

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com December 11, 2025 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 46 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

'Stuff-A-Cruiser' toy drive helps assist local families during holidays

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Holiday spirit filled the air once again as the Palmer Police Department held its annual “Stuff a Cruiser” toy drive this past Saturday, Dec. 6, drawing families, volunteers, and community organizations together to support local children in need.

For several years, the event has served as a major seasonal effort to gather toys for Palmer-area families, and this year’s turnout demonstrated strong community enthusiasm. Police Chief Christopher Burns, volunteers from local organizations, and even Santa himself greeted donors as they packed a police cruiser full of gifts.

Lori Chiacchia, who runs the “Santa’s Elves of Palmer” Facebook page, has been one of the key organizers behind the event since the department revived the tradition following the pandemic.

“I’ve been doing this for the past five years with the police,” Chiacchia said. “It stopped during COVID, and when we brought it back, we just kind of collaborated. They collect the toys, and I dish them out to all the kids in Palmer.”

Chiacchia said she works year-round on holiday support efforts and praised the event’s expanding partnerships. This year’s toy drive included reindeer-food making



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Lori Chiacchia, Santa Claus, Police Chief Burns, and Lion’s Club President George Richardson, stand in front of the police cruiser that is being stuffed with gifts.

for kids and a long list of participating community groups.

“Demore’s Auto is big... they donate everything, and I use their trailer,” she said. “Santa’s here, the Boy Scouts are here, the Lions Club, the fire department... Everyone comes together.”

Chief Burns said the department is proud to see the event grow each year. While the police have hosted versions of Stuff a Cruiser since before the pandemic, this marked the seventh official year, and the fifth working alongside Chiacchia’s Santa’s

Elves group.

“This is a great event,” Burns said. “Every year, we get assistance from Santa’s Elves and from Demore’s. They do a great job. A lot of toys go to a lot of new families, and it’s hugely successful every year.”

Burns stood alongside volunteers as families dropped off dolls, games, sports equipment, puzzles, and more. Each donation goes directly toward ensuring Palmer children have gifts to open during the holiday season.

Also supporting the event was the Palmer Lion’s Club, a longtime Palmer civic organization. Club President George Richardson said the Lions have been involved in holiday giving efforts for decades, though their level of participation has changed in recent years.

“The Lions Club used to do it, but lack of members and COVID really hurt us,” Richardson explained. “So now we’ve taken over helping Santa’s Elves.”

TOYS | page 7

PALMER



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Eighth grader Christian Arventos offers homemade cookies and fundraiser items to support his eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip.

PHS Craft Fair brings out variety of vendors

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The main foyer and gymnasium of Palmer High School overflowed with energy, creativity, and holiday spirit this past Saturday, Dec 6, as the school hosted its fifth annual Palmer High Craft Fair. The event, run by the Palmer High Student Council, once again drew a mix of local artisans, student fundraisers, family-run businesses,

and community members in search of handmade gifts and seasonal treats.

Student Council Executive Board President Neila LaChance, who is also Vice President of the Class of 2027, said the event remains one of the most anticipated gatherings of the year. “It’s a wonderful event that allows members of our community to enjoy the winter spirit,” she said. “It also gives ven-

FAIR | page 6

SCHOOLS



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Science teacher and crafter Mrs. Soukup-Coe displays her upcycled sweater creations and handmade gnomes along with her daughters Danielle Coe and Logan and Riley Soukup.

MHS launches craft fair

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The inaugural Monson High School Craft Fair brought a lively mix of holiday energy, student fundraising, and local creativity to the building this weekend, filling the main foyer and cafeteria with more than 35 vendors, student organizations,

and families eager to support the school. Planned and coordinated largely by the Monson High School Student Council, the fair marked a new tradition that students and staff hope will continue for years to come.

Senior Sophia Galarneau, president of the Student Council and a member

CRAFT | page 8

PALMER

Pathfinder draws hundreds to annual career night

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School opened its doors to a bustling crowd of prospective students and families during its annual Career Night, transforming the building into a full-campus showcase of academic departments, vocational shops, student activities, athletics, and support services.

On Dec. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. families were allowed to explore classrooms and speak directly with teachers, staff, and current students. During this time until 7:10 p.m. a free community dinner in the cafeteria was prepared and served by the school’s culinary arts program. Penne with meatballs, rolls, and cookies fueled the evening as visitors continued into the gymnasium, where extra tables with additional information on course options were available.

Superintendent Eric Duda said the turnout exceeded expectations. “We had a very strong attendance... the feedback I’ve had directly from people seeking me out has been over the top,” he said. He added that visiting grandparents praised the professionalism of Pathfinder’s students, noting how attentive and confidently they greeted families.

Tables in the gym were



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Health Assisting instructor Anthony Braden shares information about CNA, CPR, EKG training, clinical rotations, and the program’s many pathways into the medical field while the students in the program show off the machinery they get to work with.

set up for informational programs and extra curriculum information offered but mainly people entering the building were given a map of the grounds showcasing where each program can be found.

Inside the gymnasium, Pathfinder’s academic teachers shared their work, emphasizing rigor, personalization, and preparation for both college and careers.

English Department chair Angela Sweeney de-

scribed a “homegrown curriculum” aligned with core standards through short stories, novels, plays, and student presentations. Offerings include standard and honors tracks, AP English in grades 11 and 12, and electives such as creative writing and modern media communication, where students analyze social media, blogs, podcasts, AI, and video games.

Social Studies teacher

CAREER | page 14

PALMER

Festival of Trees lights up cultural center

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Historical & Cultural Center (PHCC) welcomed residents and visitors for its 13th Annual Festival of Trees, a beloved holiday tradition and the organization’s largest fundraiser, supported entirely by local donors, businesses, and families. PHCC President Bob Haveles said the event continues to grow each year, both in participation and in the volume of heartfelt contributions that make the fundraiser possible.

“This is our major fundraiser of the year,” Haveles explained. “We do some others, but this is our main one, and it happens because of the generosity of our donors.”

This year’s display features dozens of decorated trees, each contributed by individuals, families, and local businesses. Many donors go beyond ornaments, adding gift certificates, themed baskets, and other prizes beneath their trees for whoever wins

TREES | page 12



Local artist leads new sketching course

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Free Library launched a new creative program this week, opening its doors to a six-week sketching course titled “Come Sketch With Me!”

Led by local artist Robin Keller, the workshop invites teens and adults to explore the fundamentals of drawing in a relaxed, supportive environment.

The program runs Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the library wherever the group can fit that day. While the first session began this past Dec. 4, the course continues weekly for a total of six classes. Space is limited, and registration is required, with the understanding that participants commit to all six sessions.

Keller, a lifelong resident of the Pioneer Valley, brings to the class a deep appreciation for the region’s landscape. Originally a painter whose vivid acrylic works focus on the interplay of light and color across rural New



Some of Keller’s sketched pencil artwork.

England, she has spent the past two years shifting her focus toward sketching. That transition, she said, has rekindled her love for linework and the simplicity of pencil on paper.

“I’ve been a painter since around 2000, but recently I’ve really been enjoying sketching,” Keller explained. “I’m self-taught...I just came into it because I love it.”

In the course, participants learn to sketch from photographs, including images stored on their phones.

Keller demonstrated how modern phone tools: zooming, cropping, and adjusting, can help artists identify details, understand values, and interpret light and shadow more clearly.

“We’re working from photos and hopefully focusing on values...lights and darks,” she said. “Using the tools on your phone, you can magnify things and get details. There are so many tools you can use, and that’s what I want to emphasize, keeping it real simple.”



Robin Keller going around the table and individually helping students who need assistance.

The library provides pencils, erasers, and sketchbooks, making the course accessible for beginners while still offering room for growth for more experienced artists. Open to ages 13 and up, the program welcomes all skill levels.

For Keller, the heart of

the workshop is encouraging others to discover the joy of creating. “I love it,” she said. “I really enjoy the sketching, and I’m excited to share it.”

The program marks Keller’s first-time teaching at the Monson Free Library, and early response suggests

strong community interest. Those hoping to join future sessions are encouraged to contact the library for availability as space is limited.

For more information or to register for upcoming programs, visit the Monson Free Library or call the main desk.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Library hosts teen DIY glass etching workshop

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Public Library hosted a hands-on DIY Glass Etching Workshop for teens on Wednesday, Dec. in the Community Room. The program, led by Young Adult Librarian Olivia Chartrand, invited participants to design and create their own etched glass art-work using Cricut-cut stencils and etching cream.

Teens ages 14 and older had the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of pre-made stencil designs, including: seasonal themes, flowers, celestial imagery, animals, and more, or create a custom design of their own. Participants will then apply etching cream to permanently etch their stencil into a glass jar. Attendees were allowed to bring their own glass piece or use one provided by the library.

Chartrand noted that several teens experimented with intricate designs, including mushrooms, axolotls, moons, stars, and other highly personalized creations.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Above right, an in-progress glass-etched jar of a balloon animal. Right, one of the etched glass jars a teen made with a lunar theme. Em Columbus carefully puts on the stencil without any bubbles appearing in the plastic.

The workshop was free, but registration is required. For more on future program information, visit the Palmer Pub-

lic Library or contact the Young Adult Department.



Lexi Booke peeling off the plastic stencil after the etching cream had been set and washed off.

Monson Historical Society to host holiday open house

MONSON – The Monson Historic Society will host a holiday open house at the Jacob Thompson House, 7 Main Street, Monson on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The historic home will be adorned with period furniture, holiday decorations, and a display of early Monson postcards. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal

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

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

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free. Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

DryNest LLC

- Sump Pumps
- Footing Drains
- Gravity Drains
- Landscape Drainage
- Crawlspace • Bulkheads

Basement Waterproofing
(413) 279-9133 FREE ESTIMATES
drynestllc.com HIC #216492

Do You Have Hidden Treasures In Your Attic or Basement?

WE BUY, SELL & TRADE

HASBEEN
Collectible Toys & Comics

Toys and Comic Books from the 60s through today. We carry everything from LEGO, Transformers, G.I. Joes, Star Wars, TMNT, Wrestlers & more!

Make Extra Cash For The Holidays!

Call us at **413-279-4389** or email us with pictures of items for sale at **info@hasbeentoysandcomics.com**

2378 Boston Road, Wilbraham
(Right next to Frame & Picture Shoppe)
Tues.-Fri. 11-6 • Sat. 10-5 • Sun. 11-4

Gift Certificates Available!

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Out with the Old, in with the New!

Please Join State Representative Candidate Peter Warren
As He Launches His Candidacy

Sunday | 28 | December | 4 PM - 7 PM
La Cucina De Hampden House | 11 Allen Street | Hampden
Appetizers Served and Cash Bar Available

Suggested Donations Welcome: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
Donate Here

The Best is Yet to Come!

CommitteeToElectPeterWarren.com | (413) 393-4578

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETER WARREN

MHS to host Holiday Open House

MONSON – The Monson Historic Society will host a holiday open house at the Jacob Thompson House, 7 Main Street, Monson on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1-4 p.m.

The historic home will be adorned with period furniture, holiday decorations, and a display of early Monson postcards. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

Library bake sale Dec. 17

MONSON – Friends of the Monson Free Library will hold a Bake Sale on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the DeSantis Community Room. Holiday cookies, breads, pies, cakes and fudge will be for sale. Proceeds will support programs offered by the library.

CrossFit Ardor uses workout to collect toys

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – CrossFit Ardor welcomed roughly 30 participants early Saturday morning, Dec. 6, for a high-spirit, high-intensity community workout that doubled as a fundraiser for Toys for Tots. Owners Rebecca and Derek Casinghino said the event combined everything their gym stands for: community, movement, and giving back.

The idea for the fundraiser was brought to the couple by one of their coaches, Rebecca said, and the concept clicked immediately: “Give the gift of giving to our community, and also give yourself the gift of giving.”

Members and visitors filled the gym, taking part in a sweat-filled partner workout designed to challenge all fitness levels. Participants rotated through stations that included cardio on the ski erg, rower, or bike, paired

with dumbbell floor presses, wall balls, and synchronized sit-ups. The structure encouraged cooperation and camaraderie; an intentional choice, Rebecca said, to make the morning both fun and motivating.

“It was a really awesome turnout,” she added. “We got through the workout, had fun, and put a lot of toys into the boxes.”

Ardor Crossfit will continue accepting Toys for Tots donations for another week before sending the collected gifts along to the program’s distribution team. “The Toys for Tots folks have this all figured out,” Rebecca said with a laugh. “We just help them along with the toys.”

Rebecca and Derek, who own and operate the business together, describe Ardor as more than a CrossFit gym. In addition to the full CrossFit program, they offer a women-specific training track, specialty classes, and a true 24-hour gym accessible every



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The Christmas tree and overflowing Toys 4 Tots box held at the Ardor Crossfit Gym.

day of the year.

The flexible schedule has made Ardor popular with residents who work shifts or maintain irregular hours.

“The 24-hour gym works really well for people with varying schedules,” Rebecca said. “We’re open on holidays, weekends, literally 24

hours, unless the weather closes the road and nobody can get in.”

For those considering joining, the couple encourages newcomers to explore membership options on their website at CrossFitArdor.com, where both class-based and open-gym access passes are available.

Underlying all of their programs is Ardor’s central philosophy: that health starts with movement. “Once you establish some kind of movement pattern, other things fall in line,” Rebecca said. “There’s science showing that if you start your day with movement, you spend less money, you make better eating decisions...you make better choices overall.”

CrossFit Ardor plans to continue hosting community-driven events throughout the year, reinforcing its mission of fitness, connection, and local support. As Rebecca put it, “We’re here for the community.”

Community Cupboard open

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

The Monson Community Cupboard, located at 24 Green St. is currently open on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Fridays from noon - 4 p.m and Saturday from

9 a.m. to noon, and can be opened by appointment if you can’t make those times.

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

One customer declared that she “went to the food pantry on Green Street and the ladies in there are so sweet, kind helpful. No-

body makes you feel bad about needing help... We are blessed to have them. Karen and team - thank you so much for what you do. It was amazing. The shopping experience is so phenomenal.”

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

Free holiday fun for everyone

BRIMFIELD – Christmas at Hitchcock returns on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. The popular all ages event will include live music, cookie decorating and crafting, games, face painting, and more. The event is free of charge and there is no registration required.

Live music will be performed from the building’s balcony by The Voice’s Noah Lis and seasoned musician and Hitchcock’s new guitar and piano instructor Jim Perry.

Free hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. Chestnuts and marshmallows will also be roasted to share with attendees.

Ice carver Mike Rondeau will be doing a live ice carving during the event. 4-H will be bringing Phoenix the pony for attendees to greet and pet. There will be a station set up for making holiday swags with local greens donated by the newly reopened Hollow Brook Farm.

Attendees can also bring

a donation to a toy collection through the Brimfield Police Stuff-the-Cruiser initiative supporting local children in need. For information on how to donate, contact Brimfield-policeassociation@gmail.com. Donations to Hitchcock’s 2025 Friends Campaign, which aims to raise \$15,000 toward operating expenses through individual donations, are also warmly welcomed.

For complete details and schedule, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.



Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee
at 12:30
with drinks and popcorn

Dec. 12 - “A Christmas Carol” - A Christmas classic by Charles Dickens.

Dec. 19 - “The Butter Cream Gang” - Scott, Pete, Eldon and Lanny share fun and friendship as the “Butter Cream Gang” in the small town of Elk Ridge. The group is temporarily separated when Pete moves to Chicago for the school year and falls under the influence of a local gang. When he returns

to Elk Ridge unexpectedly, his friends notice he has changed. As Pete struggles, old friendships are challenged and the boys learn the true meaning of unconditional love.

Jan. 2 - “Cruella” - Set in 1970’s London during the punk rock revolution, the film follows, Estella Miller, a creative and ambitious young woman with a unique sense of style. Orphaned at a young age, Estella befriends two street urchins, Jasper and Horace, and together they navigate life as petty thieves while horning her

fashion skills. Estella’s flair for design eventually catches the attention of the ruthless fashion icon Baroness von Hellman, leading her down a dark path of ambition and revenge.

Upcoming Events
Evening Programs
4:30-7:30

Dec. 15 - Wreath making - 4:30-7:30, come make a beautiful wreath with Kim Keeton, supplies and instruction included. Cost is \$5.00 due at sign up, non-refundable.

Dec. 17 - Christmas

Celebration - Neil Diamond (Charlie Lask) will be the entertainment. Call to sign up.

Dec. 29 - Colby Academy of Dance Holiday Program - Come enjoy a local dance studio perform a holiday medley

Jan. 5 - Monday evening program - Candle Holder Craft Class. Betty Koss is teaching this class, sample will be displayed at the center.

Jan. 14 - Lighted Snowman Jar - Kim Keeton instructor, sample will be displayed at the center.

Mah Jongg Club open to all levels

PALMER – Join the Palmer Public Library for a newly formed, weekly club. Beginners will get help from Joyce, a local Mah Jongg enthusiast and teacher.

The club will primarily meet in the Community Room on Mondays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. If the Community Room has another event, the club will relocate for that day to another area of the library. This club will play the American version of Mah Jongg and follow the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) rules.

Mah Jongg is a 4-person game of strategy and skill that

originated in China. There are many versions of this game, with the American version enjoying popularity in the U.S. today. Learning to play involves getting familiar with the tiles, learning the specifics of dealing and play, and especially learning to decipher and become familiar with the official card of playable hands released annually by the NMJL.

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

Tree of Love fundraiser

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

A single name ornament

is \$5 and a family name is \$10.

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

Visit us at
www.turley.com

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, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

DEADLINE

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

SQUIER OIL

Squier Oil is located in Monson since 1874. We live, pay taxes, hire and donate here. We are not from CT, Westfield, Hadley or Timbuktú!

We Maintain Our Own Service Department

We Sell Bio Friendly Fuel Oil

We Buy Contract To Protect Future Supply For Our Automatic Customers

Email: squieroil@verizon.net

Lotto calendars available

PALMER – Baystate Wing Gift Shop Annual January Lotto Calendars are now available through Jan. 30, 2026. The drawing will be held Feb. 3, 2026.

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

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

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

Accepting New Patients

KELLY & VELÁZQUEZ EYE CENTER

PETER J. KELLY, M.D., P.C.

LEONARDO J. VELÁZQUEZ, M.D.

DENNIS M. DORANS, O.D.

KELLY N. POULIOT, O.D.

1504 North Main St.
Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 283-3511

362 Sewall St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
(413) 589-7308

PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call

ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

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

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

About tax filing status and Medicare

Dear Rusty:

I'm trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to "Married - Filing Jointly" prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D.

My current IRS status is "Married - Filing Single" and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I've read that Medicare will review my income two years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated.

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain:

Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you only, not your spouse, your spouse's Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated.

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly."

The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage.

For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare visit www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medi-

care-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles.

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are re-evaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don't have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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



Christmas decoration trivia

Last week I provided you with a few tips on how to make a simple evergreen swag and wreath. Hopefully you gave it a try.

For this column I thought it would be fun to share some fun facts with you, many of which I just learned today. You see, I will be working with a group of students tomorrow and wanted to have some cool trivia up my sleeve.

I'll be bringing in all the Christmas greens I talked about a week ago and will pass them around to each student: juniper, hemlock, fir, white pine and more materials, including rose hips, pine cones and holly. Read on to see if what I share is new to you, too!

For example, did you know that the Easter White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the tallest tree in the northeast? It also goes by the name "the Great Tree of Peace," due to the fact that five Native American tribes formed an alliance under a tall white pine; a neat correlation because the needles that are attached to the twigs are in groups of five.

This tree also has a history of being used to make ship masts, and for awhile the trees were reserved for "the Crown." The great "Pine Tree Riot" was an act of defiance that led up to the American Revolution!

One other point of interest is that pine needles are edible and contain vitamin C.

Other materials that often shows up in Christmas decorations are pine cones. What I learned today is that the correct terminology is to generically call them "cones," since they are only pine cones if they come from

ther smooth or picky.

One of the biggest draws to using juniper is that it smells nice and often has attractive waxy looking berries along with the foliage. It was interesting to learn that these berries are actually cones.

The seeds are protected well within the tough outer coating and can pass through an animal's digestive tract intact. That way the seeds can be dispersed far and wide - wherever the animal is traveling, I guess!

I've done complete articles on Holly (*Ilex* spp.) before, but I did learn a few new interesting tidbits with this most recent bout of research. The plant has a unique defense mechanism.

Lower foliage is extra spiny to reduce deer from browsing. Upper foliage is not nearly as spiny. There are chemicals in holly berries that make the berries unpalatable to birds and other wildlife at first, but as winter goes on they begin to taste a little better.

Still the birds only eat a few at a time thereby dispersing seeds at various rates and locales. I think all of this is so interesting and so carefully orchestrated to continue the species!

Well, I hope my research has been entertaining, and I do hope that the students enjoy my show and tell tomorrow!

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

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.comSTAFF WRITER
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.comSTAFF WRITER
Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.comADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.comSPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



© Journal Register

WEB

www.journalregister.turley.comPATRICK H. TURLEY
CEOKEITH TURLEY
President

www.turley.com

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

Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to:

journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025:

Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue

• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue

• Agawam Advertiser News
• Sentinel • Quaboag Current • The Journal Register

Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue

• Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue

• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of CHRISTMAS for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!

Place your advertisement no later than

Thurs., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILLIARY SHOP
40 Wright St., Palmer

DECEMBER VENDORS

- Dec. 15: Generations of Cokies
- Dec. 17: Wicked Good Treats
- Dec. 19: Shannon Bacon
- Dec. 22: Generations of Cookies
- Dec. 23: Geriations and Sew on
- Dec. 24: Patty Cakes

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Dec 1-23 Gift Wrapping Station
- Dec 13: Author Visit: Santa Bill Barnsley author of, "If Mice Pulled the Sleigh" Fundraiser \$25/family/book receive autographed book
- Holiday Tea Party 1 p.m.
- Dec 17: Wales Tales Story Time 12:15 p.m.
- Kids Holiday PJ Party 4 to 6 p.m.
- Dec 24 & 25: Closed
- Dec 29: Book Buddies 11 a.m. Holiday Party
- Dec 31: Closed

December 13

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUSE at the Three Rivers Fire Station! Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice. Cost - Adults \$7. Children ages 4 to 12 \$4, under 4 free. Sponsored by the Three Rivers Firefighters - Ladies Auxiliary

December 14

The Monson Historic Society will host a holiday open house at the Jacob Thompson House, 7 Main Street, Monson on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. The historic home will be

adorned with period furniture, holiday decorations, and a display of early Monson postcards. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

December 28

SANTA AND THE WICKED WAZOO CHRISTMAS PLAY AND DANCE SHOWCASE. Let's stay in the Christmas spirit with this festive performance of Santa and the Wicked Wazoo. Some wonderful Christmas dance routines will also be showcased. Advanced tickets are \$8 for children 12 and under and \$10 for teens/adults! Door sales are \$2 more. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Pizza & Concessions. <https://mcusercontent.com/5df5bb0a520a73636a4b2e808/images/601f5727-4364-60f3-bfc7-4fd9eb88b80.jpg>

December 28

Santa and the Wicked Wazoo Christmas Play and Dance Showcase at PHCC. Let's stay in the Christmas spirit with this festive performance of Santa and the Wicked Wazoo. Some wonderful Christmas dance routines will also be showcased. Event begins at 6 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$8 for children 12 and under and \$10 for teens/adults! Door sales are \$2 more. Pizza and concessions will be available.

ONGOING

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This holiday season give yourself the gift of self-compassion



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Remember "tough love"? It was all the rage in the '80s and legitimized unkind or even cruel behaviors in pursuit of persuading a loved one to change their behavior. "Positive narratives of tough love not only coursed through communities but also became a staple for television shows for decades," wrote Peg Streep in Psychology Today, "despite the fact that there is no evidence –and never has been – that what is called tough love works in any context, including addiction."

Tough love doesn't work on ourselves either. It's been shown that negative self-talk, beating ourselves up when we don't meet our own expectations, and ruminating over our perceived failures don't do anything to improve our state of mind. In fact, it's damaging – and if you've ever been assessed for depression, those are some of the behaviors that might be identified. There's a better way. This holiday season, give yourself the gift of self-compassion. It's not just an idea. It's a way of living.

There's even an institute for its study and implementation, founded by Kristin Neff, an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. A pioneer in the field of self-compassion research, she conducted the first empirical studies on self-compassion more than 20 years ago and now runs the Self-Compassion Institute (self-compassion.org).

What is self-compassion?
Neff explains that self-compassion is showing

yourself the same care and consideration you would show to a friend who is struggling or feeling bad about themselves. "It means being supportive when you're facing a life challenge, feel inadequate or make a mistake," she writes. "Instead of just ignoring your pain with a 'stiff upper lip' mentality or getting carried away by your negative thoughts and emotions, you stop to tell yourself: 'This is really difficult right now, how



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

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

Call to ask about our next Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

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

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

We're on Facebook!



Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13									14					15
16			17					18					19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62					63			64	
65		66							67				68	
	69								70					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders	psychologist	70. Preliminary patient assessment	27. Swedish krona
7. A type of solution	41. Endured		30. Start over
13. Fortified wine	43. A female domestic in one		32. Field flowers
14. Edible mollusk	44. You can get stuck in one		35. Fourteen
16. They precede C	45. Cigarette (slang)		37. A visual way to interact with a computer
17. A way to compare	47. Fiber optics network		38. Up-to-date
19. Government lawyer	48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)		39. Campaigns
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran	51. Employee stock ownership plan		42. Touch lightly
22. The eighth month (abbr.)	53. Belonging to the bottom layer		43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
23. Very willing	55. Sound		46. Violent seizure of property
25. ___ ex Machina	56. MLB legend Hank		47. Supporter of the Pope
26. Makes happy	58. Very attractive person		49. Anxiety
28. Type of berry	59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig		50. Body fluid
29. A doctrine	60. South Dakota		52. One who's faking it
30. Popular Dodge truck model	61. Mocking		54. Title of respect
31. Dekagram	64. Symbol for gold		55. Chilean city
33. Naturally occurring solid	65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio		57. City in central Japan
34. Company officer	67. Humor		59. Silk garment
36. Villains	69. Shawl		62. A form of dance
38. Cricket frogs			63. Automobile
40. Influential German			66. The man
			68. Justice Dept. head honcho

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease	37. A visual way to interact with a computer
2. Commercial	38. Up-to-date
3. Necklace material	39. Campaigns
4. Containers	42. Touch lightly
5. A way to save for your future	43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan	46. Violent seizure of property
7. Dipped down	47. Supporter of the Pope
8. Head injury (abbr.)	49. Anxiety
9. Lay about	50. Body fluid
10. Intestinal	52. One who's faking it
11. Opposite of yes	54. Title of respect
12. Caused to be loved	55. Chilean city
13. Spiritual leader of Islam	57. City in central Japan
15. Businesslike	59. Silk garment
18. Not in	62. A form of dance
21. Number above the line in a fraction	63. Automobile
24. An animal with its own day	66. The man
26. Pouch	68. Justice Dept. head honcho

FAIR | from page 1

dors plenty of opportunity to show their unique crafts and expertise." LaChance noted that while this is the fair's fifth year, it is only her second time helping run it, and each year the scale continues to grow. Proceeds from the major raffle support Student Council programming, including school events, spirit weeks, and transportation for class activities.

Visitors entering the fair were immediately greeted by the popular lottery tree raffle, where tickets ranged from one to twenty dollars. Across the hallway, a lively fundraising effort for the eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip drew steady attention, with tables piled high with cookies, bracelets, magnets, and other handmade goods. Among those participating was eighth grader Christian Arventos, whose baked sweets attracted a constant line of customers.

The fair filled both the main academic wing and the gymnasium, each corner packed with tables offering a different craft or creation. Many attendees expressed amazement at the sheer volume, weaving through crowds while commenting that there were "things on things" everywhere they turned. Longtime local favorites such as Grandma's Goodies by Ann McDowell and Sir Barks-A-Lot returned with their signature treats, while the school store and TK Designs added to the mix. Trina Perault welcomed guests at her table, offering handcrafted items and cheerful conversation.

Inside the gym, the scene expanded dramatically. Permanent jewelry from Boho & Bond, holiday decor from A Few of My Favorite Things Run by Sandy Chaeffer, and dozens of other displays stretched wall to wall. At one table, Jody Ross of Paper City Crochet showcased tiny ducklings, pocket whales, crocheted bookmarks, pocket sunshines, ornaments, and the always-popular "emotional support chicken," along with neatly packaged Christmas mystery boxes that drew frequent shoppers.

Some vendors shared the personal stories behind what they make. Natalie Colapietro, owner of Alcaba Silico, displayed an artfully arranged collection of handmade earrings featuring tattoo-style illustrations set against dictionary pages. She explained that the artwork comes from her boyfriend, a tattoo artist, though she often changes his color palettes before assembling the final pieces. "I've been making these since 2020," she said with a laugh.



Angela Humphrey of Untamed Origins and her mother, Christine Renaud, present pheasant feather earrings, ornaments, and hand-painted slate artwork table.

"This is only my third craft fair ever. I just do it because it's fun and it keeps my brain occupied." She admitted that most of the time, she simply hangs them on the wall at home and admires them.

Other tables featured intricate ceramics, wood-burned art, and dazzling arrangements of crocheted animals and accessories. One of the most aromatic displays belonged to Better Bees, run by Lorraine Ferraro, who explained that she incorporates honey and beeswax from her brother-in-law's beekeeping operation into her soaps, lotions, and balms. Nearby, Gazing East by Melissa Storey presented shadow boxes, rock art, and silicone bead accessories ranging from bookmarks to wine stoppers.

Fiber artist Jennifer Harris, owner of Weleful Weaving, brought a striking assortment of handwoven towels, scarves, handbags, dishcloths, and "mug rugs," all crafted on a loom. She said her towels remain her best sellers and added that nearly half of her customers this year sought her out because they had purchased from her before. Harris also displayed fingerless gloves, knitted purses, and other textile goods that brought rich texture to her table.

A distinctive corner of the fair belonged to Anna Dervishian, who split her table between items handmade by her and her sister and a selection of Armenian goods sourced from small artisan businesses overseas. Dervishian said she enjoys helping introduce those makers to American customers. On the literary side of the fair, local children's author Maria Kamoulakou-Marangoudakis, signed her illustrated chapter books inspired by Greek folklore and ancient literature. As both an archaeologist and a writer, she said the creative process is deeply fulfilling, though the selling portion of events like this brings its own rewards. "You never know who is going to stop at your table," she said, recalling years of meeting new readers

and even forming friendships at book fairs.

One of the final booths near the gym entrance featured Untamed Origin, run by Angela Humphrey of Chi-copee. Humphrey, an avid hunter, repurposes pheasant and turkey feathers from her harvests into earrings, ornaments, and decorative pieces. Her mother, Christine Renaud of Wales, contributed hand-painted slate artwork, creating a joint display that attracted both nature lovers and art collectors. "We kind of do this together now," Humphrey said. "I love making things from what I harvest, and she paints the slates. It makes for a really fun partnership."

By midday, the fair had drawn large crowds of shoppers ready to support student fundraisers and local makers. With its mix of student involvement, returning artisans, creative newcomers, and multigenerational crafting families, the Palmer High Craft Fair remains a cherished seasonal tradition. LaChance said the event's spirit is what keeps it growing year after year. "It brings people together...students, families, and our whole community," she said. "That's what makes it special."



Jody Ross of Paper City Crochet shows her collection of crocheted bookmarks, pocket whales, ornaments, and her signature "emotional support chicken."



Lorraine Ferraro of Better Bees offers soaps and balms made with locally sourced raw honey and beeswax from her family's beekeeping operation.



Amy Roman of Amy's Rt. 9 Bakery shows up to sell her famous sweet treats at this craft fair.



Artisan Natalie Colapietro poses with her handcrafted earrings, designed using tattoo-inspired artwork printed on dictionary pages.



Fiber artist Jennifer Harris of Weleful Weaving stands beside her woven towels, scarves, purses, and textiles, created on a hand loom and popular with returning customers.



Local author Maria Kamoulakou-Marangoudakis signs copies of her illustrated chapter books inspired by Greek folklore and ancient literature.

HEALTH | from page 5

can I comfort and care for myself in this moment?"

She points out that when we berate ourselves for mistakes or setbacks, we lose confidence and often give up. "By contrast, self-compassion provides the emotional safety we need to keep trying, even when things don't go as planned," she explains. "Most importantly, it allows us to learn and grow from our mistakes rather than getting derailed by shame and anxiety."

Neff has created a little industry featuring books, workshops, coaching and videos that you can pay for, but there are also many free resources like guided practices and self-compassion exercises. A good place to start

might be the self-evaluation, which asks how often...

I'm disapproving and judgmental about my own flaws and inadequacies.

- I try to be loving towards myself when I'm feeling emotional pain.

- I'm intolerant and impatient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.

Learning to practice self-compassion

Can we teach ourselves to become self-compassionate? Yes, but it takes work, and we may be trying to undo decades of behavior that stems from how we were raised, the people we've been exposed to, and the way we're used to talking to ourselves.

Here are a few things you can try:

Turn it around: Let's say you make a mistake at work

or mess up a project. Rather than beating yourself up ("I'm such an idiot!"), imagine a friend in the same situation. Would you tell them they're an idiot? Probably not. You'd listen to them, offer a shoulder and discuss what to do differently the next time.

Put it in perspective: Remind yourself that struggle is a part of the human experience. You can say: "I'm not alone in feeling this way," or "We all struggle sometimes."

Soothe yourself: Find a mantra that works for you: "I will accept myself as I am," for example. You can also place your hand over your heart or give yourself a hug.

Challenge negative thoughts: Write down what you're thinking or feeling, read it over and then replace

those negative thoughts with kindness and compassion.

I wish all of you a peaceful – and self-compassionate – holiday season!

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

WE CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF FROZEN TURKEYS, TURKEY BREAST, DUCKS, GEESE, CORNISH HENS AS WELL AS FRESH HAMS & RED MEAT ROASTS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN ROAST or CHOPS \$2.66 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE \$7.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TURKEY BREAST \$1.69 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$1.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF TENDERLOIN \$13.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNISH HENS TWIN PAK..... \$2.79 lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... \$2.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$6.67 lb	HOLIDAY APPETIZERS
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS HOLIDAY ROAST PORK LOIN STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES \$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG LAMB \$6.69 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHEFS TOGETHER PIGS IN A BLANKET 24 PC BOX... \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK..... \$1.55 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$14.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI SPRING ROLLS 8 PAK..... \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS BUDABALL OLD TYME SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2.66 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED SWEET & SMOKY BBQ BABY BACK RIBS..... \$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. BONELESS KAYEM WHOLE PIT HAM \$3.66 lb		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN HEALTHY CHOICE STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS.... \$11.99 ea

Happy Holidays Gift Cards Available!

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

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

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

SALE DATES: 12/11/25-12/17/25

FC & P

Ferrara Consulting & Properties

Consulting all Matters of Real Estate

Art Ferrara (413) 348-5827

Facebook.com/FCPconsult www.FCPCONSULT.COM

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

Business

Country Bank announces recent promotions

WARE – Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank is pleased to announce recent promotions that reflect the Bank’s ongoing commitment to exceptional service, operational excellence, and community impact. These promotions recognize the outstanding work, expertise, and dedication demonstrated by Clare Ladue, Lucy Sanchez, Audra Chartier, and Nick Thompson.

Clare Ladue
Vice President,
Customer Care Center

With more than 30 years of banking experience, Clare has consistently excelled in elevating customer experience, driving operational performance, and building collaborative team cultures.

She joined Country Bank two years ago to lead the Customer Care Center and immediately began reshaping service standards and operational efficiency.

Clare received her Mass Bankers Financial Certificate from the New England School of Financial Studies and remains passionate about professional development.

Lucy Sanchez
Assistant Vice President,
Mortgage & Community
Development Officer

Lucy joined Country Bank in 2024, bringing 13 years of expertise in mortgage lending and branch management. Since joining, she has significantly expanded the Bank’s presence and impact in Springfield, strengthening community

partnerships and leading inclusive outreach efforts.

In addition to originating mortgages, Lucy is transforming access, visibility, and trust with new and diverse communities.

Audra Chartier
Assistant Vice President,
Retail Operations

Audra has been with Country Bank for 12 years, bringing 17 years of banking experience spanning retail, operations, sales, service, and customer experience. In her current role, she supports retail operational excellence across the bank and serves as a trusted subject-matter expert. She is a recipient of a 2024 Gold Star Award, a continuous learner, holding several CFT diplomas and a

certificate from the New England School of Financial Studies.

Nick Thompson
Compliance Officer

Nick has been with the bank for nine years and transitioned to the Compliance Department three years ago. His strong analytical mindset, collaborative approach, and sound decision-making have made him a valued internal partner. Nick’s excellence in service and teamwork earned him the prestigious President’s Platinum Award in 2020. He is currently pursuing a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM) designation.

“We are excited to announce these promotions, not just in recognition of these team member’s contributions to the Bank’s success, but

also because each individual’s history with the Bank is a demonstration of the various career path opportunities available in community banking. As an organization, we are committed to helping each team member identify their career goals and work with them to reach those objectives. Their actions, along with so many others, contribute the Bank’s overall success and we’re pleased to be able to promote these individuals for their dedication to the organization,” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer.

About Country Bank: Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions

with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$2B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 15 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Monson Savings Bank announces Community Giving Initiative underway

MONSON – There’s still time to make your voice heard. Monson Savings Bank’s 2026 Community Giving Initiative is in full swing, and they are inviting YOU to help decide which local non-profit organizations will receive donations in the coming year.

Voting is open now and runs through Dec. 31, 2025 at 3 p.m. Every vote counts, so don’t miss your chance to support the organizations that matter most to you and your community.

How to Vote:

Visit www.monsonsavings.bank/CGI and submit the name of one non-profit organization you’d like Monson Savings Bank to support in 2026. Organizations must be non-profit and serve within the Bank’s geographic area. Each person may vote once.

The top ten organizations with the most votes will receive donations from Monson Savings Bank. Winners will be announced in mid-January 2026.

“By participating in our Community Giving Initiative, you help ensure that the charitable organizations most important to our community receive support,” said Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank. “We are grateful for your involvement and look forward to continuing this tradition together.”

Voting Ends Dec. 31, 2025 – Don’t Wait! Cast your vote today at www.monsonsavings.bank/CGI.

MSB announces the retirement of NancyVELOZO

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank proudly announces the retirement of NancyVELOZO, Assistant Vice President and Collections Officer.

Nancy joined Monson Savings Bank in January 2014 and has been an integral part of the Bank’s success for more than a decade. Through her knowledge and expertise, Nancy played a pivotal role in maintaining low delinquency rates, strengthening the Bank’s financial health and stability. Her efforts have safeguarded the institution while reinforcing Monson

Savings Bank’s commitment to responsible and compassionate banking.

Beyond her professional achievements, Nancy has exemplified empathy, respect, and collaboration in guiding customers through challenging times. Her ability to balance care with accountability has been a hallmark of her success and a reflection of the Bank’s core values.

“Nancy’s dedication and professionalism have made a lasting impact on Monson Savings Bank,” said Dan Moriarty, President and CEO. “Her work has not only

contributed to the Bank’s financial strength but has also demonstrated the importance of compassion in banking. We are deeply grateful for her years of service and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.”

Monson Savings Bank’s management team and Board of Trustees extend their heartfelt appreciation to Nancy for her years of dedicated service and commitment to the communities the Bank serves.

For more information about Monson Savings Bank, please visit www.monsonsavings.bank.

TOYS | from page 1

Richardson said the Lions Club is eager to rebuild its membership.

“If anybody would like to join the Lions, we certainly welcome new members,” he said. “You can drop us a line at Post Office Box 133 in Palmer and we’ll get your information.”

The club celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, a milestone Richardson said reflects generations of commu-

nity service.

No holiday toy drive would be complete without Santa Claus, who greeted families, posed for photos, and thanked children for helping other kids in their community. Inside the police department, donuts and coffee from Dunkin’ Donuts were provided along with holiday crafts for kids along with a movie playing.

As the event wound down, organizers expressed gratitude for the generosity

shown year after year. With the combined efforts of the Palmer Police Department, Santa’s Elves, local businesses, youth groups, and civic organizations, the annual Stuff a Cruiser remains a cornerstone of the town’s holiday giving season.

The donated toys will be sorted and distributed to Palmer families in December, ensuring local children experience the magic of the holidays thanks to their neighbors’ kindness.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The trailer Demore’s Auto lent Chiacchia to hold more of the toys to be donated.



Gatherine Chiacchia, Connor Harris, Hannah Miner, and Santa Claus watch movies and make crafts inside the police department.



Donuts and coffee were provided by Dunkin’ inside the Palmer Police Department.

Monson Fire Logs

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of Dec. 1 – 7, 2025. The department responded to 31 EMS calls, 5 Fire calls and 3 Public assists.

On Monday, Dec. 1 at 10:05 a.m. the department responded to 13 Margaret Street for the vehicle smoking. The department returned to service at 11:10 a.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. the department responded to 378 Boston Road - West for the residential fire alarm. The department returned to service at 3:05 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 4 at

1:35 a.m. the department responded to 17 Country Club Heights for the furnace malfunctioning. The department returned to service at 2:08 a.m.

On Friday, Dec. 5 at 12:06 p.m. the department responded to 19 Main Street for the furnace malfunctioning. The department returned to service at 12:30 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 6 at 2:08 p.m. an outside Fire Department responded mutual aid to 231 Butler Road for the fire alarm sounding. The outside department cleared and returned to service.

Visit The Journal Register online at journalregister.turley.com

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391

Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski

Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

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



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

CRAFT | from page 1

of the Class of 2026, said the fair was something she had wanted to bring to the school for quite some time. Although she did not initially know how to make the idea a reality, she credited science teacher Mrs. Soukup-Coe with giving her the confidence and experience she needed. Soukup-Coe has organized craft fairs for more than two decades, previously running a long-standing church fair in a neighboring town. "She really helped me understand the planning process," Galarneau said, noting that Soukup-Coe's guidance was instrumental in turning the idea into a functioning event. Soukup-Coe herself said she viewed the craft fair as an opportunity to teach students practical event-planning skills so they will be well prepared to take over when she retires in a few years.

The foyer brimmed with activity as student groups hosted their own tables alongside the many local artisans and crafters. The Class of 2027 officers drew steady crowds with their January gift-card raffle, featuring a different Amazon gift-card winner for each day of the month. Students sold ten raffle tickets for five dollars, calendars for ten dollars each, and festive cups of cocoa filled with hot chocolate mix, peppermints, marshmallows, and holiday-themed packaging for five dollars apiece. The juniors explained that their fundraiser will support prom, senior activities, graduation costs, and their senior trip, all of which require steady fundraising throughout the year.

Nearby, members of the Spanish Travel Club shared their excitement about raising money for upcoming trips to Spain in 2026 and Mexico in 2027. Student Desmond Newland explained that most of the club is preparing for the Spain trip, while he plans to travel to Mexico. The club offered several raffles and sold candles, handmade elves, holiday dog bandanas, cards, and painted shells. Tickets ranged from three dollars for one to twenty dollars for twenty, and by midday the group reported that they had already raised a strong amount toward their goals.

Another popular attraction was the National Honor Society's gift-wrapping station, where students wrapped gifts at no charge, accepting donations that would be shared between the NHS and the Springfield Rescue Mission.

Alongside the student groups, dozens of local artisans set up tables showcasing everything from handcrafted ceramics to freeze-dried treats. Science teacher Mrs.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Junior class officers raise money for prom and senior events with cocoa cups and holiday raffles.

Soukup-Coe displayed her signature sweater-cycle crafts and whimsical gnomes made from antique bed screws, creations she has refined over more than twenty years of crafting. The West Springfield Transitions Program offered baked goods and artwork created by students with special needs, explaining that their earnings would support life-skills programming and community-based learning experiences.

Laser artist Janet Williams, participating in her first-ever craft fair, drew interest with her engraved ornaments, coasters, earrings, and wooden signs. Crafty Chics sold freeze-dried holiday snacks, while Ladybug Crafts featured microwave bowl cozies and handmade seasonal décor. Longtime woodworker Linda Butterfield, known as "The Woodcrafting Granny," shared candle holders, incense burners, book-holding thumb pieces, pocket boxes, toy cars, and herb strippers, describing how she first fell in love with woodworking in high school decades ago and now continues the craft from her garage.

Across the hall, Julia's Creativity, run by artist Julia Downs, offered an assortment of jewelry, handbags, button-based pins, hair accessories, and repurposed fashion pieces. Craft Creations by O & M, a sister-run business that began during the pandemic, displayed holiday decorations and seasonal gifts. Sonder Mercantile Shop, run by Lori Meaney, featured items made from repurposed and recycled materials, inspired by the word "sonder", the idea that every passerby lives a life as vivid and complex as one's own. K&A Crafts offered stress-relief crafting projects, while K's Sweet Treats owner Kathleen Joyce sold annotation kits and color-themed reader bundles popular among book enthusiasts.

Younger entrepreneurs also participated, including the trio behind Print Bros 3D, who sold 3D-printed toys, figures, and novelty items,



Student vendors Anthony Campanelli, Franco Campanelli, and Liam Lelon sell 3D-printed toys and figures.

sharing that they have been printing and selling for about a year. Two Sisters Creative Designs showcased resin art incorporating dried flowers, dandelions, seashells, and stones, while crafter Jessica Potter displayed her handmade junk journals and bookmarks under the name Junk It Up Crafts. Crochet artist Richard Arbor offered tea towels with crocheted loops, drawing interest from families with children. Tere-na Nefelibata, a table run by artist Alice Genereux, participating in her first craft fair, featured hand-painted wooden tiles, decorated gourds, photography, and acrylic artwork. Nearby, ceramicist Kathy Czarnecki, who has been working with slip molds since the early 1980s, displayed a wide variety of paint-your-own ceramics and finished holiday pieces.

The event also served as a central hub for announcements about upcoming school activities. Students shared information about the annual Santa Breakfast on Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon, a pointsettia and spider plant sale, an upcoming Krispy Kreme fundraiser, a National Honor Society Tavern Night scheduled for Jan. 8, 2026, and a sophomore pancake breakfast taking place at the high school next Sunday. The Spanish Travel Club also not-



Richard Arbor offers crocheted tea towels.

ed that they will hold a fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse in Springfield on the Dec. 18. By midafternoon, the consensus among students, staff, and vendors was that the first-ever Monson High School Craft Fair had exceeded expectations. For Galarneau, seeing so many community members fill the foyer affirmed her belief that the school needed a tradition like this. "This was something



Linda Butterfield shows her handmade wood pieces, including candle holders, book rests, and kitchen boards.



Kathy Czarnecki sells handmade ceramics and paint-your-own pieces fired in her home kiln.



Artist Alice Genereux of Terena Nefelibata presents her painted tiles, gourds, and photographic art.



Lori Charette and Luisa Pagnoni display resin art made with dried flowers and natural materials.

I've been wanting to bring to Monson High School," she said. "Seeing the turnout today...it means a lot." As vendors packed up their tables and families head-

ed home with handmade gifts and holiday treats, the atmosphere suggested that Monson High School's newest tradition had made a memorable, and likely lasting, debut.

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONNECTION

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

Happy Holidays!

May 248-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
 June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation\$899
 June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
 July18-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

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

JOHN'S PAINT STORE

California PAINTS
SINCE 1977

46 Years and Counting...

- ✓ Interior/Exterior Paint
- ✓ Hardwood Flooring
- ✓ Tile & Vinyl Flooring
- ✓ Interior/Exterior Stains
- ✓ Wallpaper
- ✓ Carpeting
- ✓ Window Treatments
- ✓...and more

Everything You Need to Complete Your Project

JohnsPaintStore.com • 413-283-9427

Pioneer Plaza: 1240 Park Street, Palmer
 Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm - Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm

The Optical Shop
at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available

Frames to Fit Any Budget
 Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages

SUNGLASSES
Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA
413-283-3511 413-589-1806
 Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

Advertise Your Business Here Contact Dan Flynn at (413) 297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS



Grayson Griswold attempts a pass.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

FOOTBALL

Pioneers fall to Cape Cod in tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – In a span of six days, the Cape Cod Regional Vocational Tech football team traveled more than 650 miles and celebrated two upset victories in the State Vocational Tournament. Following their 30-16 opening round victory at second-seeded Franklin County Tech on Nov. 14, the seventh-seeded Crusaders made another long bus trip from Harwich to Western Mass., on Nov. 21. This time, Cape Cod Tech overcame a ten point halftime deficit to de-

feat the third-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers, 18-16, in a semifinal game played at Legion Field in Palmer.

It was the first meeting on the gridiron between the two squads and the final home game of the season for the Pioneers.

“I’m very close with most of the seniors, so this is a very tough loss for those guys,” said Pathfinder sophomore Cassian Kowalik. “It’s going to be very difficult not playing with them again next year.”

The Pioneers seniors, who wrapped up their high school football careers

against rival Belchertown on Thanksgiving morning, are Dustyn Cook, Ethan Mooney, Stephen Curtis, Brandyn Wilson, Aiden Girard, Brandon Charron, Jaiden Ambrose, Wyatt Breault, Amias Kowalik, Harold Black, and Jarrett Skowyra.

“You’re always disappointed to see the seniors’ season come to an end, and I’m proud that they got this far,” said Pathfinder head coach Bill Darling. “We’re one of the only teams playing at the end of the season here for some type of trophy, so I’m really proud of the boys.” Pathfinder Tech (5-6)

didn’t have very much trouble dispatching sixth-seeded Smith Vocational, 42-12, at home in the first round of the Vocational Tournament.

The Pioneers have qualified for the Vocational Tournament three times since 2022, but they haven’t advanced to the championship game yet. They lost at Nashoba Valley Tech in the 2022 semifinals.

“This is the second time during the past four years that we’ve lost in the Vocational semifinal game,” Darling said. “We’re still in the building process and our goal is to play in the championship

game.”

After recovering a fumble with 8:24 left in the first quarter, the visitors from Cape Cod put together a 16-play scoring drive. The series was capped off with a three yard TD run by junior running back Thomas Allen less than a minute into the second quarter.

Pathfinder sophomore Elijah Cardenas tackled junior running back Chaz Thomas in the backfield on the two-point conversion play.

The Pioneers dominated
PIONEERS | page 11

AWARDS

Turley’s Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving student-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.

Last Friday night, it was their turn to be recognized for their dedicated work.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association awarded Henry and Peterson with Letters of Commendation.

The PVSOA, which held its awards banquet at the Ludlow Polish-American Club on Dec. 5, recognized the pair for their dedicated service of reporting and pho-

tographing boys and girls soccer, impacting multiple communities throughout the region.

The PVSOA Awards Committee believed their longtime service at Turley Publications was deserving of the letters.

Peterson had a more conventional background in sports journalism. He participated in his high school newspaper at Oxford High School and went on to work at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications.

PVSOA | page 10



Submitted photo

Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. The are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association hold 79th awards banquet



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.



Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization is that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday’s banquet, said he thinks its amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

“You are all a part of history,” Duggan told the award winners. “Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program.”

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soc-

BANQUET | page 11

Murphy receives MVP award from soccer officials association

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA) began selecting a girls’ player for the Most Valuable Player Award at their annual banquet in 1977. The first boys’ MVP award winner was honored in 1965.

The M.V.P. award is based on the entire season, including the postseason tournament.

The first member of the Monson girls’ soccer team to receive the M.V.P. Award from the PVSOA was Becky Tassinari in 1988.

Hannah Murphy, who was the only senior listed on this year’s soccer roster, is the 19th Lady Mustangs player to receive the Robert C. Smith/Stan Bernatowicz Award.

Murphy received her trophy at the 79th PVSOA banquet, which was held at the Polish American Citizen Club in Ludlow, on December 5.

“I’ve known Hannah since before she was in high school and it’s a lot of fun watching her play soccer,” said first-year Monson girls assistant coach Brooke Murphy, who isn’t related to Hannah. “She has grown a lot this season and has become a team leader. She can score goals in different ways, and she can also pass the ball to one of her teammates. She’s a very special soccer player and Monson High School is very lucky to have her.”

Brooke Murphy, who played college soccer at the University of New Hampshire, was selected as the M.V.P. three times by the referees during the six years



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hannah Murphy added another award to her collection last Friday night at the PVSOA banquet.

that she played for the Monson girls’ varsity soccer team. She finished her varsity career with a total of 243 career points and was also selected to the NCSAA All-American team.

For some unknown reason, Hannah Murphy wasn’t selected as an All-American player this year. She scored 46 goals this fall, which helped the Lady Mustangs advance to the Division 5 state finals. She completed her varsity career with a total of 229 career goals, which is the most goals scored by either a boys or girls player in the history of

high school soccer in Massachusetts.

“Hannah worked very hard for everything that she has accomplished on the soccer field,” said Larry Pagliaro, who has been the Lady Mustangs varsity coach during the past two seasons. “I was also Hannah’s PE teacher when she was in elementary school and she’s an outstanding person. She’s very deserving of receiving the M.V.P. award.”

One person who had the opportunity to watch Hannah Murphy perform on the soccer pitch for the first time this

MURPHY | page 10

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

Turleysports



Athlete of the Week

Grayson Griswold

Pathfinder

Griswold passed for 101 yards, a touchdown, and scored a touchdown on the ground in Pathfinder's vocational tournament playoff game against Cape Cod.

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

Moulton Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street Ware, MA 01082 45 North Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

ARBELLA INSURANCE

MURPHY | from page 9

fall is Mary Zurawka, who's the first-year Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director at Monson High School.

"I've never met Hannah or her family prior to the start of the school year," Zurawka said. "I could tell after watching her play one game that she was an outstanding soccer player. It was a lot of fun for me to watch Hannah, and her teammates play soccer this fall."

Zurawka, who graduated from Monson High School twenty years ago, was also an MVP award winner. Her trophy is on display inside her office at the high school.

Not only were Zurawka, Brooke Murphy, and Hannah Murphy selected as MVP's by the PVSOA, but they also played for Eric Degnan, who coached the Lady Mustangs varsity soccer team from

2005 to 2023.

"I was blessed to have coached so many outstanding student-athletes over the years," Degnan said. "Mary was a member of the varsity team in my first year as the head coach. She was one of our leading goal scorers that season. Brooke was a huge finisher. We also won our first Western Mass. title when she was in the seventh grade. What Hannah accomplished during her career is awesome and she's a great kid. It was a lot of fun coaching them."

The other members of the Monson girls' soccer team who have received the PVSOA MVP Award are Shannon Manning (1989), Carrie Beaupre (1990), Kelly DeLong (1999), Samantha Strong (2006), Hannah Strong (2008), Merissia Phipps (2009), Mikayla Rouette (2014), Megan McGill (2015), Bryanna Murphy (2016), Lily Fabian (2017), Hannah Garon (2018),

Alivia Skowyra (2019), and Kendall Bobak (2022).

Not only did Degnan attend this year's award banquet to support Hannah Murphy, but he received the prestigious Larry E. Briggs Award. He was also inducted into the Monson Athletic Hall of Fame back in October.

"Coach Degnan deserves every award that he has been given in the past and everyone that he'll be receiving in the future. He built a legacy here at Monson High School," Zurawka said. "He's a phenomenal soccer coach and I learned a lot from him. I had the opportunity to watch a couple of girls' games with him this fall and it was a lot of fun to see the game from his point of view. He'll always be one of my mentors."

The Monson girls' soccer team has also received the sportsmanship award at the PVSOA banquet nine times since 2005.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
 rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – December has started as the Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes continues into the winter months.

After week 14, Fire Mountain hangs on to first place with a record of 61.5-36.5. In second place, just half a point behind, is Sandri with a record of 61-37. Night Hawks and Ironmen are tied for third place with both teams having a record of 55-43.

During week 14, Sandri bowled against Night Hawks on lanes three and four at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Sandri defeated Night Hawks by a score of 513-398. Brandon Lane of Sandri bowled the highest game of 135. His teammate Ron Gouin bowled well with 122.

In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 473-432. Rich Picotte of Sandri led the team to victory with the highest game of 123.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 475-463 for a three-game sweep over Night Hawks. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks finished strong with a 121 and a three-game series of 335. Lane finished with a 112 and a three-game series of 338. The final score was 1461-1293 in favor of Sandri.

Slow Burners bowled against Ironmen on lanes five and six. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Ironmen by a score of 498-478. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners made some clutch spares on his way to a 122 game.

In game two, Ironmen bounced back by winning 514-459. Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled 139 and his teammate Ryan Drago bowled 137.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 510-497. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners put up a score of 122 to retake the lead after Drago finished with 136, which included four spares and a strike in the last five frames. Ironmen won total pinfall by a final score of 1489-1467.

Snappers bowled against Team UMass in week 14. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 471-459. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers bowled a 106 during his team's victory.

In game two, Team UMass won again by a score of 487-421. Jane Choy of Team UMass bowled well over her 72-league average with an 86 in game two.

In game three, Team UMass won for a three-game sweep over Snappers, 482-472. The final score was 1440-1352 in favor of Team UMass.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against Cannonballs in week 14. In game one, Cannonballs won by a score of 452-443. In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 465-458. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls broke the century mark with 103.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 1400-1352. Paulus finished the match with 116. The final score was 1400-1352 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

PVSOA | from page 9

At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a

typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big

events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

Subscribe to The Journal Register online at journalregister.turley.com

Springfield Thunderbirds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was

subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw

a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist

shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes

for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a high-light-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventual-

ly gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

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

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Seasons Greetings

Lew Garland's Christmas Studio

59 Years Creating Christmas Ornaments and Decorations to make your Holiday Cheery & Bright!

Featuring Ken's magnificent Florentine inspired Gold Trees, Topiaries, Cornucopias, Ornaments and more...

Featured in prestigious catalogues and shops throughout the country!

NEW Exciting designs from Poland, Germany and Around the World
Original Decorations made here in our studio

HANDPAINTED ~ KEN ALAN ORIGINALS ~ HANDCRAFTED

Open Weekends 10-6 pm
 After Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve Daily 10-6pm
252 Main Street, P.O. Box 133, Monson, MA 01057
 • www.christmasstudio.net • 413-267-3342 •



PIONEERS | from page 9

the second quarter as they scored 16 unanswered points.

With 7:49 remaining in the first half, sophomore quarterback Grayson Griswold completed a 36-yard pass to Skowrya at the Crusaders 33 yard line.

Four plays later, Griswold, who completed four passes for 101 yards, scrambled 11 yards into the endzone capping off the seven play scoring drive.

Cook made the extra point attempt giving the home team a 7-6 advantage with 5:32 left in the second quarter.

After the Pioneers defense forced the Crusaders to punt, Griswold connected with Cassian Kowalik, who made an outstanding

one-handed catch before rumbling about 20 yards into the endzone, for an impressive 51-yard TD reception.

"The cornerback was on my back, so I couldn't really back up. I just jumped as high as I could and I put my hand up and hoped I could catch it," Kowalik said. "I then saw green grass and I went for it."

Cook added the extra point, which gave Pathfinder Tech a 14-6 lead with two minutes left in the half.

Then junior Anthony Arventos sacked the Cape Cod quarterback in the end zone for a safety.

The Pioneers offense couldn't score another touchdown before the first half ended.

The Crusaders (7-4) received the second half kickoff and marched down the field.

Thomas scored on a one yard plunge into the end zone with 4:25 left in the third quarter.

Pathfinder Tech held a slim four point lead (16-12) as the two-point play failed.

With 11:09 remaining in the fourth quarter, the Crusaders retook the lead following a 19-yard TD run from junior Anthony Bartlett.

Arventos returned the ensuing kickoff about 80 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown. The long return was nullified due to a holding penalty on Pathfinder Tech.

The Pioneers offense turned the ball over on downs on their final two series of the game.

Griswold left the game late in the fourth quarter with an injury.



Dustyn Cook kicks off for the Pioneers.



Trevor Alexander heads into the crowd.



Amias Kowalik makes a block on the offensive line.



Anthony Arventos rushes toward the sideline.

BANQUET | from page 9

cer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams

showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President Da-

vid DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for

many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

Find **it** in the **Classifieds**

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

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

	R	A	B	B	I	S		S	A	L	I	N	E	
M	A	D	E	I	R	A		A	B	A	L	O	N	E
A	B		A	N	A	L	O	G	I	Z	E		D	A
H	I	N	D	S		A	U	G		E	A	G	E	R
D	E	U	S		S	A	T	E	S		C	R	A	N
I	S	M		R	A	M		D	K	G		O	R	E
		E	X	E	C				R	O	G	U	E	S
A	C	R	I	S					W	U	N	D	T	
B	R	A	V	E	D			M	A	I	D			
R	U	T		T	A	R		P	O	N		H	U	S
E	S	O	P		B	A	S	A	L		T	O	N	E
A	A	R	O	N		P	I	P		S	A	G	E	R
S	D		S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L		A	U
T	E	H	E	R	A	N		S	A	R	C	A	S	M
	S	E	R	A	P	E			T	R	I	A	G	E

HANNOUSH JEWELERS CHICOPEE
"A Family Business You Can Trust"
704 Memorial Dr., Chicopee
413-377-1433

Turn Your Gold Into Cash!
We Buy Gold in Any Condition

GOLD Is At An All-Time High!

10% Extra Cash When Cashing In Your **GOLD**

25% Extra When You Use Your **GOLD** Towards A New Purchase

Offers Valid at Hannoush Jewelers Chicopee ONLY
www.hannoushma.com

Attention all **PALMER, MONSON, HOLLAND, WALES, BRIMFIELD businesses!**

We're promoting the history of local businesses in our **Established EDITION** of The Journal Register

We are inviting all of our community businesses to participate by purchasing an ad proudly displaying the year the business was established. Ads will run in order from the oldest to most recently established.

Whether its been 100 years, 50 years or just 5 years, your business is a vital part of our community. Don't miss out on this special issue.

★ AD CHOICES ★
3"x 3" ad \$70
3"x 5" ad \$95

AD DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 11**

CONTACT DAN FLYNN AT 413-297-5886
dflynn@turley.com

PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 26, 2026



Jo Condon donated a large amount of the trees that were raffled off this year.



The Palmer Public Library donated an entire Christmas Tree made out of books.



A Grinch themed Christmas Tree.



This white Christmas tree has Dr. Seuss books and warm hats and mittens for whoever wins this tree.



The Loved One Memorial trees, two trees filled with ornaments from patrons throughout the years, in honor of their loved ones.



A variety of different trees and wreaths in different styles are being perused by local residents.



Cedarbrook Village in Ware donated a tree with a large basket of hot chocolate materials and some stuffed animals.



This tree has loads of Lego toys underneath, donated by Boxcar Bricks in Three Rivers.



This tree creatively has boxes of mini cereal as ornaments.

TREES | from page 1

the raffle drawing.

One of the most cherished features of the festival is the pair of "Loved Ones Trees," which hold memorial ornaments purchased by

families in honor of relatives and friends. Each ornament includes a personal message and is returned to the display every year.

"People love coming back to see the ornaments they placed in memory of someone," Haveles said. "We

actually had so many that we had to move the trees to the middle of the room so people could walk around them. Before, they were in the corner, and folks couldn't really see them."

All proceeds support PHCC's operating expenses

as well as its growing slate of community programs, workshops, and performances.

Beyond the holiday fundraiser, PHCC continues to strengthen its role as an arts and cultural hub for Palmer and the surrounding region. Haveles highlighted a popu-

lar weekly drama and dance program run by instructor Tori Jack, which draws young people eager for opportunities in the performing arts.

"It's a combination program...some students do drama, some do dance, and some do both," Haveles said. The

sessions culminate in a public performance featuring a short play and a series of choreographed dance routines. "A lot of it is for the younger kids," he added. "There aren't many opportunities around here for them to express themselves and be part of drama or dance, so this gives them something special."

Similar opportunities once existed through school programming, Haveles noted, recalling earlier years when Palmer's elementary students visited PHCC for music instruction under former Old Mill Pond music director Phil DeSantis. Today, the center is working to reintroduce and expand creative programming for all ages.

Across the venue, the Festival of Trees illustrates the collective effort behind the center's success: children running around looking at toys under trees, business owners contributing gift packages, families stopping in to find their memorial ornaments, and visitors strolling the displays with raffle tickets in hand.

"It's the generosity of the people in town and even out of town," Haveles said. "That's what makes this event, and what keeps our programs going."

The Festival of Trees remains open through the holiday season, with proceeds directly supporting PHCC's mission to provide accessible arts, cultural programming, and community events for Palmer residents of all ages.

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99
Regularly \$149.99

43" Smart TV.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99

50" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$269.99

55" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$349.99

65" HDTV Television...\$329.99
Regularly \$599.99

75" HDTV.....\$499.99
Regularly \$699.99

CHRISTMAS SALE!

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199
(REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269
(REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299
(REGULARLY \$599)

GIANT TOY DEPARTMENT!

THOUSANDS OF BIKES AND E-BIKES!

SLEDS, SKATES, & TOBOGGANS

HUGE SELECTION!

LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1499.99 \$1299.99	G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99	SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 \$899.99 AFTER REBATE!	DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 \$999.99	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$369.99	21 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$999.99 \$799.99
WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1399.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$599.99 \$189.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$599.99 \$489.99

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

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

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

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

FOR 100's OF DEALS!

Obituaries

Thomas E. Orszulak

MONSON – Thomas E Orszulak, 77, fondly known as Tom, was born on March 16, 1948, in Ware. He passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 5, 2025. Tom dedicated over 24 years to Monson Developmental Center, where he worked in the maintenance department and retired as a foreman.



between Tom and his dog, Scooter, who was often seen by his side. Their companionship was a testament to Tom's loving nature.

He is survived by his loving wife, Anna M (Marine) Orszulak; his brother, David Orszulak, and his wife, Lori, of Florida, along with their children, Becky and Kelly; and Anna's nephew, Ronald Griswold and his wife Emmanuel, and niece, Debbie Griswold. Tom was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Shirley (Fountain) Orszulak.

Tom will be remembered for his warm heart, dedication, and the joy he found in simple pleasures. He leaves behind a legacy of love and fond memories for those who knew him.

A graveside service at St Thomas Cemetery in Palmer will be held in the Spring. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Tom proudly served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged. His commitment to his country was a source of pride for him throughout his life.

A man of many interests, Tom had a passion for bass fishing in local ponds and lakes. He cherished the time spent fishing and enjoyed the tranquility it brought him. He also had a love for deer hunting and gardening. Tom took great care in maintaining the landscape of the home he built with his beloved wife, Anna.

There was a special bond

Robert Arthur Leibold

Robert Arthur Leibold, Jr, of Ludlow, MA passed away on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. He was born in Danbury CT, on June 12, 1948. He grew up in Newtown, CT and graduated from Newtown High School in 1966 and Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT with a Bachelor's Degree.



admirer of John Wayne and knew his movies' dialog verbatim. Anyone who knew Bob will sadly miss him.

Robert leaves his wife, Melanie (Ruscoe) of 54 years, a son, Sean of CT along with two grandchildren, Tyler and Abigail also of CT. A brother, William (Pamela) of Newtown and a sister, Karen (Gerry) Heyde of New Milford and a niece, Dianne Ferris of MA. Bob was predeceased by Robert A. Leibold Sr. in 1996.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home from 1 to 3:30 p.m. followed by a time of sharing memories at 3:30 p.m. A graveside service will take place in April at Newtown Village Cemetery in Newtown, CT. Please check www.beersandstory.com for updated information.

Robert managed many Agway stores in MA. He worked numerous years in the Automotive Parts Industry. Before moving to Ludlow in 2006, he lived in Three Rivers, MA for thirty years.

Robert was a quiet, gentle man except when rooting for his favorite teams: Detroit Tigers, Atlanta Braves and New York Giants. Bob was an avid reader especially of History. He was a great

Patricia Loncto

MONSON – Patricia (Boudreau) Loncto, 92, passed away Nov. 29, 2025. She was born on Nov. 14, 1933, in Hartford, CT to the late Edmund and Irene (Papineau) Boudreau. Pat started her career as a bookkeeper upon graduating from Monson High School at Liberty Liquors in Springfield. She continued her career as a bookkeeper for credit unions for the past 55 years, most currently with The Polish National Credit Union right up until her passing.



her love of the outdoors. She inspired several nieces with her love of horses. She was a founding member of The Moon Mountain Mounties, participating on horseback in shows, parades, and more.

Pat owned and ran Blue Willow Dog Obedience Training School with her sister Joyce Cookman, Ann Boyer, and Anne Pelletier. She owned, trained, and showed many canine friends over the years.

In the early eighties, Pat and her late husband Gene started the Gingerbread House Restaurant at Sunsetview Farm Camping Area in Monson and served fabulous food and desserts to us for many years.

Pat had many diverse interests: line dancing with her sisters, holistic healing, needlepoint, glassworks, and DIY projects with her late sister Muriel. She was also an accomplished organist.

Pat's warmth, laughter, and zest for life will be remembered fondly by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers please make a memorial contribution in Pat's name to a charity that speaks to you.

A celebration of life will be announced and is planned for Spring. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Pat is survived by her siblings, Lillian Carpenter, her husband Harold, Joyce Cookman, and Joan Genholt, all of Monson, and Donald Boudreau and his wife Carol of South Carolina. She leaves behind her "daughter" and closest friend Anne Pelletier. She leaves behind several nieces and nephews, Frances, Brandy, Christopher, Jon, Matthew, Jennifer, Paul, Kathy, Joyce, Daniel, Robin, Carol, and Lisa, as well as several grandnieces and grandnephews.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gene Loncto, her sister Muriel Dewey, and her nephews, Wayne, Tom, and Mark.

Pat was a vibrant and loving individual with a deep passion for animals and

Leo Paul Coyer

Leo Paul Coyer, 75, died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025. Born in Ware, MA to the late Leo and Pearl (Laviollette) Coyer, he served his country dutifully and was an Army Veteran.

Leo worked for many years as a mechanic for the United States Postal Service. He was a very active member and a former Commander of AmVets Post 74 and a former Master Mason of the Thomas Masonic Lodge in Palmer.

A talented artist, Leo's favorite thing to draw were his children and grandchildren, which hang in family homes even now.

Leo loved to play cards and billiards, won many

championships and was revered by all who competed against him or were lucky enough to be a partner.

He will be remembered for his generosity and thoughtfulness. He was always ready to help anyone in need; however, his children will remember him most as sacrificing everything to raise them on his own.

In addition to his parents, Leo was also predeceased by his beloved wife Annette (Smith) Coyer and his sister Kathy Dupre. He will be sadly missed by his three devoted children; Nicole Parker and her husband Mike of Ludlow, Daniel Coyer of Hammond, NY and Justin Coyer of Harwich, MA, two broth-

ers; Neil Coyer and Daniel Coyer and five sisters; Patty Kennedy, Jackie Ramadan and her husband Chuck, Terry Bajo and her husband Mike, Bernadette Coyer and Mary Jane Cavanaugh and her husband Jim and four cherished grandchildren; Jessica, Olivia, Rhea and Jazlyn. Leo is also survived by several nieces and nephews, including special nieces; Sherrie and Alyssa.

Family and friends are invited to Leo's Celebration of Life on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 12 Noon at AmVets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080.

Memorial contributions can be made to AmVets Post 74. Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Frederick William (Fred) Jacek

Frederick William (Fred) Jacek, 88, of East Montpelier, VT passed away on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025 at the Central Vermont Medical Center.

Fred was born on Sept. 25, 1937 in Ware, MA, to parents Henry and Sophia (Kulis) Jacek. He attended schools in Palmer, MA, and graduated from Palmer High School in 1955. Fred received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lyndon State College in 1961 and a Master's Degree from Springfield College in 1965, majoring in education at both.

Fred began his career in education at Sacred

Heart High School in Newport, Vt from 1961-1964, and then at Spaulding High School from 1965-1968. In 1968 he took a position as Guidance Counselor at Montpelier High School and remained there until he retired in 1994. During his tenure at Montpelier High School, he was the Junior Varsity and Assistant Varsity coach for the boys' basketball team and the Varsity coach for the girls' basketball team. His effort, commitment, dedication and personality as a guidance counselor and coach had a positive influence on his students and his players. His hobbies included boat-

ing, fishing, and gardening. He was a sports enthusiast, often watching games late into the night and into the early morning.

Fred is survived by his aunt, cousins and his godchild Lisa (Sabourin) Allsop.

He is predeceased by his wife, Joyce of 58 years and his parents. Per Fred's wish, there will be no calling hours or burial services.

Donations in his name may be made to the St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA. 01080.

Arrangements are in the care of Guare and Sons Funeral Home.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display

RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

haluchsmemorials.com

health & wellness NETWORK

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

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

CONTACT: DAN FLYNN
413-297-5886
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

DEADLINE
January 28, 2026
PUBLICATION DATE
February 18, 2026



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

DEATH NOTICES

Leo Paul Coyer
Died Dec. 3, 2025
Celebration of Life
Dec. 20, 2025
Wilbraham Funeral Home

Frederick William (Fred) Jacek
Died Nov. 30, 2025
Guare & Sons Funeral Home

Robert Arthur Leibold
Died Dec. 4, 2025
Services Dec. 13, 2025
Beers and Story
Funeral Home

Patricia Loncto
Died Nov. 29, 2025
Services in Spring

Thomas E Orszulak
Died Dec. 5, 2025
Service in Spring
Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

DRYFIREWOOD Oak/maple, cu/split/ delivered, \$300 a cord, \$285 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, 413-824-0731. Buying standing timber, paying good money.

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

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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

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

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

SWIFT RIVER SUPPLY

We buy guns.
Federal and state license.

413-658-5690.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON

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.

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

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303
Free estimates. Insured. 50 years experience. No job too small. Cell (413)330-3682

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

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

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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

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

INSTRUCTION

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

LANDSCAPING

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

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

SERVICES

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

PAINTING

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

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. **413-519-5439**

Find it!
In the **CLASSIFIEDS!**

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

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

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair. Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

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

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

AUTO

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

HELP WANTED

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

QUANT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

FOR RENT

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

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
Call 1-413-283-8393

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Public notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD23P0525PM
In the matter of:
Robert Allen Plankey
of Palmer, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the first account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/05/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 26, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
12/11/2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Prnbate & Family Court Dept.
HD25E0045PP**

To Adam F Padykula of Palmer, Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Richard R. Padykula, Jr., of Deltona Florida, Volusia County, representing that they hold as tenants-in-common 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 private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to

make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

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

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 6th day of November 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccamoni,
Register
11/27, 12/04, 12/11/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD23P0525PM
In the matter of:
Robert Allen Plankey
of Palmer, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary Conservator's first and final account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/02/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 26, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
12/11/2025

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING
(G.L. C. 60, § 53)
THIS NOTICE AFFECTS IMPORTANT LEGAL RIGHTS
AND SHOULD BE TRANSLATED IMMEDIATELY**

本通知對於重要法律權利產生影響，請立即翻譯

本通知對於重要法律權利產生影響，請立即翻譯

ESTE AVISO AFECTA IMPORTANTES DERECHOS LEGALES Y DEBERIA SER TRADUCIDO INMEDIATAMENTE

CET AVIS AFFECTE DES DROITS JURIDIQUES IMPORTANTS ET DOIT ETRE TRADUIT IMMEDIATEMENT

AVI SA A AFEKTE DWA LEGAL KIENPÖTAN EPI LI SPOZE TRADWI IMEDYATMAN

THÔNG BÁO NÀY CÓ ẢNH HƯỞNG ĐẾN CÁC QUYỀN PHÁP LÝ QUAN TRỌNG, DO ĐÓ CẦN ĐƯỢC DỊCH THUẬT NGAY

ESTE AVISO DIZ RESPEITO A DIREITOS LEGAIS IMPORTANTES E DEVE SER TRADUZIDO INMEDIATAMENTE

You are receiving this notice because:

1. You own property in Massachusetts.
2. You still owe some local taxes on your property.
3. You've received a letter asking you to pay these past due taxes (a demand), but you haven't done so yet.
4. The city or town's tax collector plans to take your property on the date, time, and place noted below.
5. They won't take your property if you pay what you owe before that date.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE DESCRIBED PROPERTY BELOW, AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED,

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025 AT 10:00 AM AT PALMER TOWN HALL, 4417 MAIN ST., PALMER, MA 01069 pursuant to 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 PALMER the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same is paid before that date.

Carolyn I Baldyga, Collector of Taxes
Town of Palmer, MA
December 11, 2025

Property Address: 4026-4028 Pine St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 82/46
Assessed Owner: BARTELS DANIEL D & CYNTHIA M
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 22723/144
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$4,225.62
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$6,012.47

Property Address: 23 Temple St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 60/62
Assessed Owner: CAMYRE KYLE
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 18271/149
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$2,794.61

Property Address: 501 River St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 30/53
Assessed Owner: CONRAD EARLE S
Hampden County Registry of Deed: LCC 18644
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$820.03
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$1,523.68

Property Address: 1088 South Main St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 54/3
Assessed Owner: CURRAN-TWINING CARLEEN & TWINING SHAUNA
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 22715/233
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$1,344.22
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$1,206.96

Property Address: 250 Flynt St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 8/38
Assessed Owner: FISK PATRICIA D
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 14357/332
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$113.49

Property Address: 135 Griffin St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 89/16
Assessed Owner: FLEBOTTE JOSEPH M
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 21649/155
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$2,586.45

Property Address: 4 Allen St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 56/87
Assessed Owner: GALICA VANESSA L
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 15798/576
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$424.79
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$3,264.97

Property Address: 5 Fuller St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 29/15/4
Assessed Owner: HEFFERNAN TERENCE A
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 14489/483
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$247.54

Property Address: 5 Caroline Circle in Palmer
Parcel ID: 64/19
Assessed Owner: KEMPESTY MICHAELJ & TIMOTHY J
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 21723/28
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$4,890.34
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$5,176.66

Property Address: 1005 Maple St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 58/119
Assessed Owner: KINGSTON CORINNE
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 14051/210
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$885.42
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$3,838.67

Property Address: 528 Old Warren Rd in Palmer
Parcel ID: 27/21/2
Assessed Owner: LEROUX CHRISTOPHER G & LEROUX TINA
M Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 17470/527
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$4,098.11

Property Address: N Main St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 57/16
Assessed Owner: LUKOSE REALTY LLC
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 16962/517
FY2008 Principal Tax Due: \$643.26
FY2009-2022 Principal Tax Due: \$12,215.48

Property Address: 54 Cabot St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 56/134
Assessed Owner: MATROW CHRISTOPHER W & MARYANN P
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 20533/287
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$521.30

Property Address: 148-150 S High St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 86/92
Assessed Owner: MUCHE ABBIE
Subsequent Owner: VALADARES JESSICA
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 23910/376
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$5,206.08

Property Address: 14 State St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 88/66
Assessed Owner: MWANGI MARY
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 21291/513
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$3,956.26
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$4,265.36

Property Address: 8 Chamber Rd in Palmer
Parcel ID: 18/49/F
Assessed Owner: NEW ENGLAND RECREATION & HEALTH LLC
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 21941/182
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$10,141.93

Property Address: 102 Flynt St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 68/43
Assessed Owner: PATENAUE ARMAND CHEIRS OR DEV
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 2109/96
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$1,098.12
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$1,983.24

Property Address: L45 Chicopee River in Palmer
Parcel ID: 16/45
Assessed Owner: RIVER WALK ASSOCIATES LLC
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 13643/168
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$5,224.03
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$3,590.40

Property Address: Chudy St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 76/7
Assessed Owner: RIVER WALK ASSOCIATES LLC
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 13643/168
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$125.71
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$73.30

Property Address: L3 Chudy St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 22/3
Assessed Owner: RIVER WALK ASSOCIATES LLC
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 13643/172
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$409.73
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$281.59

Property Address: 1024 Park St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 58/32
Assessed Owner: VAN HOUTEN CHRISTINE L
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 22647/40
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$3,395.46

Property Address: 28 Sylvia St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 70/57
Assessed Owner: VERATTI CYNTHIA M
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 21904/84
FY2021 Principal Tax Due: \$3,191.15
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$4,619.69

Property Address: 16 Wilbraham St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 12/2
Assessed Owner: WOODS ROBERT H JR
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 20605/497
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$833.43

Property Address: L3 Wilbraham St in Palmer
Parcel ID: 12/3
Assessed Owner: WOODS ROBERT H JR
Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Book/Page 20605/497
FY2022 Principal Tax Due: \$35.75
12/11/2025

CHECK OUT ALL THE
Turley Publications
www.turley.com

NURSES: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CAREER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- ✓ Become a Private Patient Advocate
- ✓ High Pay | Rewarding Work | Flexible Schedule
- ✓ Online Training & Mentorship with Expert Guidance
- ✓ Help Patients Navigate the Healthcare System

BOOK A CALL TODAY WITH TERI FRYKENBERG

www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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

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

\$1200/week
207-607-9333

CAREER | from page 1

Laura Ann detailed a robust selection of coursework, from world and U.S. history to electives in psychology, the Holocaust, human behavior, war, and museum studies.

In the Art Department, instructor Darlene Henshaw outlined a sequence of design, drawing, painting, and three-dimensional ceramics courses, all available as upperclassmen electives. Students can even double up during their junior and senior years.

The Science Department, represented by teacher Erin Welby, is restructuring its pacing to strengthen students' foundation in biology before they branch into anatomy and physiology, chemistry, earth science, physics, biomedical science, and tech engineering. The department offers two AP courses and emphasizes hands-on investigative work.

Foreign Language teacher Liz Cygan explained offerings in Spanish, Latin, French, and an online dual-language option. The department is promoting the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy, encouraging students to continue language study long enough to earn an intermediate proficiency stamp on their transcript and diploma.

Math Department chair Joshua Dusza said Pathfinder offers the full high school progression through AP Calculus and AP Statistics, along with electives in accounting, math through art, and a popular personal finance course preparing seniors for budgeting, investing, and economic decision-making.

Professional Skills instructors Elizabeth Dobson and student Lucas Roy described the required freshman/sophomore program that focuses on goal setting, career exploration, OSHA 10 certification, resume writing, banking, public speaking, and personal development. "It really helps them think about where they want to be and why," Dobson said.

Horticulture instructor Jeff Pronovost highlighted the wide range of environmental and outdoor skills within his program, from greenhouse propagation and landscape construction to arboriculture, including tree climbing and chainsaw work. "We do everything from patios and walkways to full ground's maintenance," he said.

Down the hall from the Gymnasium, HVAC instructors Mike Sicilia and Rafe Gould described their growing program, which prepares students to begin working in residential heating and cooling directly after graduation. "We're building a strong program here," they said, emphasizing the high demand for trained technicians.

In Advanced Manufacturing, instructor Adam Girard showcased the school's evolution from traditional machine shop to a modern, tech-driven program incorpo-

rating CAD/CAM, lasers, 3D printing, precision inspection tools, and industry-standard machining systems. "Basically everything that encapsulates manufacturing," he said.

The Electrical program also reported strong interest. Instructor Eric Simard described how many students pursue electrical licensure using industry-recognized credits earned at Pathfinder, while others continue to college for specialized systems training. Upperclassmen gain real-world experience through community job sites led by off-campus instructors.

In the Health Assisting classroom, instructor Anthony Braden laid out an academically rigorous pathway that leads to CNA certification, clinical hours in area facilities, CPR certification, EKG training, and job offers before graduation. "Nine times out of ten, the facilities offer them jobs once they pass the exam," he said.

The Cosmetology program, led by Cindy Rubin, presented its full spectrum of training in hair, skin, and nails, including state board preparation and specialized skills such as textured hair care, waxing, makeup, and formal styling. Students filled the department, braiding hair

Upstairs, Information Technology instructor Sarah Manson described a wide-ranging digital curriculum: web development, programming, networking, cybersecurity, hardware repair, and a student-run help desk that troubleshoots technology around the building.

One of the most expansive shops, CAD/Pre-Engineering, drew strong interest. Instructor Justin Bren explained that ninth graders work toward the SolidWorks Associate Mechanical Design Certification; a professional credential requiring roughly 1,000 hours of training. Pathfinder even has a student who has advanced to the expert certification level, something rarely seen in high school. Seniors collaborate with other shops to build fully functional robots, with parts manufactured, painted, programmed, and wired through inter-shop partnerships. "It's one of the

biggest collaboration projects we've ever done," Bren said.

Families were also greeted by displays covering the school's wide range of student organizations.

These include the literary magazine, yearbook, drama, music, student government, Diversity Club, outdoor adventure clubs, esports, Future Farmers of America, Girls in Trades, robotics, SkillsUSA, and the National Technical Honor Society. Activities are coordinated by Jessica McCann.

Athletic Director Kevin Aldrich said Pathfinder is experiencing "a time of growth," with more than 150 fall athletes participating across soccer, golf, football, cheerleading, and co-ops in field hockey, cross-country, ice hockey, and swimming. Winter numbers remain strong, with wrestling, boys and girls basketball, and additional co-op teams.

Pathfinder has recently added girls volleyball, which launched mid-season with 15 players and earned a full JV schedule for 2026. Aldrich praised students' dedication and the program's upward trajectory. "We want students to be well-rounded citizens," he said. "Student comes before athlete."

Several teams have seen notable success: football reached the state vocational semifinals, wrestling holds back-to-back championships, girls basketball won its league last year, and both softball and baseball have made deep tournament runs.

Throughout the night, staff remained in the library assisting families with applications for the upcoming admissions cycle. Computers were available for on-the-spot submissions, which many families took advantage of before returning to the bustling program exhibits.

With around 800 people cycling through the building throughout the night, Superintendent Duda reflected on what made the event stand out. The academic rigor, hands-on experiences, professional certifications, and strong community partnerships each play a role, he said. But on Career Night, it was the students who



Danielle Salerno ran the table for Adult Continuing Education, giving out information and talking about options.



Art instructor Darlene Henshaw outlines junior and senior art courses, from design and ceramics to drawing and painting.



Professional Skills teachers Elizabeth Dobson and Lucas Roy describe the required freshman and sophomore courses that build goal-setting, job readiness, OSHA certification, public speaking, and financial literacy.



Math teacher Joshua Dusza introduces math pathways from Algebra I through AP Calculus and AP Statistics, along with electives in accounting, art-based mathematics, and financial literacy.



Student Quinn Richardson working on his robotics project.

stole the spotlight.

"Parents and families have been telling me how impressed they are with our students," Duda said. "The eye contact, the handshakes, the professionalism... it was music to my ears."

Pathfinder will continue accepting applications online, with staff available for assistance. Families who missed Career Night can contact the school for additional tours and program information.



Foreign language instructor Liz Cygan speaks with families about Spanish, French, Latin, and online world-language options, as well as the school's push toward the state Seal of Biliteracy.



Music teacher Dan Friedman presents Pathfinder's band, guitar, and digital music classes, which support school events and creative expression.



Cosmetology student Chris Vruz doing a dutch braid on a manikin.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



ELA teacher Angela Sweeney explains Pathfinder's home-grown literature curriculum and elective offerings, including creative writing and modern media studies.



Social studies teacher Laura Ann showcases course options ranging from world and U.S. history to electives in psychology, Holocaust studies, museum studies, and the history of war.

EVANGEL
Christmas Community Dinner

We would like to extend a warm invitation to all our neighbors to join us for a holiday meal, the company of others and celebration.

Christmas Day 11 a.m. - 1p.m.

EVANGEL ASSEMBLY – 348 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham
No cost - No registration required.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Town of Warren Town Accountant

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Full-Time – Town Benefited Position
32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer