soul of our region, and we're excited to celebrate so many nonprofits that make a difference in our com-

munity. As we continue to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic, it's more important than ever to shine a light on the accomplishments and unwavering resilience of our local businesses and non-profits."

Later that evening, Second Chance once again took home the Best Veterinary Clinic award in the Telegram & Gazette Best of Central Mass as voted by the community at a ceremony at the DCU Center.

"These awards are a testament to the trust and confidence the community places in our commitment to excellence," said Blancato. "They are a reflection of the dedication of our amazing, compassionate vet team and the support of our community. Their generosity has been enabling us to assist more pets at subsidized rates than

ever before, ensuring that every pet receives the high-quality care they deserve."

Blancato is urging animal lovers in the community to rise to the challenge at a time when pets need help more than ever before. The nonprofit has announced that Ted and Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools and Spas has generously offered to match donations for Giving Tuesday up to \$2,500. "Together, let us continue to build upon the legacy of our award-winning veterinary hospitals, ensuring that every pet receives the care they need. Donations can be made online at [secondchanceanimals.org/giving-tuesday](http://secondchanceanimals.org/giving-tuesday) or mailed to Second Chance, 111 Young Road, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

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## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Can I voluntarily suspend my Social Security payments?

Dear Rusty

My wife retired in 2015 and is receiving Social Security. I am past my full retirement age and I still work. I recently filed for Social Security benefits and received my first payment earlier this month and my benefits are around three times my wife's. I now find that, due to other income, I am having some regrets about filing for Social Security, as the taxes will be complicated. So, my questions are:

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", can my wife still apply to get up to 50% of my benefits, or do I have to be "actively" receiving Social Security benefits? In other words, does the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" prevent this?

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", how soon could I "restart" my benefits?

**Signed: Having Second Thoughts**

Dear Second Thoughts

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 closed a loophole which previously allowed someone to file for their Social Security retirement benefit in order for their marital partner to claim a spousal benefit, after which the primary beneficiary could suspend their own benefit and allow it to grow to maximum at age 70. That "file and suspend" option went away in April of 2016; thus, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit while your Social Security retirement benefits are suspended you must be "actively" receiving benefits for your wife to get benefits on your record.

Nevertheless, because you've already reached your full retirement age, you can voluntarily suspend your benefit payments at any time to allow it to continue growing by simply calling Social Security at your local office or at the national number 1-800-772-1213 and asking them to do so. Your wife will not receive her spousal benefits for any months your benefits are suspended, but she would continue to get her own SS retirement amount, only the spousal portion of her monthly amount would be suspended.

You will be able to restart your benefits at any time by calling Social Security again and asking that your benefits be resumed. You can suspend and restart your benefits as needed (no restriction on how many times), but they will only start/resume the suspension effective with the month following the month you call. And, as you likely already know, for each month your benefits are suspended you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits resulting in a higher payment amount later.

Just for clarity, voluntary suspension of benefits is only available to those who have reached full retirement age but is an excellent way to increase your monthly Social Security payment. Your benefit will grow by .667% for each month suspended and, if your benefit is still suspended when you turn 70 years old, Social Security will automatically resume payments at that time, at your higher maximum monthly amount.

This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).



### Garland and wreaths a fun DIY project

I spent the morning wrapping garland around lampposts in preparation for Old Sturbridge Village's "Christmas by Candlelight" program.

Although I used to balk at decorating prior to Thanksgiving, it's a must at work, where so much needs to be ready for the first day of the program, next Friday, Nov. 24. The garland is beautiful—a mix of cedar and fir.

The smell of the cedar isn't at all familiar from my childhood Christmases, but I love it as an adult. What makes the garland so pretty is the variation in textures.

After the decorations are up at the Village, I turn to decorating at home. I love to sit on the floor of my living room with all types of greens strewn before me on an old bed sheet.

I make a wreath or two for our house and I always make one to give to a dear friend as an annual birthday present.

I encourage you to try your hand at wreath and garland making. It's really the same principle, with one made on a circular frame and the other made on a cord of ribbon or rope the length you need for decorating.

As mentioned, the key to success in wreath and garland-making is having a variety of greens to choose from. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, all look great together.

Balsam and fir tips pruned from the Christmas tree are a logical addition. Then add some budded Pieris, gilded birch branches and voila! - you have a unique combination.

Top it off with pinecones, winterberries and even sumac for a stunning grouping.

It's not hard to find different types of greens. First, scour your neighborhood.

Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes in our landscapes. I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating.

The key to a good cut is not to leave stubs—always snip next to a side branch.

Cemeteries and vacant lots are also great spots to get a variety of greens. But be sure to ask permission beforehand.

Regardless, kindly take only what you need and space your cuts out evenly around the plant.

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle.

Attach some pliable wire to it - 22 gauge is a good choice. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches.

When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that came with the coat hanger.

You can attach a bow to the front and insert some berries or pinecones on wire picks to jazz it up a bit.

Garland making follows the same principle. Working on a taut cord or rope is important for success.

If you are going to be making a lot of garland I recommend "tying off" the ends of the cording or securing them somehow to your work surface. I've done it with duct tape or with the cord knotted to nails in my work bench.

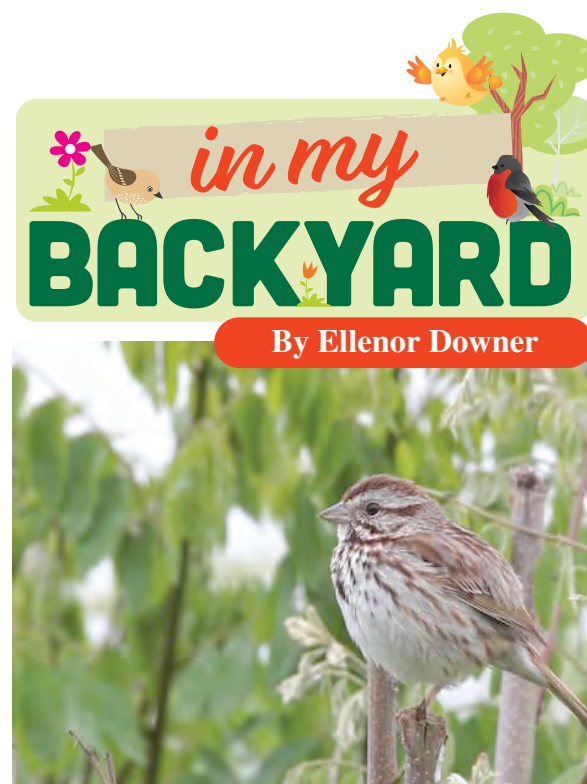
For me, working in a left to right manner seems natural. I use the pliable wire to secure the bunches of greens one after the other to the cording.

Sometimes I wait to embellish the garland with cones or berries until after it is set up around my doorway or wrapped around the lamppost. That way you'll be sure they aren't hidden or bending funny.

I hope that you will be encouraged to try your hand at wreath or garland making this year! It's quickly become one of my favorite Christmas traditions and it can be the same for you, too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village.

She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Song sparrow

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of grasses and occasionally leaves. She places the nest on the ground, in a shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos and one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

Cedar waxwings

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.

Pond birds

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov. 18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

Feeders

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@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 [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@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 editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

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**CHAMBER** | from page 1

sold out attendance. "He's doing such a great job being the welcoming face of the Chamber in four short months," she said. "He's invested in being involved and building lasting relationships."

In the coming year, the Chamber is gearing up to do more, Buteau said, including the return of its annual community awards, as well as increased marketing for Chamber members.

Buteau also credited the Chamber's Board of Directors for their team effort to work together; Ruggiero, Treasurer Julie Quink of Burkhart Pizzanelli P.C., Assistant Treasurer Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Clerk Amy Scribner of River East School-to-Career and past Chairperson Tanya Bullcock of Life's Memories & More.

Buteau said the Chamber welcomed a number of new businesses to its membership this year, including the Chamber's youngest member, Bill Partelo of Wicked Woodworking, who just celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As Ruggiero took over the meeting from Buteau, he thanked the underwriters and Salem Cross Inn for hosting the night's event.

He said the small businesses that make up the Chamber are the "lifeblood of the area," and they're helping the Chamber to overcome changes and challenges.

"This really is an amazing organization...now we are perfectly poised to help you, our members," Ruggiero said. "This Chamber is one of the best resources we have."

Chamber members thanked Buteau for her dedication to its members, and Monson Savings Bank's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Rouette noted her long career in community banking.

"Lena is passionate about her job, her employees...she is a strong advocate for customer service," Rouette said. "We're here tonight to celebrate her role in the Chamber. It wasn't an easy role she walked into. She devoted countless hours to the Chamber."

Lavoie and Scribner presented Buteau with an elegant black wooden chair, made by Standard Chair of Gardner. Buteau's name is engraved on the chair, along with the Chamber's newly designed logo.

Featured speaker for the evening was state Rep. Todd Smola, who was joined by newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant.

Smola touched on several issues before the State House and in his role as a ranking member of the Ways & Means Committee.

"We have our finger on the pulse strings of Massachusetts," he said.

Smola said a lot has changed since the COVID pandemic, including the issue of portability. Remote accessibility has given people the ability to do a number of jobs from anywhere in the world.

Now, there is out-migration from the commonwealth, which has dropped 12 spots to being ranked 45<sup>th</sup> among states for tax incentives. Smola said a tax incentive package was passed to help balance it out.

"We manage our money really well," Smola said of the commonwealth.

Even with the best money management, housing continues to be a top concern for residents of Massachusetts. The housing crisis is impacting people from all income levels.

"Housing, housing, housing...it is our big problem," Smola said, and its another reason people are relocating to other states.

Smola said 400,000 additional housing units will help the problem, but it won't fix it.

Transportation is another issue residents face, Smola said, especially in rural areas where infrastructure is lacking. Retention of workers is also a concern for business owners, especially in western Massachusetts.

"We are losing our young workforce," he said.

Smola said while the commonwealth is facing these issues, its strength lies in the small businesses that continue to grow and serve people across the region.

"The backbone of this region is really the small businesses," Smola said.

**About the Chamber**

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars and more.

Membership fees start at \$245 a year, with the average business paying about \$1 a day for the Chamber's services. Membership fees are only \$100 for nonprofit organizations.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

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Dylan Hall and Light Up Palmer lead Chris Smith are joined by several PHS volunteers. Shown are Donovan Rayleonard, Noah Sulikowski and Ben Killiam.



Kelina Hall, baby Ayla, Rosie Woods, Janice Lachut, Betty Koss, Patty Rice and Joy Trombly show off a "Season's Greetings" sign.



Dylan Hall, Chris Smith and Barry from Northern Tree are hard at work to spread holiday cheer.



Dave Rice and Phil Lachut gather tools to hang lights in downtown Palmer.



Wire and garland decorations are hung from every other light post, as well as banners of Seasons Greeting making Palmer look merrier.



Volunteers Phil Lachut, retired PHS teacher Russ Webb, Audrey Barone and Irene Webb take a moment to determine the next place to hang lights.



Glen from Northern Tree smiles as he helps light up Palmer for the holidays.

**LIGHTS** | from page 1

holidays a little brighter for others."

Light Up Palmer will host an annual Community Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 25, showcasing Palmer's holiday spirit and the newly hung lights.

Smith recognized the generosity of

local business Northern Tree and their employees "for always being there for us during the holidays."

"Without their support, it would be impossible for us to get these decorations in the air," said Smith.

Monson Arts Council presents its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual

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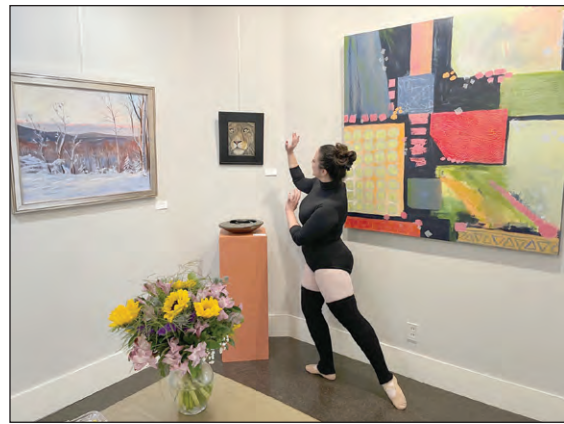
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**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023**

# House of Art holds artist show



Monika Vargas showcasing dance while helping display art.

MONSON—The Monson house of art held an artist members show Nov. 4 and Nov. 5. Monika Vargas, is an instructor at Fitzgerald Academy of dance & Fitness Sturbridge. Owned and operated by Julie Fitzgerald, the school offers a wide range of types of dance, as well as Barr fitness.

Four pieces of artwork were sold and no commissions taken by the house of art for this particular show.

Submitted photos

Monika Vargas helps show off art pieces.

# Hospital Review Committee hears updates on MLH

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE — Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said Baystate Health presented a timeline for the decommissioning of Baystate Mary Lane Hospital at the end of October, and to date, most of it has happened.

### Updates on decommissioning

At the Nov. 15 meeting, Trietsch said the radiology department had left, and earlier that day the mammography and bone density department had also relocated from the Ware site to Baystate Wing in Palmer. The remaining departments will leave by Dec. 11.

Michael Knapik, vice-president of Government and Community Relations at Baystate Health, said the decommissioning continues to be on schedule, and that Baystate has signed a nonbinding letter of intent with Westmass Area Devel-

opment Corporation.

Knapik also told the committee that Baystate Health will be selling its external laboratories to Labcorp. "Internal labs will still be in [Baystate] Wing," Knapik said.

Trietsch said it would be more convenient for residents of Ware and Gilbertville to continue to have access to a laboratory in town.

### Architect study/forum follow-up

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap of HKT Architects Inc. have been working with the town to find possible uses for the site, and they gave the committee feedback generated from the visioning forum held on Sept. 20.

Trietsch said the town was able to hire HKT Architects Inc. through grant funding, to look at the property and give ideas for possible reuses and what the challenges are.

Slemenda said there were five different questions asked and the most common responses about the

site mainly related to health care, including an urgent care or medical/health care facility.

"People made similar comments on needing urgent care and central availability of medical care," Slemenda said. "There's an emphasis on emergency care being available."

Trietsch said health care was the "major impetus," for residents, and referenced in about 90% of the responses.

Slemenda said residents also listed redevelopment of the site, creating athletic fields and open space, as other possible uses for the site.

She said the loss of the facility in town has made a big impact on area residents.

### Cleanup concerns

"There's a lot of discussion about the legacy of the Gilbert family," Slemenda said. "A lot of

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Photograph by Norm Eggert: <https://normeggert.photoshelter.com>

It's amazing what hidden treasures are just outside our back doors



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Leroy Mateaki and Cpl. Dakota Butler smile beside a large box of toys donated for the "Toys for Tots," drive.



Army mom Patricia Royal shares a photo with her son, U.S. Army veteran Raymond Royal.



Crystal Bleau and Kristine Duval were some of many residents who attended Saturday's event to benefit three separate causes.



Karen and Mike Robert are happy to support the Toys for Tots, TJ's children's Christmas party and Hugs for Monson toy drive and senior baskets.

### TOYS FOR TOTS | from page 1

port those closest to home.

Funds raised from the event allocated for the Hugs for Monson program will support the creation of holiday baskets for Monson seniors.

Additional funds will support TJ's annual children's Christmas party, which will offer youngsters an opportunity to meet Santa, get a gift and spend an afternoon enjoying holiday festivities.



Stacks of toys are available for those interested in supporting the children's Christmas party.



Shown is a homemade lemon cake made and donated by Diana Wysocki for the bake sale.

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**SOCCKER**

## Mustangs help Degnan put bow on stellar coaching career

*Ciara Monaghan's first career hat trick leads Monson to state title*

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LEOMINSTER—A perfect ending.

After losing to Sutton High School in the Division 5 state semifinals and finals during the past two seasons, Monson had a much better outcome against another girls' soccer team from the Dual Valley Conference in this year's Division 5 state finals.

The second-seeded Lady Mustangs took home the championship trophy for the second time in school history with a 4-0 shutout victory over the top-seeded Whitinsville Christian School Crusaders at historic Doyle Field in Leominster, last Saturday afternoon.

"There is nothing more special than winning a state title with this group of players because they're the best of the best," said Eric Degnan, who's retiring as the Monson girls' varsity soccer coach. "This win is for our

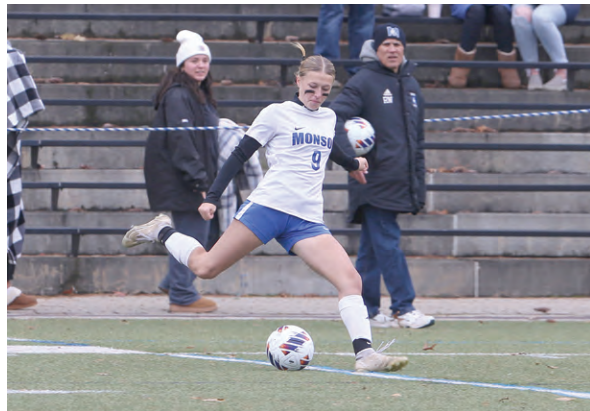
SOCCKER | page 8



Monson High School girls soccer captured the Division 5 State Championship last Saturday at Doyle Field in Leominster.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Hannah Murphy is pursued by an opponent.



Emma Murphy takes a shot on goal.



Kendall Bodak sends a quick pass away.

**SOCCKER**

## Murphy, Peterson help lead Mustangs to state final

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LEOMINSTER—Three underclassmen made sure that the six seniors listed on the Monson girls' soccer roster would wrap-up their outstanding high school careers in the Division 5 state finals.

Led by the trio of sophomore forward Hannah Murphy (two goals and one assist), junior midfielder Addie Peterson (one goal), and junior goalkeeper Emily Provost (14 saves), the second-seeded Lady Mustangs dispatched the third-seeded Hull Lady Pirates, 4-1, in the state semifinals at historic Doyle Field in Leominster, last Wednesday night.

"It feels really great to be in this position and everybody is very excited about it," said Provost, who made several key saves during the second half against the Lady Pirates. "I'm very happy for the seniors. They'll be playing their final high school soccer game in the state finals."

The six Lady Mustangs seniors are Sierra Martinson, Aniah Myrie, Ciara Monaghan, Lynzie Bailey, Emma Murphy, and Kendall Bodak, who was recently named as an All-American.

"We've worked very hard to make it back here again this year," Murphy said. "We knew that we had to give it our all in tonight's game because we didn't want to lose twice on this field. We've also been a first half team this year."

The Lady Mustangs (22-0-1) made their third appearance in the state semifinals since the formation of the new MIAA state-wide tournament in 2021.

Two years ago, Monson lost to Sutton, 2-1, in the state semifinals.

The Suzies beat the Lady Mustangs, 3-2, in last year's state finals, which was played on the same turf

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Hunter Griswold drops back for a pass attempt.



Nicholas Pfister runs down the field.



Dustyn Cook kicks off.



Matthew Vanasse and Branden Hnitecki combine for a tackle.

## Smith Voke gets revenge on Pioneers

NORTHAMPTON – On Nov. 10, the Pioneers football team traveled to Northampton for a nonplayoff game against Tri-County opponent Smith Vocational. Pathfinder had a 19-7 win over Smith Voke in Week 8. This time, the Pioneers were not so lucky, falling 32-26. With the defeat, Pathfinder is 4-6 heading into this Thanksgiving's game against Belchertown.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Hunter Griswold runs through traffic.



Vanessa Baer tries to center the ball during a playoff game earlier this month.



Addison Petrashewicz socks a shot deep toward the opposing goal.



Maddy Rathbone makes a play off the side of her leg.



Charlotte Theriault looks to move the ball to a teammate.

## Panthers reach second round

PALMER – Since the state tournament format has begun, the Palmer High School girls soccer has been a regular part of the proceedings, including an appearance in the state finals two years ago, the first in the history of the school. Palmer also captured the Western Mass. Championship this season. Earlier this month, Palmer's season did come to an end with a 2-0 loss against Douglas High School in the Round of 16 in the Division 5 State Tournament. The loss marked the first time Palmer failed to score a goal all season. Overall, Palmer girls soccer had a 12-8-1 record in 2023.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Grace Burke attempts to keep the ball in play.

# Warriors make it to state quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—The Tantasqua girls' varsity soccer team has only lost four matches on either the turf field located inside the cage or the stadium field, which is also turf, since the start of the 2021 regular season.

Led by junior Lilina Shiers and a stout defensive effort, the eighth-seeded Lady Warriors posted a 2-0 shutout victory over the 25<sup>th</sup>-seeded East Bridgewater Vikings in a Division 3 state tournament round of 32 contest under the stadium lights on Nov. 6.

"We always play very well at home, especially on this field," said Shiers, who scored both of her team's goals. "We practice on this field, so we're very used to playing here. We also always have a lot of fans at our home games. It just feels awesome."

It was the second time that Tantasqua (16-5) won a home match in the state tournament.

Two years ago, the Lady Warriors defeated Boston Latin Academy, 5-0 in a preliminary round game inside the cage. They lost a home match to Saugus, 2-1, in the round of 32 a year ago.

Tantasqua's only home loss during the 2023 regular season was to SWCL rival Grafton, who's a Division 2 team. The Gators also defeated Tantasqua on their home turf two years ago.

The Lady Warriors' only other home loss during the past three seasons was to Uxbridge during the 2021 campaign.

"The players are a lot more focused whenever we play at home game because they don't have to sit on the bus before playing," said Tantasqua head coach Matt Rickson. "They know this field and they always play very well here."

One of the Lady Warriors senior tri-captains is Tess Chevalier,

who's a starting defender.

"It's very exciting to win a home game in the state tournament," Chevalier said. "I was a member of the varsity soccer team two years ago, but winning today's game really means a lot to me. I didn't want to end my high school soccer career with a home loss."

The other members of the Lady Warriors defensive unit are junior Kaydie O'Neil, senior Gabby Scanlon, and senior Nicki Vejack.

"We have a solid back four," Rickson said. "Our goalie also has a lot of shutouts this season."

Senior goalie Elizabeth Thompson only had to make a couple of saves in posting her twelfth shutout of the season against East Bridgewater (9-10-3).

Ava Chevalier, who is Tess's twin sister, is also a senior captain, along with senior Grace St. Laurent, who's the Lady Warriors back-up goalie.

"It has been a lot of fun being teammates on the soccer team with my sister, but it also has its challenges," Tess Chevalier said. "We are planning on going to different colleges next year."

The Lady Warriors controlled possession for most of the first half, but the round of 32 contest remained scoreless until the 35<sup>th</sup> minute.

That's when Shiers weaved around a couple of defenders before firing a low shot into the right corner of the net just out of the reach East Bridgewater freshman goalie Kayleigh Shea.

"We had a couple of scoring chances in the first half, but we couldn't put any of them away," Shiers said. "I finally scored a goal with five minutes left in the first half. I'm just glad that the ball went into the net."

A little more than ten minutes into the second half, the home team scored a corner kick goal.



Hayden O'Malley smothering the ball and then changes directions.



Tess Chevalier tries to block her opponent as she goes after the loose ball.

Senior Eleanor Colati sent the ball into the box from the right corner and Shiers headed it into the net. The Vikings goalie did get her hand on the ball, but she wasn't able to make the save.

"I just love scoring head goals," said Shiers, who scored her team-leading 17<sup>th</sup> goal of the season. "It was a great ball from Eleanor and I was able to put it into the net. Everything was perfect on that play."

Rickson is very happy that he'll be coaching Shiers for one more year.

"Lili is an outstanding athlete," he said. "She's a very hard

worker and she was our player of the match tonight. I've coached a couple of outstanding soccer players who have played college soccer. Lili will have that opportunity in a couple of years."

Tantasqua managed to hang onto their two goal lead for the final 25 minutes of the match.

Two days later, the Lady Warriors closed out the home slate with an exciting 2-1 overtime victory against ninth-seeded Danvers in the round of 16. They lost, 1-0, at top-seeded Medfield in the Division 3 state quarterfinals, last Saturday night.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

NAME: Ciara Monaghan  
SCHOOL: Monson

Monaghan had her first career hat trick in the state finals last Saturday, helping lead the Mustangs to a 4-0 win in the championship game.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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MONSON | from page 7

field.

"We've had some deep runs in the tournament during the last couple of years," said Monson head coach Eric Degnan. "We lost here in a heartbreaker last year in the state final by one goal. And two years before that, we lost in the state semifinals by one goal. These girls have been tested and have been in a lot of big games."

There wasn't a third meeting between Sutton and Monson in this year's postseason tournament.

Sutton, who moved up to Division 4, defeated Littleton, 4-2, in the first semifinal played at Doyle Field, last Wednesday.

It was also the second time that Monson faced Hull (16-3-2) in the state tournament. The Lady Mustangs beat the Lady Pirates, 8-0, in the round of 16 home match in 2021.

Monson entered this year's state semifinals having outscored their opponents 132-19.

The Lady Mustangs added three more goals to their season total during the first 40 minutes of the contest.

During the fourth minute, Hannah Murphy received a pass from Monaghan before firing a low shot into the right corner of the net past Hull sophomore goalie Montana Alibrandi.

In the 15th minute, Hull senior Sarah Duran shot the ball into the net, but the tying goal was disallowed by the assistant referee because one of Duran's teammates was offside on the play.

The dynamic duo of Monaghan and Murphy hooked up for the second time a minute later.

After receiving a pass from Monaghan, Murphy scored her 52nd goal of the season on a breakaway shot into the right corner, which increased the Lady Mustangs lead to 2-0.

Murphy almost recorded a hat-trick less than ten minutes later, but her left footed shot just skipped wide of the net.

With ten minutes remaining in the first half, the Lady Mustangs took a commanding 3-0 lead following a corner kick goal. Bailey sent the ball into the box from the left corner where Peterson knocked a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

"I thought the girls did a good job coming out as being poised and relaxed," Degnan said. "I also thought we possessed the ball well. Hannah converted a couple of goals early to give us some breathing room, and Addie also put one away."

The Lady Mustangs fourth goal of the semifinal match was scored by Bodak, who lined a shot into the right corner during the 61st minute. Murphy, who has accumulated a total of 163 points (goals + assists) since joining the varsity soccer team as an eighth grader, was credited with the assist.

A couple of minutes later, Provost fouled a Hull player resulting in a penalty kick with 15:26 remaining on the scoreboard clock. Junior Elly Thomas stepped up to the spot and fired a low shot into the back of the net ending the Lady Mustangs shutout bid.

Hull High School, which is on a peninsula at the southern edge of Boston Harbor, wasn't able to score anymore goals and the Lady Mustangs advanced into the state finals for the second consecutive year.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)

**Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League**

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League made it to their final league night of round one.

It is a close battle for first place and a spot in the playoffs at the end of the season. As of Nov. 7, Acres and Compression are tied for first place with a 24-12 record.

However, in case of another tie at the end of league night on Nov. 14 Acres would break the tie due to having the highest total pinfall accumulated throughout the first round.

Compression bowled against The Champs R Here on lanes one and two at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In game one, Compression was victorious over the Champs by a score of 384-355. Jay Dominick of Compression started off with a 104 game.

In game two, The Champs gave Compression a challenge by bouncing back and won by a score of 405-380. Steve Manolakis of the Champs carried his team by scoring 121.

In game three, Compression

won the final game by a score of 376-368. Manolakis of the Champs has a three-game series of 322 for the night.

Compression won total pinfall by a final score of 1140-1127 and took three points.

The Blue B's bowled against Team BK on lanes three and four. In game one, Blue B's won in a close game by a score of 344-334.

In game two, BK won by a score of 373-370. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK led the team with a second game score of 119. In game three, Blue B's won by a score of 376-322.

Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1090-1029. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK had a three-game series of 316.

Sharing first place with Compression is Acres bowling against Life is Good on lanes seven and eight. In game one, Acres won thanks to the strong beginning of Dave Cobleigh with a 106 game. The first game score was Acres 387, Life is Good 371.

In game two, a close game featured Life is Good hanging on to a single digit lead by beating Acres 371-365. In game three, Life is Good and Acres had another close game to end the night, but Life is Good managed to squeeze another

win over Acres by a score of 367-364.

Life is Good would take total pinfall over Acres by a final score of 1119-1116.

With Compression taking three points over Acres winning one point, Compression officially takes first place and is the winner of round one of the 2023-2024 Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League season. Compression will be competing in the season ending playoff round.

The next round began on Nov. 21.

**Thursday Night Mixed League**

The Thursday Night Mixed League met the week before Thanksgiving.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Five on lanes four and five. In game one, Team Six was victorious by a score of 391-388.

In game two, Team Six stayed strong and won by a score of 404-384. In game three, Team Six took the last game by a score of 405-394. Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1200-1166.

On lanes two and three, Team Four bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Three won by a score of 401-382.

**SOCCER | from page 7**

school, and it's for our town. We're a very close-knit community."

Before taking over as the girls' varsity soccer coach 19 years ago, Degnan, who graduated from Monson High School, coached the junior varsity soccer team for eleven seasons.

"I know that coach Degnan really wanted to win today's game as much as we did," said Monson senior Ciara Monaghan. "It's just the best feeling in the world because we've been working towards this for so many years and we've come so close in the past."

Degnan, who puts together an in depth scouting report for each opponent, had a lot of respect for Whitinsville Christian, which is in North-bridge.

"We knew Whitinsville was a great, all-around team. They have kids who can put the ball away," Degnan said. "The right two teams were definitely playing in this year's final."

The Crusaders, who played in the state finals for the first time, finished their season with a 21-3 overall record.

Monson, who defeated East Bridgewater, 3-2, in the 2015 Division 4 state finals, made their sixth overall appearance in the state finals. The Lady Mustangs finished the 2023 campaign with a 23-0-1 overall re-

cord. They tied Ludlow 3-3 at Tassinari Field on October 5.

The Lady Mustangs last loss was to Sutton, 3-2, in last year's championship match, which was also held at Doyle Field.

Since the start of the 2021 regular season, Monson has compiled an amazing 66-2-3 record. The Lady Mustangs also went 5-0 in 2020, which was shortened due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Since 1979, only seven other girls' soccer teams from Western Massachusetts have been state champions. The Lady Mustangs, along with East Longmeadow and Springfield Cathedral, which is now Pope Francis, are the only other Western Mass. girls' soccer teams who have won multiple state titles.

Monaghan led the way offensively in this year's state finals by recording her first hat-trick in a varsity soccer game.

"I was just hoping to win today's game," Monaghan said. "I really didn't care who scored the goals but getting the hat-trick does make things a lot better."

Monaghan became the sixth girls' soccer player to record a hat-trick in a state final match. The most goals scored by a girl's player in a state final is four. That feat was accomplished by Amy Caldwell (Brantree High School) in a 6-1 win over



Avery Beaudoin angling toward the right side away from an opposing player.



Addison Peterson shuffles toward the loose ball.



Sierra Martinson advances up the field.

Ludlow in the 2006 Division 1 state finals.

Last Saturday's shutout victory in Northern Worcester County was the final high school soccer game for Monson seniors Sierra Martinson, Aniah Myrie, Lynzie Bailey, Emma Murphy, and Kendall Bodak, who'll be heading south to Clemson University in January, and Monaghan.

While Monson has been shutout twice in previous state finals, junior goalkeeper Emily Provost made 10 saves in posting her team's first ever shutout in the championship match.

"Emily has been lights out all season long," Monaghan said. "Our defense has also handled everything so well this season."

The four Monson starting de-

fenders, who helped Provost post her 11th shutout of the season, are freshman Avery Beaudoin, junior Ella Corthell, Martinson, and Emma Murphy.

"Recording a shutout in a state final is a huge accomplishment for me," Provost said. "I made a couple of big saves, which gave my teammates a lot more energy."

The Lady Mustangs received an early Christmas present during the 23rd minute of the first half. A Whitinsville Christian player committed a tripping foul inside the box resulting in a penalty kick.

Monaghan, who normally takes all of Monson's P.K.'s, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the right corner of the net. Sophomore goalie

Madison Amati attempted to make a diving save, but she couldn't stop the ball from going in.

"We practice P.K.'s so much," Monaghan said. "I was aiming for the right corner and 90 percent of the time, it's going to go in. She (Amati) did get her hands on the ball, though."

With less than ten minutes remaining in the opening half, Provost did make an outstanding diving save on a wide open shot by senior Hannah Lashley.

Holding a slim 1-0 halftime advantage, the Lady Mustangs scored back-to-back goals during the first five minutes of the second half.

Monaghan got things started in the second half by lining a set-shot into the left corner in the 42nd minute.

Less than a minute later, Bodak, who assisted on Monaghan's second goal, blasted a shot into the back of the net. Bailey was credited with the assist.

"Having a three goal lead was huge for me because the first half was very stressful," Provost said. "This is a very big win for us."

Monaghan capped off her memorable afternoon by scoring the Lady Mustangs final goal of the season, which was assisted by junior Addie Peterson, during the 76th minute.

The returning Lady Mustangs players will be looking to make another appearance in the state championship match in November of 2024.

Turley photos by David Henry  
[www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)



DEATH  
NOTICES

**Lawrence  
Richard Ricci**  
Died Nov. 9, 2023  
Service  
Dec. 1, 2023  
Beal & Ames  
Funeral Home

*The Journal Register*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

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

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

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

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

**Lawrence Richard Ricci**

**May 31, 1936 –  
November 9, 2023**

Lawrence Richard Ricci of South Dennis, MA, passed peacefully at his home surrounded by the love of his family on Thursday, November 9, 2023. He was the devoted husband of Mary Lou Ricci née LaVallie, with whom he shared an extraordinary love and special union for 62 years.

Born in Wilbraham, MA on May 31, 1936, he was the son of the late Tancredi and Irma Ricci (née Belli) and brother of the late Valentino Ricci of Wilbraham, MA. In his youth, Lawrence attended and graduated high school from Wilbraham Academy where his love of education began. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in business administration from American International College, a master's in education from Westfield State College and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Education from the University of Connecticut.

Larry was a dedicated elementary and middle school teacher and, later, principal in the Palmer (MA) Public Schools. Over his 37-year career, he promoted an environment where his students understood that the classroom was for learning and injected his enthusiasm to pique his student's curiosity and keep their attention.

Before his retirement in 1999, he became the first principal of his beloved Old Mill Pond School which opened to 600 students from Pre-K to Grade 5 in 1991. He cared about his students and colleagues deeply, and treasured the many friends he made along the way by holding fond memories of them in his heart.

While he often playfully quoted the words of George Bernard Shaw, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach," the truth is that Larry was meant to impart the gift of a strong academic foundation and some of the lessons that help us lead fulfilling and productive lives. Of course, to his four children, he shared these lessons and so much more because as an adoring father, fierce advocate and exemplary role model, he was also their rock and biggest fan.

In retirement, Larry cherished life on Cape Cod where he had the opportunity to work on the landscaping crew at Cummaguid Golf Club. He especially enjoyed getting to know the college kids that worked alongside him for a few months every summer. Over their 21 years on the Cape, Larry and Mary Lou adored their home, working in their yard and shared their love of fine dining, travel, memo-

ries made with old and new friends, and summer days spent with their children and grandchildren on the beautiful beaches of Dennis.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived and will be sorely missed by his son Lawrence Ricci, Jr. of South Dennis, MA; his daughter Lori Kolensky and her husband Rich of Suffield, CT; his son Gary Ricci and his wife Jane of Brimfield, MA; his daughter Nicole Stonehouse and her husband Jerry of Cohasset, MA; and his 6 grandchildren: Mathieu Kolensky and wife Kayla; Michael Kolensky; Vanessa and Alyssa Ricci; Jackson and Callahan Stonehouse.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Friday, December 1 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM at Doane, Beal & Ames Funeral Home, 729 Rt. 134 in South Dennis, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12 noon at St. Pius X Church in South Yarmouth. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer, MA or Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA. To share a memory or online condolence, please visit [www.doanebealamesdennis.com](http://www.doanebealamesdennis.com)



## Police/Fire

## Police Logs

## Palmer

*The Palmer Police Department reported 426 incidents on its logs for Nov. 7- Nov. 13.*

## Nov. 7

At 6:14 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Palmer Street.

At 11:13 a.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury at the corner of Shearer Street and N. Main Street.

## Nov. 8

At 5:41 a.m. police responded to an accident involving personal injury on Ware Street.

At 6:54 a.m. police responded to an accident involving property damage on Park Street.

At 11:45 a.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 7:02 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Zachary Noah Mercier, 25, of 182 River St., Belchertown, on charges of no inspection sticker, marked lanes violation, failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, motor vehicle lights violation, speeding at a rate that was greater than was reasonable and proper, reckless endangerment of a child, disorderly conduct

and wanton destruction of property.

## Nov. 9

At 11:47 a.m. police arrested Emma J. Englement, 35, of 11 Knox St., Palmer on a warrant.

At 6:25 p.m. police responded to an accident and gave summons to Ryan John Baronian, 27, of 56 Scott Ave., Chicopee, for OUI-liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and marked lanes violation.

At 8:20 a.m. police responded to an accident on Ware Street involving personal injury.

## Nov. 10

At 10:19 a.m. police arrested Byron D. Fonville, 61, of 314 Old Warren Road, Palmer, on charges of resisting arrest and OUI liquor.

11:52 a.m. police arrested Justin Robert Hanecak, 42, of 21 Ains Manor Road, Bondsville, on a warrant.

## Nov. 11

At 11:09 a.m. police arrested Steven Arthur Lindberg, 42, of 23 Faragon Ave., Palmer, on charges of OUI liquor second offense and possession of a class A substance.

At 4:51 p.m. police gave a summons to Cory T. Costigan, 46,

of 1058 Pleasant St., Palmer, for uninsured motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle.

5:19 p.m. police responded to an accident on Thorndike Street gave summons to Corydon Curtis Rugg, 57, of 1117 Ware St., Thorndike, for leaving the scene of property damage, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

## Nov. 13

At 9:42 a.m. police responded to an accident on Thorndike Street involving property damage.

At 2:54 p.m. police responded to an accident on Ware Street with property damage.

At 3:51 p.m. police responded to an accident on Central Street that was a hit and run.

At 10:16 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Aleysha Denisse Ortiz Santiago, 21, of 34 Bartlett St., Springfield on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, Misc. violation of bylaw and receiving stolen property.

## Fire Logs

## Bondsville

*For the period Nov. 7- Nov. 13, Bondsville fire responded to 3 calls.*

On Saturday, Nov. 11 at 12:02 a.m., the department responded mutual aid to Belchertown Fire Headquarters for station coverage.

On Saturday, Nov. 11 at 12:26 a.m., from station coverage in Belchertown, the department responded to Poole Road in Belchertown for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 2:35 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 12 at 6:15 p.m., the department responded to Pine Street for a medical assistance. The department returned to service at 6:35 p.m.

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## Learn how to take charge of your diabetes with healthcare team

November is National Diabetes Month

SPRINGFIELD -- Newer drugs, easier glucose monitoring, focusing on a healthy lifestyle and a coordinated approach working with your health care team is resulting in better outcomes for diabetes patients.

According to Dr. Cecilia A. Lozier, chief, Division of Endocrine and Diabetes at Baystate Health, managing diabetes takes a team to help you identify the right tools to live well with diabetes. Often this includes a primary care provider or diabetes specialist who helps match the right medications to your needs, and a registered dietitian, or certified diabetes educator who assists patients in understanding the way diabetes impacts their lives while guiding them to make small, but powerful, progressive steps towards a healthy lifestyle.

"A diabetes diagnosis most often begins with your primary care provider who will then work with you to manage your diabetes over your lifetime through matching the right medication to your body's needs to keep you healthy and maintain your blood sugars at a safe level," said Lozier. "They will also provide you preventative care by monitoring the other parts of the body most impacted by diabetes complications including your eyes, heart, kidneys and feet. Maintaining good blood sugar values while monitoring for and responding to a complication of diabetes should it occur is key to living a long, healthy life with diabetes."

Diabetes educators, who are nurses or other healthcare professionals trained in diabetes care and education, are an essential part of the health care team.

"There is a lot to learn following a diagnosis of diabetes and diabetes educators provide patients with comprehensive educa-

tion. They guide diabetes patients on adopting a healthy lifestyle and personalize their diet and exercise plan. They can advise you on monitoring your blood sugar and how to respond to your numbers. And, they can look over your blood sugar patterns and help you learn to recognize how food and other things influence your sugars," said Lozier.

Primary care providers can also refer their patients to a diabetes and endocrinology specialist like Lozier in more complex cases.

"At Baystate Endocrine and Diabetes, we see about 10% of the patients in the area with diabetes. Often our patients have complex needs or have difficulty controlling their diabetes. Our role is to work with them to stabilize their diabetes while ensuring they get the comprehensive education needed to better understand their diabetes. Once this is achieved, we transition their care back to their primary care provider to continue monitoring and evaluating their diabetes," she said.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that happens when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. The pancreas makes insulin, which is a hormone that helps glucose get into your cells to be used for energy. But when your body doesn't make enough or any-insulin (type 1 diabetes), or doesn't use insulin well (type 2 diabetes), then glucose then stays in your blood and can cause health problems.

Symptoms of diabetes include frequent urination and thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, extreme fatigue and irritability. Those with uncontrolled diabetes may have frequent infections, blurred vision, cuts and bruises that are slow to heal, tingling/numbness in the hands or feet, and recurring skin, gum or bladder infections.

November is National Diabetes Month and its theme - "Take Charge of Tomorrow" - focuses on taking action to prevent diabetes-related complications such as

heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney damage and limb amputations.

Newer ways to monitor blood sugar, called continuous glucose monitoring which do not require pricking the finger for a blood sample, a deterrent for many, are helping people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes to "take charge."

Continuous glucose monitors - including the Dexcom G7 and Abbott Freestyle Libre 3 - are sensor-based systems that continuously provide glucose readings day and night. Dr. Lozier and her colleagues have a lot of experience helping patients with diabetes by starting them on a continuous glucose monitoring system.

"The benefit of this technology is twofold. First, it is a painless system and the bar to see what your sugar is becomes quite low in doing so. Secondly, and most importantly, you can see how your sugars respond to different foods or conditions. I had a patient tell me recently how the sensor she was wearing helped her attain excellent sugar values by seeing how her body responded to different foods and by using that feedback to drive lifestyle changes," said Dr. Lozier.

There have been new diabetes medications coming to market recently which target not only improvement in your blood sugars, but also protect the heart and the kidney from the long-term impact of diabetes. These medications include the GLP-1 agonists and the SGLT 2 Inhibitors.

Non-insulin injectable medications including Ozempic, Trulicity, and Victoza belong to the GLP-1 agonists medication class and they have been growing in popularity over the last few years designed for people with type 2 diabetes. Victoza is a daily injection while Ozempic and Trulicity are weekly injections designed to trigger insulin release, block sugar production in your liver, and slow the metabolism and absorption of

sugar from your gut making you feel full. Commonly, these medications have the additional benefit of aiding in modest weight loss.

SGLT-2 inhibitor medications are pills which you take daily. These pills help the kidneys release sugar into the urine and out of the body. They are used for people with type 2 diabetes, but because of their powerful benefits on the kidney and heart, they have been studied for and are helping patients with kidney failure and heart failure without diabetes stay out of the hospital and slow their disease progression.

Mounjaro, similar to GLP-1 agonists, is a more recent drug in the class GLP-1/GIP agonists. It's the first medication available in the United States that activates both the GLP-1 receptor and the glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP) receptors.

"Mounjaro is a new medication, so we are still learning about it, but it appears to be a powerful aid in management of blood sugars and weight loss," said Lozier.

She noted there are many tools available to help you on your journey with diabetes to "Take Charge of Tomorrow."

"Get connected with a team of health care professionals. Most importantly, actively engage with your primary care provider to be on top of monitoring your diabetes and establishing a smart medication regimen suited for you. Establish a relationship with a diabetes educator to understand how to live a long happy and healthy life with diabetes. Get set up with a continuous glucose monitor to receive and respond to feedback from your body to make health choices. You can do this," Lozier said.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [baystatehealth.org](http://baystatehealth.org), and for assistance in finding a primary care provider if you do not have one, click on "find a provider" on the front page then enter primary care.

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# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**ESTATE SALE**

**NOVEMBER 24-25-26, 9AM-4PM.**  
**51 BRIDLE ROAD, LUDLOW**  
 Furniture, artwork, antique items and more. Indoors and outdoors.

**FIREWOOD**

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

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

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**BALED HAY FOR SALE.** Call **413-323-7120.**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
 We load it & take it.  
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 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
**Call Pete 413-433-0356.**

**SERVICES**

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**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
 Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

**BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.** Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. License# insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

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

**SERVICES**

**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing** - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

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

**NAWROCKI HOME IMPROVEMENT** Kitchens, bathrooms, replacement windows & doors, roofing, siding, decks, custom woodworking, drywall. Full insured & registered **413-237-2250** Mark.

**LANDSCAPING**

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOGART SERVICE**  
 Excavator Services  
 Overgrown property?  
 Extreme Brush Cutting!  
 Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
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 All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

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**FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING** Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at B-413-887-1987.

**RETIRED GUY WILL** paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave **413-323-6858.**

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**WE DO LLC** Painting interior, exterior and drywall repair. Resident epoxy flooring. We treat your home like our own homes. Fully licensed and insured. Call WE DO today for a free estimate ask for Mac **(413)344-6883**

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

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**SERVICES**

**STUMP GRINDING**

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

Advertise your home improvement services in our classifieds. We get results!

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**PAID ON-THE-JOB HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.**

Earn \$2000 once you complete our Certified Home Health Aide 115-hour Training Program. \$300 Sign on Bonus also available! Call **Excel Nursing Services 413-583-8900**. EOE. [www.excelnursing.com](http://www.excelnursing.com)

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON**  
**HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

**WEST WARREN:** 1 BR., off street parking, first and last required. **774-922-0529.**

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**

**REAL ESTATE**



**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 (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any 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.

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised 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.

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

**MAIL TO:** Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 **DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
 or call: 413-283-8393 HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

Quabbin

Suburban

Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

**LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER**

**Call For Information 413-813-2391**

*Leave Message*

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**Save Up To 25% OFF Retail Prices**

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*Let them know you saw their ad in the*

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everyone shines

# SUNSHINE VILLAGE

## Come Join Our Team!

### Now Hiring – Direct Support Professionals

\$21 an hour and a set schedule (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)!

*Join our team and work in a GREAT environment – helping people with developmental disabilities live their best life.*

**You CAN make a difference – and earn \$21 an hour starting November 12th.**

WE OFFER VERY COMPETITIVE BENEFITS – including 11 paid holidays and a \$1,000 bonus after 90 days.

DSP openings in our Chicopee, Agawam and Three Rivers sites.

**Visit [www.sunshine.us](http://www.sunshine.us) or call us at 413/592-6142 Ext 1109.**

AA/EOE. Sunshine Village is a great place to work!





Memphis Rocketfield and Rick Bruneau are shown taping a military care package to honor and support service members who are not able to make it home for the holidays.



Vicki Finnegan holds a package she stuffed for her son, Shane, who is serving the U.S Army/ National Guard, Black Hawks in Iraq.



Mike Turgeon and Maddie Rooney volunteer to help tape and pack boxes for the servicemen and women who will be receiving them.



Lyn Desrochers packs a care package for a relative, U.S Navy serviceman Raymond Chevalier.

**MILITARY** | from page 1

Commander Carl Santos thanked King and all the volunteers for organizing the event.

"I've been overseas," said Santos. "When you sign up for that four year deal, you don't know if you're going to

be out, or if you're going to be shipped out. These young men and women who've been shipped out need our support."

Another veteran shared his experience of being away from home and

spending the holidays away while serving.

"As a veteran serving from overseas, it's a difficult thing," said the veteran.

"You don't have support from your family close by so when you receive something it is amazing. It really is."

King thanked the committee and volunteers for decorating the venue in advance, and recognized the Polish Club for allowing them to host the event. She credited the Girl Scout pack for taking the time to decorate the inside of the care package boxes with construction paper and festive designs. "It takes a lot," said King. "It's really a community effort!" She said the committee resolved to form a distinguished list of donors who went far above and beyond to support the cause. Monson Savings Bank has continued to offer their ongoing support by paying to ship the packages out, year after year. King shared a prayer with those in attendance asking for the service members to be protected "as they protect us."

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Dori Dagenais and Rick Matzko share a photo while stuffing a care package for Matzko's daughter, Hannah Matzko.

**3 DAY SALE - NOV. 27, 28, 29**

USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK LOIN END CHOPS... <b>\$1.29</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN <b>\$5.55</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PARTY WINGS PASTURE RAISED 4 PAK ..... <b>99c</b> lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN MARINATED CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOIN ..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN SPLIT BREAST CHICKEN 20-24 LB ..... <b>69c</b> lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN WINNISIMMET SLOW SMOKED BACON 2 LB ..... <b>\$3.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10LB BAG..... <b>55c</b> lb
USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 31/40 CT 2 LB ..... <b>\$7.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN RIBEYE ROAST <b>\$7.99</b> lb	
USDA INSP. FROZEN CENTERVILLE PIE CO. BUFFALO MINIS 9 OZ BOX.... <b>\$1.99</b> lb		
USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED BREADED HONEY CHICKEN WINGS ..... <b>\$6.99</b> ea		

**90 Meat Outlet**  
 HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
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 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE  
 90 Avocado Street, Springfield  
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We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

**Shop Small WARE**

Enter to win prizes!

Drawings - Give-A-Ways - Treats

**SALES! SALES! SALES!**

NOVEMBER 25TH & 26TH

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN TOWN

**SHOP SMALL**

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

**MONSON MEMORIAL CLASSIC**

The 27th Annual Monson Memorial Classic was held on November 12, 2023

**Our History & Mission**

The first Monson Memorial Classic road race took place on November 16, 1996. The spirit of this race is a perpetual memory of two wonderful sisters who lost their battles with cancer less than eight months apart. Kelly Waldron succumbed to breast, bone, and liver cancer at the age of 36. Her sister, Kathy Waldron Perry, lost her fight with melanoma at age 34. She left her husband Jack and young sons, Jesse and Jeremie. Both sisters left behind their parents, Faye and Ted Waldron, and a sister, Kim Maher. The Monson Memorial Classic honors the beauty of Kelly and Kathy's memory and the tragic loss of these two wonderful women and the sorrow felt by all who knew them are the legacy of the devastating disease of cancer.

Forever In Our Hearts

**In Loving Memory of Kelly Waldron & Kathy Waldron Perry**

**Special Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!**

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**PLATINUM SPONSOR**  
 Town of Monson ~ Gifts Fund

**GOLD SPONSOR**  
 Monson Savings  
 Your Bank Forever

**SILVER SPONSOR**  
 TREE HOUSE BREWING CO.

**Town of Monson Seal**  
 INCORPORATED AUG. 23, 1778 MASSACHUSETTS

**PLATINUM**  
 Town of Monson Gifts Fund

**GOLD**  
 Monson Savings Bank

**SILVER**  
 Tree House Brewing Company

**PATRON**  
 CR Levesque Trucking  
 H&L Tassinari Builders  
 The Better Bean  
 Bob McCurry  
 Hair It Is  
 Hawk Woodworking  
 Richard Greene Insurance  
 Lombard Funeral Home  
 S & K Lawn Care  
 Tully Manufacturing  
 Viant Medical  
 Cooks Orchard  
 Westview Farm Creamery  
 Sunsetview Farm Camping Area

**Special Thanks**  
 Monson Arts Council  
 MYMONSON.ORG

**Special Thanks**

**MUSICIANS**  
 Nicole Quimet-Anthem  
 Steve Cleary  
 Quaboag Highlanders

**VOLUNTEER EVENT COORDINATION TEAM**  
 Rich Ladew  
 Lee Williams  
 John Cote  
 Tera Gordon  
 Shala Perry Moore  
 Jack Perry  
 Steve Slozak  
 Tim and Christine Dunn

**Thank You to Our Volunteers, Donors, Food Crew & Runners**

**FOOD CREW / DONORS**  
 Shelly Lachance  
 Shala Perry Moore  
 Hope Bodwell  
 Jaiyme Kelley  
 New England Runner (nerunner.com)

**RACE PERSONNEL**  
 4RUN3 Water Stop Angels  
 Jaiyme Kelley  
 Kimberley Perron-Burke  
 Christine Witschi  
 Griffin's Friends  
 Frank Gustafson  
 Jaiyme Kelley  
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 Fran Nothe  
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