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# The Journal Register

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**MONSON**

## Schools receive Drug-Free Community Grant

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
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MONSON – Last week, the School Committee received a presentation about the statistics gathered for the Drug-Free Community Grant.

After listening to the student presentations, the committee was approached by Gail Gramarossa, who Superintendent Cheryl Clarke introduced as helping to launch the grant, that will give the school \$125,000 a year for five years to provide education about substance use.

“We have this alliance that works with over a dozen communities all over Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties,” Gramarossa said. “One of our ongoing goals is to help local communities to look at the Drug-Free Communities Grant.”

The presentation focused on preliminary studies about the extent of drug and alcohol use in the school district, and what the attitudes among young people are toward substance use.

“We do surveys with at least one middle school grade and then two high school grades,” Gramarossa said. “Typically we’re surveying the eighth, 10th, and the 12th-graders.”

The survey found that 95.9% of eighth-graders, 100% of 10th-graders, and 93.3% of 12th-graders in town responded that daily alcohol use is harmful for their age group, with 81.6% of eighth-graders, 73.7% of 10th-graders, and 80% of 12th-graders believing that drinking

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Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Volunteers Zack Davies, Mary Lee Frydryk, Michelle Demore, Lianna Carrasuillo, Lori Chiacchia, Palmer Police Chief Chris Burns, Officer Anthony Hurtado, Officer Tyler Bigda, Samantha Masterson (as the Grinch) and Lions Club member George Richardson were some of many people who participated in the annual toy drive for Palmer’s youth.

## Santa's Elves help put presents under the tree

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Correspondent  
 dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – Santa’s Elves of Palmer, a local organization dedicated to helping families put presents under the Christmas tree for Palmer’s youth, gathered with the Lions Club and Police Department

to host the organization’s third annual toy drive.

The event featured guest appearances from the Grinch and several Palmer police officers who volunteered to help support the event, on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Palmer Police Department.

Santa’s Elves of Palmer Chair Lori Chiacchia said the organi-

zation aims to “spread holiday cheer,” while providing a space for community members to sponsor presents for local youth who may not otherwise receive gifts.

“In the first year, we helped about 60 families,” said Chiacchia. “This year we’re sponsoring about 182 kids from birth until 13 years.”

She said the organization took shape in 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic when she and a friend realized no community agencies were hosting toy drives due to social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

Chiacchia said she and the friend saw the need and wanted to

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**PALMER**

## Recreation Dept. holds annual Krampus Night

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Everyone had fun at the town’s second annual Krampus Night, which was celebrated at Town Hall this past Tuesday.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Patience Heartly and Andrew St. George dressed up for Krampus Night.

Krampus Nacht is celebrated every year on Dec. 5, the night before the Feast of St. Nicholas, in countries all over the world. The town’s celebration of the traditional German yuletide character was arranged last year through the Recreation Department, and involved an outdoor screening of the 2015 film, “Krampus,” along with gingerbread

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**COMMUNITY**

## Pancakes, Santa Claus, the Grinch, oh my!



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The Grinch made an appearance during the craft fair.

### Monson school serves pancakes and holiday cheer

By Ryan Drago  
 Staff Writer  
 rdrag@turley.com

MONSON – The holiday festivities brought joy and holiday cheer to Quarry Hill Community School this past weekend.

The school offered a free pan-

cake breakfast along with a craft fair and a visit with Santa Claus. It was a family and community holiday event sponsored by the Monson Public School District. Kids and their families across the district got to enjoy a day of fun.

This event was the first holiday event put together by members of the Monson school community. According to Superintendent, Dr. Cheryl A. Clarke, the holiday season is the perfect time to bring the

community together.

“Three weeks ago, I reached out to my administrators, community organizations, our students and staff members about the idea of hosting a community holiday event. I was so pleased when many vendors, the PTSA, the Athletic Boosters and other organizations said they wanted to be involved,” said Clarke.

Many crafters were staff mem-

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Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Volunteers at the breakfast are (from left to right) Emily Raymond, Emily McIntosh-Patnoe, Elizabeth Lynch, Nicole Demos, Jennifer Finley, and Chriss Ochs.

### Breakfast with Santa and handmade gifts

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
 Staff Writer

PALMER – The student councils from the Palmer High School and Middle School worked together to bring a wonderful craft fair and fun breakfast with Santa Claus as a benefit for the school.

Breakfast with Santa featured a tasty meal of pancakes, bacon, sausage, and scrambled eggs - and of

course, plenty of maple syrup.

Children could get their pictures taken with Santa, and the middle schoolers did a wonderful job keeping the event running smoothly and even serving guests for the breakfast with warm smiles.

Senior Class President Bill Partelo worked hard to bring this craft fair and event together with the help of the high school’s student council advisor, Eric Brennan.

The craft fair and breakfast and all proceeds from the events went back to the school to the students to aid with funding future dances, events, and conferences.

“We have really big ideas to help the community,” Brennan said. “The school is a part of the town just as much as the town is a part of the school.”

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# Pet of the Week



KYA

This is Kya. She is an Australian shepherd, she's 10 years old, and her coloring is a blue merle. 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 mharrison@turley.com.

# Low Garland's celebrates Christmas for 57 years



The welcoming front steps of Lew Garland's Christmas Shop, located on Main Street in Monson.

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

MONSON – The beautiful Lew Garland's Christmas Shop down on Main Street has just celebrated its 57th year in business selling handmade and wholesale ornaments.

Rich and Ken Klisiewicz have been working at the shop since they were in high school, beginning two years after its opening in 1969.

Ken creates beautiful ornaments and decorations for the store, and Rich works proudly with his brother. "We try to carry unique ornaments no one else has," Rich explained.

The shop also offers free personalization of the ornaments and even wraps each one carefully in boxes and tissue paper with a perfect bow on top.

"It has a good small-town feel. We know the people and the people know us. We've been able to establish relationships with long-term customers that we look forward to seeing every year," he said.

People from across town and state come to the store to buy the beautiful ornaments and decorations for their homes, and many have made coming to the store a Christmas tradition.

One such family has been coming to the store for 40 years, every year getting ornaments, and even mailing them to family members who had moved to another state.

Beth Brown loves the store and has become close



Angels lined on the shelves ready to sing in the baby Jesus.



Two little people dressed in their hats and scarves ready to play in the snow.

friends with the owners.

"I love how magical it is here," she said. "The kids call it 'Christmas Wonderland.' It's tradition to come here."

You can find the store open once a year between October and December to purchase these beautiful tree ornaments and look at the even more Christmas tree displays and listen to the chiming Christmas bells.

Lew Garland's Christmas Shop, located at 252 Main St., is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. until Christmas Eve. For more information, visit [www.christmasstudio.net](http://www.christmasstudio.net) or call 413-267-3342.



Nativity ornaments hung carefully and proudly, waiting for a new home.



A retro-styled Christmas tree with red and white ornaments and signs.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



## 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 [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

## Ware Firefighters host Santa Run on Dec. 16

WARE – Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting its third annual Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 16 for Ware residents.

Deadline to sign up is Dec. 8 and Santa's route will be determined on Dec. 11. Local 1851 is asking for a donation of \$10 per child receiving a gift and one wrapped gift per child. Residents can drop wrapped gifts at the Fire Station, 200 West St. with donation.

You will be required to fill out a form with the name of the recipient and address the gift is going to. Please make checks payable to Ware Firefighters Local 1851.

One the date of the event, the gifts will be delivered by Santa and members of Local 1851. Delivery times will be announced once the route is finalized after the deadline.

## Support group offered for grandparents raising grandchildren

WARE – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meets Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Join the group weekly to have adult conversation and to connect with others going through the same things you are, trying to be both parent and grandparent.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing [bhncrc@bhninc.org](mailto:bhncrc@bhninc.org).

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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 [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com), or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

# WARE CHRISTMAS STROLL

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2023**  
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Maps of the day's festivities will be available at participating businesses

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# PHCC's annual Tree Stroll proved a busy night

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – As of last weekend, the annual Tree Stroll is underway at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, and will pick back up this coming weekend.

One of the town's premier winter holiday events, the Tree Stroll is arranged by the PHCC in Three Rivers as its primary fundraiser. All funds made from the raffles of trees and wreaths will go toward supporting the nonprofit and funding future events.

"We've had a busy weekend," said Bob Haveles. "We think the weather on Sunday might have held back some attendance, but we're looking forward to another great weekend coming up."

Haveles is the center's president and the Tree and Wreath Festival Chair. He said that this past weekend had live entertainment as well as "quite a few kids that came through and took part in the kids' crafts," which included things like sugar cookies and writing letters to Santa Claus.

The raffles for the trees and wreaths have not been drawn as of this week as the Tree Stroll will continue through Dec. 9-10, this weekend.

"Drawings will take place on Monday, Dec. 11. We will notify winners by phone Monday or Tuesday," Haveles said. "Winnings will include the tree, ornaments, skirts, gift cards and anything else that goes on the tree. They can be picked up Saturday, Dec. 16, from 8:30 a.m. to noon."

"There will be live entertainment this coming weekend, too," Haveles said. "This weekend we'll have Donna Lee Honeywell with her husband, Clark, and Joanne Dominik, and there's also going to be a storyteller there."

"We want to thank a lot of volunteers that have helped in the past, as well as the new ones that helped this year," Haveles said.

Haveles credited a group from Light Up Palmer that helped with organizing decorations and the "logistics that take place to put this together leading up to the event itself."

"My estimate is about 140 hours of volunteer work that makes this happen, and I believe that's probably shy," he said. "It is a community that steps up, and we're always looking for volunteers to help with events, and to help in other ways at PHCC."

The Palmer Historical and Cultural Center is an independent nonprofit which provides an intimate venue for live music, guest lectures, movie screenings, and other cultural events, according to its website.

This 1830s building was formerly home to the Union Evangelical Church, which sold the property for \$1 to (the) newly created local nonprofit group (...) in 2012," the website said. The building features Harmony Hall, the larger space, which can hold up to 160 people with theater-style seating or 80 people with function-style seating and the Villages Room for smaller gatherings. A warming kitchen is also available for use with the rental of either room.

For more information about the Historical and Cultural Center and what it does, go to PalmerHCC.org, or send an email to PalmerHCC@gmail.com.

The Tree Stroll will be open on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"From all of us working to make your holidays special, we wish you a magical and Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a holiday season of joy," PHCC said.

# Christmas comes to Hitchcock Academy

BRIMMFIELD— Hitchcock Academy will Host Christmas at Hitchcock, a free community event on Dec. 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. It has become a Christmas tradition that began 4 years ago to bring joy to others and offers activities for all ages.

The event features talented musicians who will be performing from the second-floor balcony, Ice Carving with Mike Rondeau, cookie decorating, crafts, swags, face painting, hot cocoa, and visits from the 4H pony and Santa who will be visiting from 2 to 4 p.m. Activities will be happening both inside and outdoors so dress accordingly.

Musical performers for the day include Chelsea Saunders, who wowed attendees earlier this year at the Brimfield Memorial Day program with her majestic voice, will perform from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. She is a graduate of the University

of Massachusetts Amherst in Music Education and Classical Voice, and has been an active educator since 2016 including teaching voice lessons.

From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. local talent Jordyn Doyle will perform. At the young age of 14 Jordan is already making a name for herself on the local music scene. With an angelic and pure tone to her voice and sweet personality she is developing a following from fans of all ages.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m. Noah Lis will perform. Noah earned time in the spotlight as a contestant on season 6 of The Voice with his rich expressive voice that reaches out and embraces audiences of all ages.

Elf Eddie has adorned the maple tree in front of the building with blue lights that can be seen from afar and

the building has been decorated for the season with porch pots and swags with help from members of the Southbridge Garden Club and 4H leader Penny Blomgren.

"There are so many little behind the scenes things going on to pull this all together and without all these elves this event would not be possible, and we are grateful for them," said Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "This is becoming a signature event for us. It is a way of saying thank you to our communities who support us all year round and an invitation to others to get to know us. It's all in the spirit of giving back."

The event is made possible through the sponsor Hitchcock Pool Water.

In addition to Christmas at Hitchcock there is an abundance of holiday themed activities coming up for those

wanting to make their own gifts or decorations. Dec. 11 is a Christmas centerpiece arrangement with live greens, Dec. 12 is papermaking, mosaics on Dec. 14 and on Dec. 20 is a stained-glass class featuring holiday designs.

Good Graze Charcuterie will host a holiday-themed charcuterie board class on Dec. 17. Attendees will learn to create balance on a charcuterie board, artistic tricks to create a layered masterpiece, and how to create an eye-catching display that will be sure to wow your guests at your next event.

Details and registration information for these classes and events can be found at hitchcockacademy.org.

Hitchcock Academy is a public nonprofit community center providing educational, recreational, and cultural programming.



Family and friends gathered to enjoy some pancake breakfast, Amber and Aiden Raymond and Ashley and Marley Chevrette are truly having fun.



Indy Spera in her fabulous Christmas tree dress enjoying her pancake breakfast time with her mom, Abby Flagg.



Santa Claus was ready to greet children and their families and hand out candy canes.



Brianna Correa and Cris Pena with Brianna's adorable crochet animals- and dress-up ducks.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas  
Melissa Kopec, owner of Walker Faith Creations, is shown holding her cozy blanket.

PALMER | from page 1

to bring back the craft fairs to help other crafters like me."

"Since I was 14, I've owned Wicked Woodworks," Partelo said of his own small woodworking business. "After COVID, I wanted

Over 70 vendors and crafters showed up, and there was even a food truck present- Fry'd Guys, which was a huge upgrade from years past so they could offer food.

There were many talented crafters and vendors, and each one of them showed off their support for the student councils, and all who attended arrived and left with smiles on their faces and presents in their hands.

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Quabbin Valley Eye Care is in the process of interviewing new provider candidates, and will notify patients once exam schedules are available.

All patients records will be maintained by Quabbin Valley Eye Care 1448 North Main Street, Palmer MA 01069, and a copy of your records will be available within 30 days.

A record release form is available to you from our office if requested.

In the interim Ludlow Eye Associates at Maple Tree Square, Ludlow MA (413-583-3600) has agreed to provide necessary services.

Contact lens exams with a current eyeglass prescription, materials and optical services are still available at QVEC with our licensed Optician.

I wish you all the best for your future health and happiness.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Gary Wolf**  
Optometrist

## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

## We're planning to claim at 62; what do we need to know?

## Dear Rusty

My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated.

Signed Planning Ahead

## Dear Planning

If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about three months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction."

For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule.

Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" account, which is easy to do at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1-800-7721213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method; you can link to the application process from your online account.

One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your Full Retirement Age and that is a permanent reduction.

If you expect at least average longevity about 84 for you and 87 for your wife and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

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



## Seventy-five years and going strong

I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babci's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas memory involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babci's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree; too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimatize the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly two months. Just prior to bud set it will rest again but this time the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Two environmental factors are responsible for coaxing a plant into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light.

If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six week period, the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, thirteen hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds.

Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. until buds form. My luck has been temperature related; because I leave the plants outside until early fall its temperature requirements are met and I am delighted with blooms come Christmas time.

If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason, keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators.

If you don't already own Christmas cactus, consider purchasing one this holiday. Better yet, start a plant.

Simply get a leaf - no longer than two or three segments, from a friend. They are easy to root in regular potting soil.

Two or three of these per four inch pot is perfect. By year two you should be delighted with some beautiful flowers and maybe the start of your own family tradition.

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



By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

## Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

## Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks has disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it."

## Another email

## Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

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

## The Journal Register TEAM

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@ Journal Register

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

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

## Campaign news

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

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

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# Roses for Rescue, annual fundraiser benefits local shelters

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Staff at Otto Florist & Gifts have wrapped up another successful year of the Roses for Rescue fundraiser to benefit local animal shelters.

Owner Michele Lariviere said this year's fundraiser, which was held in October, sold out for the first time since the pandemic, helping to raise crucial funds for BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) and Second Chance Animal Services.

"I just want to give a big thank you to all who donated to support Roses for Rescue, to help our local animal shelters," Lariviere said.

Since 2017, Otto Florist & Gifts has held Roses for Rescue, offering a dozen high-quality roses for \$15. Prior to that, from 2001-2015, the rose sale was called the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale benefiting Mary Lane Hospital's cancer services.

The Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale raised over a quarter of a million dollars.

This year's fundraiser also resulted in a very generous donation tied in with the rose sale, after one business purchased 35 dozen roses and donated them to residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.

Lariviere and her staff arranged the roses in vases that people had donated to Otto Florist & Gifts, and presented them to the residents.

"It brightened up the whole nursing home," Lariviere said. "It was so beautiful."

The residents of Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center



Residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield received 35 dozen roses and in turn, baked homemade dog treats for animals at the shelters.



Staff at BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) accepted a check from Otto Florist & Gifts owner Michele Lariviere.

had a surprise in store for the Otto Florist & Gifts staff when they received their roses; having baked homemade dog treats to give to all the animals in the shelters who are still waiting to go to their forever homes.

"They were our superstars for the day," Lariviere said of the residents, adding that their gesture was a "beautiful, heartwarming thing."

Many people in the community also purchased roses in groups of 10 dozen or more, which gave them free, local delivery. These roses were delivered to family and friends, bringing smiles to the faces of all who received them.

Lariviere thanked everyone for continuing to support the Roses for Rescue fundraiser, and helping pets in need. "Everybody needs a helping hand, including our local shelters," she said.

For more information about next year's Roses for Rescue fundraiser and how you can help, call Otto Florist & Gifts at 413-967-5381 or visit www.ottoflorist.com.



Michele Lariviere, owner of Otto Florist & Gifts (center), delivered arranged roses to BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) for the annual Roses for Rescue fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to BARC and Second Chance Animal Services.



Second Chance Animal Services accepted a check from the Roses for Rescue fundraiser.



The staff at Otto Florist & Gifts held another successful Roses for Rescue fundraiser, helping animals in local shelters.



The Roses for Rescue fundraiser has been helping pets in need since 2017.

## support local journalism

### St. Cecilia Women's Club's to meet Dec. 12

WILBRAHAM – The St. Cecilia Women's Club's December meeting takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 12 beginning with Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. followed by a catered dinner accompanied by season music from one of our favorite performers, Freddie Marion! Reservations are required. For more information, please contact co-chair Dottie Paluck at (413) 596.8000. We are asking if you could please bring a sweater or sweatshirt to this meeting for children or adults in need. We greatly appreciate it!

### Federated Community Church to hold Winterfest Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 9

HAMPDEN – The Federated Community Church, located at 590 Main Street, is holding a Winterfest Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast with Santa will occur from 8-10 a.m.



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LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699 <sup>99</sup> WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599 <sup>99</sup> WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS08SNWW \$799 <sup>99</sup> WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899 <sup>99</sup> WAS \$1099.99

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:pressreleases@turley.com).

## THIS WEEK

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUSE** 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@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.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.

## COMING SOON

The Friends of the Monson Free Library will hold a **BAKE SALE** on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the library. Goodies such as cookies, pies, breads, candy and scones will be available. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help support programs and events at the library.

## 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](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://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](mailto: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,

## Wilbraham Women's Club to meet Dec. 14

**WILBRAHAM** -- The December meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will take place on Thursday, Dec. 14 at St. Cecilia's Parish Center on Main Street in Wilbraham. The Social Hour will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon is at noon. At this meeting there will be many delicious "hot" dishes and desserts.

Join us for this fun-filled Christmas meeting. We will play some holiday themed games for prizes, and laughs.

## Frozen Polish Food sale to occur in Indian Orchard Dec. 9, 16

**INDIAN ORCHARD** -- There will be a FROZEN POLISH FOOD SALE (Pierogi, Golabki, Kapusta) at Immaculate Conception Church Hall 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, and on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can also call Jane Wurszt at 413-543-2835 to arrange a different time. All are welcome to come and purchase.

## Rick's Place celebrates selection as a Big Y Community Bag Program Beneficiary

**WILBRAHAM** -- Rick's Place has been selected as a beneficiary of the Big Y Community Bag Program for the month of December.

The Big Y Community Bag Program, which launched in January 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Rick's Place was selected as the December beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the Big Y located at 2035 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Rick's Place will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at this location during December.

"We are delighted that Rick's Place has been chosen as

the beneficiary for the month of December. We know how difficult the holiday season can be for families who are grieving a loss. This Big Y Community Bag Program helps us help others," said Therese Ross, executive director of Rick's Place. "A supportive community is pivotal for families and Big Y's dedication to sharing and caring truly makes an impact."

Rick's Place is a nonprofit based in Wilbraham, MA. Since 2007, Rick's Place has been providing free grief support to youth and their families in western MA and northern CT. Learn more about Rick's Place by visiting [www.ricksplacema.org](http://www.ricksplacema.org).

For more information on the Big Y Community Bag Program, visit [bigy.2givelocal.com](http://bigy.2givelocal.com).

## St. Cecilia Parish to present 25th Festival of Carols Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.

**WILBRAHAM** -- Some might say, "Timing is everything."

So, members of the St. Cecilia Adult Choir are hoping a change of time for the annual Festival of Carols from evening to late afternoon will make it easier to attend the annual Christmas concert, which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in the church, located at 42 Main St. in Wilbraham. The performance is free but a free will offering will be accepted.

The time change was first suggested by longtime choir member and alto Luanna Roberts. She noted that many people do not want to go out on Sunday nights.

"I think there will be a larger audience," she said. "They can go out to a beautiful concert and then go out to dinner or go home and eat dinner."

Other choir members echoed Roberts' feelings about the change to 4 p.m.

"It is my hope that the new earlier hour will open up opportunities for more young families and seniors to enjoy the spirit of Christmas through music," said soprano Gail Manning, also a longtime member of the adult choir.

Soprano Diane Diehl, whose husband Bruce is a music professor at Amherst College, said, "I'm looking forward to the earlier concert start. I think this time will allow more families, young and old, to attend, perhaps then sharing a nice dinner together afterwards."

"It can be hard on people who work on Mondays or have young children, or just go to bed earlier, to attend concerts late on Sunday nights," she said.

She recalled the first time she heard the Christmas concert at St. Cecilia's.

"Bruce and I were in the audience in 2002," Diehl said. "We were looking for a parish to join that had a deep and rich music ministry. I still remember turning to Bruce, with tears streaming down my face, saying 'This is our new home.' I joined the choir the next fall and Bruce became one of our instrumentalists and arrangers."

Choir members, along with music director Todd Rovelli, also reflected on the earlier years of the Festival of Carols as they prepare for the concert's 25th program.

"The Festival of Carols, which began in 1998 as a traditional service of nine lessons and carols, has evolved into a not-to-be-missed concert experience," said Rovelli.

The program includes a wide range of holiday music, both secular and sacred, from classical to jazz and contemporary popular songs.

"My goal is to put together a varied program, including some cool arrangements of Christmas favorites, congregational singing, and four-hand piano duets," Rovelli said. "There really is something for everyone. I am as excited now as I was when I first began to produce the concert because he music never fails to uplift and inspire me, the choir, and the audience."

This year's program includes traditional carols, such as "The Little Drummer Boy"; "In the Bleak Midwinter"; "Do You Hear What I Hear"; and "O Holy Night." There is a jazz arrangement of "Angels We Have Heard on High" and the island groove of "Calypto Deck the Hall." St. Cecilia cantors Leo Morrissey, Carol Adamski and Jena Fallon will join together for "Child of the Poor/What Child Is This?"

In addition to piano and organ, instrumental accompaniment includes saxophone, clarinet, flute, percussion and trumpet.

While Roberts and Diehl reminisced about previous concerts featuring children and youth members of the parish, "sounding like angels," they said the best part of the concerts has always been the audience.

"I sing in this choir because it not only brings me great joy, but I feel it gives joy to the congregation," Roberts said. "The look on their faces is a wonderful thing... My wish is that they leave feeling blessed and full of joy."

"By far it is the smiles and thank you's from the audience that makes me feel so blessed and happy," said Diehl, "to know that for a few hours we can touch so many hearts."

"I would like everyone at the concert to leave with smiles on their faces, peace in their hearts, and to share that joy with others this Christmas season," Diehl added.

The 2023 concert will have special meaning for alto Janet Shea, since she and her husband will be moving to a retirement home in another state next year. "The choir feels like family and the spirit of the holidays blankets everyone there in joy," she said. "I will miss these events more than anything else we do."

## Heritage 'Pops' Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner and Dance

**LUDLOW** -- Celebrate the Christmas season with the big band sounds of the 19-piece Heritage "Pops" Orchestra with vocals by Ann Maggs on Dec. 15 at the Polish American Citizens Club on 355 East St.

The event includes hors d'oeuvres from 5:30-6:30 p.m., a grand buffet dinner by John Diotalevi at 6:30 p.m. and dessert. Music and dancing will occur from 7-10 p.m.

Advance tickets cost \$25 per person

and are available at the PACC bar or by calling Bob at 413-636-7588 or calling Paul at 413-800-4164.

There will be a giant wood dance floor, a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.

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				69				70				

### CLUES ACROSS

- Spiritual leaders
- Salt
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- It begins with them
- A way to compare
- Government lawyer
- Back parts
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- ...ex machina
- Satisfies
- Quebec river
- A doctrine
- Popular pickup truck
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- German founder of psychology
- Endured
- A female domestic

- A "place" to avoid
- Cigarette (slang)
- Canadian politician Josephine
- French ballet/acting dynasty
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Belonging to the bottom
- Sound
- Yankees' slugger
- Judge
- Dickens character
- More wise
- Flash memory card
- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- Atomic #79
- Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Preliminary assessment of patients

### CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Craft supply
- Storage units
- Investment vehicle
- Colorado Heisman winner
- In a way, sank
- Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- The opposite of yes
- Caused to be loved
- Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- Showing since conviction
- Not safe
- The number above the line in a fraction
- Yard invader
- Pouch
- Swedish krona
- Start anew
- While white or yellow flower
- Fourteen
- Graphical user interface
- Up-to-date on the news
- Campaigns
- Touch softly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the Pope
- Anxiety
- Body fluid
- Phony person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- City in central Japan
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- Man
- Legal bigwig (abbr.)

## EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

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# Pancakes, Santa Claus, the Grinch, oh my!



The fair had numerous characters on the joyous occasion including a snowman, Christmas tree, and a koala.



Santa Claus was excited to meet the children and their families during the craft fair and pancake breakfast.



Another familiar character the Gingerbread man was around for pictures.



The cafeteria crew of Quarry Hill Community School made delicious pancakes for breakfast.



Wood crafts and decorative signs were available during the craft fair at Quarry Hill Community School.



Monson High School Booster Club was selling ornaments, hats, coats, and other Mustang merchandise.



Over 200 pancake breakfasts were served as many families enjoyed the morning.



Cub Scout Troop had a booth of their own selling baked goods.



Dog collars, bandanas, and other pet supplies would be a nice holiday gift for your pets.



Handmade ornaments were a popular table during the school's holiday craft fair.



Pampered Chef had cooking supplies to help make your meals for the holidays.

**MONSON** | from page 1

bers and offered a variety of holiday themed goods. The crafts included handmade ornaments, tie dye shirts, baked goods, pet supplies, cooking supplies, decorative signs, and winter clothing.

Several members of the administrative team and the facilities department helped decorate and set up the hallways for the event. Three food service staff came on Saturday morning to make the pancakes for all visitors and served them in the school cafeteria.

The diners got to enjoy some holiday music while eating their pancake breakfast.

In addition, students from the National Honor Society were in costume and served as greeters. There was also a table set near the entrance for the toy drive and dozens of gifts were generously donated by members of the community.

Santa Claus had an amazing setup in the center of the hallway. Many families got to take pictures with Santa along with his fellow holiday greeters, including the Grinch.

Over 200 pancake breakfasts were served during the event and the Monson Public School community was thrilled to see their students and families enjoying the morning.

"It truly was a collaborative community event, and I am grateful for everyone in the Monson Public Schools family," said Clarke.

A great team effort made the community holiday event at Quarry Hill Community School a success.



Cutting boards and wood craft Christmas trees were available during the craft fair.

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Mea Masterson and Charlotte Demores stand before the Palmer police cruiser while showing off some of the toy donations.



Beverly Farris and Maxwell Sumner are a few generous donors whose contributions will help put presents under the tree this Christmas.



Residents and local supporters donated homemade baked goods for attendees to enjoy during the event.



Autumn and Hunter Dominik share a photo with the Grinch while enjoying complimentary refreshments during the annual event.



The Grinch is joined by residents, volunteers and friends in an effort to spread holiday cheer.



Palmer Town Councillor Robert Lavoie, School Committee Chair Bonnie Rathbone, the Grinch and Police Chief Chris Burns stand before the cruiser in support of bringing gifts to local children for the holidays.

TOYS | from page 1

help. "We are the only group who did something like this through COVID," said Chiacchia. "We want to make sure the community is taken care of." The group's networking started on Facebook with the creation of an official "Santa's Elves of Palmer" page. "People reach out and say they need help," said Chiacchia. "They give us [the child's] age, needs and wants. We post the information to our page and find a sponsor." She added that the page started with only 100 members and has grown to over 800 members in the past three years. Since then, Santa's Elves of

Palmer has adopted the Lions Club annual toy drive to shine a light on both organizations' goal to bring presents to the town's children. Chiacchia recognized the Palmer Police Department's support in allowing the organization to host the event at the station and work toward the agencies' shared goal of "stuffing a cruiser." She also recognized the support of local business, Demore's Auto in Palmer, for their ongoing contributions, including designating a large trailer to fill and transport the toys. For those interested in sponsoring a child or sending in toy donations, follow and message Santa's Elves of Palmer on Facebook. Donations are accepted until mid December.



Local organizations set up tables to spread awareness of their causes while showing their support for Santa's Elves of Palmer. Emily, of Alianza, is raising awareness of domestic violence.

Advertisement for Healthy Quaboog featuring a family photo and the text: 'This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU! Improving quality of life in the community'.

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it's time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!

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## FOOTBALL



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP:smugmug.com

The 55th Annual Leonard J. Bailey Award went to Andrew Haley. The award is given out every year at halftime during the Ludlow-Palmer Thanksgiving football game. Pictured are: Susan Avezzie, Damon Cardenas, Andrew Haley, Jim St. Amand, and David Russo.

## Haley takes home 55<sup>th</sup> Bailey Award

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—One of the most difficult decisions that Palmer High School football coach Matt Marciniac and his assistant coaches must make every year is choosing the prestigious Leonard J. Bailey Award winner.

Senior Andrew Haley was named as the 55<sup>th</sup> Bailey Award winner at halftime of last Thursday's football game between Ludlow and Palmer at historic Legion Field.

"A player who receives the Bailey Award is someone who makes an impact both on and off the field," said Marciniac, who's also the Athletic Director at Palmer High School. "Before a game this season, one of Andrew's teammates needed rib pads. He gave his pads to the player, and he took another pair, which weren't as nice. Andrew is a selfless football player and is an overall very good kid. He's also an honor roll student in the classroom."

While a senior has received the Bailey Award in recent years, the coaching staff can select any player listed on the Panthers football roster. The recipient must possess the qualities of sportsmanship, ability, team spirit, attitude, selflessness, and academic achievement.

The award winner receives a personal trophy, a gift certificate, and his name is inscribed in the school's Memorial Trophy Case.

The members of the Leonard J. Bailey Memorial Committee are David Russo, Ann Duke, Mrs. Rocky Blazejowski, Bob Chase, and James St. Amand.

Bailey was a football and baseball coach at Palmer High School in the early 1960's, but he made a lifelong impact on his players. He passed away in 1968 at the age of 39. Bailey's daughter, Susan Avezzie, took part in this year's halftime ceremony.

"Even though I never met coach

Bailey, I'm very glad that we still remember him by presenting a special award to a student-athlete, who gives the same amount of effort and commitment as he did," Marciniac said. "I'm planning on continuing the tradition as long as I'm associated with Palmer High School."

Haley, who's a four-year member of the Panthers football team, was one of the team captains, along with senior Andrew Menard, senior Karter Benoit, and sophomore Matt Santos.

"I'm honored to receive the Bailey Award," said Haley after taking many pictures with family and friends while holding the trophy following the game. "I would've been fine if one of my teammates had received this trophy, but it's a very special award to me. It was just an incredible feeling when they announced my name at halftime."

Santos, who's the Panthers starting quarterback, gave his thoughts about seeing one of his teammates receive the Bailey Award.

"Andrew is a great teammate and is a great guy," Santos said. "He was one of our leaders of the football team. It's a very special award."

Haley received the Bailey Award trophy from Damon Cardenas, who was the 2022 award winner.

"When I received the Bailey Award last year, I really didn't realize how special it was. Not very many people have received this award. I'm very glad that I could hand the trophy to Andrew today," Cardenas said. "We were teammates on the same football teams for many years and he's a great kid. I'm very happy for him."

Haley has been an offensive guard and a defensive tackle since he began playing football for the Palmer Cowboys.

"I never played any other position," he said. "Being a guard

BAILEY AWARD | page 10

## BASKETBALL

## Monson looks for deeper tourney run



Delienah Wolf reaches up to try and bring in a rebound.



Olivia Chrzan, who achieved the 1,000-point plateau last year, practices last Friday afternoon.



Sedona Arbour looks to pass.



Sierra Martinson dribbles down the court to start a play.



Ciara Monaghan goes for the hoop.

### MONSON

With plenty of scoring weapons, Monson girls basketball is looking to get back to the state tournament this season. While they were below .500, the Mustangs qualified for the state tournament and defeated Maynard in the opener before losing to rival Palmer in the next round. Monson had a scrimmage against Granby earlier this week and is scheduled to play against Minnechaug on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Palmer girls soccer was the choice to for the Small School Sportsmanship Award.



Pathfinder boys soccer also received the Small School Sportsmanship Award.

## PVSOA presents year-end awards

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant.

There was also an awards ceremony.

Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large School MCP award) winner.

"Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players who have won the George Russell Award," said longtime Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who won his 200th career game

this fall. "He's a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved."

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys' soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal, since 1965. The first Ludlow boys' soccer player to win the prestigious award

PVSOA | page 10



Pathfinder's Riley Sanderson was the Small School MVP.

## BASKETBALL

## Pathfinder boys basketball looks to season ahead



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Coach Zac Button gives his team some direction.



The boys went 11-9 last year and made the state tournament.



They faced Paulo Freire in last year's tournament.



Pathfinder has another week of practice before opening up the regular season.

PALMER — Pathfinder boys basketball continued preseason practices last week. The Pioneers had a scrimmage

earlier this week and are scheduled to open up with Pioneer Valley Christian on Dec. 7. Their home opener is on Fri-

day, Dec. 15 against Ludlow. Last year's team went 11-9 overall. They faced Paulo Freire, a team that no longer exists,

in the state tournament last year. They were defeated by 71-36. Pathfinder hopes for another run in this year's state

tournament as well as a shot at Western Mass.

# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The second round of the 2023-24 candlepin league season has witnessed new teams rising to the top on Tuesday nights.

As of Nov. 21, Life is Good started off the second round undefeated by going 4-0 and currently sitting in first place. Blue B's and Last in Line started off the new round going 3-1.

The Champs R Here broke even by going 2-2 at the start of the round. Acres, who finished in second place during round one, started off 1-3. The round one winner, Compression started off 1-3.

In one match, Life is Good bowled against Team BK. In game one, Life is Good managed to hang on to the lead by beating BK 370-354. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK gave a good effort in trying to take the lead by bowling 107 in his first game.

In game two, Life is Good

repeated game one by starting off strong earlier in the game. Life is Good won by a score of 346-331. In game three, BK took the last game, and it was a close one. BK won 346-345.

Life is Good won total pinfall with a final score of 1061-1031.

Another match for Tuesday evening was between Acres and Blue B's. The match was close all night with every game being determined by single digit leads. In game one, Acres took the game 360-356. Kenny Trudel of Acres lead the team with an opening game of 102.

In game two, Acres won again 381-372. Trudel stayed strong and bowled 109 in his 2nd game. In game three, Blue B's made it close, but fell two pins shy of Acres 380-378.

By winning all three games, Acres took total pinfall with a final score of 1121-1106.

Round one winner, Compression bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Compression won by a score of 343-331. In game two, Jay Dominick bowled a 112, but it wasn't enough to defeat Last in Line in game two.

Last in Line scored 349 and Compression scored 336.

In game three, Compression was victorious over Last in Line by a score of 378-356. Dominick finished strong with a 108.

Compression won total pinfall by a final score of 1057-1036.

The Champs R Here bowled against their average for the night and took 3 out of 4 points. High single of the night was bowled by John Colkos scoring 123. Colkos finished the night with a 107 and a three-game series of 313.

## Thursday Night Mixed League

The league rolled off after Thanksgiving break and was bowling their final league night in the month of November.

Team Three bowled against Team Two on lanes four and five at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 375-362. In game two, Team Two won by a score of 427-384. Danny Fennyery of Team Two had a strong showing on the lanes by bowling a 127.

In game three, Team Three won by a score of 424-407. Team Two won total pinfall with a final

score of 1196-1183.

Another match on Thursday evening was between Team Six and Team One. In game one, Team Six was the winner with a score of 403 to Team One's 385. Kris Rickson of Team One had the highest single of game one with 112.

In game two, Team Six won again with a score of 408 and Team One bowled 398. Rickson stayed consistent by staying in the 110s with a 114 game.

In game three, Team Six won again for the sweep. Team Six bowled 388 and Team One bowled 372. Team Six won total pinfall with a final score of 1199-1155.

Team Four bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won a close game 419-415. Nick Maslon of Team Four started off the night with a 103.

In game two, Team Four was the winner by a score of 421-407. In game three, Team Five won the last game by a score of 448-418. Team Five won total pinfall and had a final score of 1274 and Team Four ended with a total score of 1254.

# T-Birds grab OT win over Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (11-8-2-0) got the last laugh in a wild, back-and-forth game, 4-3, over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-8-3-0) in overtime on Saturday night inside Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

As was the case in each of the first two games in the season series, the first period came and went with goaltenders remaining perfect. On this night, Vadim Zherenko and Joel Blomqvist turned in all the stops, with Zherenko the busier of the two with nine first-period stops, while Blomqvist stopped six. Zherenko had the two best saves of the frame in two minutes, denying both Sam Houde and Jagger Joshua with the leg pad on in-tight scoring chances.

Each team also had two power plays in the first period, but the man-advantage units could not generate much offense, and the 0-0 deadlock remained into the intermission.

After quiet opening periods, the power play came to life in the second, and it took the Penguins just 1:14 to get on the board first. Sam Houde got his stick on a loose puck in the slot and bounced a fluttering shot toward Zherenko's cage,

getting a helpful tip from Peter Abbandonato for the game's opening goal, which doubled as Abbandonato's first as a Penguin.

Despite the deficit, the T-Birds rallied on a chance of their own after two penalties in a 1:16 span were called against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. With the 5-on-3 advantage, rookie Zach Bolduc took advantage, rifling home a one-time slapper through Blomqvist, tying the game at 7:49. Calle Rosen and Hugh McGing earned the helpers on Bolduc's fourth goal of the season.

After the equalizer, both teams had more power play chances to take leads, but the penalty killing strengthened, along with continued good work from Zherenko and Blomqvist.

The game took on a truly chaotic feel in the third period. After the T-Birds failed to convert on two separate power play chances, it was the fourth line that got Springfield its first lead. Mathias Laferrriere deked around a fallen defender and took a shot from the left circle that plopped down behind Blomqvist. Drew Callin was in the right place to tap it across the line for his third of the season, giving the T-Birds the 2-1 lead at 4:31.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, it was just the beginning of a see-saw 20-minute period, as the Penguins equalized during a delayed penalty just 1:05 later, as Valteri Puustinen rammed home a loose puck after Zherenko and the defense made two sprawling saves earlier in the sequence.

With the game back even, 2-2, the T-Birds faced their toughest challenge of the night when Hunter Skinner was ejected and given a match penalty for a hit to the head of Penguins' forward Sam Houde. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton had three minutes of uninterrupted power play time, but could not solve the PK nor Zherenko.

After surviving the major, the T-Birds then got their power play chances as the Penguins took a too-many-men minor, as well as a tripping call to Jack St. Ivany. With time waning on the club's 8th power play of the evening, the T-Birds finally broke through as Matthew Peca snapped a wrist shot through Blomqvist at 16:38 to make it a 3-2 game.

Once again, though, the Penguins had a rebuttal, as Abbandonato scooted into the slot, took a pass from Will Butcher, and slipped it through Zherenko's legs to tie the

game, 3-3, with just 1:39 to go in regulation, setting the stage for the second overtime in as many nights between the division foes.

Overtime was a riveting, back-and-forth affair with both goaltenders answering the bell on multiple occasions. Adam Gaudette had a breakaway with the game on his stick, only to see Blomqvist turn him away, while Ty Smith had perhaps the Penguins' best chance with the T-Birds' defense out of sorts, but Zherenko had the denial.

At last, with less than a half minute left separating the teams from a shootout, Laferrriere circled the offensive zone to the right side before slipping a puck near the crease. Matt Kessel had moved up on the play and put himself in the perfect position to get a piece of it and beat Blomqvist, giving Springfield the 4-3 overtime triumph. It was just Kessel's second goal of the season, and it gave the T-Birds their first home win since Oct. 29.

The T-Birds get some time to rest before a rare single-game weekend next Saturday as they welcome the Bridgeport Islanders to the MassMutual Center for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

# 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](http://www.pioneervalleytip-off.com). All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

## PVSOA | from page 9

was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who's a three-year varsity starter, didn't attend this year's PVSOA banquet because the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who's a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the Division I state tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

"I received an email from my soccer coach (David Wilson) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools," said Sanderson, who led his team with 11 assists this past fall. "We weren't able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career."

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

"Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could've taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates," Wilson said. "He always plays the game very hard and I'm very proud of

him."

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C, and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys' soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

"This is a very special award, especially from the referee's association," said Ray, who'll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. "I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It's nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug."

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug girls' soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected for the MVP award since 2005.

"I've been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug," Goncalves said. "Kylie is one of them."

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn't attend

the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Berntowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

"It always feels good when your teams gets recognized for doing something well," said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. "Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game."

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School).

"It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees," said Palmer senior Grace Burke. "We're always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents."

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vanessa Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls' soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

"I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer team has been selected for the sportsmanship award," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "We only had a couple of yellow cards this season and

I'm very happy that the soccer officials recognized us. We had a great season and I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year."

The Lady Panthers (12-8-1) defeated Granby, 3-1, in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

The Pathfinder boys' squad, which co-ops with Palmer, received the Carl Erickson Sportsmanship Award (Boys Small School).

The Bruno Rumpal Sportsmanship Award (Boys Large School) was given to Westfield High School.

The MISOA PVSOA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who's from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who's from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls' varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.

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# Turleysports

**Andrew Haley**  
*Palmer* Athlete of the Week



Haley was the recipient of this year's Bailey Award, given out at halftime on Thanksgiving at the Ludlow-Palmer holiday football game.

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

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# Railers fall in physical battle

WORCESTER – The Railers played a spirited game here Friday night but it had a dispiriting result, another loss on home ice.

Worcester was beaten by the Norfolk Admirals, 5-2, with the last opposing goal coming into an empty net. The Railers had a 40-29 edge in shots on goal and had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 they could not protect as the Admirals scored four goals in the third period.

The difference was special teams. Norfolk converted three of nine power plays while Worcester was 0 for 6.

Referee Austin O'Rourke was unusually busy, calling 21 minor penalties. Some of them were double minors for roughing that, a few years ago, would have been fighting majors.

Nowadays, if a player has a pulse after engaging in a bout, the penalty is roughing, not fighting.

There was plenty of roughing. Seven of those penalties were called and Railers' rookies Artyom Kulakov and Riley Piercy were both involved in some serious jousting.

To no avail, as it turned out.

Worcester got goals from Ashton Calder and Keegan Howdeshell. Norfolk was paced by Carson Golder's two goals. Simon Kubicek, Danny Katic and Mathieu Roy had the other Admirals goals.

Calder's goal was his 10th of the season. It came in Worcester's 19th game. The last Railer to score 10 goals in the first 20 games of the season was Jordan Smotherman, who did it at the beginning of the 2021-22 campaign.

The Railers were constantly thwarted by Norfolk goaltender Thomas Milic, who had 38 saves. A lot of them were good ones. Worcester had

reams of good chances that wound up with shots on net, but only two shots in net.

Calder put Worcester ahead at 11:44 of the first period by beating Milic with a quick wrist shot from between the circles. The Railers were still ahead, 1-0, with the game more than half over but the Admirals changed that with their first power play goal.

Kubicek got it at 15:06 of the second period. He drilled a low slap shot through traffic and past goalie Tristan Lennox for his third of the season.

Worcester responded well, though, and retook the lead before the period was over. Howdeshell got his second of the year at 17:38 via a snap shot from about 20 feet out. He was set up by a fine pass from the right wing by Joey Cipollone.

Norfolk regained the momentum early in the third period, however, with two goals just 52 seconds apart, both by Golder, both on the power play. The first one was a rebound at 3:54, the second a tap in from just outside the crease at 4:42.

The first power play came with Jake Pivonka in the penalty box for high sticking. The second happened when Worcester was called for two roughings, Norfolk one, on the same altercation.

Piercy was involved at the beginning then Connor Welsh wound up getting a minor as well.

The Railers had power play chances after that and eventually pulled Lennox but could not beat Milic. In those final 20 minutes, Worcester had 14 shots on net and no goals. Norfolk had eight shots and four goals.

## BAILEY AWARD | from page 9

and a tackle takes a lot of toughness. I also have some wonderful memories of being a member of this football team during the last four years. I just want to thank all of my teammates and coaches."

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic Haley only played two games as a freshman during the Fall II season, which took place in the spring of 2021. The Panthers defeated Chicopee, 32-0 on March 20, before losing at Ludlow, 21-14 a month later.

"That was definitely a strange year," Haley said. "We had to practice on the tennis courts."

Even though Palmer and Ludlow didn't meet on Thanksgiving morning that season, Jacob Mastalerz was named as the Bailey Award winner.

Haley's sophomore season was a very memorable one, as Palmer qualified for the inaugural Division 8 state playoffs. After dispatching Brighton, 45-18, at home in the round of 16, the Panthers lost to Oxford, 16-13, in the quarterfinals, which was also held at Legion Field.

The Panthers (9-2) closed out the 2021 season with a 34-0 home victory against Ludlow.

"We just played very well as a team

when I was a sophomore," Haley said. "It was a lot of fun playing in the playoff games for the first time. It was also special beating Ludlow."

It was the last time that the Panthers, who went 5-6 a year ago and finished with a 2-9 record this fall, defeated Ludlow on the gridiron.

Jack Letendre, who was the 2021 Bailey Award winner, was one of the Panthers assistant coaches this fall.

Andrew Haley's father, who's also named Andrew, was another member of this year's coaching staff, along with Jacob Graveline.

"I've been coaching Andrew in football since he was five years old and I'm very proud of him. Not very many linemen have won the Bailey Award in the past," said coach Haley, who didn't take part in this year's Bailey Award selection process. "He plays hard in every football game, and he does very well in school."

"We're going to miss him and the other seniors a lot next year."

Andrew Haley will be presenting the Bailey Award to a member of next year's Palmer football team at halftime of the 2024 Thanksgiving Day game, which is scheduled to take place on the brand new turf field at the Ludlow Sports Complex.

# 2023-2024 winter varsity schedules

## Palmer

## Monson

### Boys Basketball

### Boys Basketball

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Frontier	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Monson	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Granby	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Away	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Monson	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Ware	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Home	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24	Away	Smith Academy	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Away	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Home	Athol	7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Ware	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	North Brookfield	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	Away	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Granby	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Home	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Home	Ludlow	7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Away	Lee	7 p.m.

### Girls Basketball

### Girls Basketball

Tuesday, Dec. 12	Away	Holyoke	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Athol	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	Mahar	6:45 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29	Away	Hampshire	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Greenfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Pioneer	7 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 10	Home	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Frontier	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Away	Lenox	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Hopkins	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Greenfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Hopkins	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Home	Frontier	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Home	Lenox	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Away	Ware	7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Taonic	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	SICS	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Hoosac	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Away	Taonic	6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Hoosac	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14	Away	Chicopee Comp.	7 p.m.

### Ice Hockey co-op with Amherst

### Boys and Girls Swimming

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Agawam	8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	McCann Tech	3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Home	Chicopee	5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	Away	Brattleboro	7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Taonic	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Agawam	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Home	Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Away	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 10	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Minnechaug	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Chicopee	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Greenfield	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	East Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 31	Away	Taonic	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Ludlow	8 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Home	Easthampton	8:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17	Away	Suffield	4:45 p.m.

### Boys and Girls Swimming

Friday, Dec. 8	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.

### Boys and Girls Swimming

Friday, Dec. 8	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Away	Chicopee Comp.	4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Northampton	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.

## Pathfinder

### Boys Basketball

Thursday, Dec. 7	Away	PV Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Mt. Everett	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Smith Vocational	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	PVCIC	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Home	PV Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Monson	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Smith Vocational	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.

### Girls Basketball

Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Baystate Academy	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Duggan	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Smith Academy	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	4 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 27	Home	Mohawk	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	St. Mary's	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Westfield Technical	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Smith Academy	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Gateway	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Away	Hampden Charter	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Sci-Tech	5 p.m.

### Wrestling

Wed. Dec. 13	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	Home	Frontier	6:45 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 27	Away	Northampton	5 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 3	Away	Mohawk	7 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wed., Jan. 24	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 31	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.

### Girls Basketball

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Holyoke	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Auburn	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Away	South	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Millbury	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Home	Chicopee Comp.	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 27	Away	Minnechaug	12:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Home	Grafton	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Leicester	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Leominster	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	Auburn	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Home	Millbury	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Grafton	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Away	Notre Dame Acad.	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Home	Leicester	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 15	Home	Shepherd Hill	5:30 p.m.

### Indoor Track (all meets at Tantasqua)

Wed. Dec. 13	Home	Meet 1	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	Home	Meet 2	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 3	Home	Meet 3	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 10	Home	Meet 4	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	Home	Meet 5	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24	Home	Meet 6	5 p.m.

### Swimming

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Gardner	7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	Home	Bromfield	4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	Home	Westborough	4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 3	Home	Grafton	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Wachusett	3:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 10	Home	Adv. Math & Science	4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	Away	Nashoba	2 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	Home	Shrewsbury	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24	Home	Andover	4 p.m.

# Filmmaker premieres two movies at Basketball Hall of Fame

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

It was a year ago that Geno McGahee of XPosse Productions premiered his "A Christmas Invitation" at the Basketball Hall of Fame Naismith Memorial Complex in Springfield.

The movie itself had nothing to do with hoops, but no matter, it was a good venue for a cinema debut.



The cast of "Fatal Justice".

Filmmaker Geno McGahee (left) is shown with actor Eric Michaelian.

McGahee is back again, and this time he was introducing two movies in one night. As "A Christmas Invitation" was a departure from his usual style of deep horror, so would the double bill go off in different directions.

"A Christmas Invitation" played on a genre of movie typified by the Hallmark Channel, without the unrestrained sentimentality. The movies shown in Springfield on Saturday were of older categories that our impetuous had not touched previously.

The first, "Fatal Justice", is the story of Dennis, played by Eric Michaelian, an accused killer who is released from prison due to police misconduct. A young college girl was murdered, but it's not over.

The grieving family is upset with the travesty of justice and realizes that there is no reasonable possibility of righting the wrong.

However, one member of the family, the hot-headed young kid, played by Shane Ryan-Reid captures Dennis and brings him home to the consternation of the family.

Still, what can they do? They believe Dennis guilty, but as he has been found innocent in court, what recourse do they have?

"The family of the victim comes face to face with Dennis and holds their own trial to decide his fate. When the system fails, family justice is the only way and FATAL JUSTICE will be executed."

There is a reason why McGahee wanted to make this movie. His favorite film is "Twelve Angry Men".

"Twelve Angry Men" has tugged at the heart strings of many for decades, and has been done in several versions, including the most famous, as well as a number of foreign language incarnations.

"Fatal Justice" is a courtroom drama, but not in a courtroom.

After the trial, will the real villain be revealed? Maybe, but with a twist.

The second film shown was "Deadly Western".

For McGahee, this is definitely going off on a tangent, as he is not at all a fan of Westerns and swore never to wear a cowboy hat. Nevertheless, the deed was done.

"Deadly Western", filmed against a backdrop that appears to be a western ghost town, is where science fiction meets the horse opera.

Eric Michaelian plays Clark, a rather befuddled lawman who wakes up with no memory of who he is or why he is in the town, but struggles to find all that out, with little success.

No matter, he is going to give it the old college try.

His wife, Beth, played by Lorrie Bacon, comes back to town with her brother, the wise-guy Elias, played by Chris Spinelli. With those two and a few others, he is going to have to defend the town against the desperados out to take it over.

The defenders do not appear to be an awe-inspiring militia, yet

they go into battle. Though the evildoers are routed, the triumph can only be described as pyrrhic.

But, it's not over and it all ends with a surrealistic twist.

The two movies screened on Saturday share something else that is also a departure for McGahee in that they were not made locally.

McGahee and company would leave Massachusetts to go out west to Hollywood to make the two films.

If you follow McGahee, you realize that he has several people he relies on to make and crew his movies. Well, that repertoire company went with him to California.

This was done at the suggestion of Gregory Hatanaka, who owns Cinema Epoch, the distributor of McGahee's movies. Hatanaka flew McGahee and his team out to the West Coast to make the films.

The results were viewed by an enthusiastic audience at the Hall of Fame, but if you are a McGahee fan and missed the premieres, don't fret. Both features are available on the Tubi streaming channel.

Many of McGahee's other, more classic horror movies are also on Tubi and other streaming services.

His latest, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone", has just been released on Tubi as well. We should note, those of you who are in fear that McGahee has abandoned New England, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone" was locally made.

It has appeared in time for Halloween.

It was a good evening at the Hall of Fame and the fans left wondering what Geno McGahee will be showing there next.

Maybe a comedy?

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# Holyoke Community College celebrates fall 2023 graduates

HOLYOKE - The first time Alannah Brunt tried Holyoke Community College, she flunked out after one semester. The next semester, she only passed one class.

"I was working a ton of hours and had not yet invested in school," she recently said. "I hadn't found a way to get excited about being a student. It was COVID times, folks, and it was not fun."

But Brunt eventually did find a way to get excited about college, and that led her to where she now stood - on the stage of HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater as one of the student speakers for the college's first-ever Fall Graduate Reception, held on Nov. 29.

"Fear not," said Brunt, who will complete her associate's degree in Latinx Studies this month before heading to the University of Massachusetts in the spring. "In my journey at HCC, I found a community of people who became my village."

According to the HCC Registrar's Office, 172 HCC students will be fall 2023 graduates at the end of the current semester. Like Brunt, many of them will transfer to four-year schools in the spring. Although fall graduates are always invited to attend HCC's formal commencement ceremony in the spring, historically, many do not attend.

"This is really just the beginning of your celebrations as a college graduate," said President George Timmons. "Today, we honor your achievements with this reception because what you just achieved deserves immediate recognition. In June, we will come together again and formally welcome you as HCC alumni."

The family-friendly event began in the HCC theater, followed by food and photo opportunities in the PeoplesBank Room of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

"Our goal with this ceremony is to celebrate our fall graduates, strengthen their connection to HCC in the hopes that they will remain engaged with the college and attend our 76th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 1, 2024," said Sharale Mathis, HCC vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

The fall 2023 graduates and their families also heard from stu-



Submitted photo

Left to right are student speakers Marcos Figueroa, of Holyoke, Angela Tindell-Gula, of Three Rivers, and Alannah Milgros Brunt, of Springfield, with President George Timmons at HCC's first Fall Graduate Reception on Wed., Nov. 29.

dent Marcos Figueroa, who had nearly completed his degree in criminal justice from the Universidad Interamericana in Puerto Rico before Hurricane Maria disrupted his life and education.

"Fate led me here to Holyoke, Mass., and the doors of Holyoke Community College," said Figueroa, now a communications, media and theater arts major. "I must say, I am extremely grateful. Here, I didn't just find refuge, I found my passion. Photography and cinematography became my new path - a discovery that reshaped my life."

Figueroa is on his way to Emerson College to study filmmaking in the spring while working as a video journalist for WGBZ CBS-Boston.

"Adapting to a new culture wasn't easy," he said, "but it was through this journey that I met incredible individuals who became my guiding lights."

Student Angela Tindell-Gula, a creative writing major from Three Rivers, talked about "surviving" adolescence and deferring her college dreams for two decades as she became a wife, mother, and small business owner.

"No one could have prepared me for how hard going back to school as an adult would be," said Tindell-Gula, who will attend Westfield State University in the spring. "Every day I fold my life

lessons from the past and tuck them safely in my backpack, and that gives me the drive to put one foot in front of the other."

For Brunt, the recipe for college success was getting involved in campus life. She joined the college radio station, WCCH, and became a DJ. Through Student Engagement, she joined clubs: "Lots and lots of clubs," she said, including the Radio Club, the Psychology Club, and the Latinx Empowerment Association. She found an internship in the Financial Aid office through SAMP - HCC's Student Ambassador Mentorship Program, and discovered El Centro, a bilingual support program for HCC's Latinx students.

At El Centro, Brunt said, "I found people who look like me, who understand me, and who helped me navigate higher education in a way that I had never seen before. I love the community that El Centro provides and the people who are here who help me find joy."

### Local graduates

The following local students graduated this fall: Kristy Marie Piwcio, of Monson; Paola Figueroa-Obregon, Kimberly Ann Gilbert and Andrea Elizabeth Marie Morris, of Palmer; Jennifer Marie Mason, of Thorndike; Angela June Tindell-Gula, of Three Rivers and Daniel Bruce Stebbins, of Wales.

# MSB donates for HomeFront Strong

MONSON— Monson Savings Bank recently donated \$1,000 to HomeFront Strong, formerly known as the Brookfield Institute, in support of their annual Shaped by Service Art Show.

HomeFront Strong's Shaped by Service Art Show, hosted by Workshop13 at their Artworks Gallery, highlights the healing power of art for many of our service members, veterans, and their families. The artwork of service members, veterans, and their family members were displayed at Artworks Gallery in Ware during the Artists Reception the weekend of Veterans Day.

Shannon Ortona, Monson Savings Bank Ware Branch Manager and the proud mother of a Marine, enjoyed attending the Artists Reception and meeting several of the artists.

"As the mother of a Marine, HomeFront Strong's mission personally touches me, and I am grateful to work at a community bank that supports organizations like them," said Ortona. "HomeFront Strong's Shaped by Service Art Show is such a special event. It not only showcases the artwork of those who have served our country and their family members, but also brings together people who have the commonality of a connection to the military. Art is often very therapeutic; it gives people an opportunity to express their experiences. Monson Savings Bank is proud to support HomeFront Strong's effort to give these artists a platform."

Executive Director of Home-



Submitted Photo

Shannon Ortona, Monson Savings Bank Ware Branch manager (right), and Jennifer Baublitz, executive director of HomeFront Strong (left), are pictured at the Shaped by Service art show.

Front Strong Jennifer Baublitz thanked Monson Savings Bank for sponsoring the art show.

"I would like to say thank you to Monson Savings Bank for once again sponsoring our Shaped by Service Art Show," said Baublitz. "Monson Savings Bank has been a long-time supporter of HomeFront Strong, and we are so grateful for the partnership that we have with them. It is supporters, like Monson Savings Bank, that allow us to ful-

fill our mission of helping veterans and military families through our various outreach efforts."

To learn more about HomeFront Strong, please visit: <https://brookfieldinstitute.org/>.

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

# Dakin Humane Society announces sale

SPRINGFIELD— Dakin Humane Society has announced the sale of its property located at 163 Montague Road in Leverett, to Better Together Dog Rescue, an organization based in western MA and northern CT.

The 3,480 square foot building in Leverett is located on five acres of land. It had been operated by Dakin Humane Society until March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the organization consolidated its operations in its Springfield location to operate at maximum efficiency.

According to Meg Talbert, executive director at Dakin Humane Society, "Before the pandemic, more and more animals were being placed in foster homes, since

they simulate a home environment, are less stressful for animals, and can accommodate those pets who have additional needs. Thanks to so many dedicated foster caregivers, we reduced our need for the additional shelter space that the Leverett property provided. We are pleased to see that the property will be owned by another non-profit organization. The building's structure and surroundings are especially ideal for an animal welfare organization."

Talbert said "Dakin remains committed to providing much-needed services in Hampshire and Franklin Counties, like supplying pet food to the Northampton and Amherst Survival Centers, assisting pet owners

and animal control units by taking in cats and dogs when hoarding or other pet emergencies arise, and arranging 'Snip Trip' rides to our Community Spay/Neuter Clinic for pets whose people cannot make the drive to Springfield. We are eager to explore additional partnerships and opportunities to provide Dakin's services and resources to Upper Valley pets and their people in the future."

"Better Together Dog Rescue is thrilled to finally have a home," stated Jenny Franz, founder of the organization. "Our mission to support dogs and the people who love them will continue to grow within the facility. We cannot wait to open our doors to the public."

## Tapping into Retirement Savings Early

If you want to make a big purchase, such as a new car or a piece of property, or you were faced with a large, unexpected expense, such as a major home or auto repair, would you have the funds readily available? If not, you might look at what may be your biggest pool of money — your 401(k) or IRA. But should you tap into these accounts well before you retire?

Maybe not — and here's why:

- **Less money in retirement** — The more money you invest in your retirement accounts, and the longer you keep it invested, the more you'll probably have when you need it most — when you're retired. Consequently, taking out sizable amounts from these accounts before you retire could be costly, as it would disrupt the benefits of compounding that can be achieved by holding investments for the long term.

- **Possible bump into higher tax bracket** — The money you take out from your traditional IRA and 401(k) is taxable in the year of withdrawal. So, if you withdraw a significant amount of money at once from your traditional IRA or 401(k), you could be pushed into a higher tax bracket, at least for one year.

- **Tax penalties** — If you take money out of a 401(k) or traditional IRA before you turn 59½, you could face a 10% tax penalty, although some exceptions exist. Penalty-free withdrawals can be made for several reasons, including for education and medical expenses, first-time purchase of a home (up to \$10,000), after the birth or adoption of a child (up to \$5,000) and more (see [irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557](https://irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557)). With a Roth IRA, which is funded with after-tax dollars, you can withdraw contributions — but not earnings — at any time, for any purpose, without incurring penalties.

Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?

One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than 59½. But even if you don't leave your job and you do repay the loan, you'll still have taken away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your money compounds, you'll want to minimize disruptions.

Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.

Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.

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## Scholarships available at HCC for spring

HOLYOKE — Students enrolled in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics, or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College can apply now for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year for tuition and fees.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students. Both new and returning HCC students are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline for the spring 2024 semester is Jan. 7, 2024. Students will be notified by Jan. 12.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC's STEM Scholars 2.0 Program, also known as SCORE.

STEM Scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in good academic standing, complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Beside the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learning community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences, community service, and internships.

STEM disciplines include biological sciences, physical sciences, math, computer and information services, geosciences, and engineering, among others.

Eligibility guidelines for the National Science Foundation Scholarship in STEM can be viewed at [hcc.edu/stem-scholarship](https://hcc.edu/stem-scholarship). For more information, please email [nsfstem@hcc.edu](mailto:nsfstem@hcc.edu).



**DEATH NOTICES**

**Bonita M. Clavette, 42,**  
Died Nov. 29, 2023  
Services Dec. 7, 2023  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd, 74**  
Died on Nov. 29, 2023  
Services Dec. 7, 2023  
Beers and Story Funeral Home

**Kathleen Roach, 73**  
Died Nov. 30, 2023  
Beers and Story Funeral Homes

*The Journal Register*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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

*Bonita M. Clavette, 1981-2023*

MONSON — Bonita M. Clavette, 42, passed away suddenly, November 29, 2023. She was born in Hammond, Indiana July 30, 1981 to Thad and Valerie (VanAlen) Clavette. She was a high school graduate and a graduate of Northern Illinois University. Bonita has lived in Monson for over ten years and has been a shift supervisor for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

She enjoyed gardening, growing many types of flowers and vegetables. Bonita also had a musical talent playing the both the banjo and cello. She also had a love of animals and will be deeply missed by her cats, Squirrel, Putty Tat and Puffer Fish.

Bonnie leaves her loving

parents, Thad and Valerie Clavette of Hampden; her sisters, Betsy Clavette and her husband, Justin Verville of Wilbraham, Brenda Clavette and her husband, Dan Matthews of Stafford Springs, CT.; her nieces, Casper Clavette, Willow Verville, Everly Verville and nephew, Dylan Verville; her maternal grandmother, Bonita Green and maternal grandfather, Richard VanAlen; many aunts and uncles, Eric and Colleen VanAlen, Stacey and Karl Kindt, George and Georgina Mayer, Michael and Julie Clavette, Paul and Kathy Clavette, Jill Werderman, Patrick Clavette, Jim and Barb



Clavette, John and Shari Clavette. Bonita was predeceased by her paternal grandparents Delbert and Jean Clavette and her uncle Dan Clavette.

Visiting hours will be held Thursday December 7, 2023 from 12-2pm at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge Street, Monson, MA. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary 180 Sturbridge Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

and Greenly Lagimoniere, and Sawyer Lloyd. Linda was also a great grandmother (gee-gee) to Eleanor Carter.

While her children were young, Linda worked with her husband to manage their family trucking business (T.A.K Trucking). Then, in 1998, her passion for helping children brought her to Converse Middle School where she proudly served as a para-professional until 2016. Linda cherished her CMS students and friends and spoke fondly of them in her final days.

Linda enjoyed the beach, kayaking, and road trips in her VW with the top down; she could never pass up a free chair on the side of the road. She was her children's biggest cheerleader. She embodied compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and love. Linda will be deeply missed by her family and friends.



Linda adored animals and it was her wish that in lieu of flowers, any memorial tributes be made in the form of a charitable donation to an animal shelter.

Visitation will be held at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Immediately following, a celebration of life gathering will be held at St. Joseph's Club in Palmer, MA. Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.

*Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd, 74*

PALMER — Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd, 74 of Palmer, MA passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Nov. 29, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Linda was born in November of 1949. She was the daughter of the late Wanda and Richard Squires of Belchertown, MA, and the sister of Christine Wheeler and the late Richard Squires Jr.

Linda was married to the love of her life, Norman Lloyd Sr. for 44 years; and together, they raised 5 children: Tracey Applebee-Cole, April Montanez, Kristy Lagimoniere, Norman Lloyd Jr., and Russell Lloyd. She was an amazing nana to her 8 grandchildren who she called her monkeys: Benjamin Applebee, Tyler and Madison Cole, Moriah and Amanda Burns, Austin

*Kathleen Roach, 73*

GRANBY — Kathleen Roach, 73, passed away peacefully November 30, 2023 at her home. Born December, 12, 1949 in Palmer, she was the daughter of Francis P. and Theresa I. (Trotta) Roach. Kathy grew up in Monson and has lived in Granby for many years. While she was pursuing her teaching degree at Fitchburg State College, she worked at Monson Developmental Center. She began her special education teaching career in Palmer and then for an additional 32 years she touched the lives of countless students in the Belchertown Public School system until her retirement. Her family fondly remembers time

together at the holidays, her Labor Day pool parties and special weekends together making cherished memories. As an avid reader, she devoured printed and audio books and especially loved Sci-fi and fantasy novels. Kathy's four-legged fur companions Bear, Naughty and Boo and the many other dogs and cats she invited into her home brought her so much joy over the years. She leaves her two brothers, James and his wife Patricia of Brimfield and Fran and his wife Bernadette of Monson and her



late sister Roberta and her husband Jerry of Wilbraham. As well as numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and one great great nephew due to arrive any day. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. A celebration of life will be planned for the summer. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to PAWS of Granby, MA, PO Box 472, Granby, MA 01033. Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

**Police/Fire**

**Police Logs**

**Palmer**

*The Palmer Police Department reported 357 incidents on its logs for Nov. 21 - Nov. 28.*

**Nov. 21**

At 4:18 p.m. police received sex offender registration.  
At 7 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

**Nov. 22**

At 4:24 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 4:43 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 8:33 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Hector Keyshawn Carion, 26, of 4010 Center St., Thorndike on charges of operating a vehicle with a suspended license and failure to stop or yield.

At 11:24 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Marie Kaitlyn Shannon, 31, of 26 Bowden St., Palmer for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration, uninsured vehicle and no inspection sticker.

**Nov. 23**

At 7:15 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Andrew Loch, 30, 501 Hamilton St., Worcester, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, two counts of child endangerment while OUI and failure to dim headlights.

**Nov. 24**

At 4:32 p.m. police received sex offender registration.  
At 6:16 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Park Street.

**Nov. 25**

At 4:32 p.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on Thorndike Street.

At 5:57 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Rafael Diego Padilla, 20, of 112 Johnson St., Springfield on charges of number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured vehicle, window obstructed, child under 8 and under 58 inches without a car seat and failure to notify RMV of name/address change.

**Nov. 26**

At 3:33 p.m. police arrested

Jonathan S. Lewallen, 39, of 1501 N. Main St., Palmer, on charges of disorderly conduct, carrying a firearm without a license, receiving stolen property, possession of a class A and class B drug, vandalizing property and improper storage of firearms.

At 7:36 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Jill M. Seguin, 46, of 1556 N. Main St., Palmer for unregistered motor vehicle, lights violation and uninsured motor vehicle.

At 11:59 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Lynn Lisa Laroche, 40, of 1278 S. Main St., Palmer on charges of possession of a class B drug with intent to distribute, conspiracy to violate drug law, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, possession of a Class A and Class B drug and trafficking in 100g or more cocaine. Police also arrested Galen Carl Woodward, 44, of 480 Dipping Hole Road, Wilbraham, on charges of possession of class B drug with intent to distribute, conspiracy to violate the drug law, unregistered motor vehicle and trafficking in 100g or more of cocaine.

**Fire Logs**

**Bondsville**

*For the period Nov 21 to Nov. 27, Bondsville fire responded to 1 call.*

**Nov. 23**

On Thursday, Nov. 23 at 3:29 p.m., the department responded to State Street for the lift assist. The department returned to service at 3:43 p.m.

**Palmer**

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

**Nov. 29**

11:30 a.m. CO detector activation, Main Street (Thorndike), Back in service at 11:47 a.m.

2:37 p.m. Detector activation, High Street (Thorndike), Back in service at 2:56 p.m.

11:19 p.m. Brush fire, Ware Street, Back in service at 11:51 p.m.

**Dec. 1**

3:02 p.m. Search for person, Wilbraham Street, Back in service

at 3:30 p.m.

**Dec. 2**

3:15 p.m. Animal rescue, Gate Street, Back in service at 4:35 p.m.

**Dec. 3**

3:39 p.m. Station coverage, Boston Road (Wilbraham mutual aid), Back in service at 4:40 p.m.

3:49 p.m. Lock out, Wilbraham Street, Back in service at 4:40 p.m.

**Dec. 5**

4:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident (injury)Mass Pike, Back in service at 5:02 a.m.

8:10 a.m. Smoke investigation, Boston Road, Back in service at 8:27 a.m.

**Surviving your first holiday without a loved one**

SPRINGFIELD -- There may be no "joy" in the holidays when facing them alone for the first time after the death of a loved one.

Looking at an empty chair at the table can bring a rush of emotions and it doesn't matter how long it has been, whether this year or in the past, since a family member or friend died. Grief never takes a holiday, noted Dr. Stuart Anfang, vice chair for Clinical Services, Psychiatry at Baystate Health.

"It's only natural to experience a range of emotions such as sadness, loneliness, and a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness as you navigate the hustle and bustle of the holidays alone. Those feelings of grief, especially during Thanksgiving and the December holidays, often become more intense for those preparing to spend these joyous occasions for the first time without a spouse, child or other beloved family member or friend by their side," said Anfang.

But, you don't have to suffer alone.

"Recognize that you are not alone, and that mixed or sad feelings during the holidays are not uncommon. Do not suffer in silence and watch for the tendency to isolate or withdraw from others. Denying or bottling up your feelings--or self-medicating with alcohol or drugs--are worrisome signs," said Anfang.

Anticipation of the holidays can cause more stress than the holidays themselves.

Anfang noted that planning for the approaching holidays is the first step in developing your coping strategy, and there is no wrong or right way to deal with the holidays. Begin by making decisions that are comfortable for you and your family. Use your awareness that things are different to help you

plan what makes sense. Holiday preparations, traditions, and family time may all feel less than normal. It is also important to remember that your emotions and energy level are strongly connected. Good self-care routines are important as you prepare and deal with the holiday season. Get plenty of rest and pay attention to healthy eating. Use alcohol in moderation. Plan self-care activities that will feed your mind, body and spirit. Give yourself permission to take care of yourself.

Additional tips from the American Psychological Association for making a plan that works for you include:

Are there some traditions you would rather not do because they are just too painful to relive? Why not introduce something new into your routine?

Do you want to celebrate in the same place and be reminded of your loved one? Maybe you might want to consider traveling this season instead of staying home.

Who are the people you want to be around? Enjoy their company when they invite you for a visit.

Can you handle an all-day celebration? Be flexible with yourself and let the host know you may only stay for a short while.

The APA also reminds those grieving that once the holiday finally arrives, "just like any other day it only lasts 24 hours."

Anfang stressed that it's okay and not a sign of weakness to ask for help, whether it's help preparing some holiday treats, decorating the home, shopping, or just a shoulder to lean on.

"If you wish, you can find a way of formally remembering your loved one who is not physically present with you. For example, serving their favorite dessert and

reflecting on the joy that it brought to your loved one in the past. It is stressful to experience the holiday without your loved one, but you can find ways to honor and include them," he said.

Together you can share a holiday that is different but still meaningful and hopeful. As a family, you can add a memory ritual into your holiday by including a special activity such as looking at old photo albums, making or displaying a special holiday decoration with significant ties to the deceased.

Many people also find solace in giving as it is the "season of giving," noted Anfang.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, "it's amazing how in times of grief, sometimes the biggest comfort is to give to others," whether it's a physical present or doing something nice for others in need or who are also hurting.

Many people volunteer during the holidays, such as serving meals at a local shelter or distributing toys to needy children.

Still, for some the holidays may offer a reprieve from sad feelings and you may find yourself caught up in the moment as you experience the joy of family and friends around you.

"If you are noticing more significant symptoms causing impairment at work, school or home---problems with sleep, low energy, dramatic change in appetite or weight, inability to concentrate, frequent crying, easy irritability, thoughts of hurting yourself or wanting to die---that may be time to seek some professional evaluation. A good place to start can be your primary care provider or a trusted clergy. Bottom line---help is available and do not suffer in silence," said Anfang.

**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 are 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:

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 [sturbridgeliibrary.org](http://sturbridgeliibrary.org) for more details about events and updates on the HVAC construction project.

**NOTICE**

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# Healthcare scams are after your personal information

Healthcare scams are as varied as just about any con out there, according to the Better Business Bureau. The fraudster often poses as a government authority to persuade you to provide personal information related to your Medicare or Medicaid account for identity theft. In other cases, the con artist is after your health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare information to submit fraudulent medical charges.

### How the scam works:

The scam typically starts with an email, text message or phone call that appears to be from a government agency. Con artists use a variety of stories. In one common version, the "agent" tells you that he or she needs to update account information to send a new medical card. In another version, the scammer asks for your account number in exchange for free equipment or services. A third version involves a threatening robocall purporting to be from HealthCare.gov or the Health Insurance Marketplace. You're told you must buy health insurance or face a fine. Sure enough, you're soon asked to provide personal information. A more recent version has reported Medicare recipients receiving notices that new Medicare cards with mi-

crochips will be sent out and further verification is required.

### Tips to avoid this scam:

**Don't trust a name or number.** Con artists use official-sounding names or mask their area codes by spoofing to make you trust them. Don't fall for it.

**Hang up and go to official websites.** You can enroll or re-enroll in Medicare at Medicare.gov or a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov.

**Never share personally identifiable information** with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether over the phone, by email, or on social media. This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate, Social Security or Social Insurance number, and, of course, your health insurance number.

**Guard your government-issued numbers.** Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Know the signs. Medicare will never contact you via email, text message, or phone, asking you to verify personal information.

# Simple ways communities can combat bullying

*Stand for the Silent, an organization helping to stop school bullying, helps communities address the issue*

It has been known that bullying around the country is a big problem. The statistics point to the fact that something needs to be done. People mostly look to the schools to handle the issue of bullying, but perhaps it is time for the whole community to take the issue on. With the community on board, addressing the issue to dismantle it, the schools and all areas will benefit. Tapping into how to get the community on board to combat bullying is a powerful method for creating a kinder world.

"We work with schools and communities around the country. We know how important it is to get the whole community on board with stopping bullying," said Kirk Smalley, co-founder of Stand for the Silent. "It's really a team effort to address the issue, and we are happy to be at the forefront of helping people to make a difference."

Bullying is a common issue at school, with one in five high

school students reporting being bullied on school property, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But it doesn't stop once kids leave the school campus. The CDC reports that one in six high school students are cyberbullied, which takes place online, through texting, etc.

While we tend to think that bullying is a problem only for our youth, one look at the statistics surrounding workplace bullying proves otherwise. The CDC reports that up to 59% of workers in America say that they have felt bullied in the workplace, while up to 15% globally have felt bullied, and 12% have witnessed others being bullied.

With youth and adults having bullying issues around the nation, it's time for communities to address the issue as a whole. Here are ways for communities to combat bullying:

**Guest speaker.** Stand for the Silent has a mission of traveling the country to speak with schools and communities about bullying. Inviting them to the community or school to talk is a significant first step toward making a change and setting a new tone.

**Make the commitment.** The community needs to commit to the idea of addressing bullying.

Coming together to share in the mission of tackling the issue will be more successful if those involved are 100% on board with making it a consistent part of the community discussion.

**Raise awareness.** The more people talk about bullying in the community, including what it looks like, the damage that it does, and what to do to address it, the more it takes the power away. When people are aware of the issue in their community, they will become more active in helping not to tolerate it.

**Partner up.** Community groups working to eradicate bullying can partner with other local resources, including groups, organizations, sporting teams, etc. That way, the message is being reinforced at every corner.

**Get people involved.** To get more community members engaged in addressing the issue, hold community events, have guest speakers, forums, question and answer sessions, etc. People need the facts and how to handle it, and they can get the answers at these events.

"Your community will feel the difference it makes once you get started addressing the issue together," adds Smalley. "Our youth doesn't live in a bubble, they are part of the community,

so it's time for us to all stand together on this issue."

Some signs may signal a child is being bullied, such as having sudden changes in school attendance, having difficulty concentrating, lacking the ability to be self-assertive, having injuries without an explanation of where they came from, a loss of appetite before going to school, etc. If a parent or teacher suspects a child is being bullied, the issue should be investigated and remedied immediately.

Smalley and his wife, Laura, started the organization following their 11-year-old son ending his own life due to bullying. They turned their pain and loss into a mission of helping others. He travels the country giving presentations about bullying to schools, providing bullying prevention, giving out scholarships, offering intervention strategies, and more. Those interested in getting involved can start a chapter of the group in their area, obtain a free K-2 bullying prevention curriculum, host a presentation at their school, and donate to help support the cause. To get more information, visit the site at: <https://standforthesilent.org/>.

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\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

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

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

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

## JUNK REMOVAL

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

## SERVICES

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

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

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

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

## SERVICES

### LANDSCAPING

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

## MASONRY

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

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

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

## TREE WORK

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

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

## STUMP GRINDING

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



**SAW STUMP GRINDING**  
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413-213-5470

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

## HELP WANTED

### ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN/ FIELD INSPECTOR EMERGENCY DISPATCHERS

The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring! For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE. Open until filled.

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

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

**BUY LOCALLY**  
support our community!

## REAL ESTATE



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

## FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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

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

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

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

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Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
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Run my ad in the following ZONE(S):  
 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns

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

# Public Notices

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 6 M.G.L., the Planning Board will 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

## PUBLIC NOTICE Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Division of Wetlands and Waterways 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §43 and 33 U.S.C. 1341 M.G.L. c. 21 § 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the replacement of Bridge No. M-27-015 carrying Wales Road over Conant Brook in the Town of Monson by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. The project includes bridge replacement and roadway approach work. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, Attention Courtney Walker or by emailing [courtney.walker@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:courtney.walker@dot.state.ma.us). Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or [heidi.davis@mass.gov](mailto:heidi.davis@mass.gov) within 21 days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments within 21 days of this notice may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.  
12/07/2023

## LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER SERVICES

The Town of Monson (the "Owner") is seeking the services of a qualified "Owner's Project Manager" as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, § 44A½(c) and as further defined by provisions stated in the RFQ to provide Project Management Services for the construction, demolition, addition to and/or renovation of the Monson Fire Station (the "Proposed Project"), located at 200 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts.

The Town of Monson is requesting the services of an Owner's Project Manager to represent the Owner during the creation of construction documents, bid and award, construction, demolition, addition to and/or renovation phases of the contract, to include continued Project Management Services through, construction, and final closeout of the Proposed Project. The estimated total project cost is \$6.6 million. The Owner's Project Manager fee will be negotiated.

A voluntary informational meeting and site inspection will be conducted on December 8, 2023 at 2:00PM at the Monson Fire Station located at 200 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts, 01057.

The complete RFQ may be obtained after December 1, 2023, electronically by contacting [jwolowicz@monson-ma.gov](mailto:jwolowicz@monson-ma.gov)

Submissions are due no later than 11:00 AM, Friday, December 22, 2023. The bid envelope shall be clearly marked:

**Town of Monson RFQ - Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Services - Fire Station Renovation Project**

Sealed qualification, appropriately marked will be publicly opened and taken under advisement

in the Town of Monson Small Conference Room, Town Offices, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all responses, to waive informalities and to award in the best interest of the Town. All questions regarding this RFQ should be directed:

Jennifer L. Wolowicz, Town Administrator  
Monson Town Offices  
110 Main Street  
Monson, MA 01057

[jwolowicz@monson-ma.gov](mailto:jwolowicz@monson-ma.gov)  
413-267-4101

Minority and female owned businesses are encouraged to bid.

The Town of Monson may cancel this RFQ or reject in whole or in part any and all proposals, if they determine that cancellation or rejection serves the best interest of the Town of Monson.  
12/07/2023

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2442EA Estate of: Alicia W Richards Also known as: Alicia Ann Richards Date of Death: 08/03/2023 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 Elizabeth Brown 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: Elizabeth Brown of Monson, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2023.

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: December 01, 2023  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
12/07/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 23 SM 004402 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

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

**Mortgage Assets Management, LLC** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 46 Meadowbrook Lane, Unit No. 46, of the Meadowbrook Green Condominiums, given by Lynne R. Riendeau to Wells Fargo bank, N.A., dated March 26, 2008, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17221, Page 319, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 1/15/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 11/28/2023.  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
12/07/2023

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2437EA Estate of: Steven Paul Robert Also known as: Steven P. Robert Date of Death: 08/16/2023 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 Gloria J. Salemi 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: Gloria J. Salemi of Monson, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/28/2023.

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 30, 2023  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
12/07/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD23E0053PP

To Mona L. Rock of Palmer, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Gilbert Ocasio, of Belchertown, in the County of Hampshire, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Palmer, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand (\$347,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the morning on the seventeenth day of January 2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 17th day of November 2023.  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register  
12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L.c.183A:6

By virtue of Judgment and Order of the Palmer District Court (Docket No. 2243CV319), in favor of BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION against AMANDA SAWICKI, ET. AL. establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L.c.183A:6 on the real estate known as UNIT #5, 18 PALMER ROAD of the WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM for the purposes of satisfy-

ing such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction at 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON ON THE 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2024, AT UNIT 5, 18 PALMER ROAD, MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

The property located in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, commonly known as Unit 5, 18 Palmer Road, and being designated as Unit No. 5 (the "Unit") of Woodridge Place Condominium (the "Condominium"), created pursuant to Master Deed dated October 30, 1990, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds on October 31, 1990, in Book 7579, Page 402. Said Unit is shown on the floor plans filed with the said Master Deed.

The Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 17.05% proportionate interest in the Common Areas and facilities described in said Master Deed.

The Unit is conveyed subject to, and with the benefit of, the provisions of said Chapter 183A of the General Laws, as amended; the provisions, easements, agreements, restrictions, and covenants of the Condominium; the provision of the Master Deed (as amended) and the By-laws of said Condominium, as they may be amended from time to time.

The Unit is intended for residential purposes and other uses permitted by the applicable zoning ordinance and as set forth in the Master Deed.

Subject to and with the benefit of, easements for encroachment, and maintenance, repair, replacement, and use of all common elements located within said Units, in common with all other Units and common elements.

Subject to and together with those rights, exceptions, takings, easements, and other encumbrances as referred to in the hereinabove Master Deed.

For Grantor's title see deed to AMANDA SAWICKI dated December 13, 2013 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20135, Page 590.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

**TERMS OF SALE:**  
1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.

1. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.

2. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

3. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.

4. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and out-

standing.  
5. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.

6. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.

7. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is".

8. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.

8. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

## THE WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION,

For the Trustees,  
By its Attorneys  
MARCUS, ERRICO,  
EMMER  
& BROOKS, PC

Dean T. Lennon, Esq.  
BBO#668031  
45 Braintree Hill Office Park,  
Suite 107  
Braintree, MA 02184  
(781) 843-5000  
d12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAMPDEN, SS. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 2379CV00565

JOSHUA D. CASPER and RICHARD A. HACKER, Trustees of the CASPER-HACKER REALTY TRUST dated December 29, 2020, PLAINTIFFS

vs. MAUREEN A. CASPER, individually and as Trustee of the DR. LEE S. CASPER MONEY PURCHASE PLAN dated August 1, 1978, and such persons, if any, unascertained, not in being, unknown, within or without the Commonwealth, or who cannot be served with process, their heirs or legal representatives or such other persons as shall become their heirs, devisees or appointees, DEFENDANTS

**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
This cause came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiff, praying for an order of notice and thereupon consideration thereof, it is

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Wales Rebecca R. Smith, Collector of Taxes Office of the Collector of Taxes Notice of Tax Taking

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned

You are hereby notified that on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collectors Office, PO Box 22, 3 Hollow Road, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Wales the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed To DECORIE DONNA  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 16304 Square Feet located and known as 11 SHORE DR II shown on the Town of Wales Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 100.0-2850-0011.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 20939 on page 105 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.  
2021 Tax \$3,696.61

Assessed To WORTH DAVID W.  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 13068 Square Feet located and known as 6 CHURCH ST shown on the Town of Wales Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 100.0-1230-0006.0 and being the premises recorded in book 16814 on page 530 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.  
2021 Tax \$275.94

Supposed Present Owner C/O PALCALE KEVIN M AND AMANDA M  
12/07/2023

Ordered, and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said Defendants, MAUREEN A. CASPER, individually and as Trustee of the DR. LEE S. CASPER MONEY PURCHASE PLAN dated August 1, 1978 and such persons, if any, unascertained, not in being, unknown, within or without the Commonwealth, or who cannot be served with process, their heirs or legal representatives or such other persons as shall become their heirs, devisees or appointees, whose last known address was 920 Union St, Duxbury, Massachusetts, by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Journal Register, a newspaper published in the County of Hampden, at least fourteen days before the eleventh (11th) day of January next, and that said Defendants do cause written appearance to be entered and written answers or other lawful pleadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the eleventh (11th) day of January next. If Defendants fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against them for relief demanded in the complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a) your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you have against the Plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs claim or you will be barred from making such claim in any other action.  
Entered: 11/30/23  
Brian R. Dolaher  
Asst. Clerk/Magistrate  
12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

## Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29**

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5**

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



birth announcements



engagement announcements



wedding announcements

www.turley.com

# The Journal Register

## House Decorating Contest

Send us your Christmas House Decor photos from this year! We are looking for decor in 4 categories:

### Nostalgic

Tradition all the way!

### Most Creative

Most crafty display!

### Kid Friendly

Kids just want to hang out with you!

### Twinkle, Twinkle

Lights, lights and more lights!

Please send all entries to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) labeled Holiday Decor contest. Include Name, Address & Phone. You will get a receipt of submission.

Prizes will be awarded.



### SCHOOLS | from page 1

only on the weekend is harmful for their age.

For cannabis use, the numbers were slightly lower. 95.9% of eighth-graders, 79% of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 60% of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders said that daily cannabis use is harmful at their age, with 77.6% of eighth-graders, 52.6% of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 46.7% of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders believing that weekend cannabis use is harmful.

Gramarossa said that studies have determined that some of the most important factors toward mitigating drug use among teens and adolescents are disapproval from parents and guardians, as well as their friend group.

"Sometimes it might feel like you have no influence over (a teenager's) behavior; all the research says exactly the opposite," Gramarossa said. "If you are disapproving and really clear about your disapproval of substance use, teens are much less likely to use it."

She said that her organization takes time to sort through the answers and weed out any responses that seem dishonest or exaggerated in order to compile accurate data. She spoke of collaborating with various schools in the

area, including the Palmer and Quabbin schools, and Pathfinder.

"For every school district, this data is your data," Gramarossa said. "You decide if you want to share it, and how you want to take a look at it. We have an epidemiologist on our team that can help you further, what we call, 'slice and dice' the data. What I'm going to present tonight is just a little bit of what's in the survey."

Gramarossa said that Monson will be the third school district that has benefited from this grant, following Belchertown and the Quabbin schools, as well as hundreds of other grantees around the country.

"I know that sometimes this grant is challenging, it comes from the federal government," Gramarossa said. "It is labor intensive, so we're thrilled to work with you all."

The Committee thanked Gramarossa for her efforts, and spoke positively of continuing to work with her grant.

"We're always here to consult with," Gramarossa said.



Don Blais and Matthew Lemieux warm their hands by the fire.

### KRAMPUS | from page 1

cookies and a chance to take pictures with Krampus.

"While Santa rewards the good kids, Krampus punishes the bad," warned the Recreation Department in an online post. "Come on out for an outdoor movie night and get your picture taken with Krampus."

Town Council member Matthew Lemieux and Conservation Commission Chair Donald Blais were both there to support the event, as were members of the Fire Department.

There was much praise for Recreation Director Andrew St. George's costume, which included a cloak and horns. Patience Heartly, who was also in cos-



Recreational Director Andrew St. George arranged this celebration of the German mythological figure, Krampus.

tume, commended St. George for all the events he helps to coordinate, comparing his turn as the conductor from the Polar Express for last weekend's tree-lighting at Depot Park.

Krampus Night was originally the passion project of Town Manager Ryan McNutt, who launched the event last year. St. George remembered being asked about it for his interview, and said that he impressed McNutt by being familiar with the Krampus legend.

St. George said that he likes that the event stands out against the more family-oriented Christmas events, and talked about how the event ties into the long-standing tradition of telling horror stories around the holidays, including works by Mary Shelley and Charles Dickens.

Though the event is open to all ages, the film screened is rated PG-12, and so the Recreation Department advised parental discretion when bringing young children to the event.

"While anyone is welcome to come to this event, make sure you know your kids and decide what is best for them,"

the Facebook page recommended.

"There are already so many family-friendly events going on," St. George said. "And I didn't want to step on anyone's toes by competing with Light Up Palmer, or Christmas on the Common, or anything."

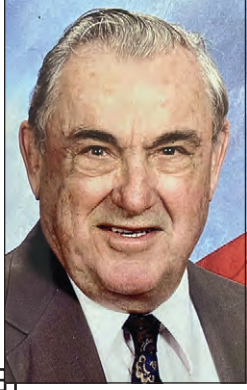
St. George floated the idea of incorporating the Grinch into a "Christmas Villains Night."

"It would still be centered around Krampus, but maybe we could screen 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' next year," he said.

Another idea that was mentioned in the planning of this year's Krampus Night was to incorporate a traditional Krampus Run, which would involve multiple people dressed as Krampus to chase down people trying to get across a large area.

To keep up to date with new events and activities offered by the town's Recreation Department, visit [PalmerMA.MyRec.com](http://PalmerMA.MyRec.com), or stop by the office at Town Hall.

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Ware Road, Rte. 32, Palmer  
OPEN SAT. & SUN. 11AM-3PM UNTIL CHRISTMAS  
December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23  
For • 1/2 Gallon Ice Cream • Gift Certificates  
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