



COMMUNITY
**Pet of the week:
 meet Riley**
 Page 2



LOOKING BACK
**Positive reviews
 for Pathfinder**
 Page 3



SPORTS
**Panthers fall
 to Ludlow**
 Page 9

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The Journal Register

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PALMER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last week a story identified the wrong candidate for Interim Town Manager. Robert Reed was actually the candidate voted into the position last week.

Interim Town Manager talks about first days on the job

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – This past Monday, Robert Reed started as the interim town manager, replacing Police Chief Christopher Burns, who has been acting town manager since the departure of Ryan McNutt.

“It’s always going to be busy,” Reed said about his first day. “There will be a certain amount of time where you’re just catching up and trying to find out what the issues are.”



Submitted photo

Robert Reed, seated at his desk in Upton, one of the towns where he previously served as interim town manager.

Reed said his priority is to ensure that the town doesn’t miss any deadlines or projects, and to learn about the town’s needs through meetings with council members.

Reed has served as a town administrator in many different towns over the years; since he retired from Leicester, Palmer has been the eighth town where he has worked as an interim town manager, after finishing a term Northborough in August.

“I just enjoy the work,” Reed said, “I find the work challenging, working by and large with great people. I enjoy the people I’ve met here in Palmer so far, and I’ve always found these interim positions very rewarding.”

Reed said that he places a lot of value in the town employees and department heads, “because that’s where the work is done.”

“I think it’s important that people, whether it’s through the budget process or whether it’s on a day-to-day basis, feel that they’re valued,” Reed said.

Reed told the council that he wants to make sure town employees know they can talk to him, and that his management style relies on talking to employees both informally and through regular meetings.

“Department heads may not get what they want, but I think if you explain to them the process, and they have faith in the process, and...in you, and they understand why things ended up the way they did, and why they didn’t get what they want, I think that goes a long way.”

When the council asked Reed
TOWN MANAGER | page 3

Light Up Palmer



The train from Roaming Railroad did a loop around Main Street and Walnut Street.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Making Palmer a brighter place

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – Walnut Street was blocked off for a few hours last Saturday to make way for the huge crowd of town residents who showed up for Light Up Palmer’s tree-lighting in Depot Park.

“I have never seen that many people there, it was amazing,” Smith said. “There’s nothing negative I can say about it. It was overwhelming for all of us, but exciting.”

Smith was enthusiastic about the participation of the event’s sponsors, such as Dunkin’ Donuts, Country Bank, 13th World, and many others. The tree that now stands in the park was donated by Rocky’s, and Bertera Chevrolet provided a train which gave attendees rides up and down Walnut Street.

“Without their support, none of this could really happen,” Smith said, “it’s an expensive event to be able to put on for the community for free.”

Live music was provided by Noah Lis, a Three Rivers resident who has performed on The Voice and has his own local



Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon

Light Up Palmer Chair Chris Smith is joined by volunteers Betty Koss, Audrey Barone, Elf on the Shelf, Olaf and Rudolph at the 2023 annual community celebration. More photos on page 7 & 8.

studio production company, Noah Lis Productions.

“He’s responsible for stage productions throughout the whole East Coast,” Smith said. “We were

very fortunate to have Noah come back over the holiday and play for us, because he was leaving for South Carolina for a large production after this.”

Michael Rondeau, of Rondeau’s Ice Cream, is an accomplished ice sculptor who has done

LIGHT UP PALMER | page 6

EAST/WEST RAIL

State officials visit Steaming Tender

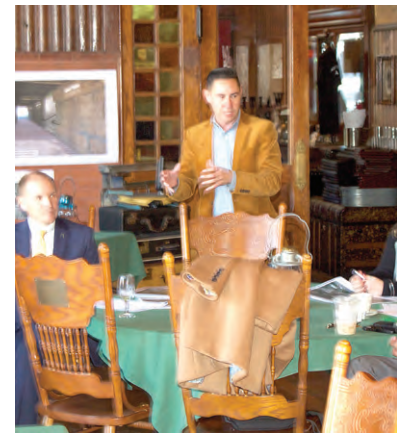
By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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PALMER – Last week, town and state officials met at Steaming Tender for a presentation on the benefits to placing a stop along the East/West Passenger Rail in town.

Scarlet Lamothe, the General Manager at Steaming Tender, led a presentation about the history of the town and the seven railroads that pass through it, and on some of the early designs for how the station would be redeveloped to accommodate the stop.

“We have many different institutes that have put a lot of work and studies into Palmer as a redevelop-

RAIL | page 2



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Senator Jake Oliveira speaks to the assembled room.

POLICE/FIRE

Two arrested for trafficking in cocaine and heroin

PALMER – Two people were arrested on Nov. 26 for trafficking cocaine following a traffic stop made after a Palmer police officer found a car with an expired registration, police said.

At 11:59 p.m., police were monitoring traffic exiting the Massachusetts Turnpike Pike when they found pulled over a vehicle for an expired registration. Further investigation uncovered 111 grams of cocaine within the vehicle, along with 46 bags of heroin/fentanyl.

The vehicle’s occupants were identified as Lisa Laroche, of Palmer, and Galen Woodward, of Wilbraham.

Woodward and Laroche were both charged with trafficking 100+ grams of cocaine, possession with the intent to distribute a Class B substance, conspiracy and having an unregistered motor vehicle.

Laroche was also charged with having a suspended license, possession of a Class B substance, subsequent offense, and possession of a Class A substance, subsequent offense.

She was also charged on July 5 with trafficking cocaine and several other distribution related offenses. She was released pending future court dates for this July arrest.

Woodward and Laroche are now held on \$250,000 bail and were scheduled to be arraigned at Palmer District Court on Monday, Nov. 27.

COMMUNITY

Tree and Wreath Festival starts this weekend

PALMER – The Historical and Cultural Center is preparing to hold the 11th annual Tree and Wreath Festival this weekend.

Residents and local businesses have donated trees to the Cultural Council to be raffled off as part of the event.

“This is the premier event of its kind in the area and has grown tremendously over the past decade,” the Cultural Council’s website reads.

Harmony Hall will be open for the Festival on Dec. 1 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 2-3 and 9-10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to the raffles, there will also be musical accompaniment.

To enter the Tree and Wreath Raffle, it costs \$1 for one ticket, or \$5 for 10 tickets. Ornaments for the Loved One Tree are also available for purchase.

The Lions Club will also be

collecting new, unwrapped toys for families in need. Each toy donated

TREES | page 2



Rich Clark (left) and Ashley Ngan assembled the library’s tree of new books.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Dave Golden plugged in the lights of one of the trees at Harmony Hall.



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RILEY

This is Ian Manning's dog Riley, a.k.a. "Little Ravioli." He is 9 years old, and lives in the quiet hills of Monson. He's pictured here with his favorite stuffed animal, a stegosaurus from the Jurassic Park Collection. Riley enjoys being out in nature and pizza crusts from Monson Pizza. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

DEADLINE

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



Pictured at Steaming Tender, (from left) Peter Durant, Todd Smola, Scarlet and Blake Lamothe, Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Christopher Burns, Jake Oliveira, Robert Reed, and Matthew Lemieux.



State Representative Todd Smola has been an advocate for Palmer as a stop for the East/West Rail.



Monica Tibbits-Nutt praised the work done to advocate for Palmer as a rail stop.

RAIL | from page 1

ment of passenger service," Lamothe said. State Representative Todd Smola and Senator Jake Oliveira were also at the presentation to support the project.

"The population of Palmer in 1884, was one of the largest towns in the area," Oliveira said, "particularly because of the railroad's impact on infrastructure for this area."

Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary and CEO of the Department of Transportation, thanked Lamothe for the presentation, and spoke about the ways that a rail stop in town would affect the local economy.

"This is gorgeous," Tibbits-Nutt said about Steaming Tender, "this is a place you want to take a train from."

"It's not just compass rail, it's everything else, every other investment," Tibbits-Nutt said. "Investments in train service, but also investments in our regional transit authorities, expansion of those routes, expansion of those services because everyone here, you've made the investment, you've made that commitment. Now it's up to us to meet that."

To learn more about the Citizens for a Palmer Rail Commission, you can visit their website palmertrain.org.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Scarlet Lamothe had a presentation about Steaming Tender's potential as a rail stop.

Tree and Wreath Festival starts this weekend



Photo by Dan Flynn

Turley Publications's own Kara Walsh assembled a tree for the festival.



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Karen Champagne (left) and Brie Godbout set up a tree for Cub Scout Pack 164.



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Harmony Hall is already bustling as residents assemble trees for the festival.

TREES | from page 1

can be exchanged for one tree festival raffle ticket.

For more information, you can visit

the Cultural Center website at palmerhcc.org, or call them at 413-289-9895.



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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.

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. Join outside for hot roasted chestnuts compliments of Replanting Monson Tree Committee and students from the Tantasqua Chestnut Club with an antique chestnut roaster. The museum is open from 1 – 3:30 p.m., and information about the museum can be found at www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted

PALMER— The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts welcomes area college students of Polish heritage to apply for one of the annual academic scholarships. Students must have a permanent address in one of the four Western Massachusetts counties: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin or Berkshire. Application forms with related information are available at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications. The deadline for all applications and related materials is May 1, 2024.

Positive reviews for Pathfinder Tech’s annual Showcase

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder Technical Vocational School held a short showcase event for students to experience some of the programs the school has to offer.

“We were happy to open our doors to local eighth grade youth at our annual Showcase Event so they could see what Pathfinder Tech is all about,” said Interim Principal Brenda Turner. “This event provides a unique opportunity for students to spend a few hours as a tech student and experience three of our program areas first-hand.”

The showcase is an opportunity for eighth-graders from the nine towns Pathfinder services to visit the school during the regular school day and experience the technical programs. It’s traditionally held on the Tuesday leading into Thanksgiving, according to Kevin Aldrich of Pathfinder’s Community Outreach Department.

“Overall, it’s just to give the students a chance to see what Pathfinder’s all about,” Aldrich said. “We very much like to work hand-in-hand with our sending towns.”

Aldrich said that Pathfinder provides transportation so that students can bus over to the school, tour the facilities and do some hands-on exploration of the technical programs, choosing two programs along with one assigned by the school. The students are then treated to a free lunch and given a swag bag with school merchandise.



“In each of the sixteen program areas, Pathfinder Tech students -- both Student Ambassadors and program volunteers -- ‘run the show’ by interacting with the eighth graders to provide some engaging and exciting activities that allows the student guests to try their own hand at fields like cosmetology, plumbing, automotive technology, and culinary arts, just to name a few,” Turner said.

“The Community Outreach Department is myself, Lindsey Tracy, and Sherri Storey,” Aldrich said. “It’s a three-person department, but it’s all hands on deck; everyone in the entire building is contributing in some way.”

“I can speak for the three of us saying it’s not just us. We rely on so many moving pieces and tremendous support from the administration team. The teachers and support staff are amazing

with the extra work they do and effort they put in.”

“Our Community Outreach Department has multiple pieces to it, which includes both Communications and Admissions,” said Tracy. “On the communications side, we serve as the contacts for community members and create outreach materials all about Pathfinder Tech and our offerings. On the admissions side, we connect with prospective students and parents, oversee the application process, and plan events such as our Eighth grade Showcase and Career Night.”

“This year we had 210 students,” Aldrich said. “We did a little survey because we wanted a little feedback, and all but one student said they were interested in applying. Ninety-nine percent enjoyed the program that we presented them and are looking to return for career

night.”
The Showcase is structured so that as a student goes through the 25 to 30 minute programs, they get information about the academics and what a day in the life of a Pathfinder student is like.

“What I love about the showcase event is giving students the closest thing to a realistic experience of being a Pathfinder Tech student,” Tracy said. “Our school has so much to offer, between its robust academics and state-of-the-art technical programs, and our goal is to make sure all potential students are aware of their options and that we’re here to help them.”

“We want people to know we’re out there,” Aldrich said. “We do road show presentations to drum up interest, where we go into middle schools, junior highs, and present a little about Pathfinder. That leads to our Showcase, Career Night, and applications.”

“The energy is always exciting, whether those students choose to come to us or not,” Aldrich said. “We just want them to get a quality education; it could be here, it’s nice for them to see what goes on here. But we had a student who responded that they would not be applying, but had a fantastic day. Even the kids that find out that an all academics school is better for them, they’re still enjoying the programs having a great first half of their day.”

Anyone who would like to learn more about what Pathfinder Tech has to offer may attend a Career Night on Dec. 6, or visit pathfindertech.org.

Country Bank partners with Wonderfund of MA

PALMER— Country Bank recently announced its partnership and \$20,000 in support of the Wonderfund of Massachusetts. The Wonderfund helps kids and teens served by the Department of Children and Families to enjoy childhood’s magical moments during the holiday season. The Wonderfund organization is an ordinary group of people on an extraordinary mission to bring the magic and meaning of childhood into the lives of children who have been impacted by trauma, abuse, and neglect.

Join the Wonderfund and Country Bank in making magic this holiday season for kids in foster care by donating a new unwrapped gift at any of its banking centers until Dec. 15. Country Bank’s team will shop for gifts to join in the efforts, and donations will be delivered to DCF Offices in Springfield and Worcester to be distributed throughout Western and Central Mass.

“We are delighted about this partnership with the Wonderfund and the opportunity for our team and our communities to help us make a difference for children by putting a smile on so many faces,” said Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of Community Relations at Country Bank.

In addition to the toy drive, Country Bank donated over \$100,000 to 17 local food pantries and \$42,000 to local senior centers to support food insecurities, homelessness, and elders in its local communities during its annual Season of Difference Campaign.

For more information and to donate, please visit <https://wonderfund-ma.org>.



Submitted Photo
Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of Community Relations at Country Bank, Lauren Baker, Former First Lady of Massachusetts, founder and CEO of the Wonderfund and Shelley Regan, senior vice president of Marketing at Country Bank.

TOWN MANAGER | from page 1

if he also implemented this open-door policy with members of the public, he said that he did.

“I try to be flexible, whether it’s a citizen or a business or what have you,” Reed said. “They may be spokespeople for a much larger group as well...I think that adds a lot to the transparency, for people to feel that everybody in the town hall is approachable. I know the council has to feel that way, and the town manager isn’t any different.”

Reed was also thankful for the timing, which will be convenient for him over the winter. He said that he expects to be involved in the hiring of the next full-time town manager over the next few minutes.

“Town Council has hired Community Paradigm, I’ve worked with them before,” Reed said. “I will try to link up with them and see what I can do to assist and to move the process along. To vary-

ing degrees, this has been my responsibility (as an interim town manager) so I will be giving them a call and trying to coordinate that.”

Another project that has taken Reed’s interest is the East/West Rail. On Nov. 20, Reed attended the presentation held by state legislators at Steaming Tender about the project.

“I thought it was an excellent presentation that was given, there are great possibilities there,” Reed said. “It’s an exciting project that’s long overdue.”

“I’m originally from Worcester,” Reed said. “And it’s always interesting to see how much rail and trolley travel there was in years past, and it looks like we’re going in that direction again.”

Reed will be working out of Town Hall while the town looks for a new town manager. To contact Reed at Town Hall, people may call 413-283-2608, or visit the town’s website at townofpalmer.com.



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

About the fairness of WEP and GPO

Dear Rusty

I was married to my ex-husband for 30 years. For 14 of those years, I was an unemployed mom and community volunteer. After my sons were grown, I began teaching in California and earned a teacher pension. That teacher pension eliminates all the spousal benefits my husband paid for. How can that be justified? I, like a number of my retired friends, rent out rooms in my house to be able to live on a small teacher's pension and get none of my earned spousal benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Teacher

Dear Frustrated Teacher

I can only say that your frustration is shared by many retirees from public service in States, which do not participate in the federal Social Security program, that is, neither the employee nor the State contribute to the federal Social Security program. There are about 26 states including California, which exempt at least some of their employees and themselves from paying Social Security payroll taxes, but those states are obligated to provide retirement benefits robust enough to offset the loss of Social Security benefits, which will occur later in life after the employee retires.

As controversial as these laws - the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are, they have withstood legal challenges since they were enacted four decades ago. Because you have a "non-covered" pension from your state employment, WEP reduces any personal Social Security retirement benefit you may have earned elsewhere and, to your specific point, the GPO has eliminated the spousal benefit you might otherwise have been entitled to from your ex-husband.

Like you, many who are affected believe this to be unfair, but Congress has steadfastly failed to enact legislation to repeal these provisions or even to soften their impact. The likely reason is that Congress has evaluated the fundamental premise of the provisions and concluded they appropriately equalize the way benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

It might help to think of it this way: in normal circumstances, if one spouse has a personally earned Social Security retirement benefit, which is more than 50% of their partner's Full Retirement Age amount, no spousal benefit is paid (the spouse benefit is offset by the recipient's own SS retirement benefit).

The GPO, the provision which affects SS spousal and survivor benefits) applies that same logic for a spouse who has a "non-covered" pension earned outside of the Social Security program, their spousal benefit is offset by the amount of the person's own "non-covered" retirement pension. The one difference is that the GPO offset is actually a bit smaller (2/3rds of the non-covered pension vs. 100% offset for a spouse with their own SS retirement benefit).

Both WEP, which reduces SS retirement benefits and the GPO, which reduces spousal or survivor benefits, are consequences of working for a State which has chosen to not participate in the federal Social Security program, and those states are obligated to inform their employees of those consequences. I know that doesn't make your situation any less frustrating, but Congress "justifies" these provisions as being necessary to equalize how benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

There are about 2 million beneficiaries affected by WEP and over 700,000 affected by the GPO, most of whom share your displeasure. Nevertheless, Congress has so far maintained both these provisions as originally enacted. If you wish to add your voice to those who believe WEP and GPO are unfair, you may wish to contact your federal Congressional Representatives to express that point.

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

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Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make "windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpieces.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the halfway point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon

sticks are just a few options. Don't forget to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

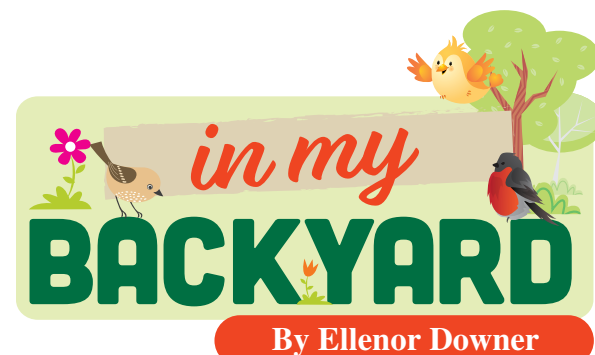
Once the sprouting occurs, fertilizer can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

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



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 place 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 or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



HAMILTON ON FOREIGN POLICY

We can fix our broken politics

word, many came up with "divisive," "corrupt" or "chaotic." Asked to identify the strong points of our politics, more than half couldn't come up with anything.

It's obvious that our politics are going through a difficult time.

Congress seems dysfunctional, struggling to pass spending bills to keep the government operating. A single senator has blocked promotions for hundreds of military officers.

Election campaigns are filled with personal attacks. Divisions threaten our support for allies, including Ukraine, a rejection of the adage that politics stops at the water's edge.

Partisanship has reached new heights, with Democrats and Republicans seeming to inhabit separate worlds. The one thing both sides agree on is that our politics aren't working.

Dissatisfaction with politics crosses political, social and demographic lines, according to the Pew survey. It is shared by White, Black, Asian and Hispanic adults. It affects old people as well as young people.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans say politicians are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems. Some 28% distrust both major parties, the highest figure in nearly 30 years.

It's common to hear people say that neither party cares about ordinary people. Americans distrust the executive and legislative

Americans are fed up with politics. That's the obvious conclusion of a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, which found many of us have "unrelentingly negative" views of politics and elected officials.

It's understandable that people are discouraged. There are plenty of reasons to feel that way.

I'm not especially alarmed at the findings of the survey, however. The key thing is that we maintain an interest in improving our broken politics.

That's critically important. If the American people were to get so turned off by politics that they refuse to participate, that would be a real problem for our democracy. Fortunately, there's evidence that we haven't reached that point.

Americans have long had a healthy skepticism about political power and those who wield it, but the Pew survey suggests distrust has reached new heights. Some 65% of those questioned said thinking about politics left them exhausted.

More than half said it made them angry. Only a few said it made them hopeful or excited.

Asked to describe U.S. politics in one

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

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: 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. 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.

Centennial celebration



Submitted photo

John Machnik of Three Rivers celebrated Veterans Day at a polka dance at the Ludlow Polish-American Citizens Club.

John Machnik turns 100

John is a veteran of World War II and served in the army during The War.

Lenny Gomulka of the Chicago Push Band and his polka friends will honor him Dec. 3 at the PACC when he will be given a citation from the State of Massachusetts.

Virtual hearings to be held for PVTAs riders

Public hearings on Title VI Analysis and Route Enhancements on the P21E, G73E and Ware-Palmer Route of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 5-6 p.m. at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer and Thursday, Dec. 7 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware.

Virtual public hearings will also be held on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 10-10:30 a.m. and Monday, Dec. 11 from 6-6:30 p.m., via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 882 8937 6754 and the passcode is 515967.

The public is invited to attend one of the public hearings in-person or virtually.

Proposed enhancements include reinstating the previous Ware and Palmer Circulators using two separate vehicles and providing more comprehensive service in each town.

Additional service to Wilbraham Big Y will be added bringing the total number of connections to Springfield to six each day. These changes will take effect in December with the addition of weekend service planned for early spring.

People may also submit comments by mail to Director of Transit Operations, 2808 Main S., Springfield, MA, 01107, email at comments@pvta.com, phone by calling 413-732-6248 extension 2237 and leave up to a three-minute message or online by completing the comment form at pvta.com/contactUs.php.

All comments must be received by Dec. 20. Spanish language translation provided. Signing and interpretation for hearing and visual disabilities is available.

Please contact Zoraida by phone at 413-732-6248 extension 2237 or email at Zbonet@pvta.com at least seven days before the hearing date to arrange.

For more information, visit www.pvta.com or 413-781-7882.

HAMILTON

from page 4

month in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia drew strong interest and participation.

In another hopeful sign, more young people have been running for office – and often winning.

We Americans have always been an optimistic and forward-looking people, confident in our ability to solve problems and make progress. We're right to be unhappy with the condition of our politics, but we have the power and the ability to make our politics better.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

PHS recognizes students' achievements

By Dallas Gagnon
Correspondent
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – Palmer High School shared several academic achievements and ongoing initiatives with the School Committee during its Nov. 14 meeting.

Fifteen Palmer High School students were recognized for receiving the honor of John and Abigail Adams scholarships, based on academic achievements and Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam scores.

"We are here to acknowledge our students," said PHS Principal Sue North.

"(These) students have qualified to receive a four-year John and Abigail Adams scholarship upon their acceptance to a participating Massachusetts public institution of higher education, including the four undergrad campuses of the University of Massachusetts, all nine state colleges and all 15 community colleges."

Students received an award letter along with an academic achievement pin, which North said students may wear

to graduation.

Of the 15 recipients, senior Shawn Troche was also recognized by Superintendent Matthew Francis who awarded Troche with the Massachusetts Certificate of Academic Excellence Award.

Francis said the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents provides superintendents across the commonwealth with the opportunity to select one high school senior "who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career."

Due to the number of PHS graduates, the district is only allowed to award one student with a certificate.

Massachusetts' criteria are based on a student's three-year cumulative grade point average, class rank and a personal selection by the superintendent from the top 5% of students.

"This year I wanted to award an individual who exemplified our theme 'Why Palmer?,' and has given back to the community as a whole," said Francis.

He said the selection was very difficult as he believes the

district has many "great students."

Troche has been enrolled in the Palmer Public Schools since kindergarten, is a member of the cross country team, is the vice president of the National Honors Society, volunteers at Divine Mercy and helps tutor another student in pre-calculus.

"When you see him across campus, he always has a smile on his face and is an all around great student," said Francis.

School Committee Chair Bonnie Rathbone said his award was "very well deserved," and congratulated him.

Standardized testing

North shared the school's MCAS data, reflecting areas for improvement and celebration from fiscal 2023-2024.

For celebrations, North revealed the school's administrative group has worked alongside department heads and team leaders to analyze exams scores with guided questions to help emphasize a shared focus.

Math

She said a notable accomplishment is the school's overall math MCAS scores retained

all possible points placing Palmer at 100%.

"We achieved all possible points," said North. "Our math exceeded targets that the state put out for our surrounding districts."

She added the sixth-grade average for student growth was in the 59th percentile.

"You're always looking for at least 51 or higher," said North, adding 59 exceeds expectations.

Tenth-graders also saw higher than average improvement rates, landing them in the 56th percentile.

According to North, the school's improvement overall is in the 49th percentile "which is really good, higher by six points than the state put out."

Some initiatives North said the department is working on to improve student achievement are attendance, engagement and data driven instruction.

She said she has also received confirmation that 12 of the PHS eighth-grade students will receive free tutoring from a program called Catapult to help close the academic gaps in learning, which will begin this week.

English Language Arts

PHS Assistant Principal Amy Herring said that the grade six to 10 proficiency gap improved by 9 points, although it is still below state average.

She said a point of celebration is that 9% of 10th-graders scored in exceeding expectations, which is the highest percentage the school has seen in four years.

Additionally, eighth-graders' scores improved by 22% from the previous school year.

Herring said some initiatives for English Language Art improvement and academic success include purchasing and implementing an interactive, computer-based learning program, more frequent classroom visits and observations and continuing reading exercises.

She said the computer-based learning program is designed to encourage reading and reading comprehension.

According to Herring, the claim, evidence and reading exercises target improved writing scores and argumentation.

MSB sponsors junior stock market

MONSON— Monson Savings Bank was a Silver Sponsor of this year's Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts' Stock Market Competition.

The Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts Stock Market Competition is the largest single-day Student Stock Market Competition in North America. In this high-tech stock market simulation, student teams are "given" a million dollars to invest in over 50 fictitious stocks. Their goal is to build the highest portfolio net worth in 60 "days," with trading days lasting just 60 seconds.

Monson Savings Bank donated \$1,500 in support of this beloved annual event. This donation supported five teams of five students in the competition, as well as the overall event.

Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts President Jennifer Connolly expressed her gratitude for Monson Savings Bank's support.

"We are so grateful to have a partner like Monson Savings Bank, who has offered us their loyal support year after year," said Connolly. "Without

partners like this, events like the Stock Market Competition would not be possible. The Stock Market Competition offers students a valuable, hands-on learning experience. Thank you to Monson Savings for helping us to make this experience possible for them."

Lena Buteau, Monson Savings Bank vice president Retail Branch Administration and Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts Board Member, shared her excitement about Junior Achievement and the Stock Market Competition.

"Monson Savings Bank's mission truly aligns with the mission of Junior Achievement. We too are dedicated to supporting financial literacy and education for everyone, and especially for young people," said Buteau. "Every year we look forward to the Stock Market Competition and watching the students' participation. It is an exciting morning filled with lots of action and learning."

To learn more about Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts, please visit: <https://www.jawm.org/>.



Submitted photo

Tracy Alves-Lear, JA Board Member; Lena Buteau, Monson Savings Bank VP Retail Branch Administration Officer and JA Board Member; Amy Alaimo, JA of Western Massachusetts Operations Manager; and Mark Laurenzano, JA Board Member.

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Palmer Senior Center

PALMER— The Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., has many activities for seniors Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to reserve a meal please call 413-283-2670.

DECEMBER EVENTS ALWAYS ON MONDAYS - Zumba at 8:30 a.m., Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Lunch 11:30 and Pool table at 12:15 p.m. Always on Tuesdays- Knit/crochet group at 9 a.m., walking group at 9 a.m., Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Arthritis/ROM at 10 a.m., Pitch at 12:30 p.m. and painting group at 1 p.m. Always on Wednesdays- Strength training at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Lunch. Always on Thursdays- Walking group at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi at 10 a.m., pool table at 12:15 p.m. and Big Y at 1 p.m. Always on Fridays - Gentle stretch at 10 a.m. and Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR DECEMBER:

Friday, Dec. 1- Christmas party at Tony & Penny's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 4- Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., bake and take cookie decorating at 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 6 - Christmas family feud at 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7 - Card and paper earring craft with Marlene at 1 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8- Movie "Christmas Miracle" will be at 1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11- Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Lunch and learn HCP presentation at 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12- Lunch Bunch Golden Corral Trip, van will leave the senior center at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec 13- Craft Christmas trees at 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14- Sunshine village craft at 1 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15- Holiday celebration entertainment by Memory Lane from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday, Dec 18- Marathon Bingo at 10 a.m. and Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20- Christmas Pictionary at 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21- Carols, cookies and cocoa at 1 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22- Chair Yoga rescheduled at 9 a.m. and foot care by appointment 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25- Closed for the holiday.
Wednesday, Dec. 27- Wii bowling at 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28- Sunshine Village Painting at 1 p.m.
Friday Dec. 29- Chair yoga rescheduled at 9 a.m. and a movie at 1 p.m.

MENU

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670.
Friday, Dec. 1- Center closed for Christmas party at Tony & Penny's
Monday, Dec. 4- Hot dog with bun, potato salad, baked beans and fresh fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 5- Cinnamon buns
Wednesday, Dec. 6- Pork with gravy, collard greens, mashed butternut squash, buttermilk biscuits, and chilled applesauce.

Thursday, Dec. 7- Blueberry French toast.
Friday, Dec.8- Turkey and provolone sandwich, lettuce, tomato, chicken vegetable soup, wheat roll and a cookie.
Monday, Dec. 11- Breakfast sausage, spiced applesauce, potatoes O'Brien, French toast, and fresh fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 12- Ham, egg, and cheese croissant.
Wednesday, Dec. 13- Hamburger with cheese with lettuce and tomato, wheat burger bun, tater tots, and mandarin oranges.
Thursday, Dec. 14- Banana chocolate chip French toast.
Friday, Dec. 15- Holiday Party- chicken cordon bleu, herbed green beans, half a baked potato, dinner roll and chocolate cake.
Monday, Dec. 18- Chicken Cacciatore, penne noodles, WWB, and mandarin oranges.
Tuesday, Dec. 19- Bacon, egg and cheese croissant.
Wednesday, Dec. 20- Lemon chicken, parslid carrots, rice pilaf, WWB, and chilled pineapple.
Thursday, Dec. 21- Ham and cheese roll,
Friday, Dec. 22- Turkey with gravy, steamed peas, mashed potatoes, cranberry stuffing and a cupcake.
Monday, Dec. 25- Closed for the holiday.
Tuesday, Dec. 26- French toast.
Wednesday, Dec. 27- BBQ pulled pork, spinach, half a baked potato, WW burger bun and cookie.
Thursday, Dec. 28- Chef's choice.
Friday, Dec. 29- Chicken fajitas, fajita blend veggies, yellow rice, flour tortilla, sour cream, and fresh fruit.



Monson Senior Center

MONSON— Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., offers many different events and a low-cost lunch Monday through Friday. For more information or to reserve a lunch please call 413-267-4121.

EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 1- Library event at 10:30 a.m., Wii Bowling at 12:30 p.m., and Pitch at 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 4- Strength training at 10 a.m. and Art class at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 5- Crafts with Rose at 9:30 a.m. and Canasta at 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 6 - Strength training 10 a.m. and crafts and laughs at 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7- Chair massage at 11 a.m. Special birthday for seniors 90+ at noon and yoga at 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8- Walmart trip 9 a.m., Strength training 10 a.m. and Wii bowling 12:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11- Strength training at 10 a.m., Card class 1 p.m., and art class at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12- Birthday party at noon and Canasta at 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13- Strength training at 10 a.m., Rep. Ashe's aide meeting 10-11 a.m., Bingo at 1 p.m. and crafts and laughs at 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14- Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m. and Library event at 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15- Strength training at 10 a.m., Wii bowling at 12:30 p.m. and Pitch at 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18- Strength training 10 a.m., Card class 1 p.m., and art class at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19- Canasta at 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20- Strength training at 10 a.m. and crafts and laughs at 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21- Reflexology at 8:30 a.m., Christmas party at noon and yoga at 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22- Pizza party with police and fire departments at noon.
Monday, Dec. 25- Senior center is closed for the Holiday.
Tuesday, Dec. 26- Canasta at 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27- Strength training at 10 a.m. and crafts and laughs at 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28- Foot care at noon, lunch and learn at 12:30 p.m. and yoga at 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29- Strength training at 10 a.m. and Wii bowling at 12:30 p.m.

MENU FOR DECEMBER

Please reserve a meal by 2:30 p.m. the day before by calling 413-267-4121. Suggested donation is \$2.50 for participants 60 and over, anyone under 60 must pay \$3.50.
Friday, Dec. 1- Mac and Cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, rye bread and tropical fruit.
Monday, Dec. 4- Cranberry pork, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, WWB and pears.
Tuesday, Dec. 5- Supper sloppy Joe, potatoes, spinach, roll and peaches.
Wednesday, Dec. 6- Peachy chicken, sweet potatoes, broccoli, rye bread and brownie.
Thursday, Dec. 7- Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, WWB and applesauce.

Friday, Dec. 8- Turkey, rice, butternut squash, WWB and pineapple.
Monday, Dec. 11- Garlic chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, WWB and peaches.
Tuesday, Dec. 12- Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, WWB and applesauce.
Wednesday, Dec. 13- Spaghetti and meatballs, spinach, WWB and oranges.
Thursday, Dec. 14- Hot dog, baked beans, succotash, roll and pineapple.
Friday, Dec. 15- Fish loin, scalloped potatoes, peas, rye bread and tropical fruit.
Monday, Dec. 18- Broccoli and cheese, quiche, potato, green beans, WWB and pudding.
Tuesday, Dec. 19- Beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, rye bread and mixed fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 20- American chop suey, green and wax beans, WWB and oranges.
Thursday, Dec. 21- Chicken Cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, Harvard beets, roll and cupcake.
Friday, Dec. 22- No lunch
Monday, Dec. 25- Closed for the holiday.
Tuesday, Dec. 26- Fish loin, au gratin potatoes, peas, WWB and tropical fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 27- Shepherd's pie, green beans, wax beans, rye bread and brownie.
Thursday, Dec. 28- Turkey tetrazzini, noodles, peas, WWB and oranges.
Friday, Dec. 29- Chicken, sweet potatoes, Harvard beets, WWB and pineapple.

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Palmer Public Library events

PALMER— The 3rd Annual Sandy Nichols Book Sale Palmer Public Library Community Room will be from Monday, Nov. 20 through Saturday, Dec. 2. for the 3rd Annual Sandy Nichols Book Sale. Browse a huge selection of used books at a great price.
Slideshow by J.R. Greene, Author of the 2024 Quabbin History Calendar Thirty-ninth Annual limited-edition Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 6-7 p.m. Please join the Community Room for a slideshow by local author J.R. Greene highlighting his thirty-ninth annual, limited edition Quabbin History Calendar. Copies of the 2024 calendar and the author's books on the

Quabbin Reservoir will be available for sale and signing. Registration is not required for this event.
Online zoom meeting, Steeped in Secrecy: The Boston Tea Party, 250 Years Later
 Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2 to 3 p.m. Join in as the library partner with the Tewksbury Public Library for this online ZOOM program scheduled on the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Learn about the brewing political problems tea presented in its history with authors Claire Evans and Debra Dudek. Registration is required to receive the ZOOM link. To register, please visit www.palmerlibrary.org/events.

Brimfield Senior Center offers Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation

Feeling fatigued, mentally foggy, or physically discomforted?
 Join us for a Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation led by Chantal Haracsy on Mon., Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m. with an opportunity to embark on a journey towards rejuvenation and clarity. Simply sit or lay down, relax, and let Chantal guide you with her soothing voice into a meditative state. Once you're in a calm and receptive state, the pure tones of the quartz crystal bowls will envelop you, reaching into the core of your being to promote profound healing at the cellular level. Participants have reported increased energy, profound relaxation, pain relief, mental clarity, improved focus, restful sleep, and more.

Crystal Bowl Sound Healing has been scientifically proven to relax the body and mind for inner peace, clarity, better sleep, and so much more. Studies have shown that sound has a direct impact on the mental processes, muscles, nervous system, heartbeat, pulse, digestive system, and circulatory system. As a Crystal Bowl Sound Healer, Certified Counselor, Reiki Master/Teacher, and Reflexologist, Chantal combines her expertise to bring you a transformative healing experience.
 A light lunch will be served immediately after the program. Please call the senior center at 413-245-7253 prior to December 7th to register. Space is limited.

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 June 5, 2022
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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023

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 This offer is available to all babies born in 2023. Pictures will be published the week of December 18-22, 2023.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters
 5. Sculpture
 11. Showing up again
 14. Tie the knot again
 15. Washington city
 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
 19. Mark over a vowel
 21. Explosive
 23. Popular race: ___ 500
 24. Pile up
 28. Mint
 29. Commercial
 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
 32. Small Eurasian deer
 33. Baseball stat
 35. Numbers cruncher
 36. Japanese masked drama
 39. Gasteyer and de

Armas are two
 41. Blood group
 42. Assist in wrongdoing
 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
 46. Grayish-white
 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 49. Microorganism
 52. Place under prohibition
 56. Calm, dependable
 58. Congressman
 60. Force
 62. As a result of this document
 63. One of two main branches of Islam

3. Geographical region of Finland
 4. Ejected saliva
 5. A way of performing
 6. Scotland's longest river
 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
 8. Body art
 9. Two-toed sloth
 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
 13. Of the wind
 16. Grand home
 17. Sound
 20. English river
 22. Symbol indicating ownership
 25. Exclamation of surprise
 26. Pouch
 27. Apart from

29. Satisfaction
 31. The bill in a restaurant
 34. Sea bream
 36. Port in southern Japan
 37. Double-reed instruments
 38. Center
 40. South Dakota
 43. An orderly crowd
 45. Indicates position
 48. ___-pedi
 50. Nonsense (slang)
 51. Republic of Ireland
 53. Nocturnal flyers
 54. American state
 55. Clusters in fern fronds
 57. Patriotic women
 58. A person's brother or sister
 59. Breed of sheep
 61. Popular film "Despicable ___"

LIGHT-UP PALMER | from page 1

an ice sculpture for this event every year since it started in 2019. Smith described him as a "very talented young man."

"People love him, he's a part of our community," Smith said. "He did a train for us a couple years ago, but he really went all out this year to add a snowman and a Christmas tree to it. I think people loved watching him, he's very skilled in his trade."

Smith said Rondeau also often does ice-sculpting at Christmas on the Common. This year's Christmas on the Common will take place on Dec. 3 in Three Rivers.

"Our event is the kick-off to the holiday season," Smith said. "Following ours, this coming Friday, is the Tree Festival at Palmer Historical Society, and then Sunday, Dec. 3, is Christmas on the Common in Three Rivers."

Though Rom Portwood usually plays the role of the conductor, Smith said that he was forced to miss the event due to a business trip. However, Recreational Director Andrew St. George stepped up in his place to fill the role, dressing in full costume to do a reading and lead the caroling.

"We have a policy in our group that whoever can come the day of is great, but if you can't come that day and you support us in some other way, that's the way we operate," Smith said.

Smith thanked the volunteers who helped with the event, not only by working on Saturday, but also the volunteers who helped to set up for the event earlier in the week with decorations and sponsorships.

"We can go through all of this effort, but what makes it special is that it's a community celebration," Smith said. "All the effort was worthwhile to see the people there."

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

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Light Up Palmer



Excited about the turn-out, (from left) Janelle Tarantino, Janice Lachut, and Chris Smith were involved in putting together the celebration.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Noah Lis played keyboard and sang Christmas carols for the attendees.



Depot Park was packed full of residents who were excited to participate in Light Up Palmer's holiday kick-off party.



Sherry Gustafson and Payton, age 6, took pictures with the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who.



The Roaming Railroad train drove past the fire station.



Dianna Rizzo and Thomas James worked a cart from Maddie's Dogs.



Residents watched in awe as Michael Rondeau carved a train out of a block of ice.



Jameson took a picture with Rudolph and the Elf off the Shelf.



Bernice Begley and Kit, age 7, wore festive sweaters.



Pictured in front of the decorative lights, (from left) Christine Marzoll, Harper, age 5 months, Olivia Wilkinson, Logan, age 2, and Teddy King.



Paul Yaeger and Archer, age 1 and a half, took a picture with Olaf from Frozen.



Joe Biagioni and Tom Laware had a table of model trains for the Amherst Railway Society.



Members of the Fire Department, (from left) Captain Sean Reynolds, and Firefighters Ricky Knorring and Pat Jessop, joined the community for the celebration.



Jacob Apraham handed out cotton candy.



Juli Mancini, Joe Ferry and their daughter Lila Ferry enjoy the Light Up Palmer Train Ride.



Representatives from Country Bank attended the event, (from left) Allison Madigan, Betsy Vadnais, and Emily Wojcik.



Joy Trombley and Kelina Hall managed the line for Happy Face Painters.



An elf held up mistletoe while Michelle Brown and Bob Dionne kissed.

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Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch were making their rounds at Saturday's event. Shown here are Ashley Mundell, Teagan Champagne and Mike Champagne



Travis and Kelley Santos share a mother-son photo before a festive backdrop.



Locals Valerie, Rowan and Everly share a photo with Rudolph and Elf.

Girl Scouts from the Swift River Service Unit Stephanie Chichakly, Stacie Chichakly and Emily Provost smile alongside Dorothy Corjay as they wait to ride the Roaming Railroad, sponsored by Bertera Chevrolet. The Scouts hosted a booth for "Make-and-Take" reindeer food and "Cardz for Kidz," during the event.



Sheldon Bradway, Parker Bradway and Mason Savage are all smiles as they visit Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch.



Palmer Recreation Director Andrew St. George dresses as the conductor from the classic Christmas book, "The Polar Express."



Hunter Staples enjoys a bright-blue cotton candy served up at Light-Up Palmer.



Families piled aboard the Roaming Railroad to explore Depot Park and travel the designated path.



North Brookfield Savings Bank crew Stephanie Cusson, Cindy Fountain and Jake Apraham serve up cotton candy.

Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon



Volunteers helped make the evening a magical experience. Jan McCoy dressed as an elf to hand out candy to attendees.

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Michael Rondeau put on a show for visitors with his ice-sculpting performance. Rondeau sculpted a train in honor of Palmer's nickname "The town of seven railroads."

Light Up Palmer

Making Palmer a brighter place

By Dallas Gagnon
Correspondent
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – As the holiday season approaches, decorative lights are making their way around town and spreading holiday cheer.

In light of the season's greetings, Light Up Palmer hosted the organization's annual community celebration Saturday, Nov. 25.

The event featured appearances from holiday legends such as the Elf on the Shelf, Olaf and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.

While visitors smiled alongside festive characters, the fan favorite appeared to be Dr. Seuss'

duo, Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch. While the Grinch is infamous for stealing Christmas, he did no such thing at the community event; instead, he made his rounds sharing photos with attendees and warming his fur by the fire.

Light Up Palmer Chair Chris Smith recognized the contributions of sponsors who helped make the event possible.

Sponsors included Bertera Chevrolet, which provided free train rides, North Brookfield Savings Bank, which provided live music by Noah Lis and Dunkin' Donuts which provided donuts and coffee. Additional sponsors include Rocky's Ace Hardware and 13th World.

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FOOTBALL

Panthers fall on Turkey Day to Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—One of the seven seniors listed on the Ludlow varsity football roster is Dan McKenney Jr., who's a wide receiver and defensive back.

Sophomore quarterback Mason Morace will probably miss throwing the ball to McKenney a lot next year.

McKenney caught four touch-down passes, as the Lions defeated the Palmer Panthers, 28-12, in the 76th meeting between the rivals on Thanksgiving morning at historic Legion Field in Palmer.

"Dan and I have a very good connection, and it has been a lot of fun throwing him the football this year," Morace said. "It's going to be difficult without him next year, but I'm very glad that we won our final game together."

Morace also completed four TD passes to McKenney in a 35-20 non-playoff win at Mahar Regional on Nov. 9.

At the beginning of the regular season, senior Anthonie Emco was the Lions starting quarterback.

Emco suffered a season ending injury in the second game against Smith Vocational. He was replaced by Morace, who also missed a couple of games with an injury.

The Lions (3-8), who now have a 42-31-3 overall lead in the series with the Panthers, closed out the 2023 campaign with a three-game winning streak. They also defeat-



Andrew Haley helps put an end to this run.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

ed McCann Tech, 41-12 in another non-playoff game at home on November 3.

"We've had an up and down season, but we've been able to put everything together in our last three games," McKenney said. "It just feels great to finish our season with a win."

Just like most kids in Ludlow,

McKenney grew up playing soccer. He was a member of the Ludlow Boys' J.V. soccer team as a freshman and sophomore before joining the football team as a junior.

"My father, Dan, played football at Ludlow High School and he talked me into joining the football

team. Football is now a big part of my life," McKenney said. "The seniors on last year's team really helped me a lot. I have a lot more confidence in myself this season."

The elder McKenney was a member of the Lions 1988 football

FOOTBALL | page 10



Hunter White racks up some yardage on the sideline.



Osvaldo Nieves Jr. breaks through for an impressive run.



Dylan Doherty breaks away for serious yardage.

Orioles blow out Pioneers on Turkey Day



The Pathfinder defense stops a Belchertown rusher.



Branden Hnitecki goes for a tackle.



Nicholas Pfister attempts to stiff-arm a Belchertown defender.



Dustyn Cook fields a kickoff for the Pioneers.



Nicholas Pfister looks to make a handoff.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday morning, Belchertown scored early and often, and used turnovers to score even more points in a 61-

14 rout of Pathfinder on Thanksgiving morning. The Orioles led 32-0 late in the second quarter after taking advantage of an onside kick and a

fumble for a turnover. Belchertown finished the season 8-3 while Pathfinder finishes 4-7.

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Lynzie Bailey sends a pass away.

State champs represented at all-star event



Sierra Martinson clears the ball during the C-D All-Star Game.



Emma Murphy chases after a loose ball.

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday evening at Pope Francis High School, the Senior All-Star Games were held. Two games took place, with Class C and D playing in one game and Class A and B playing in another. The games featured the best senior players from all Western Mass. High School girls soccer programs.



Kendall Bodak battles for possession.



Victoria Stevens was Pathfinder's representative at the game.



Fallon Lynch represented Palmer in the all-star game.

Monson inducts next Athletic Hall of Fame class



Members of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 cheerleading teams Kaitlyn Soto, Jannah Malo, Julia Malo, Julie Rochefort, Kim Allard with Jim Duggan.



Members of the 2017 Boys Soccer team Michael Tranghese and Connor Hicks. The team was inducted in this year's Hall.

MONSON – The Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony was held on Nov. 11. Inducted this year was: Bahu Abdul-Wadud – 1,019 pts. Boys basketball, John Midura – 1956 (posthumously) Baseball 4 years; Basketball 4 years.; Soccer 3 years. (Gayle Midura and grandson), Caitria O'Neill – 2007 – Cross Country 2002-06 5 years; track (Jason Roebuck), Carly Zielinski – Softball; basketball (Jim Zielinski), Adam Boucher – 2008 – Cross Country; track, Connor Pennington – Swimming – multiple State titles, Connor Hicks – Soccer. The following teams will be inducted: 2018 Girls Basketball Team – WMass Champs – D4 State Finalists (first time in history), 2016 Boys Soccer Team – WMass Champs and State Champs, 2013-14 and 15 Cheerleading teams – WMass D4 Champs, 2005 Boys Cross Country team – league champs, WMass second place and states.



Former boys basketball standout Bahu Abdul-Wadud with his coach Joe Trivisonno.



Connor Hicks is inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Carly Zielinski is inducted. She poses with her family.



The 2017 girls basketball team inductees. Pictured are: Coach Tim Pascalle, Mackenzie DeVries, Sydney DeVries, Kaitlyn Santos, Jackie Duggan, and Kelsey Duggan.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The second round of the 2023-2024 league season began for the Commercial Elks at Diamond Junction.

As of Nov. 14, Compression is the first-round winner and is still the #1 seed with the best season record of 27-13. By winning the first round, Compression receives a playoff spot at the end of the season.

With two rounds left, six other teams are seeking to join Compression in the playoffs.

In one match, Team BK bowled against the Champs R Here. In game one, BK was victorious over the Champs by a score of 402-392. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK was the anchor of the team finishing up with a 118 game. John Colkos of the Champs started off the night with a 113.

In game two, BK won again by a score of 382-366. Paul Nothe of BK lead the team by scoring 104.

In game three, the Champs R Here turned it around with a dominant finish. The father and son duo of Taylor and John Colkos pulled for the team with Taylor finishing with a 124, 32 pins over his current league average (92). John Colkos finished strong

by scoring 116 and had a three-game series of 326.

The team's scores for game three was Champs R Here at 415, BK with 382. The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1173-1166.

Another match during league night was Compression bowling against the Blue B's. In game one, Compression started off with a win by a score of 359-355. In game two, Compression won again by a score of 398-385.

In game three, Blue B's won the last game of the night by a score of 404-375.

Blue B's managed to take total pinfall over Compression by a final score of 1144-1132. Each team started off the new round

with two points each.

Acres bowled against Last in Line to start off round two. Acres finished off the first round in second place and was just one point behind Compression.

In game one, Acres defeated Last in Line by a score of 384-351. In game two, Last in Line bounced back by taking the second game 407-367. Jerney Laduke of Last in Line came out firing with a double strike in his 116 second game.

In game three, Last in Line won over Acres by a score of 375-336. Last in Line took total pinfall by a final score of 1133-1087.

Team effort results in big shutout of Utica

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-8-1-0) put together a total team effort and dominated the Utica Comets (6-6-3-0) in a 7-0 shutout win inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night in the team's Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Vadim Zherenko got the start in the net for the T-Birds and had a perfect performance, stopping all 33 saves he faced on the night for his first career AHL shutout. In the opposite crease, Utica goaltender Isaac Poultier surrendered seven goals on 29 T-Birds shots in the loss.

It was a special night for the Bitten family, as the team donned lavender jerseys for the game to support Will and Sam Bitten and the Bitsy's Army cause. Bitsy's Army was created by the brothers to raise awareness for those battling cancer and to honor their late cousin Martin Piche. Piche tragically passed away from brain cancer back in 2021.

Springfield had several prime scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. Nathan Walker saw linemate Adam Gaudette sneak behind the Utica defense on the

left side, threading the team's top scorer a perfect breakaway pass. Unfortunately, Gaudette's shot was stopped by the left pad of Poultier.

The work of the Springfield penalty killers got their team on the board first. While creating pressure in Utica's zone, Walker found Matthew Peca for a one-timer in the high slot after stripping a Utica skater of the puck in the left-wing corner. The captain fired home a perfect one-timer for a shorthanded goal, his fifth goal of the year, which gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 13:16. The score would remain 1-0 as the teams entered their dressing rooms for the first intermission.

Exactly halfway through the second period, the T-Birds struck once again. Defenseman Matthew Kessel controlled the puck at the blue line before firing a low shot toward Poultier. Although Poultier made the initial stop, MacKenzie MacEachern was there to backhand the rebound home for his fourth goal of the season to make it 2-0 Springfield. The scoring did not stop after MacEachern's goal. On a power play, Will Bit-

ten snapped a shot on goal from the hash marks. Poultier made the initial stop, but T-Birds forward Mikhail Abramov was there to clean up the rebound with a snapper from the left side. Abramov's goal made it 3-0 with 6:32 to go in the period.

As the period drew to a close, defenseman Dylan Coghlan was taken down from behind by Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo. In response, Wyatt Kalynuk stood up for his teammate and engaged in a fight with Criscuolo. Kalynuk's fight fired up his teammates and the crowd, but there would be mayhem that would follow. After a scrum ensued with multiple players going at it, Gaudette and Utica defenseman Cal Foote were given fighting majors with just 13 seconds left in the period. The T-Birds held on to the 3-0 lead, setting the stage for a third period out of the movies.

The T-Birds added to their 3-0 lead in the third, as Zach Dean ripped a shot home for his first professional goal of his career to make it 4-0 at 4:09 off a 2-on-1 rush. The scoring party would continue after Dean's goal, as Bolduc capitalized for

Springfield's second power play marker of the night at 9:54, beating Poultier on the stick side with a perfectly placed wrist.

It was a poetic night for the Bitten family. With 7:02 to go in the game, Will took the puck and raced up ice before dancing around a Utica defender to go in alone on Poultier. Bitten faked a slapper before slipping a five-hole shot into the twine before pointing skyward in celebration. The poetic script got better just a few minutes later when Will tipped in a Coghlan shot for his second of the night. Sam also recorded a milestone on his brother's second tally, as he notched his first AHL point on the secondary assist.

After having just three points in his first 14 games of the season, Will tallied two goals and two assists on this night alone. It was one of five multi-point performances by Springfield skaters on the evening.

The T-Birds return home next Friday, December 1 for another Deuces Wild Friday to take on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

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Athlete of the Week

Lynzie Bailey

Monson High School



Bailey was one of four Monson girls soccer players representing the team in the Senior All-Star Game last week.

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

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FOOTBALL | from page 9

team, which lost to Drury, 27-12, in the Division 2 Western Mass. Super Bowl game.

The younger McKenney was a captain of this year's squad, along with senior's Dan Krutka, Alex Freitas, and Emco.

Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio probably wishes that McKenney played football for more than two years.

"Danny came to us in his junior year," Saloio said. "He has become a very good route runner, and he has great hands. He's a special kid."

Another offensive standout for the Lions on Thanksgiving was senior running back Josh Marino, who rushed for 145 yards on 26 carries.

"Josh scored four rushing touchdowns against McCann. We were hoping to get him at least one more rushing touchdown in today's game," Saloio said. "He also came very close to rushing for 1,000 yards. I'm just glad the seniors won their final game."

The other two Ludlow seniors are Mason Marques, and James Ferrara.

The Panthers also entered the Turkey Day contest with a 2-8 overall record.

"We faced a lot of adversity this season and I'm happy with the way we fought in today's game," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "We did get into the redzone a couple of times, but I think we tried to do too much rather than just play football."

It was the final high school football game for Palmer seniors Andrew Menard, Tanner Kirk, Osvaldo Nieves Jr., Karter Benoit, Peiwihiet Tim, and Andrew Haley, who was named as the 55th annual Leonard J. Bailey Award winner during a ceremony at halftime.

"The six seniors held our team together," Marciniac said. "They showed the younger players how to play the game. I just can't say enough good things about those guys."

The Panthers, who won the coin toss and elected to receive ball, almost took an early lead.

Nieves received the kickoff at the Panthers 20 before handing the ball off to sophomore Dylan Doherty on a reverse play. Doherty sprinted down the sideline in front of the Ludlow bench into the end zone, but a block in the back penalty nullified the touchdown.

The Panthers offense, which was led by sophomore quarterback Matt Santos, began their first series at the Lions 47. The home team turned the ball over on downs following a fourth down incomplection, which was broken up by McKenney.

Marino, whose grandfather, Steve,



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP:smugmug.com
Matthew Santos heads up the middle on a long rush.

is the all-time winningest football coach at Westfield State University, ended the opening quarter with five straight rushes. On the first play of the second quarter, Morace completed a 38-yard pass down the left sideline to McKenney, who made a juggling catch, before going into the endzone.

McKenney also added the extra point.

With 8:02 remaining in the second quarter, Palmer got on the scoreboard for the first time following a two-yard TD run by sophomore running back Hunter White.

Ludlow managed to hang onto the lead after blocking the extra point attempt.

The Lions offense then put-together a 12-play scoring drive covering 57 yards. It came to an end when McKenney made an over-the-head catch before crossing the goal-line with 12 seconds left in the first half. He also made his second PAT, which gave the visiting team a 14-6 advantage.

Doherty returned the ensuing kickoff for an 85-yard touchdown closing the gap to two points at halftime.

A pass attempt on the two-point play was broken up by Ludlow sophomore Cruz Guzman in the end zone.

The home team wouldn't get any closer than that during the second half.

The duo of Morace and McKenney hooked up for a 25-yard touchdown with 6:48 remaining in the third quarter.

After picking off a fourth down pass in the endzone, McKenney had another 25-yard touchdown reception with 5:34 left in regulation, which sealed the deal for the Lions.

Ludlow has now won 10 of the past 12 games in the series against Palmer, which began in 1947.

Railers sweep Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (7-6-2-1, 17pts) took down the Adirondack Thunder (7-4-2-0, 16pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 4,297 at Cool Insuring Arena. The Railers are back at home against the Kansas City Mavericks this Wednesday, November 29th at 10:05 a.m. ET.

Neither team scored in the first period as Tristan Lennox was excellent in net for Worcester in the first. He made 15 saves on 15 shots to open the game. Scoring opened in the second as Worcester's Anthony Callin (1-0-1) put Worcester ahead 1-0. Adirondack responded with two straight goals from Travis Broughman (1-0-1) and Yushiroh Hirano (1-0-1) to give the Thunder the 2-1 lead heading into the third. Worcester scored three unanswered in the third from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Jake Pivonka (1-1-2), and Zach White (1-0-1) to seal the win and the week-end sweep, 4-2.

Both goalies were solid in the first period for Worcester and Adirondack as Tristan Lennox turned away 15 shots for the Railers, while Jeremy Brodeur made 7 saves for the Thunder. Two of Lennox's saves came in the dying seconds of the first as the Thunder headed down ice on an odd-man rush. Lennox sprawled across the ice and denied Travis Broughman with an outstretched right leg to keep the game level going into the second.

Anthony Callin (4th) unleashed a perfect wrist shot from atop the right circle on a spinning feed from Todd Goehring to give the Railers the first goal of the game. Both Callin and Goehring now have points in four straight games. The Thunder struck back with two straight goals to wrap up the second. Travis Broughman (2nd) picked up a Grant Jozefek rebound and deked around Lennox to tie the game 1-1. Four minutes later, Yushiroh Hirano (6th) scored on the power play in his third straight game, putting the Thunder ahead 2-1 going into the third.

Ashton Calder (8th) extended his team lead in goals thanks to a great forecheck from Worcester. Keeghan Howdeshell and Jake Pivonka forced the Thunder defense to turn over the puck. As Howdeshell found it beneath the goal line, he passed it to Calder in front who beat Brodeur five-hole to tie the game 2-2. Jake Pivonka (7th) found the puck alone in the slot about a minute later and beat Brodeur clean glove side to make it a 3-2 Railers lead. Zach White would finish things off with an empty-net goal with just 6.9 seconds left to give Worcester the 4-2 win, picking up all four points this weekend and sweeping the Thunder in Glens Falls.

Papermen to join Union Hockey League

HOLYOKE –Brian Pratt, president of the Holyoke Papermen Hockey Club, recently announced his team's participation in the newly-formed Union Hockey League. The UHL consists of 16 teams in the northeast and Midwest and is a senior level semi professional league. Pratt said the Papermen are putting together their roster at this point.

"We have 14 skaters and two goalies signed, looking to add about 8 more players," Pratt said. "We have four preseason games in December and 20 regular season games starting Jan 5."

The schedule for the league has not been released yet and Pratt did not say where the Papermen would be playing their home games. Closest to Holyoke are Fitzpatrick Rink, state-run facility right in Holyoke next to Holyoke High School's Roberts Sports Complex, and nearby is Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. More information will be forthcoming about the team and the new league as the Papermen prepare to participate in the new league. For more information, go to: <https://www.unionhockeyleague.com/>.

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

COMING SOON

KEEP WARM DRIVE - The annual warm clothing drive is to benefit children in the local area. The greatest need is for new or gently used children's coats, hats, mittens/gloves and snow pants. All donations are appreciated. Please bring donations to the Three Rivers Fire Station and place in the collection box. Donations accepted through Dec. 3.

This annual drive is sponsored by the Three Rivers Firefighters Association - Ladies Auxiliary.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Three Rivers Fire Station, 50 Springfield St., Adults - \$7, Children 4-12 years - \$4, Under 4 - free, hosted by the Three Rivers Fire Fighters Association Ladies Auxiliary.

First Church of Monson is sponsoring Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9. The morning will start at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by Storytime at 10:30 a.m. This is a free event with a raffle, face painting,

crafts, and music. Please pre-register for the breakfast by contacting the Church office at (413) 267-3312 or office@first-churchmonson.org. Space is limited, so get a reservation early. Will also be collecting unwrapped toys in their original packaging. All toys will be donated to Jess Miller's 10th annual toy drive for foster children in Western Massachusetts.

JIMMY FUND WALK: Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. Proceeds from the event support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. All four routes will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line in the Fenway neighborhood. If walkers want to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities, including virtually. Register as an individual walker, team member or start a team at JimmyFundWalk.org or by calling 866-531-9255.

INTERESTS

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

ONGOING

BINGO IS BACK at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St,

Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

QI GONG: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library,

HCC opens registration for Wintersession and spring 2024

HOLYOKE - Registration is now open for Wintersession and Spring 2024 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC's 11-day Wintersession term begins Friday, Dec. 29, and ends Friday, Jan. 12. The spring 2023 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 16.

With the exception of one environmental science lab course, all Wintersession classes are online. HCC's spring offerings include a mix of on-campus, online, and hybrid courses.

"Wintersession provides a wonderful opportunity for students to add a course they couldn't fit into their schedules in the fall or to get ahead for the spring by taking up to four credits in just two weeks," said Mark Hudgik, interim dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid.

Wintersession classes are offered in anthropology, business law, conflict resolution and mediation, economics, environmental science, geography, management, math, nutrition, sociology, social problems and statistics.

In addition to full-semester, 15-week classes in spring, HCC also offers three accelerated, Flex Start Sessions: Flex 1 (Jan. 16-March 7), Flex 2 (Feb. 5-May 8), and Flex 3 (March 18-May 7).

"The spring semester at HCC is designed to help students go to college in the way that works best for them," said Hudgik. "Classes are offered on campus and online in 15, 12 and seven-week sessions, so students can find what fits best for their busy schedules."

To sign up for a Wintersession class, please visit hcc.edu/wintersession.

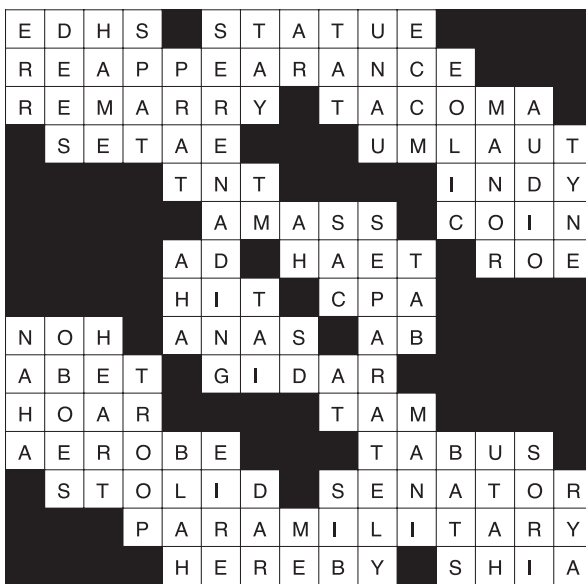
To sign up for Spring 2024, go to hcc.edu/admissions.

In addition, HCC will be hosting a registration express event on Sat., Jan. 6, when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, set up financial aid, all in one day, as well as learn about MassReconnect, the state's new free community college program for Massachusetts residents 25 and older.

Meatloaf dinner to be held at Ludlow Lodge of Elks

LUDLOW - In conjunction with the Ron Stephenson Memorial Fund, the Ludlow Lodge of Elks will prepare a delicious meatloaf dinner that will be available for pick-up, drive up, or take out on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and salad. The price of the meal is \$10 per person or a family meal for four is available for \$35. All proceeds will benefit the Ron Stephenson Memorial Fund and Elks Veterans programs. For tickets or reservations call 413-636-1527 or 413-893-8800. Meals may be picked up at the Lodge of Elks, 69 Chapin St., Ludlow.



Coming events at Joshua Hyde Public Library

STURBRIDGE – There is a lot going on in the Joshua Hyde Public Library. Construction has begun to replace the HVAC system, however, the building is still open and staff is available to help you find whatever it is you might need. Stop in or call the library at 508-347-2512 with questions.

December Book Groups and Events:

Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. - **Virtual ~ Baking demo & discussion** with Chef Erin Jeanne McDowell. Join chef and cookbook author Erin Jeanne McDowell via Zoom as she demonstrates how to make one of her favorite recipes and then there will be time for questions. Registration is required. Go to sturbridgelibrary.org. Thank you to the Ashland Public Library for sharing this program with the library.

Armchair Travelers Book Group - Wednesday, Dec. 6, at

6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall - Veterans Hall. Challenging Boundaries - This month's book is "Sea of Tranquility" by Emily St. John Mandel.

Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. - **Virtual ~ Holiday Romance Book Recommendations with Booklist Reviewer John Charles.** John Charles will give us his "best of" list of 2023 that will have everyone's TBR pile tipping over and the holidays spent cozying up to a good book. A list of titles will be sent out after the session. This program is sponsored and being shared by the Friends of the

Ashland Public Library. Registration is required.

Afternoon Book Group - Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Town Hall - Julian Room. Exploring the importance of place - This month's book is "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan.

Please go to the library's website at sturbridgelibrary.org for more details about events and updates on the HVAC construction project.

Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

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Hot Off the Press:
Our Best Wishes

Delivering our thanks and warmest wishes to your door this Christmas!

Thanks for your trust in us, and for making this community a wonderful place to be at the holidays and all year.

THE JOURNAL REGISTER

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The Library Loft
Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

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

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

DEATH NOTICES

Becky L. Cadieux, 43
Died Nov. 24, 2023
Lombard Funeral Home

Steven J. Webster, 68
Died Nov. 27, 2023
Services will be
Dec. 4, 2023
Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Becky L. Cadieux, 1980-2023

MONSON — Becky L. Cadieux, 43, passed away on Nov. 24, 2023 after a long illness. She was born in Springfield to Lori Baer and David Cadieux on Jan. 6, 1980. She grew up in Monson and later graduated from Pathfinder Regional High School's horticulture program.

Becky was a member to both the FFA and was a fourth generation Woman's Auxiliary member at the American Legion post 241. She could often be found with a book in hand, especially



anything by J.R. Tolken. Becky was a passionate and dedicated horticulturist. She had a deep love for nature and was always eager to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

Becky is survived by her Father, David Cadieux of Maine, Mother, Lori Baer and long-time partner, Thomas Parker Jr. of Monson, and her partner Eric Beaulieu of Three Rivers; her son, Christopher Marciniac and his partner, Nichole Deren of Ludlow; daughter, Jaelyn

Tatro of Vermont; her brother, Eric Cadieux of Monson. She also leaves behind her granddaughter, Sophia Marciniac and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. A committal service will be held in the Spring. Memorial contributions may be made to Sophia Marciniac's education fund care of Country Bank. Please contact Becky's family for contribution information. Online condolences can be left at www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Steven J. Webster, 1955-2023

MONSON — Steven J. Webster, 68, passed away Mon., Nov. 27, 2023. Steve was born Sept. 30, 1955 in Palmer, MA to the late Ethelbert James and Edith (Moulton) Webster. He was a 1973 graduate of Monson Jr.-Sr. High School. He later continued his education and received a Bachelor's degree from University of Massachusetts in History and a Bachelor's degree in English. Steve retired after many years as a direct care aide.

Steve was passionate about hiking and backpacking. He climbed all of the 100 highest

mountains and many others in New England. Steve also climbed many of the high peaks in the Adirondacks and Catskills in New York. One of Steve's other passions was spending as much time in the summer hanging out at swimming holes. He was always concerned about the environment and conservation issues.

Steve leaves his brother Paul R. Webster of Ojai, California and many cousins and friends.



Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. An hour of visitation will be held on Mon., Dec. 4, 2023 from 10 - 11 a.m. with a concluding Celebration of life at 11 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to The Trustees of Reservations. For online condolences please visit <http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com>

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer Police

The Palmer Police Department reported 408 incidents on its logs for Nov. 14 - Nov. 20.

Nov. 14

At 5:06 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Main Street.

At 6:34 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Romario R. Warren, 28, of 36 Off Lariviere St., Three Rivers for defective plate light and unlicensed operation of motor vehicle.

At 11:58 p.m. the police responded to an accident with property damage on Church Street.

Nov. 15

At 8:31 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

Nov. 16

At 2:13 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of N. Main Street and Taft Street.

At 4:32 p.m. police pulled over and arrested John Thomas Storey, 38, of 229 Flynt St., Palmer on charges of OUI liquor, drug pos-

session of a class B substance, possession of ammunition without FID card and possession of alcoholic beverage in open container.

At 6:16 p.m. police responded to an accident on the Mass Turnpike mile marker 65 with personal injury. 10 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

Nov. 17

At 4:08 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage and gave a summons to Autumn K. Hostens, 22, of 47 Cottage St., Warren on charges of OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, negligent operation of motor vehicle and leaving the scene of property damage.

At 1:25 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of Stimson Street and Ware Street.

At 3 p.m. police responded to a disturbance and arrested Daniel Scott Mari, 40, of 12 Spring St. Ware on charges of disorderly conduct and vandalize property.

At 5:26 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 11:33 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

Nov. 18

At 10:05 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on N. Main Street.

At 5:30 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Dezmen Alex Pares, 27, of 164 Sargent St., Holyoke for unlicensed operation of the motor vehicle and speeding at a rate exceeding posted speed limit.

Nov. 19

At 4:39 a.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Mass Turnpike Eastbound.

At 4:10 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

Nov. 20

At 11:02 a.m. police responded to an accident with personal injury on Mass Turnpike at mile marker 60 East.

At 12:12 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 3:52 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of High Street and Commercial Street.

At 5:06 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on State Street.

Fire Logs

BONDSDVILLE

For the period Nov. 14 to Nov. 20, Bondsville fire responded to 1 call.

On Monday, Nov. 20, at 5:05 p.m., the department responded to State Street for a motor vehicle accident. There was only a small fluid spill and the department returned to service at 5:30 p.m.

PALMER

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

Nov. 21

5:59 a.m. Gas leak, Flynt Street, Back in service at 6:37 a.m.

Nov. 24

12:41 p.m. Unauthorized

burning, Arnold Street, Back in service at 3:18 p.m.

Nov. 26

2:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident (injury), Thorndike Street, Back in service at 3:18 p.m.

3:45 p.m. Lock out, North Main Street, Back in service at 4:20 p.m.

NBSB partners with Habitat for Humanity

NORTH BROOKFIELD—North Brookfield Savings Bank has partnered with Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester to Sponsor a Home Build Day. Located on Sunderland Road in Worcester these homes are two side-by-side, single-family homes being built by volunteers to benefit local families in need.

Habitat for Humanity builds decent and affordable homes around the world in partnership with families in need of a decent place to live. Habitat home buyers help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Affordable homeownership helps create the conditions that free families from stress and fear, help-

ing build stability and confidence. Studies show that strong and stable households are foundational to child development and growth. When a home fosters, instead of hinders, health and safety, families can flourish. Owning an affordable home also allows homeowners to lift up their entire family by saving for their futures and investing in educational opportunities bolstering job opportunities and long-term career growth.

NBSB is proud to have partnered with Habitat for Humanity on this project to make a difference in the local community. NBSB is always looking for ways to give back, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity was a perfect fit to help make

a meaningful impact in the lives of local families. The home build project is a testament to NBSB's commitment to making our community a better and more inclusive place for everyone.

"We feel privileged to have been able to partner with Habitat for Humanity for NBSB's first-ever build project. We believe in the importance of giving back to our communities and are honored to be able to partner with such a reputable organization," said Nicole Syriac, Marketing Representative at NBSB. "This project not only uplifts those in need, but it also serves as a reminder of the power of unity and kindness."

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Brimfield,
Holland
& Wales

We're promoting the history of local
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to be published in the
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50 years or just 5 years,
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PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 29, 2023

What to do when an item is 'out of stock'

National experts are predicting an increase in spending this holiday season. There is also a concern if many of the items on consumers' holiday lists will be available on the shelf or online and are faced with the disappointing words: "Sorry, this item is currently out of stock." That's especially true when there are challenges with supply chains.

But does that mean the words "out of stock" are the end of the line? Not at all. With a little determination and some creative thinking, the item might be found and purchased. Here are BBB's tips for finding items that are sold out in stores.

How to buy out-of-stock items

- Try a different store. Avoid limiting the search to the most popular brick-and-mortar stores. Consider researching multiple vendors' websites to see who is carrying stock. If the large chain stores are out of what you need, try a reputable independent shop or a different type of store entirely. For example, when toilet paper was in short supply at grocery stores, some consumers found stock in unlikely places, such as hardware stores, restaurant suppliers, or office supply stores.
- Check websites frequently. If there is an item out of stock

when shopping online, don't give up hope right away. Bookmark the product page and check back daily. Many vendors restock high-demand products on a regular basis.

- Sign up for restock alerts. Many companies offer restock alerts, which are usually sent by email. For example, on Amazon, look for an availability alert on a product's information page. Amazon will send an e-mail when the item becomes available. Keep in mind, you still must go to the website or store to make the purchase once the alert arrives.

- Go straight to the product's source. If a brand name item isn't available from a favorite retailer, check the brand's official website to see if it's in stock there. If not, consider getting in touch by emailing customer service or reaching out through social media.

- Take advantage of return policies. If you suspect that an item will sell out quickly, but you aren't sure if you really need or want it, review the store's return policy. If a store gives you the option to return an item and offer a refund, you may want to purchase the item as soon as it's available. You can always send it back if it doesn't fit your needs, but you may regret not purchasing if the

stock runs out for good.

- Search for products on resale sites. If a product appears to be gone for good, don't lose hope just yet. Some resale sites may offer hard-to-find products. That said, watch out for scammers when looking for this year's hottest toy or a product that is very popular. Con artists prey on desperate shoppers by pretending to have an item that is impossible to find, accepting payments, and then never delivering the product.

- Consider a personal shopping service. Personal shoppers can do the heavy lifting if there is a very specific product you are hunting for. Be sure to read reviews and ask for recommendations from friends and family members before deciding to hire.

- Try out a subscription service. Subscription services offer regular deliveries of cleaning products, clothing and more. If the local stores are running out of fresh produce, for example, consider a meal delivery service.

- Be patient. Sometimes, despite the best efforts, it just may not be possible to find most popular items. If this happens to you, be patient. You may have to wait a few months until suppliers can meet consumers' demands.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin rehearsals

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club will begin rehearsals for the 2024 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 8, 2024, at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church, Wilbraham at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter at Christ The

King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. until local performances in late April.

The chorus is conducted by Ray Drury and accompanied by Marcia Jackson. Drury has selected a varied program for Men's voices consisting of contemporary works,

folksongs, pop tunes and sea shanties.

Interested singers should be able to "carry a tune" and be willing to pay a nominal fee for sheet music. No audition is required. Hope to see you there!

Reunion celebrates central Massachusetts basketball



Vinnie Palazzi proudly wears a shirt from his late father Togo Palazzi's basketball camp.

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

Well over 100 people gathered to honor and recognize the contributions central Massachusetts had, and continues to have, to the sport of basketball.

On Nov. 25, the Worcester Public Library opened its community space to host the Central Mass Basketball Reunion, celebrating the legacy of the sport in Worcester, and recognizing some of its greatest athletes and coaches.

Emceeding the event was Ed Reilly, Worcester Academy's athletic director, who credited Worcester native and author Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein with bringing everyone together through his book, "Jack 'The Shot' Foley - A Legend for All Time: With Togo Palazzi and Central Mass Basketball".

Epstein is the son of Charlie Epstein, a local icon who owned and operated the Water Street sporting goods store, Charlie's Surplus. Epstein's father was also instrumental in supporting the basketball league at Crompton Park.

His book chronicles the lives of two men, Togo Palazzi and Jack "The Shot" Foley, who each had a profound impact on his life, and instilled his love of basketball.

"Mark has a big heart and a want to do good for others," Reilly said of Epstein. "His book has contributed to the renaissance of Worcester."

Epstein thanked Worcester Public Library staff and Executive Director Jason Homer for hosting the reunion, and also those in attendance.

"What a collection of talent assembled," Epstein said. "We could have one hell of a game at Crompton Park."

Epstein said central Massachusetts has had many of the greatest coaches and mentors of all time, including his "Uncle Togo" Palazzi.

Palazzi led Holy Cross to the 1954 NIT championship and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was the fifth pick in the first round NBA draft by the Boston Celtics, where he played four seasons before going to the Syracuse Nationals.

Following his basketball career, Palazzi turned to coaching, which he would dedicate more than 35 years of his life to.

He was the assistant men's coach at Holy Cross with George Blaney, and he was also the college's first women's basketball coach.

Sherry Levin, Holy Cross' all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history (scoring 2,253 points) grew close to Palazzi, first as one of his athletes, and more so as his colleague when she became a coach herself.

Levin talked about what it was like to sit with the "guys" and hear their stories about basketball.

"The stories were absolutely amazing," she said. "To be a part of this community...it's a passion."

Levin said Palazzi was like a family member to her, and he taught her how to be the best she could be, every day. It was his encouragement that shaped her into the coach she became, leading 14 seasons at Worcester Academy.

"He is a legend; the man, the player...most importantly, the person that he was. My beloved Togo," Levin said.

Joining the reunion were two of Palazzi's children, Elizabeth and Vinnie.

Elizabeth said she was "honored and happy" to attend the reunion on behalf of her father, adding that she misses him a lot. Palazzi died last summer at the age of 90.

"He was my rock," she said.

Palazzi was also a doting grandfather, and was always helping Elizabeth take care of her daughter. He also had a special soft spot for his granddaughter's dog, Zeus.

Vinnie recalled taking trips to the beach in the backseat of the family's Rambler, and how his father would sing Frank Sinatra. After each song, he'd ask his passengers, "how'd I sound kids?"

Vinnie then sang an a cappella rendition of Sinatra's "My Way", in honor of his father, changing the closing line to the song to "Dad did it his way...how'd I sound kids?"

Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history in his 50 years as a head coach and Holy Cross graduate of the Class of 1963, shared some of his favorite memories of "The Shot."

"Jack wasn't a natural," Foley said (who is no relation to Jack). "He played nine hours a day to become the player he was."

Foley recalled Jack wearing his plaid shirts and cowboy boots when he went on to become a teacher, and the one time he brought a python into a bar.

"Jack always walked to his own drum," Foley said.

Foley said near the end of Jack's life, he and a friend made the trip out to Barre to visit him, in the midst of a blizzard, after they heard that his health was declining. When the duo arrived at Jack's home, they found him outside shoveling snow in shorts and a T-shirt.

Gettings his start as a freshman on the Holy Cross basketball team before transferring to Providence College, was second round NBA draft pick Kevin Stacom.

Stacom played for the Boston Celtics, Indiana Pacers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

He talked about his first time meeting Palazzi, for a one-on-one match. Stacom said it was "blood and guts" for a couple of hours.

Stacom said he and Palazzi were going back and forth over the ball, but Palazzi got away with it.

Palazzi gave him advice that helped him throughout his career - whoever is closest to the ground gets control of the ball.

Stacom said he's never going to lose his love for the game of basketball.

Recently inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame, John Grochowalski was a sophomore



Author and Worcester native Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein signs books at the Central Mass Basketball Reunion on Nov. 25.



Small College Basketball Hall of Fame inductee John Grochowalski talks about facing Togo Palazzi on the court during a one-on-one game.

at Assumption College when we went to Worcester Academy for a pickup game of basketball. He picked the scrawny, 6 foot 5 inch kid to play against.

"I grabbed him, punched him...did everything," Grochowalski said. "He had me in every game and said, 'nice job kid.'"

This was Grochowalski's first match against Palazzi.

"Togo's sons came up to me and said 'John, it's not worth it, don't do it,'" he said with a laugh.

Grochowalski went on to play Series A basketball in Italy, and even there, the legend of basketball in central Massachusetts was well known.

"Don't think this is just central Massachusetts, you're well known all over the world," Grochowalski said.

Crompton Park continues to be where Worcester's



Providence College grad and NBA player Kevin Stacom shares his favorite memories from his career.



North High School coach Alan Pettway talks about the athletic talent found in Worcester.

basketball talent hones its skills, and Eddie Hippert shared the history of the 14-acre parcel of land.

"It was here that we started something very special," Hippert said.

It was Crompton Park where eight teams competed in a league, playing double headers several days a week.

"Players were from everywhere," Hippert said, including Boston, Springfield, Providence, Rhode Island, and Hartford, Connecticut.

Businesses sponsored the league, including Charles' Surplus, and the newspapers covered every game. The crowds were enormous, especially when Bob Cousy brought the Boston Celtics to play in an all-star game.

"I was just a young kid sitting up in a tree watching; wanting to be there," Hippert said.

Crompton Park is still developing basketball players today, he said.

Helping to coach and mentor the next generation of players is North High School coach Alan Pettway. Grow-



Holy Cross grad and retired coach Sherry Levin talks about the impact Togo Palazzi had on her career and life.



Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history, shares stories from his friendship with Jack "The Shot" Foley.

ing up in Connecticut, Pettway said he never knew about Worcester's impact on basketball until he started playing at Crompton Park.

"508 does have a lot of talent," Pettway said.

One of Pettway's student-athletes, Joe Okla, read an anonymous poem about "The Shot" that is featured in Epstein's book.

Worcester Academy head coach Jamie Sullivan grew up on Vernon Hill, and said he is so proud to be from Worcester. He spoke about all of the coaches and players that had a profound impact, but often go unrecognized.

Following the end of the program, Epstein invited all in attendance to the White Eagle on Green Street, to continue celebrating Worcester's legends and the city's influence on the sport of basketball.

"This was our life," Epstein said.



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Public notices

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE
In accordance M.G. L. Chapter 40A the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:20 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Jesse Griswold for a Special

Permit as required by § 4.1 and §4.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to install a 12ft x 24 ft storage shed that is located within the Floodplain District and Water Supply Protection District. The property is zoned Rural Village and located at 19 Chestnut Street, Map 113 and Parcel 55. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the

Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours. Advertisd Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertisd Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023, 11/23/2023 & 11/30/2023 Case No: ZBA2023-10
Ronald Fussell,
Vice Chairman
11/23, 11/30/2023

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE
In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Bradford Medeiros 149 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Industrial and located on Bliss Street, Map 116, Parcel 055. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours. Advertisd in Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertisd Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023, 11/23/2023 & 11/30/2023. Case No: ZBA2023-09
Ronald Fussell,
Vice Chairman
11/23, 11/30/2023

hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00PM** in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.
The applicant, James Rocca, is seeking a Finding under section 171.83K for the alteration of a pre-existing non-conforming structure or use other than a one-family or two-family dwelling at the property 1417 Park Street Palmer MA. The applicant proposes to construct 2 additional units within the existing footprint of the motel. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 2, Lot 95.
A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Administrative Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.
Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.
This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).
Michael Marciniac,
Chairman
11/30, 12/07/2023

mortgage given by Heather M. Carson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., dated September 24, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22371, Page 553, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., its successors and assigns to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC, recorded on February 15, 2022, in Book No. 24405, at Page 526 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on December 18, 2023**, on the mortgaged premises located at 9 Amber Road, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.
TO WIT:
The land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the southerly side of Amber Road, being Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 33 on a Plan of Amber Park by Smith and Wallen, Engineers, dated April 1948 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 27, Page 98, together bounded and described as follows:
NORTHERLY by Amber Road, 350.67 feet;

EASTERLY by Lot 1 on said plan, 90 feet;
SOUTHERLY by Lots 9, 8, 7 and 6 on said plan, 240 feet;
WESTERLY by Lot 32 on said plan, 20 feet;
SOUTHERLY by said Lot 32, 100 feet; and
WESTERLY by Pleasant Street, 55 feet.
Together with a right of way in common with others to use all roads as laid out on said plan for purposes of travel, and the right in common with others to use a fifty-foot right of way on Mashapaug Road beginning at a point 488 feet northeast of Amber Hill Brook for the purpose of getting to and from Hamilton Reservoir and to keep a boat at same.
SUBJECT to restrictive covenants, conditions, easements, agreements and reservations as set forth and as referenced in an instrument dated October 17, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22371, Page 551. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or exist-

ing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
23341
11/16, 11/23, 11/30/2023

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Job Opening
Town of Warren, MA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
Full-Time Operator/Mechanic Position

The Town of Warren, Board of Sewer Commissioners is accepting Resumes and Cover Letters for its Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/ Mechanic position. The pay scale ranges from \$22.83 to \$30.68/hour based on relative work experience, educational background, and professional licenses currently held. A generous benefit package is available including health insurance in which the Town pays 75% of the premium.

High School Graduate, preferably from a technical school; preferably 3 years' experience as an operator and mechanic at a wastewater treatment plant or any equivalent combination of education and mechanical experience will be considered. Be able to obtain a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant License, Grade 4 or higher, within six months of hire. A Massachusetts Class D Driver's License with a clean driving history is required.

Please visit the Town's website, www.warren-ma.gov for a complete position description. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY

Public notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
Hampden Probate and Family Court
Docket No.
HD03P157671TP1
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of SYLVIA DONOVAN of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the Nineteenth and Final Account(s) inclusive of T.D. Bank, N.A. and Benjamin F. Shaw, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said ROBERT L SHAW have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Springfield** on or before the **26th day of December, 2023**, the return day of this citation.

You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without a cost a copy of said accounts. If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 20th day of November 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/30/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2400EA
Estate of:
Richard Ernest Guertin
Date of Death: 10/07/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Hannah R. Guertin of Holland, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/01/2024**.

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: November 25, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/30/2023

Town of Monson
Zoning Board of Appeals

LEGAL NOTICE
 In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:10 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Francis Fijal for a Special Permit to construct a 2 story single-family home with a garage in the basement level on a pre-existing non-conforming lot. The property is located at Hilltop Drive Map 75 and Parcel 71 and is zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and can be viewed during office hours by appointment. Advertised in Palmer Journal Register 10/12/2023 & 10/19/2023. Re-advertised Palmer Journal Register: 11/02/2023 & 11/09/2023, 11/23/2023 & 11/30/2023. Case No: ZBA2023-09

Ronald Fussell
 Vice Chairman
 11/23, 11/30/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1394GD
In the interests of
Isaiah A Krasnecky of Bondsville, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **6/30/2023** by **Sean N Krasnecky of Palmer, MA** will be held **12/21/2023 08:30 AM** **Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **50 State Street, Probate & Family Court, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01102**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Min-**

or: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: November 16, 2023

Rosemary Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/30/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0508EA
Estate of:
Thanooe Pothiwa Paul
Also known as:
Thanooe P Paul
Date of Death: 11/12/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for S/A - **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Amanda L Paul of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Amanda L Paul of Monson, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have

a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/26/2023**.

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of

this Court.
 Date: November 27, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/30/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2370EA
Estate of:
Donald Edward Phillips
Also known as:
Donald Phillips
Date of Death: 06/28/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Christine M Phillips of Roslindale, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

2023 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF PALMER SPECIAL MEETING THREE RIVERS FIRE DISTRICT WARRANT
Report of the Finance Committee
 Submitted to the voters of the Three Rivers Fire District At the Meeting held in the Fire Station, 50 Springfield Street, on December 6, 2023 at 7:00PM To the voters of the Three Rivers Fire District of the Town of Palmer:
 Your Prudential Committee respectfully submits the following articles recommended by the Finance Committee for your approval of the operation of the Fire District:

Chairman Ex Officio
Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To see whether the District will vote to amend our District Bylaws, Article IV, Fire Department, Section 3 to delete the second sentence regarding residency and add: "The Fire Chief shall reside within the Three Rivers Fire District or within a ten (10) mile radius of the Three Rivers Fire Department Headquarters, Three Rivers, MA within twelve (12) months of appointment." or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3. To see whether the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Account a sum of money to be used for Fire Department equipment repairs and maintenance, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4. To see whether the District will vote to transfer

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2023**.

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: November 17, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/30/2023

Notice of Intent to File for Federal Financial Assistance

The Three Rivers Fire District intends to file an Application for Federal Assistance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service. This application for financial assistance will be for funding under the Rural Utilities Service, Part 1780, Water and Waste Loans and Grants (CFDA 10.760). The purpose of this project is to hire an engineer to perform preliminary design and environmental reporting work in preparation for our later drinking water storage tank restoration project. Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the Three Rivers Water Department, P.O. Box 182, 2031 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080 within fifteen days of this publication.
 11/30/2023

from the Stabilization Account a sum of money to purchase Fire Department equipment, repair or replace any parts of present equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5. To see whether the District will vote to transfer from the Water Department Surplus a sum of money to be used to purchase meters and meter equipment or other equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see whether the District will vote to transfer from Water Department Surplus a sum of money to be used to pay employee health insurance premiums or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 7. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Water Department to apply for financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for the purpose of funding preliminary design and environmental reporting work costs related to our water storage tank restoration project or take any action relative thereto.

With no further business, do I hear a motion to dissolve this warrant?

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies in said District, at least fourteen (14) days before the holding of such meeting, and publish once preceding the date of the meeting in a newspaper in Palmer.

Prudential Committee:
 Norman Czech, Chairman
 Andrea Sullivan
 Stephen R. Chiacchia
 Guy Bellefleur, District Clerk
 11/30/2023

health & wellness NETWORK

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

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DEADLINE
January 31, 2024

PUBLICATION DATE
February 21, 2024

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The 2023 Career & Education edition publishes **the week of January 10th-12th**
 Space reservation deadline is January 3rd.

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Wings of Song presents 'Celtic Noël's' concerts



Wings of Song Music Director Nym Cooke leads the 40-member community chorus at a rehearsal for "Celtic Noël's".



Brooks Milgate accompanies the chorus on the organ.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

"Celtic Noël's" features a variety of instruments, including a drum and a gong.



Guitar and recorder are just some of the instruments that accompany the chorus.



Chorus members join their voices together at a recent rehearsal.

chorus members. "These pieces are going to stick around for a long time," he said.

This group of pieces was first recorded by the community chorus Ensemble Choral du Bout du Monde (Choral Ensemble from the Edge of the Earth) partly in a studio and partly in the Abbaye (Abbey) Saint-Guénolé de Landévenec in far western Brittany, France, in 1997. They were released on the CD "Noëls Celtiques" (Green Linnet Records) in 1998 and the disc has since won several awards.

Wings of Song, formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers, will be performing "Celtic Noël's" for the fourth time, having first performed it alongside the Brant of Voice, a Barre-based chorus in 2004 and 2008 and with the Quabog Choral Society in 2015.

There are nine pieces featured in "Celtic Noël's", with the first part of the program having music from the rest of France and the second part from Brittany.

"Celtic Noël's" is comprised of both newly composed music and older hymns, Cooke said.

"It's got a primeval, primitive feel. One of those great classic sounds," he said, complete with drum, flute, gong and organ. "My version is a lot fiercer and louder than the original...but some of the pieces in this set are beautifully gentle. There's quite a range."

The "Celtic Noël's" are not only a celebration of Christmas from a Christian perspective; they are an affirmation of Brittany's own culture, and of Celtic culture in general. The particular flavor of Celtic music comes across strongly here: sometimes a little wild, often with a feeling of closeness to large, untamable, natural forces.

"The far western margin of Europe is largely Celtic," Cooke said. "It's shared by quite a wide north-south range."

Cooke said there is kind of a wild nature to Celtic music and in the opening piece, when the recorder first comes in, it's like a bird call.

"It's elemental and it's outdoors...some of it is in the cathedral and very human and devotional. It's both. That gives it that richness," Cooke said.

"Celtic Noël's" has also inspired Cooke and others to become more involved with the Breton culture.

"The Bretons are very, very proud of their country," he said, and deeply connected to their language.

In recognition of Brittany's own language, which is much closer to other Celtic tongues such as Welsh than it is to French, and which is also a badge of cultural identity for the Breton people, the chorus will sing verses of several songs in Breton.

Performances of "Celtic Noël's" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale and on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main St., Webster. Both venues are handicapped accessible.

Wings of Song concerts are always free, with a free-will offering collected at intermission. Complimentary refreshments are served in a jolly social hour after each performance.

About Wings of Song

For more information about Wings of Song or the "Celtic Noël's" concerts, email Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com, or President Carol Curtin at carolcurtin77@gmail.com. People may also visit www.wingsofsong.org.

The chorus's spring 2024 concerts will feature music of the ocean, in a program titled "Rough Seas, Safe Harbor."

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

As the chill of winter begins to creep in the air, and people prepare for the holiday season, the 40-member Wings of

Song community chorus is busy rehearsing "Celtic Noël's", featuring Christmas music from Brittany and elsewhere in France.

Music Director Nym Cooke was first introduced to "Celtic Noël's" after receiving a recording of it as a gift from his wife,

Daphne. "The whole family fell in love with that music, and it became the number one Christmas disc for some years," Cooke said.

In the summer of 2004, Cooke and his

daughter Thalia, set to work to make English singing versions of the Breton text, making it rhymed and metered.

Cooke said this is the only version of "Celtic Noël's" in English that he knows of, and it has quickly become a favorite of the



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CHARLIE BONGIOVI Saturday, Dec. 9 Friday Dec. 22	PETER NEWLAND (of FAT) Saturday, Dec. 16	
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Donate much needed toys and warm winter outerwear for kids ages 5-12.
Must be new and unwrapped. Receive a FREE pasta with your donation as our THANK YOU!
We are happy to accept donations anytime before Dec. 10th.

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