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# The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 14, 2023 | Vol. CLXXII, No. 46 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

**MONSON**  
**Select Board**  
**makes**  
**numerous**  
**appointments**

*Agricultural Commission membership triples*

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Correspondent  
 dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON – The Select Board unanimously voted in favor of appointing four new members to the Agricultural Commission, increasing its membership from two members to six during the Dec. 12 meeting.

Agricultural Commission Chair Robert Skalbite revealed a need for membership increases during the Nov. 28 Board meeting, stating “the town had an Ag. Comm. for a period of time and members just stopped meeting.”

After the COVID-19 pandemic subsided, the commission managed to reconvene with seven members, though due to time commitment issues, the commission had fallen down to two members, said Skalbite.

He said “the purposes of the Agricultural Commission are to encourage the pursuit of agriculture, promote agriculture related economic activity, act as advocates, mediators, educators and/or negotiators on agricultural issues (and) work towards the preservation of prime agricultural lands.”

Resident Steph Pruro was appointed to the commission with a term ending June 30, 2026.

Pruro said she has lived in Monson for six years, and farms full-time for UMASS. She also owns a small poultry business raising livestock.

“I’m interested in getting more into local agricultural here,” said Pruro.

BOARD | page 12



Tables of visitors got to carve designs into wood, under staff supervision.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

## Pathfinder Career Night draws in hundreds of families

*Potential students get a taste of different trades*

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Last Wednesday, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School invited eighth graders from the nine communities to Career Night, where the school demonstrates its various services to prospective students.

At this year’s annual Career

Night, Principal Brenda Turner and Superintendent Eric Duda were at the front doors to greet guests as they came in. Estimations on the night were upwards of 300 cars filling up Pathfinder’s main and side lots, with multiple kids and families in attendance.

“The exciting part is the wheel you see over here,” said Lindsey Tracy of the Community Outreach Department. “It gives people a chance to win that PT merch.”

Staff greeted people at a sign-in table, where visitors got a chance to spin a wheel for things like stickers and windshield

scrapers emblazoned with the Pathfinder logo.

“Our staff and faculty are amazing,” said Kevin Aldrich from Community Outreach. “It’s easy for people to point at our department, because we’re the face, but it is everybody.”

“It’s the most exciting thing, because they get to come in and kind of go with their nature, so it’s not such a strict, scheduled thing,” Tracy said. “They can see what these programs entail at all different levels.”

Tracy compared Career Night to the Showcase Event that was

held last month, saying, “With Showcase, it’s great, but they’re down to that schedule. That’s why we love when they come in for this, because they all get to experience it together. Then if they had a program that they experienced that day, where maybe they felt that they really liked it, but then they decide, ‘no, I want to try out a different one.’ That can be such a change for them, which I think is awesome.”

At booths set up in the gymnasium, the staff was able to

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**SPORTS**  
**MHS coach**  
**recognized**  
**for 30 years**  
**of service**

*Eric Degnan Day declared*

By Dallas Gagnon  
 Correspondent  
 dgagnon@turley.com

MONSON – After winning the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Division V state championship last month, the Monson High School girls varsity soccer team and coaches were recognized before the Select Board.



File Photo

Coach Eric Degnan stands with one of his soccer players, Kendall Bodak on her college signing day.

During the Dec. 12 meeting, the board honored MHS coach and physical education teacher Eric Degnan for his 30 years of service, and credited his part in the district’s ongoing success in the athletic pro-

DEGNAN | page 3

**THREE RIVERS**



Submitted photo

Emilia Butler & Leila Frydryk visited with Santa at the annual Three Rivers Santa Breakfast at the Three Rivers Fire Station.

## Fire Dept. hosts breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Claus

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – The Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary hosted a breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the station this past Sunday.

The Three Rivers Santa

SANTA | page 2

**PALMER**

## Council against recreation of Enterprise Fund

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – During Monday’s meeting, the Town Council elected not create a new Enterprise Fund that would provide money for stormwater improvements throughout town.

Town Council President Barbara Barry opened the meeting by welcoming Interim Town Manager Robert Reed.

“Bob was hired by the Council three weeks ago as the interim town manager and he will remain with us until we hire a permanent town manager,” Barry said.

The Council voted to table a group of stormwater management ordinances, in order to give Reed time to go over it. However, the use of the Enterprise Fund for the ordinance that would fund work mandated by the ordinances led to a discussion among the Council.

“We had an email last week

PALMER | page 14

**COMMUNITY**

## Spreading holiday joy through song



Turley Photo by Deanna Sloat

Carolers rode and walked along the streets of downtown Palmer spreading Christmas cheer singing Christmas Carols for the residents to enjoy.

PALMER — Saturday night was warm for this time of year, but the streets of downtown Palmer felt quite festive.

The Rathbone family held their sixth annual Christmas caroling event, bringing warmth and joy to the residents of downtown Palmer.

Nicole and Bryan Rathbone host a large group of friends and family who get together each year to sing carols spreading holiday cheer.

“Our annual night of caroling is one of our favorite nights of the year,” Nicole stated.

The group walks and rides

stopping along the way at homes, where the residents come out to listen to the carolers. These carolers seem to put smiles on the faces of the residents of downtown.

Some even came out from their homes on streets nearby when

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# Pet of the Week



**LEONARDO D**

This is a photo of Leonardo D. He's an OG, 10 years old. He lives in Palmer, on Thorndike St. He likes short walks in the woods and vanilla ice cream. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).



## Was that Joe Bird?

Palmer resident celebrates 102nd birthday

PALMER — Long time resident and “game warden” aka Natural Resource Officer, Joe Bird will celebrate his 102nd birthday this week, Dec. 17, 2023. Many people from town and surrounding areas will remember Joe also had a [pick-your-own blueberry field on Ware Road for years. Joe always welcomed kids and would let them eat as many berries as they could. His birthday is this Sunday, you are welcome to send him a birthday card and brighten his day.



Mrs. Claus visited with Meghan and Elijah Butler at the Annual The Three Rivers Santa Breakfast at the Three Rivers Fire Station.



Many local children stopped in to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Santa Breakfast at the Three Rivers Fire Station.



Janet and Bill Jalbert posed for a photo when they visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Andrea Sullivan took some time to pose for a photograph with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Annual The Three Rivers Santa Breakfast at the Three Rivers Fire Station.



Some children were very excited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas.



Emilia and Meghan Butler got to see what it was like to sit inside the fire truck.



Eli and Corey Butler check out the fire truck that was at the Santa breakfast.

### SANTA | from page 1

Breakfast has been happening for about six years, according to Auxiliary President Joann

Turner.

“It went very well,” Turner said. “We had over 70 people, the majority of whom were children.”

Turner said that while the numbers were down a little from the usual 100, it was “still a good turn-out.”

Attendees were treated to a breakfast of pancakes and sausages, with orange juice, coffee, tea, and milk offered as drinks. All the food was bought locally from retailers like BJ’s and Costco.

“All children received a Christmas stocking with goodies in it,” Turner added.

“One of the big things for the children is they have the opportunity to get into the fire trucks and sit up in the cabin or climb on the back,” Turner said. “It’s one of the big draws for the children.”

“For parents, the big draw is to get pictures with their children and Santa and Mrs. Claus,” Turner said, “which we do at no

charge.”

Turner said the Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary work together to make this event happen every year.

“There’s a group of firefighters and cadets that are there to help set up tables and decorations and start preparations for cooking,” Turner said. “We start at 6:30 a.m., and then serve breakfast from 8-11 a.m.”

Turner said that the Fire Cadets were a big help in serving food and drinks to the guests. Turner also thanked Santa and Mrs. Claus for volunteering for the event.

“They’ve been doing it for quite a few years and we’re very grateful for them,” Turner said. “That’s the draw, parents really want their children to have the pictures.”

I think the children coming in and seeing Mr. and Mrs. Claus is my favorite part,” Turner said. “Mrs. Claus, especially; it seems to be a real treat for them to see her.”

The Auxiliary is always looking to sponsor community events, according to Turner. “That’s one of the reasons we do breakfast a couple times a year,” Turner said. “We do other fundraising, like bottle and can drives, and all proceeds go back to Fire Department to be used for special equipment, or if there’s something in particular that they need.”

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

**DEADLINE**

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

**DEGNAN** | from page 1

gram.  
"The Monson Select Board, on this auspicious date, is hereby honoring Eric Degnan for his many years of selfless offerings of service to and commitment to the high school athletes in the town of Monson," said Select Board member Peter Warren. "The Monson Select Board is proclaiming this date, December 12, 2023, Coach Eric Degnan Day."

The board called upon all citizens to honor Degnan and show appreciation to him for "all of his magnificent accomplishments, championships and very successful career in mentoring Monson students."

In a proclamation speech, Warren revealed Degnan, a MHS class of 1989 alumni, served the school's girls soccer program as a junior varsity coach for 11 years and 19 as the varsity coach.

During his 30 year tenure, Degnan has led the MHS girls soccer program in achieving 14 league championships, eight western Massachusetts championships and two state championships.

"That's very impressive and something to be proud of," said Warren. "Not to mention, he has led the team to 297 wins, 58 losses and 37 ties."

The board motioned unanimously in favor of donating \$2,000 from the town gift account to the Monson Athletic Booster Club Association in honor of Degnan and the accomplishments of the girls varsity soccer team.

The board noted that of the \$2,000 donation, \$1,000 should be accepted with the intention of funding varsity jackets for the division V state champions, and the remaining \$1,000 be utilized by the Booster Club Association how they deem fit.

Degnan thanked the board for their recognition of the team's accomplishments and their generous donation.

"It means a lot," said Degnan. "I've had so many countless, quality kids, quality players - just good sound people come through the program."

He said he thinks the world of his players and believes "there is not a group of kids that deserves the recognition," as much as the 2023 girls soccer team.

"We just played out of our minds against really, really good competition and that is a tribute to these guys," he said. "To say that I am above and beyond proud of these kids is hard to put into words."

School Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke said she is "honored to be superintendent of this district," adding the athletes are "all fine young student athletes who are truly amazing examples in the classroom and out of the classroom."

Select Board Chair Patricia Oney said the entire town is proud of the team.

**OMP Student Council helps feed the hungry**

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)

PALMER – The Student Council at Old Mill Pond School spent the last two weeks gathering boxes of food after developing an interest in addressing food insecurities in their community.

"We had been without a student council for quite a few years now," said Principal Holly-Beth Riopel. "We were talking to a couple kids and they had a lot of really great ideas, so a Grade 5 Student Council was formed."

Riopel said that meetings with the Student Council were held during lunch and recess, and students were "super excited to plan a ton of events."

"They had a lot of great ideas. This is an excellent group of students who want to take leadership roles," Riopel said. "They were super happy to be involved in the Student Council and pretty much create things from the bottom up."

Riopel said that her role has primarily been to guide the council and the student response has been positive.

The Student Council this year was made up of Mason Cowher, Madison Dadah, Harper Hawk, Ben Kokoski, Charlene Mbi, Logan Prescott, Chelsea Verallis and Levi Zajac

Initially, the students were interested in launching a toy drive. However, after conversations about food insecurities around town and the surrounding communities, the students became more interested in running a food drive, which "they found to be a bigger cause than a toy drive," according to Riopel.

From there, the food drive was in the students' hands. Riopel said that the students set out to make posters to spread around the school, which meant using the online flier-making service, Canva.

While the students posted the fliers



Submitted photo

Old Mill Pond Student Council members, from left to right, are Charlene Mbi, Madison Dadah, Chelsea Verallis, Mason Cowher, Ben Kokoski, and Logan Prescott. Not pictured are Harper Hawk and Levi Zajac.

around the school, Riopel uploaded it to the school's Facebook page to get some online buzz for the food drive.

Every Friday between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8, the eight members of the Student Council would travel around the school to different homeroom classes to collect food donations. The students were able to fill four to five boxes full of food, which will be donated to the Palmer Food Share.

"It was good to have sensitive conversations with them about food insecurities with people in town," Riopel said. "They started wanting to do the toy drive, and I said 'there are people who don't have food,' really just explaining the need for more than toys. They responded very well to that."

"For a couple of them, they didn't know that this was a problem for some families. Just to talk about how some

families need food was very eye-opening for them."

Riopel said that the students' next project will be to make cards for people in town.

"We will absolutely be looking at doing this again next year," Riopel said. "We understand that there are a lot of people that need food at this time, so this will definitely be something we continue in the future."

**PVTA discusses expanded service schedule**

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

PALMER – The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority hosted a public hearing to discuss a new winter service enhancement.

These enhancements are in nearby communities including Palmer and Ware.

One of the PVTA's main goals is to expand weekend service throughout the region. Other regional areas covered include Springfield, Holyoke, and Northampton.

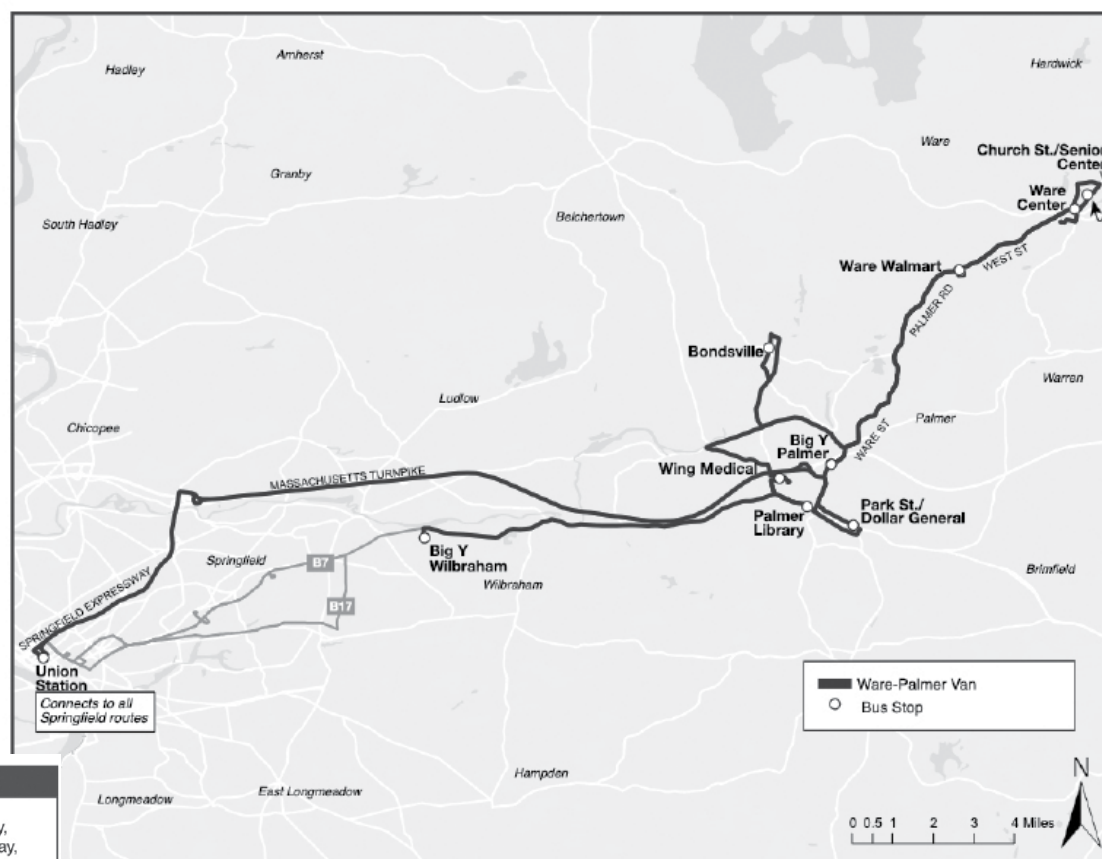
Another goal is to restore services that were reduced due to staffing shortages. Despite these staff shortages, the shuttle service continues to accommodate their residents in need of transportation.

What was deeply discussed was the new service enhancement on the Ware-Palmer Shuttle Flex route. The enhanced route will go into effect on Monday, Dec. 18.

The flex route includes a reinstatement of the Ware and Palmer circulators using two separate vehicles. In addition, the Big Y World Class Market in Wilbraham will be served to increase connections to Springfield.

In the spring, the shuttle will also provide weekend service.

Every route is expecting some challenges throughout its duration, but for the flex route for Ware and Palmer, the PVTA expects close to no challenges. The newly adjusted route alignments provide similar services to what



**NO SERVICE ON:**  
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CURRENT ROUTE AS OF 6/2023

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## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I'm returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?

#### Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit.

**Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily**

#### Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later. If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid.

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record).

That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

*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 informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## Letters to the editor

### Grateful for all of you,

It's that giving time of year again. All of us at the Palmer Food Share see your generosity all year long and feel we are so fortunate for our donors. You support your neighbors throughout the year with food drives and private donations. Our wonderful volunteers work tirelessly year after year, and the Food Bank of Western MA gives us access to a variety of affordable, quality food. Local businesses chip in, like the Big Y's daily donations of bread and baked goods. We want everyone to know that you are making a difference to so many people in our town and the surrounding towns. Thank you.

We are open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and are located at 39 Walnut St., Palmer.

**Catherine Plouffe**  
Palmer Food Share

### Town should be proud of soccer team

Congratulations to Monson Girls Soccer team winning D5 State Championship for 2023. No group of young women deserve it more. The seniors, Lynzie Bailey, Kendall Bodack, Sierra Martinson, Ciara Monaghan, Emma Murphy and Aniah Myrie, have played together since grade school and been coached by Eric Degnan and Larry Pagliaro for the past five years.

Their skill and competitiveness was developed by their coaches, Tom Murphy when they were young, and later by John Monaghan during summer soccer seasons. They have won the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer Tournament three years in a row.

They have won the Western MA Championship three years in a row. Their large fan base love them and are grateful for the years of excitement and joy they have brought every fall. The town can be mighty proud of this team.

**Christine Nissenbaum,**  
Monson

## Experiment with American Holly seeds

I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) are native plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too! It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pre-

treatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots.

Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new, bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

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

## BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

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## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

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

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

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

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

### Loon life span

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

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

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

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

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

### Decrease in bird activity

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

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it." He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

### Bird club

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

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



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## The Journal Register TEAM

### EDITORIAL

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



**STAFF WRITER**  
Dallas Gagnon  
[dgagnon@turley.com](mailto:dgagnon@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Marcelo Gusmao  
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto: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.



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

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

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# Opacum Land Trust protects land, water, wildlife, and plants trees



A view of one of the properties being protected through the Emerald Forest Borderlands.

## Year-end matching challenge kicks off with \$15,000 matching gift

BRIMFIELD – The Opacum Land Trust, a 13-town regional land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife in south central Massachusetts, has launched a year-end matching gift challenge supported by an initial gift of \$15,000 in combined personal donations from members of its board of directors and other generous supporters.

According to Executive Director Laney Wilder, Opacum is a nonprofit organization that works hand-in-hand with local communities and landowners who want to protect and conserve land, water, and wildlife for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

“Opacum’s Year-End Matching Challenge is an opportunity for local residents to support the protection of natural properties and forests in our local community,” said Wilder in a press release.

“In the past year, thanks to the support of our members, we have made great progress on a number of important projects,” said Wilder. “We’ve also been able to permanently conserve over 2,441 acres of critical land and water on 28 properties in Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Dudley, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, and Sturbridge. Many of these properties are open to the public with trails for local residents to enjoy.”

“This year, we’ve continued work on the Emerald Forest Borderlands project. This is an ambitious multiyear conservation project that will protect 1,011 acres of forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. This project is made possible by grant funds from the USDA Forest Legacy Program, an Anonymous Foundation, and individual donors, which allows Opacum to conserve even more land, and protect even more local forests, water, and wildlife habitat than what we could do alone,” Wilder added.

In addition, Opacum Land Trust is heading into their fifth year of urban tree planting in Southbridge. To date, they have planted 427 trees and have been lucky to work with hundreds of residents and businesses to bring the benefits of trees to their community.

This program, funded by the U.S. For-

est Service and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, provides free trees to homeowners, renters, businesses, and organizations in urban areas of Southbridge.

Modeled on Massachusetts’s Greening the Gateway Cities Program of urban tree planting, the goal of this project is to improve community health and provide economic benefits to residents by improving air quality and reducing temperatures through increased tree cover.

Opacum Land Trust will continue to plant trees in Southbridge in the spring of 2024; if you are a Southbridge resident and are interested in getting a free tree, visit Opacum’s website to sign up at [www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org).

Exciting work for 2024, thanks to a donation of land, Opacum Land Trust is working to acquire, revive, and reopen the former Sleepy Hollow property in Brimfield. This unique property has both a rich cultural history, as a former Scout camp and community center, and a rare ecological environment, thanks to the early successional forest habitat created by a tornado that ripped through the property in 2011.

This habitat type is increasingly rare and favored habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife.

Throughout the year, Opacum holds educational events and meet-ups, which are free and open to the public. They also host the popular Tour Opacum Bike Ride for Land Conservation every September, which takes riders past conserved properties and forests throughout the area. Information about upcoming events in 2024 will be shared on their website, [www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org), and on their Facebook page.

To support local land conservation and double your donation by participating in the Year-End Matching Challenge, you may donate online at [www.opacumlt.org/donate](http://www.opacumlt.org/donate) or mail a check to Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

### About Opacum Land Trust

Opacum Land Trust, Inc. is a regional land conservation organization formed in 2000 to protect natural and cultural resources in the towns of Brimfield, Brook-



Opacum volunteer Jeff Hehman and employee Steve Brady help with tree planting in Southbridge.



Naturalist Russ Cohen leads an Edible Plants walk at the former Sleepy Hollow property in Brimfield.

field, Charlton, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Sturbridge, Southbridge, Wales, Warren and West Brookfield.

These non-renewable resources include fertile farmland, forests, river corridors, wetlands and watersheds, vernal pools, habitat for endangered animals and plants, scenic vistas, and historic and pre-historic sites.

Its mission is to protect the New England charm and rural character of our communities, promote proactive conservation, and the creation of greenways and wildlife corridors.

Opacum Land Trust is able to permanently protect open space through donation or purchase of land, bargain sales, or by holding a conservation easement. Opacum Land Trust is a member of the Mass Land Trust Coalition, The Land Trust Alliance, MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, and Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce.



Submitted Photo

## Collecting for the Children

Michelle and Mikayla of Hair Expressions readies the pick up for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. The Hair Expression family with generous support from patrons and the local community collected over 50 toys to support the annual campaign.

## MA Senate approves supplemental budget

BOSTON— The Massachusetts Senate took final action on a supplemental budget designed to close out Fiscal Year 2023. The Senate’s supplemental budget totals \$3.1 billion and contains several provisions to support the ongoing operations of programs and services that benefit the residents of the state.

To address the ongoing humanitarian emergency shelter crisis, the final bill allocates \$250 million to be spent to address costs associated with sheltering eligible families, including by making funding available for temporary emergency shelter sites for families on a waitlist for permanent shelter. The final bill also stipulates that a portion of the \$250 million be spent on support services and resources so that individuals and families can address the complex issues and challenges they face, as well as reimbursements to school districts for increased enrollment costs associated with an influx of migrant students.

To ensure oversight of spending on the emergency shelter crisis, the bill requires robust reporting every 14 days. In addition to \$250 million for the emergency shelter system, the budget provides \$10 million for resettlement agencies to assist immigrants and refugees in available funds from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to support

career centers in their efforts to assist immigrants and refugees in securing federal work authorizations.

“I’m grateful to have leaders in the Senate in President Karen Spilka, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Michael Rodrigues, and all my colleagues in the Senate who understood the importance of working together to address the challenges we faced, like funding over 90 collective bargaining agreements for state workers and addressing the rising costs of special education,” said Oliveira.

Other notable items in the close-out supplemental budget include: \$378 million to fund collective bargaining increases for state workers; \$75 million for school districts impacted by special education tuition rate increases; \$15 million for disaster relief for municipalities impacted by storms and natural disasters that occurred in 2023; and a supplemental \$100 million pension payment to remove any further increased liability resulting from the 2015 early retirement incentive program. The largest spending item in the bill was related to health care costs provided through MassHealth. A version of this supplemental budget having passed the House and Senate, it was sent to the Governor on Monday, Dec. 4, and signed the same day.

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**PVTA** | from page 3

were provided prior to the 2017 service reductions.

Provided in the presentation were two maps with the routes highlighted with copies were provided for the residents in attendance.

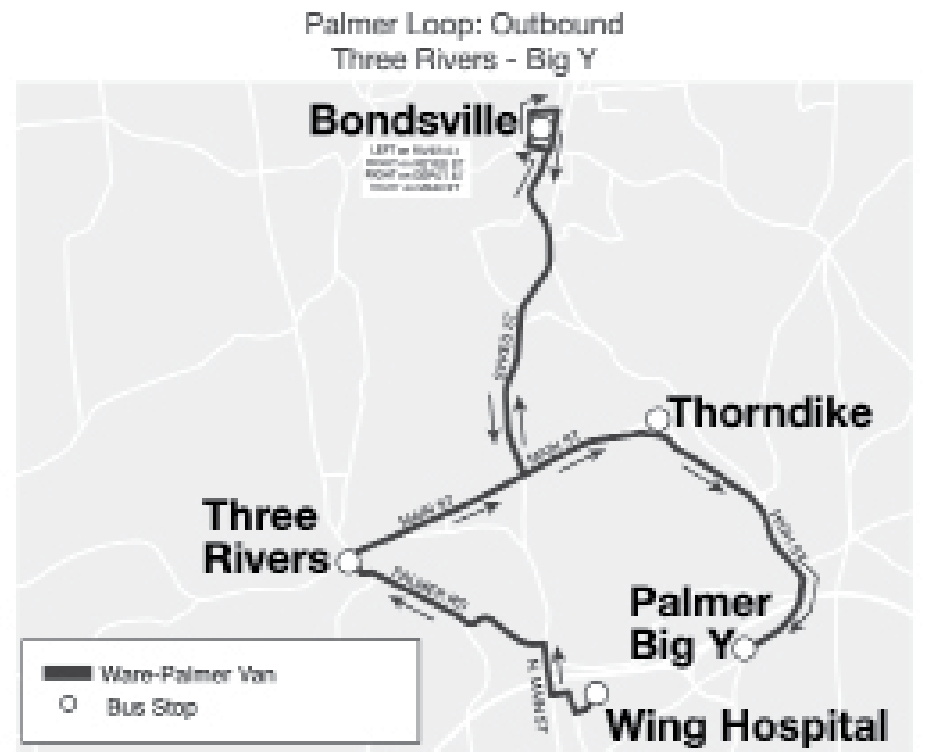
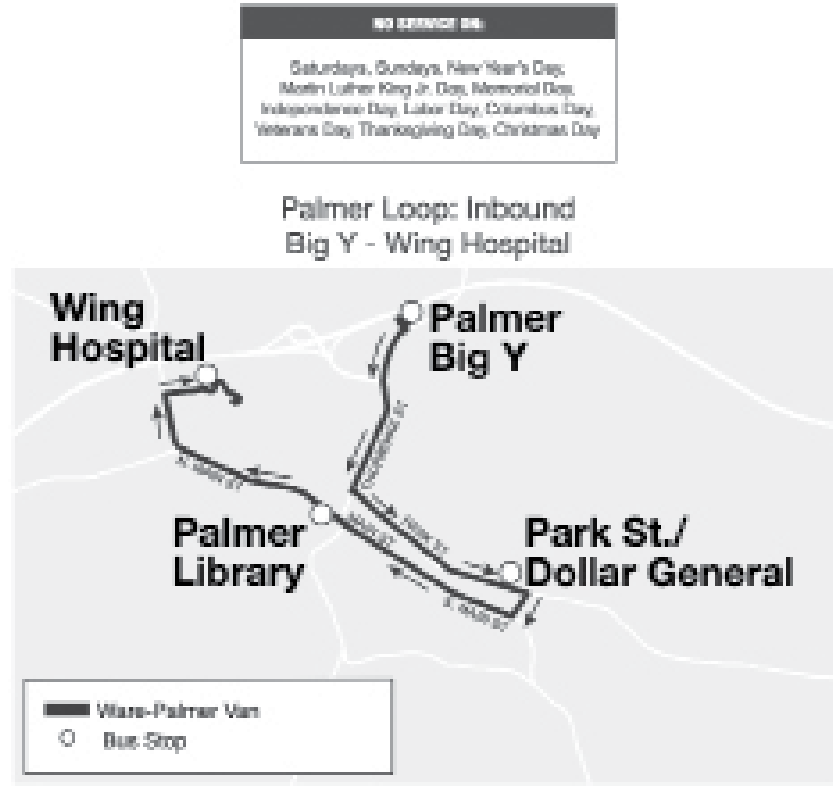
During weekdays, the Palmer Shuttle will be at these following locations, Big Y World Class Market in Palmer, Park Street, Palmer Library, Wing Hospital, Three Rivers, Bondsville, and Thorndike.

The shuttle in Ware has familiar locations that are part of their route. On weekdays, the Ware shuttle will go to locations such as Church Street, Big Y in Ware, Ware Walmart for arrival and departure, Palmer Big Y, Palmer Library and Wilbraham Big Y.

In addition to these proposed service enhancements, the shuttles will also include a flex route. A flex route is when a bus arrives to assist and flex off into side streets. After asking if there were any public concerns during the public hearing at the Palmer Library, no concerns were addressed and residents in attendance seemed happy about these upcoming changes to the Ware-Palmer Shuttle routes.

The PVTA is looking to fill more staff positions and drivers to provide more services for transportation.

Giving the presentation for the PVTA Winter Service Enhancements was Paul Burns-Johnson. When it comes to recruiting staff, Burns-Johnson mentioned the training cycle for new staff takes a



Maps from PVTA website

total of a couple of months.

For more information about the new route enhancements, visit [pvta.com](http://pvta.com).

The PVTA is the largest regional transit authority

in Massachusetts with 186 buses, 132 vans and 24 participating member communities. The website includes schedules, routes, and maps to view.

The PVTA has routes in the cities and towns of

Massachusetts including Springfield, Northampton, Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, Amherst, Palmer and Ware.

For questions and comments, you can email the PVTA at [comments@pvta.com](mailto:comments@pvta.com).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## COMING SOON

The historic Silver Street Chapel and community center invites you to attend the annual Christmas Carol sing on Sun., Dec. 17, from 3 - 5 p.m. Presented by the first church of monson music committee. Join us in the beautiful 125 year old chapel to share voices, merriment, reveling and refreshments.

The Friends of the Monson Free Library will hold a Bake Sale on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the library.

Goodies such as cookies, pies, breads, candy and scones will be available. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help support programs and events at the library.

## INTERESTS

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

**KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:** Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-

round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

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

## ONGOING

**BINGO IS BACK** at Amvets Post 74,

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

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

**GAME NIGHT:** 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Reg-

istration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

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

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

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# Pathfinder Career Night draws in hundreds of families



Laura Asson and Zac Button showcased the academic offerings at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School's during Career Night at a table in the gymnasium.



Joy and Jacob Parker, age 13, stop at the Foreign Languages table.



The cafeteria was packed with visitors to the school who partook in Career Night.



Tyler Simons and Mike Plouffe promote the school's athletics program.



Angela Sweeney directed visitors to the sign-up tables.



Student Ambassador Jennifer Kinney helped Quentin Sitsauver in the Automotive Department.



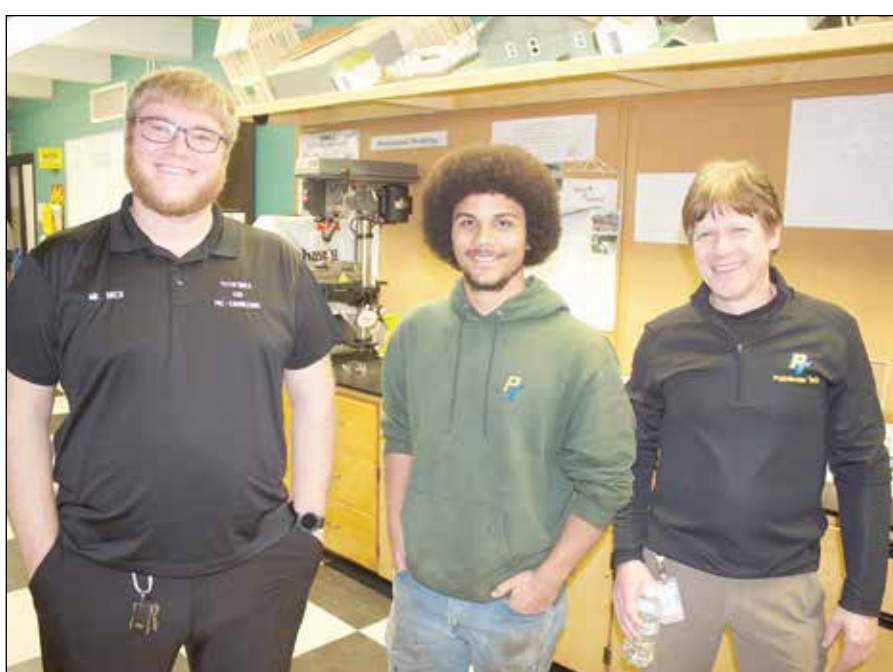
Debra Hageman and Mia, age 11, visited tables in Pathfinder's gymnasium.



Zachary Latourelle, Caiden White, Terynce Senquiz, and Crosby attended demonstrations for Career Night.



Student Ambassador Kevin Mann instructed Cole Eziok, age 13, to connect a car horn.



Justin Bren and Kevin Mastalerz caught up with alumni Tyshawn Aponte.



Mike Plouffe sprayed sparks during one of the demonstrations.

**PATHFINDER** from page 1 highlight the school's academic programs, as opposed to the technical and vocational programs that the school is already well-known for.

"The academic programs, as well as athletics, professional skills and student activities, pretty much everything that you might have had to wander around and figure out where it all was, is here now," Duda said.

In the gymnasium were tables where families could sign students up to attend Pathfinder next year. In the

first hour that Career Night was open, Duda received reports of upwards of 100 applications that had been filed.

For the vocational programs, older students were able to take the lead on instructing the younger visitors, with staff supervision, of course.

"Isn't it great?" said Duda. "These are some of our current students who decided to come

here tonight and help, giving up their evening."

"The student ambassadors that come in, they're giving up their Wednesday night to promote our building, and that says a lot about what we do, and the product that we try to put out," Aldrich said.

This year the school changed its outreach to try to reach community members who may not

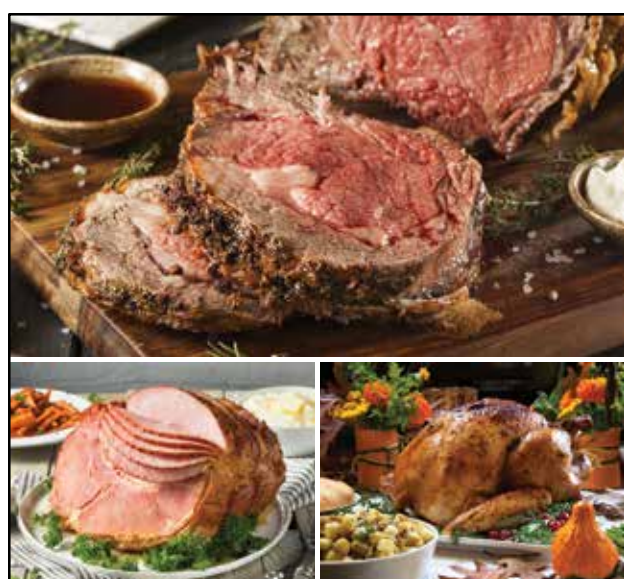
have had access to information about the school. Through a combination of radio ads, banners and trailers parked in strategic places in town, the Community Outreach Department was able to get the word out about the event.

"I'm very proud of our entire school," Aldrich said. "The students are amazing."

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8**

## NOTICE

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by January 4th.



# Pathfinder Career Night draws in hundreds of families



Riley Roy served as a Student Ambassador for Career Night.



William Burke instructed Kaleb, age 12, on how to properly put a nail into a board.



Students observed safety precautions as they experimented with a blowtorch.



Dylan Mlynarski, Cyrus Ziembra, and Nick and Talon St. George attended demonstrations on carpentry.



Derek Rivera stood beside some new equipment in Advanced Manufacturing.



Jordan Martin and Keith Gilman stopped for a photo in Advanced Manufacturing.



Jodi Sierzego worked with Brielle, age 11, in the Cosmetology Department.



Abby and Heather Taylor visited Pathfinder Tech to find out what Career Night was all about.



Darlene Henshaw and Dan Friedman represented Pathfinder's arts and music offerings.



Counselors had a booth in the gymnasium. Seen here, from left to right are Nicole Horton, Erica Dupre, Diana Monahan, Tory Zulauskas and Taunya Wahlers.



Cole Rogers and Lindsey Tracy were excited to take part in Career Night.

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| USDA INSP. FRESH PORK CROWN ROAST... \$3.99 lb   | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE \$9.89 lb          | USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS ..... 99¢ lb   |
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| USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.44 lb   | USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB LEGS \$3.99 lb                         | USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA ..... \$4.99 lb                            |
| <b>HOLIDAY HAMS</b>  | USDA INSP. FRESH IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$15.99 lb                       | USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES FAMILY PAK ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... \$1.99 lb                |
| USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDDA BALL BONELESS SMOKED PIT HAM ..... \$3.49 lb  | USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS..... 99¢ lb                            | USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS 5 LB..... \$12.99 ea                                       |
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| USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS..... 99¢ lb   |   | USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN U PICK COOKED SHRIMP 21/25, 26/30, 31/40 CT, 2 LB BAG ..... \$11.99 ea |

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Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Luke, age 15, and Connor, age 14, operated a robot.



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**BASKETBALL**

## Monson girls overwhelmed by Falcons in season opener



Chelsea Hull hustles down the court.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Ryan Minns was the head coach of the Palmer boys' varsity basketball team for more than 10 years.

The highlight of Minns coaching career took place during the 2016-17 season. The Panthers put together an amazing 23-game winning streak during that season. They also captured the Western Mass. title for the first time in 50 years and played in the Division 3 state finals at the DCU Center in Worcester.

After taking a couple of years off from coaching, Minns is back on the sidelines again this winter as the girls' varsity basketball coach at Minnechaug Regional.

The Lady Falcons opened the 2023-24 campaign with a 58-22 non-league home victory over the Monson Lady Mustangs, last Friday night.

"Winning the first game is a very good way to start off the season," Minns said. "We do have a lot of very good athletes and I'm really enjoying coaching this team."

The duo of senior Jayla Comes and sophomore Elizabeth Woytowicz finished the season opener with 11 points for the home team. Woytowicz also had a team-leading six assists and five steals.

Minns, who lives in Wilbra-

ham, is a physical education teacher at Palmer High School. He was inducted into the Palmer Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. He took over the coaching reins at Minnechaug from Alyssa Darling, who scored 1,000 career points as a member of the Palmer girls' varsity basketball team. Darling is currently a first-year assistant coach for the Elms College women's basketball team.

"Alyssa did a really nice job of coaching this team during the past couple of years," Minns said. "I knew that this was a very good program, so I decided to apply for the coaching position."

Minnechaug, who went 10-11 a year ago, lost to Amherst in the semi-finals of the Western Mass. Class A tournament and to Holyoke in a preliminary round game of the Division 2 state tournament. They did celebrate 48-36 victory at Monson.

The Lady Mustangs, who have never defeated the Lady Falcons on the hardwood, also have a new varsity coach this winter. Walt Jackson replaced Tim Pascale, who retired from coaching at the end of last season.

"Tonight's game was a very good learning experience for my basketball team," Jackson said. "I thought that we played well in the first half, but there are some things that we need to work on."

MONSON | page 10

**BASKETBALL**



Richie Gula reaches up to try and bring in a rebound.



Following a defensive rebound, Adrian Moskovitz sprints down the court.



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw in the first quarter.



Seth Mitchell looks to get around an opponent and head for the hoop.



Adam Slonker takes a shot.

## Pioneers pick up season opener victory

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder was aggressive early on and was able to score a win over Pioneer Valley Christian School 58-46 in the season opener for both teams. The Pioneers remained on the road facing Mt. Everett earlier this week and host Ludlow in its home opener this Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Youth team wins opening tourney

The 5/6 Boys Palmer Blue Devils Suburban basketball team recently went 3-0 in the 2023 Turkey Day Jamboree B division out of Wilbraham. They defeated Wilbraham Falcons, Longmeadow and Adam's. Pictured are members of the team: Back row: Brennan Babinski, Noel McKee, Dominic Venneri, Maxwell Wilkerson, Josiel Ortiz, Riley Presho, and Mason Cowher. Front row: Seth Peets, Hunter Laviolette, Luke Haley, and Jase Daley. Levi Zajac was also part of the team.



Submitted photo

## Hurricanes take win

WESTFIELD – Last Friday night, Amherst Regional hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, won its season opener against Southwick Regional at Amelia Park Arena in Westfield. Jack Dyjach had a hat trick in the 6-2 win. Cooper Beckwith, Joshua Goodhind, and Eric Chin also scored goals for the Hurricanes, which are 1-0 in its first week of action.

The Hurricanes face Agawam Dec. 14 followed by a home match-up with McCann Tech on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Orr Rink on the campus of Amherst College.

**SWIMMING**



Akasha Santos-Thomas swims her way across the pool in the 100 freestyle.

## Panthers open swim season



Beverly Williams completes a lap in the 500 freestyle.



Madelyn Roy does a leg of the 100 freestyle relay.

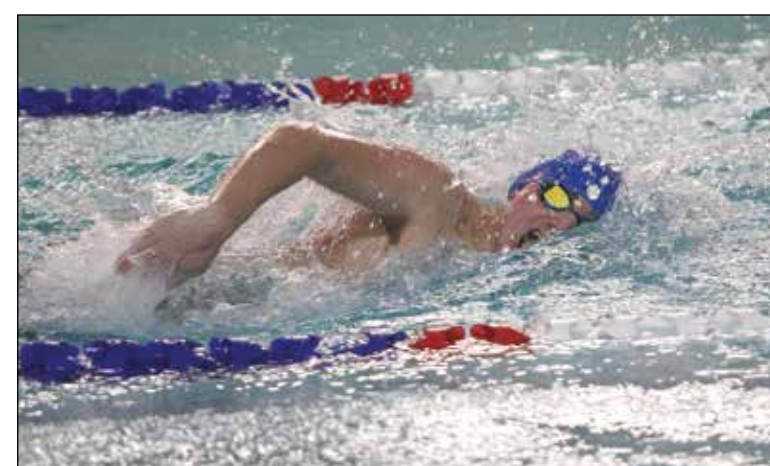


Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Noah Steinberg works during the flystroke event.

PALMER – Last Friday afternoon, Palmer boys and girls swimming hosted neighboring Belcher-town in the opening meet of the season. The girls were defeated 78-74 in their part of the meet. The boys also suffered a loss, falling 118-49 to the Orioles. After facing Chicopee Comprehensive earlier this week, the Panthers hope to score a win Friday, Dec. 15 against the Hampden Charter School of Science.



Simon Yetts performs in the 500 freestyle.



Wayne Podsiadlo races across in the 100 freestyle.

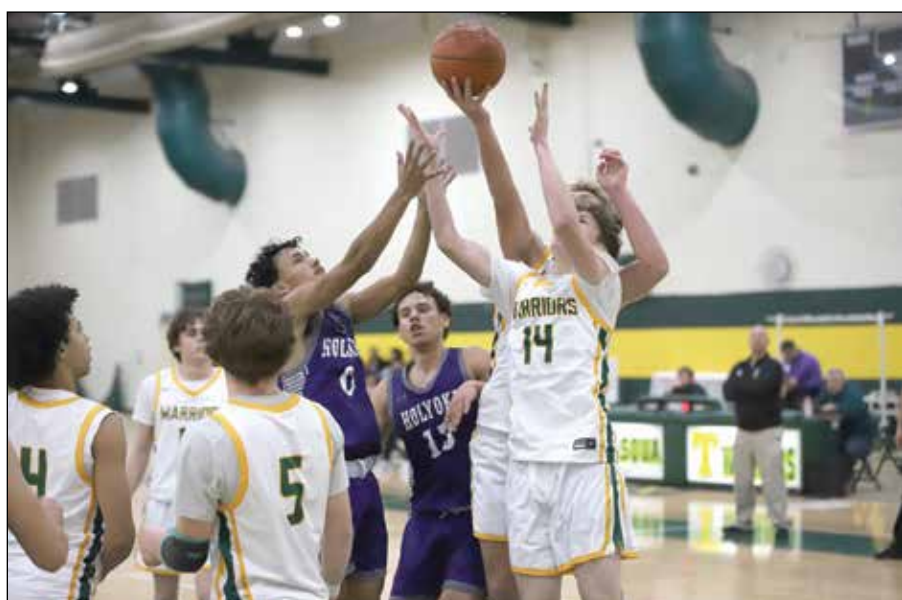




Jack Repose makes a three-point attempt.



Colm McGrath holds the ball high as he is guarded closely.



Max Cohen tries to bring in the rebound.

## Warriors fall in season opener to Holyoke

FISKDALE – Last Friday night, Holyoke boys basketball traveled to Central Mass. to face Tantasqua in an independent matchup. The Knights led early and came away with a 57-47 win. Tantasqua challenged the lead on a few occasions, but were never able to get any sustained momentum throughout the matchup. The Warriors were led by Sam Pieczynski with 13 points. Colm McGrath had 11 points for the Warriors as well.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
James Sciaraffa looks to move the ball under tight coverage.



Sam Pieczynski attempts to get the layup.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

### Colin Beaupre

Monson

Beaupre had a huge night in Monson's first win of the season over Easthampton. He sank 32 points to lead the Mustangs. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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## T-Birds stuff Islanders on Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakob Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Vadim Zherenko was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game moved to 4-on-4 following

matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put the game out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a backhand to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the third. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could muster on this night.

Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play shorthanded, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – December has arrived in the 2023-2024 candlepin bowling season at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks has had momentum shifts happening so far in round two of their league. As of Nov. 28, Life is Good ranks #1 with a 7-1 record.

This past week, Life is Good bowled against Last in Line who is currently tied for fourth place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. In game one, Last in Line won a close game 333-329. In game two, Life is Good turned the tides by dominating game two 380-340.

Jeff Knight of Life is Good was over his average by bowling 106. Paul Cyr led the team confidently by scoring 122.

In game three, the two teams tied at 338 and received one point each. Life is Good won total pinfall by a final score of 1047-1011.

Blue B's bowled against Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs were victorious by

a score of 389-374. In game two, The Champs won again 385-371. In game three, The Champs won 404-381 for the sweep. John Colkos of the Champs had a strong finish by scoring 121.

The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1126.

Team BK bowled against the 1<sup>st</sup> round winning team, Compression. In game one, Compression bowled well and took the first game 383-335. In game two, BK rebounded with a win of their own by a score of 376-315. In game three, BK managed to win the last game 372-354.

BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1083-1052.

Aces bowled against their average and won two out of three games.

### Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League witnessed a momentum shift as one team took over the #1 spot as of Nov. 30.

Team Six is the current leader with a record of 29-19 and is 1.5 points ahead of Team One. Team Three was the team to bowl Team One this past Thursday night. In game one, Team Three

was victorious by a score of 403-399.

In game two, Team One came back with a win 415-383. In game three, Team Three won the last game of the night 408-386.

Team One took total pinfall by a final score of 1200-1194. Each team received two points.

Team Five bowled against Team Two as both teams were trying to move up in the ranks before the conclusion of round one. In game one, Team Two was the winner in a close game 383-377. In game two, Team Five managed to come up with a close win 399-396. In game three, Team Two had a strong last game and won 448-412. Team Two took 3 out of 4 points as they won total pinfall 1227-1188.

Team Four bowled against the #1 seed Team Six. In game one, Team Six had a strong showing as they won 438-409. The first game victory was thanks to anchor bowler Ron who bowled 113, 28 pins over his current league average (85).

In game two, Team Six won a close game against Team Four, 429-428. In game three, Team Four won the last game of the night 426-402.

Team Six won total pinfall 1269-1263.

## MONSON | from page 9

Jackson previously coached the girl's junior varsity basketball team at Pope Francis. He also coaches a youth basketball team in Springfield.

The Lady Mustangs finished with a 10-13 overall record last year. They lost at Lenox in the Western Mass. Class D semifinals before losing to rival Palmer in the Division 5 round of 16.

Junior Olivia Chrzan, who scored her 1,000th career point as a sophomore, led the Lady Mustangs with 11 points in the season opener. She only made two field goals, which both came in the first quarter.

"Chrzan is a very good basketball player and we tried to make it hard for her to score," Minns said. "We're a little bit better defensively at this point of the season than we are offensively."

Minnechaug sophomore Kelly Cronin guarded Chrzan for most of the game. Cronin also helped offensively with eight points.

"Kelly did a very good job of defending Chrzan," Minns added. "She also contributed offensively."

Junior Ava Ofcarik (4 points) and sophomore Cailin O'Brien (4 points) also took turns guarding Chrzan in the second half.

Monson was trailing 12-6 entering the second quarter.

Chrzan, who made a 3-pointer, a lay-up, and a free throw, in the first eight minutes of the contest, made two more foul shots during the first minute of the second stanza. Then freshman Chelsea Hull buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key, which closed the gap to 12-11 with 6:30 remaining in the opening half.

The visitors wouldn't get any closer than that. Comes, who scored all her points in the first half, began a 13-0 run by sinking a pair of 3-pointers from the



Monson girls basketball started its season at Minnechaug last Friday night.



Emily Provost attempts to defend inside the paint.



Olivia Chrzan keeps the ball inbound.



Aniah Myrie takes a shot.

right side.

Following a pair of made free throws by senior Lylah Jeannotte, which were her only points, sophomore Lyric Nelson (8 points) made another 3-pointer giving the Lady Falcons a double digit lead (23-11) for the first time.

During the final seconds of the opening half, Nelson hit a runner in the lane sending her team into the locker room holding a commanding 27-12 halftime lead.

The home team continued to pull away during the

second half, as senior Laila Phok-Smith (7 points) and Cronin led the way offensively.

Monson only made two field goals of the second half were inside hoops by junior Emily Provost, which were her only points of the game. Chrzan made three foul shots. The Lady Mustangs other three points were made free throws by senior Aniah Myrie, senior Delianah Wolf, and sophomore Sedona Arbour.

"The girls are still learning my coaching style and

I'm still getting to know them," Jackson said. "Hopefully, they keep working hard and continue to improve during the season."

The Lady Mustangs were scheduled to face Wahconah Regional in their home opener on Tuesday night.

The Lady Falcons, who hosted Northampton on Tuesday night, will be traveling to Holyoke High School on Friday night.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



# Railers suffer loss to Thunder

WORCESTER – The Railers dropped a 3-2 shootout to the Adirondack Thunder here Saturday before a loud Teddy Bear Toss crowd of 5,029. While Worcester did not dominate play in this one as much as it did in Friday's 4-2 triumph, the Railers had more and better chances than the Thunder.

However, Adirondack was 1 for 2 on its power plays, Worcester 0 for 1. This marked the ninth time in 21 games this season the Railers were outscored by the opposition on special teams. Worcester is 2-4-3 in those games.

The Railers did not get a power play until overtime. At 3:08 of the fourth period, something happened that typified the night. A Worcester shot rang off the post, rolled into the back of Thunder goaltender Winnie Purpura, then bounced back towards the net.

It stopped on the goal line. Worcester outshot the visitors, 38-28. That included a 21-6 edge in the first period, which ended 1-1 but could have been 5-1.

"Stay the course," was coach Jordan Smotherman's advice to his team in the dressing room. "That's two really good games out of us. We have 80 shots in two nights and we should win both those games. Obviously, we'll take the three-point weekend but prefer the four."

"There's a lot to build on." The seven-minute overtime was exactly what hockey's honchos had in mind when they thought up the idea. It was non-stop offense with great goaltending from Worcester's Tristan Lennox and Purpura, both of whom stopped five shots.

The shootout was the kind of thing hockey's honchos are trying to avoid. The teams traded slow-motion approaches to the net. Adirondack's Patrick Grasso had the only goal in eight tries, a 12-foot wrist shot along the ice.

Keeghan Howdeshell and Anthony Repaci had the Railers goals. Worcester never led. Jack Jeffers and Mike Gillespie scored for Adirondack.

Howdeshell's goal came at 19:07 of the first period. It was set up by a physical play by Riley Piercey along the right boards. Repaci redirected a long pass from the right point by Todd Goehring at 13:33 of the second period.

In the last four games the Railers have outshot the opposition by 160-108 but have been outscored — goalie in the net — by 11-8. Worcester's shots have not been time-to-change lines softballs, either. The Railers are pummeling opposing goalies.

"It's the old adage in hockey," Smotherman said. "If you keep getting the chances they're gonna go in at some point. I'd rather be getting them than not."

Saturday night's game marked the 16th time the Railers and Thunder have met in the last 30 games going back to the end of last season. That ridiculous overload is almost over. The teams play just three more times this year, one of those games next week.

# Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will compete on all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note, Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also join in on the Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is officially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at [www.speedsport.tv](http://www.speedsport.tv).

# Police/Fire

## Police Logs

### Palmer Police Department

*The Palmer Police Department reported 385 incidents on its logs for Dec. 5 – Dec. 11.*

#### Dec. 5

At 6:21 p.m. police arrested Jason N. Corbin, 43, of 1067 Pleasant St., Palmer on charges of two counts of home invasion and two counts of vandalizing property.

#### Dec. 7

At 1:27 a.m. police responded to a disturbance on Walnut Street and arrested Andrew T. Kenyon, 32, of 1102 Park St., Palmer on charges of disorderly conduct and vandalizing property.

#### Dec. 8

At 3:38 p.m. police responded to an accident involving personal injury on Gates Street.

At 6:30 p.m. police arrested Jason N. Corbin, 43, of 1067 Pleasant St., Palmer for two counts of home invasion and 2 counts of vandalizing property.

At 11:20 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on Central Street.

#### Dec. 9

At 3:09 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 9 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Amanda Janay Montes, 26, of 4010 Center St., Thorndike for operating a vehicle with a suspended license.

#### Dec. 10

At 4:59 p.m. police received

sex offender registration.

At 5:01 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:06 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 10:15 p.m. police gave summons to Andrew Pittsley, 34, of 441 Pleasant St., New Bedford, for criminal harassment and annoying telephone calls/ electronic communication.

#### Dec. 11

At 5:53 p.m. police gave summons for the second time to Andrew Pittsley, 34, of 441 Pleasant St., New Bedford, for criminal harassment and annoying telephone calls/ electronic communication.

At 8:39 p.m. police responded to an accident involving property damage on Thorndike Street.

## Fire Logs

### BONDSDVILLE

*For the period Nov 28 to Dec 4, Bondsville fire responded to 6 calls.*

#### Thursday, Nov. 30

11:43 a.m., the department responded to South Main Street for the medical alert activation. The alarm was set off accidentally and the department returned to service at 11:54 a.m.

#### Friday, Dec. 1

3:09 p.m., the department was dispatched mutual aid to Wilbraham Street in Palmer for a possible water rescue. The call was cancelled enroute and the department returned to service at 3:16 p.m.

#### Friday, Dec. 1

6:40 p.m., the department responded to High Street for the CO detector activation. The department returned to service at 7:03 p.m.

#### Saturday, Dec. 2

5:56 a.m., the department responded to High Street for the CO detector activation. The department returned to service at 6:13 a.m.

#### Saturday, Dec. 2

12:12 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for the medical assist. The department returned to service at 12:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, Dec. 3

2:37 a.m., the department responded to High Street for the CO detector activation. The department returned to service at 3:29 a.m.

### Palmer

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

#### Dec. 5

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

#### Dec. 6

1:45 p.m. CO investigation, Central Street, Back in service at 1:55 p.m.

#### Dec. 9

1:56 p.m. Station coverage, West Street (Ware mutual aid), Back in service at 2:38 p.m.

2:35 p.m. Structure fire, Wilbraham Street, Back in service at 5:45 p.m.

#### Dec. 10

10:41 p.m. Detector activation, South Main Street, Back in service at 11:13 p.m.

#### Dec. 11

10:27 a.m. Detector activation, Shearer Street, Back in service at 10:38 a.m.

12:34 p.m. Detector activation, Main Street, Back in service at 1:03 p.m.

#### Dec. 12

4:02 a.m. Motor vehicle accident (entrapment), Breckenridge Street, Back in service at 5:24 a.m.

## Three Rivers

*The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five calls for the week of Dec. 3-9.*

#### Thursday, Dec. 7

The Department responded to an overpressure rupture of a steam pipe or pipeline on Main Street in Bondsville.

#### Friday, Dec. 8,

The Department provided a hazmat release investigation and determined there was no hazmat.

#### Saturday, Dec. 9,

the Department responded to a building fire on Wilbraham Street in Palmer.

Also on that day, the Department responded to an EMS call for a motor vehicle accident on Bourne Street, and a medical assist on Main Street.



# Should animals be given as gifts

EAST BROOKFIELD — In the heartwarming videos circulating every holiday season, the joy of receiving a surprise puppy or kitten is undeniable. The excitement is infectious, and you might be tempted to create a similar moment for a loved one this year. Second Chance Animal Services suggests a thoughtful alternative: consider a shelter visit as the gift of a lifetime.

While those viral videos capture the immediate happiness, Second Chance founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato emphasizes the unseen aftermath of pets surrendered to shelters shortly after festivities. "The decision to bring a pet into your family is immensely gratifying, but it's also a substantial commitment. Extensive research and careful consideration of your family's lifestyle are critical. Owning a pet is a considerable responsibility, both when they're young and as they age. Adopting a pet is a pledge for life."

Blancato advocates against surprising someone entirely with a pet. "Of course, we hope all our pets will spend the holidays in their new homes, but we want them to find homes with committed, loving families ready to take on the responsibility of caring for their new, furry family member. Being surrendered back to a shelter takes a serious toll on animals. Witnessing them wait for their owner's return is truly heartbreaking."

To encourage responsible pet adoption, Second Chance recommends gifting a pet bed or bowls accompanied by a note expressing your intent to explore pet ownership responsibly. A handmade gift certificate for a local shelter visit, paired with an informative book on pet care, can be an excellent present for young children. This approach ensures that the decision to welcome a pet is well-informed and creates a memorable experience of the joy of going to the shelter together to choose the pet.

# Weekend fire displaces family; house deemed total loss

WEST BROOKFIELD – At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, West Brookfield Fire Department was toned for a fire at a residence at 319 Long Hill Road.

According to a press release from Fire Chief Richard Lapiere, at the time of the call, the deck attached to the house was on fire, and residents were evacuating. Car 1 signed on en route within a minute of the initial tone.

The address is four miles from the station in a southerly direction at the Warren town line. Halfway up Long Hill Road, Car 1 requested an engine from Warren Fire Department due to the location of the residence and because of the distance to get there.

Heavy smoke was visible from about a mile from the scene and Car 1 requested a second alarm assignment for outside the hydrant district.

On arrival Car 1 reported a working fire. Fire was visible from the rooftop and the entire back of the house. West Brookfield Engine 1 was first on scene and pulled a line to the rear of the building to try to knock down the fire.

Warren Engine 3 was second on scene and pulled a line to the front of the house to try and make entry. At this point the fire was already coming from windows in the front of the house.

As crews arrived two more additional hand lines from West Brookfield Engine 1 were pulled to assist with extinguishment. At one point, the house integrity was compromised, and all crews were pulled from the building and a defense tactic was initiated until some control could be gained.

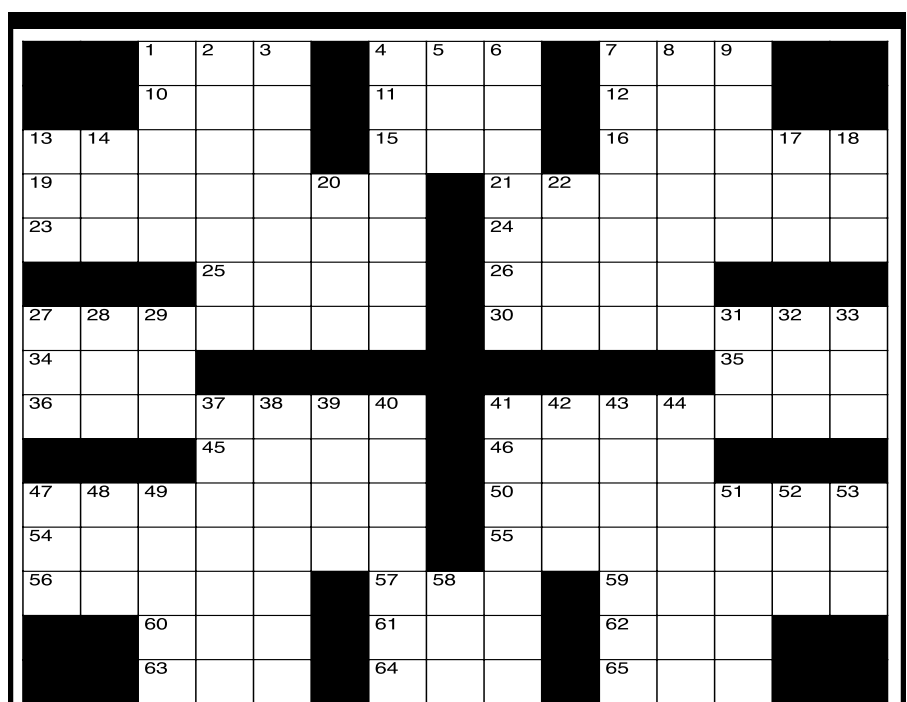
A rural hitch system was set up for water supply. As tankers arrived, they supplied water to the rural hitch and the scene maintained water throughout.

Lapiere said the home is a total loss as a result except for contents in the garage, basement and a few items on the first floor. The cause of the fire was determined by a District 7 Fire Investigation Unit member as careless disposal of woodstove ashes under the deck from two days ago.

West Brookfield Fire Department would like to thank West Brookfield Rescue Squad for their rehab assistance with West Brookfield Emergency Management. Also, West Brookfield Police Department for their assistance as well as Warren Police Department.

Lapiere also thanked departments providing mutual aid, which included Warren Fire Department, Ware Fire Department, Brookfield Fire Department, Brimfield Fire Department, East Brookfield Fire Department, North Brookfield Fire Department, New Braintree Fire Department and Hardwick Fire Department.

Lapiere also thanked the Red Cross for their assistance with the family and National Grid for cutting power to the scene.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimic
4. Payroll firm
7. Perform in a play
10. Opine: \_\_\_ philosophical
11. Crony
12. Political action committee
13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
15. Affirmative
16. Exclamation of disgust
19. Action of connecting
21. A way to calm
23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
24. Walked proudly
25. Group of people related through male heir
26. Supplemented with difficulty
27. Soft touch
30. Erases

### CLUES DOWN

34. Spanish river
35. A princess can detect it
36. Clouds of gas
41. A way to get through
45. Part of a book
46. Southwestern US state
47. Fields where rice is grown
50. Area in Ghana
54. Sayings
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act
57. "Ignore all rules"
59. Indoor entertainment space
60. Born of
61. Back muscle
62. Sea dweller
63. Tools that resemble an axe
64. Prefix denoting class or kind
65. Tooth caregiver

### (abbr.)

1. Inspiring
2. Put into a box
3. Breathes out
4. Pacify
5. Patriotic society for women
6. Fell down
7. Clothing
8. Dishwasher detergent brand
9. Former French republic
13. Single lens reflex
14. Men's fashion accessory
17. Consumed
18. Marry
20. \_\_\_ up: intensifies
22. Body of water
27. People of southern Benin
28. Decorate a cake with frosting
29. Snag
31. Yearly tonnage
32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
33. Car mechanics group
37. Brought up to snuff
38. \_\_\_ faire: Economic approach
39. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
40. Affixed
41. Period of adolescence
42. Substance
43. Danced
44. Baked without its shell
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Satisfaction
49. Balkans river
51. Christmas carols
52. Partner to tonic
53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
58. Swiss river



# Richard R. Green Insurance Agency puts finishing ties on toy/supply drive

By Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN – As the holidays near, the Richard R. Green Insurance Agency is wrapping up its annual collection of toys for children and supplies for veterans, but there still is time to donate.

The insurance agency is nearly done with its 18th annual holiday collection drive, but donations can still be dropped off at the Hampden office on Somers Road or the Monson office on Main Street.

“On one hand, we’re collecting toys for the kids, and on the other side, we’re collecting for the veterans,” Richard Green said. “One of the best parts about it is how much fun people have with the gifts they bring in.”

This year, the toy drive is benefiting I Found Light Against All Odds, a Springfield nonprofit dedicated to helping youths address social, emotional and economic issues. Meanwhile, Green will personally deliver the gifts for veterans to the VA Center in Leeds.

The insurance agency will also match the first \$500 in collected items for both children and veterans.

When the toy drive began, donations were given to Toys for Tots, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that distributes toys to children whose parents can’t afford to buy them gifts for the holidays. Several years ago, the insurance agency switched to I



The Richard R. Green Insurance Agency is finishing its 18th consecutive holiday collection drive.

Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

Found Light Against All Odds, as Green joined the Board of Directors of the Lighthouse Foundation, which is linked to the nonprofit.

While the collection drive officially ended on Dec. 13, the insurance agency is still accepting donations. A delivery of toys will be made to the nonprofit on Dec. 16, and Green has pledged to donate whatever toys he receives afterwards to Toys for Tots.

“They can continue to bring items

to the office,” Green said. “Anything that comes in after the day we stop, and it does happen, I will make it a point to get it to the Toys for Tots. We have a phone number to call because we still have a contact there. We will make it a point to get it to Toys for Tots.”

Green doesn’t plan to deliver the veterans’ gifts to Leeds until around Dec. 20, giving residents about another week to donate. For veterans, the women’s gift list includes clothing siz-

es 6-18, shoes sizes 9-12 and feminine products.

For men, suggested gifts include new socks and undergarments. Gifts for men or women could be gift cards to local stores, deodorant, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, body wash and blankets.

“The veterans’ side of the equation, I take up to the veterans’ facility up in Leeds, and they have a program where all these toiletries, t-shirts, clothes, work boots, anything we collect for the veterans plus our match, they put it into gifts and gift bags and gift packages for the veterans. They do it all right there on site,” Green said.

The insurance agency will also spend another \$100 to buy pizza for all the volunteers. From beginning to end, Green said the collection drive says an enormous amount about the community. He feels fortunate to be part of the process each year.

“You get to see the whole gamut of people’s feelings from giving to doing something for somebody who may not have anything,” Green said. “It’s all heartfelt, and you get to see it at the ground level. Really, it’s pretty great.”

Again, Green encouraged residents to continue bringing donations to the Hampden or Monson office, as the insurance agency will make sure they’re distributed. For more information, one can call 413-566-0028.

## BOARD | from page 1

She said she is also interested in bringing back a farmers’ market and becoming more involved with the community.

Select Board Chair Patricia Oney said the board believes Pruro will be “a real asset to the commission,” and likes that she is “already thinking about other kinds of events that will be beneficial to the town.”

Resident and Monson Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy was appointed to the commission for a term ending June 30, 2026.

Murphy shared an interest in joining the commission during the previous meeting.

“I was an original member in 2005 when we started the Ag Commission in town,” said Murphy. “That’s when we got the right-to-farm started.”

He said he helped see the right-to-farm process through and believes his experiences as an active community member provide another asset to the commission.

Murphy said his family also owns a farm on Lower Hampden Road, which he has seen transition from a herd of 100 to about 50.

“I know that end of it (too),” said Murphy. “I’m kind of diverse, (and) I think I can bring something to the committee. I’m here to volunteer my services.”

The board also appointed Bret Douty to the commission with a term ending June 30, 2024.

Douty said he joined the commission as he has been seeking something he could volunteer his time for within town.

He said he has relevant experience as he grew up on his great uncle’s farm.

“I think we need to save the family farm and that’s what I’m volunteering for,” said Douty.

He said he will also stand behind the commission’s initiatives to draw farmers markets back into town.

The board unanimously appointed resident and blueberry farmer Ray Beaudoin to the commission with a term ending June 30, 2023.

Beaudoin said he agrees with Douty that “we are losing a lot of farmland,” and would like to work alongside the Conservation Commission to see how land can be better utilized for agriculture.

“The Conservation Commission buys a lot of land and I can see where we can probably work something out,” said Beaudoin. “That’s what I’m hoping to bring to the committee...I’d like to see a little more communication between conservation and agriculture.”

### Zoning Board of Appeals

The board unanimously voted in favor of appointing residents David Sanborn and Jesse Griswold to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Oney said that before Sanborn and Griswold appointments, the ZBA was struggling to get a quorum for their meetings.

“It is really urgent we get some additional members,” said Oney.

She said the new members picked “a great time to join the Zoning Board of Appeals because one of the things we are starting to talk about is revising the zoning bylaws.”

She said it is important the ZBA report back to the Planning Board to address issues that continue to come up with zoning bylaws so changes can be made.

The Select Board also appointed David Sanborn to the ZBA with a term ending June 30, 2025.

Sanborn said he has been a Monson resident since he was 3, and has been a practicing attorney for 53 years.

“I was on the Zoning Board back in the early 1980s and then Town Council for eight years,” said Sanborn. He said he also has experience litigating zoning cases.

According to Sanborn, ZBA Chair Ron Fussell recruited him to fill the vacancy.

Oney said she believes he will be a great asset to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Select Board appointed Jesse Griswold to the Zoning Board with a term ending June 30, 2026.

Though Griswold was not in attendance at the Dec. 12 meeting, Oney shared notes from his application with the Board.

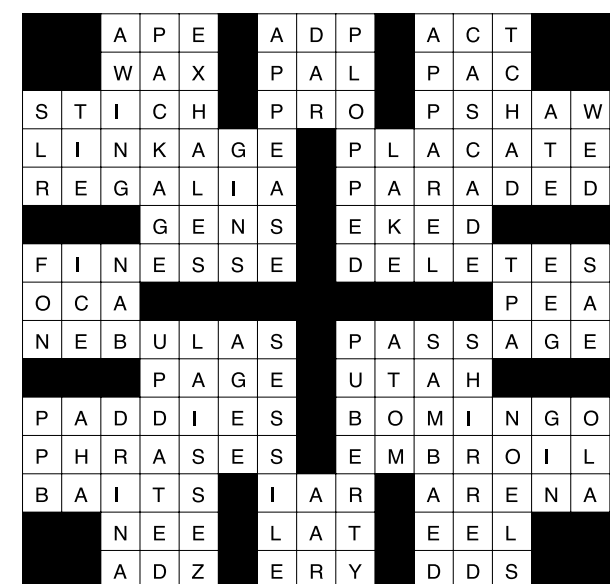
“In his application for the position he did explain that he has 20-plus years of experience in the construction industry, is a licensed electrician and has knowledge of many aspects of multiple trades,” said Oney.

According to his application, Griswold also possesses a general understanding of print reading and building codes, which “is skill sets that would make him an asset to the board,” she said.

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# CAMPUS NOTES

## Resident of Monson is inducted into Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD— Gabriel Zippin of Monson, a student at American International College in Springfield, has achieved a significant academic milestone by being inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma; Alpha Delta Chapter, the Criminal Justice Honor Society.

On Nov. 29, Zippin was one of five outstanding AIC students recognized by this esteemed national organization for academic excellence. The induction ceremony was held on the AIC campus and was attended by College leadership, criminal justice professors, and other members of the campus community.

AIC extends congratulations to Zippin and the other accomplished students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their academic pursuits. The College also acknowledges the invaluable guidance and support provided by the criminal justice professors and the chapter adviser, Dr. Jennifer Feitel.

## Local author shows his passion for Mass. history

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

PALMER — Author J.R. Greene came to the Palmer Public Library this week with many of his self-published books containing the history and photographs of the Quabbin Valley.

He has written a total of 23 books, 16 of which have to do with just the Quabbin Reservoir and many more about other historical figures.

Over 100,000 copies of his books have been sold, and he enjoys writing and researching the land.

"People like to read it, there's lots of research, and I like writing it," Greene said.

He began his career in history and research as a cartographer after getting a degree in English with a minor in both history and geography.

"I always related to these people who were forced to move from their towns," Greene explained. "I empathized with their fate - it was the worst case of intrastate colonialism."

Greene loves writing and has recently celebrated the 39th



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas  
J.R. Greene proudly presenting the 39th Annual Quabbin History Calendar.

year of publishing a Quabbin History Calendar. The 2024 calendar is available now.

Greene has spent a lot of time and research pursuing his passion in learning about the history of the Quabbin and has shared his passion through over 600 programs at historical societies, libraries and clubs.

His books tell the stories of our ancestors and the struggles they faced as they settled in this region. They provide a history not many know of, and are well worth the read.

## PALMER | from page 1

that the Enterprise Fund that was being put forward referenced fiscal '24, which we're already in fiscal '24," Barry said. "On the advice of the town attorney, we would need to start the process over."

"I do want to have a discussion about this, though, because I know that some of us are opposed to this Enterprise Fund in theory anyway."

Barry said that she wanted to discuss whether or not the council intended to move forward with the Enterprise Fund.

"I'll jump right in, because you definitely know I'm not interested in this Enterprise Fund at all," said Council Member Phillip Hebert.

"I drive for a living," Hebert said. "The more and more I drive around, you look at places, and how can you even begin to try and fairly institute something when you have places where all the water from the road is going down people's driveways into their yards. None of their water is leaving their property."

Hebert described the fund as "just another money grab," adding that the stormwater ordinance was a state mandate that had not been voted on by the public.

"I feel if the state wants you to

do it, then they should be coughing up the money to do it," Hebert said.

Councilor Matthew Lemieux agreed with Hebert's description of the ordinance, but added that the town still has to pay for these things to happen.

"No matter what, if we get it from the taxpayers in the Enterprise Fund or we get it from the taxpayers in the general fund, it's still money that the town is going to spend," Lemieux said.

Hebert's response was that money would have to be found in the budget.

"Be like the people that you're asking to take the money from," Hebert said, referencing the inflated cost of living since the COVID-19 lockdowns.

"There are requirements that we have to do," Barry said. "You can't ignore them."

Lemieux mentioned that he had been approached by business owners who asked if they would still be required to pay into the Enterprise Fund if they had already mitigated stormwater run-off as part of their site plan.

"There is language in the document that says that if you mitigate, or you have already put in procedures to mitigate, then there would be a discount of some sort," Lemieux answered.

"Who would determine whether or not that site plan was up to par to mitigate the stormwater where they either pay little to none, because they've already done everything they can to mitigate as much stormwater as possible?" Lemieux asked.

The council determined that, according to the document, this would likely be decided by a Stormwater Division.

Karl Williams went so far as to call for the writers of the legislation to "be let go and disbanded."

"This is one of the craziest things I've ever heard," Williams said. "Water finds a way, no matter what you have."

Williams argued that the ordinance would stunt business growth.

"What business is going to want to come to town where they pay extra for a big roof or a tar parking lot?" Williams asked.

"I didn't think this was very well thought out as to all the things that were brought up," Barry said. "I do know that these costs are going to go up, more and more and more. It's something that we definitely have to keep an eye on."

Barry indicated to Reid that the majority of the council present did not support re-entering the process to create a new Enterprise Fund.

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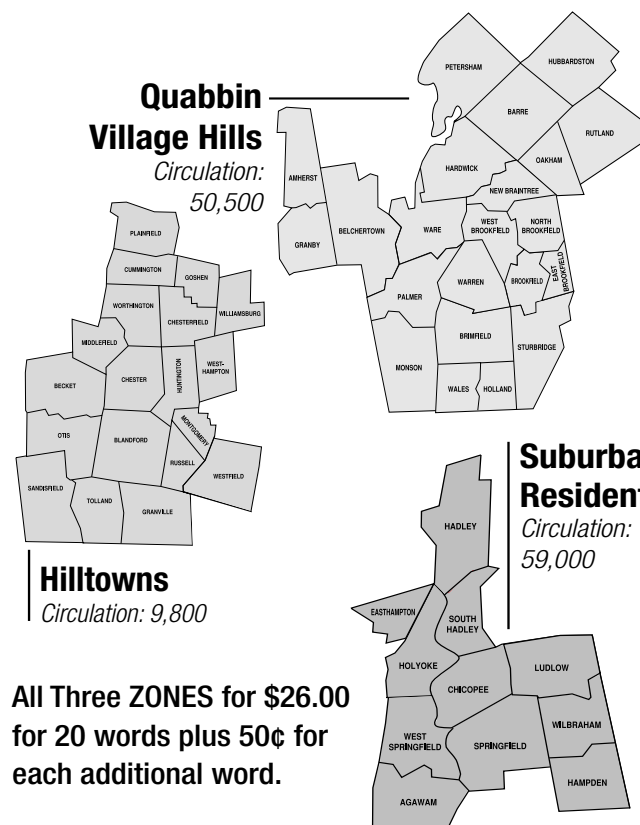
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| 29 Base Price \$30.50 | 30 Base Price \$31.00 | 31 Base Price \$31.50 | 32 Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33 Base Price \$32.50 | 34 Base Price \$33.00 | 35 Base Price \$33.50 | 36 Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37 Base Price \$34.50 | 38 Base Price \$35.00 | 39 Base Price \$35.50 | 40 Base Price \$36.00 |

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

**Town of Wales Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing**  
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **December 20th, 2023** at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at **6:00 PM**. for a Notice of Intent filed by Dan Wilder, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, located at 30 Peck Rd., Wales, MA 01081, for a prescribed spring burn within the project site of Chapin Meadow. Please contact the Conservation Commission if you have any questions. 413-245-7571 x101 or conservation@townofwales.net 12/14/2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Alycar Investments, LLC, to Probuilder Financial, LLC, dated March 17, 2022, and recorded with the Hampden Registry of Deeds in Book 24455 at Page 592, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 A.M. on the 5th day of January 2024**, at 75-77 Beaumont Street, Springfield, MA 01108, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
Parcel 2  
2041-2043 High Street, Palmer, Massachusetts  
The land with the buildings thereon situated at 2041-2043 High Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:  
A certain tract of land, with the buildings thereon situated in the Village of Three Rivers, in said Palmer, bounded and described as follows:  
BEGINNING on the Southerly side of High Street at a stone bound at the Northeasterly corner of land formerly of one Powell, thence

SOUTHERLY on land formerly of said Powell 118.60 feet to a stone bound at land now or formerly of the Otis Company; thence EASTERLY on line of land now or formerly of the Otis Company 72 feet to a bound; thence NORTHERLY on land now or formerly of Joseph W. Cheney to said High Street 73 Feet easterly from the first mentioned bound; thence WESTERLY on said street 13 feet to the first mentioned bound; ALSO, a certain other tract of land situated in the Village of Three Rivers, in said Palmer, lying next Southerly on the tract above described, as follows:  
BEGINNING at a

bound at the Southeast corner of the tract above described and at the Southwest corner of land now or formerly of J. William Cheney; thence S. 22° E. along land now or formerly of the Otis Company 33 feet to a stake; thence S. 74° W. along land now or formerly of the Otis Company 72.17 feet to a stake in line of land formerly of one Powell; thence N. 23° W. 33 feet along last-named land to a stone bound in line of above-described tract; thence N. 74° E. along last-named land 72.42 feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to Mortgagor by Deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24417, Page 498.

Parcel 3  
75-77 Beaumont Street, Springfield, Massachusetts  
The land in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, situated on the easterly side of Beaumont Street in said Springfield and being known as Lot #21 (twenty-one) as shown on a plan of lots recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 530, Page 601; said premises are bounded as follows:  
Beginning on the Easterly side of Beaumont Street at the Southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of one Kirby; thence Southerly on Beaumont Street, fifty (50) feet; thence Easterly parallel to the southerly line of said land now or formerly of said Kirby, one hundred (100) feet; thence Northerly parallel to Beaumont Street, fifty (50) feet; thence Westerly on said land now or formerly of said Kirby, one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

Subject to sewer rights granted the City of Springfield by instrument dated June 9, 1899 recorded as aforesaid in Book 601, Page 513.  
Being the same premises conveyed to Mortgagor by Deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24384, Page 285.  
The foreclosure sale is meaning and excepting to exclude the premises described in said mortgage as Parcel 1, 304-206 Main Street, Springfield, Massachusetts.  
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, restrictions, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or

encumbrances is made in the deed.  
**Terms of sale:** A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.  
**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**  
Probuilder Financial, LLC, Present holder of said mortgage,  
By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444 12/14, 12/21, 12/28

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAMPDEN, SS. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 2379CV00565**  
JOSHUA D. CASPER and RICHARD A. HACKER, Trustees of the CASPER-HACKER REALTY TRUST dated December 29, 2020, PLAINTIFFS vs. MAUREEN A. CASPER, individually and as Trustee of the DR. LEE S. CASPER MONEY PURCHASE PLAN dated August 1, 1978, and such persons, if any, uncertain, not in being, unknown, within or without the Commonwealth, or who cannot be served with process, their heirs or legal representatives or such other persons as shall become their heirs, devisees or appointees, DEFENDANTS  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
This cause came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiff, praying for an order of notice and thereupon consideration thereof, it is Ordered, and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said Defendants, MAUREEN A. CASPER, individually and as Trustee of the DR. LEE S. CASPER MONEY PURCHASE PLAN dated August 1, 1978 and such persons, if any, uncertain, not in being, unknown, within or without the Commonwealth, or who cannot be served with process, their heirs or legal representatives or such other persons as shall become their heirs, devisees or appointees, whose last known address was 920 Union St. Duxbury, Massachusetts, by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Journal Register, a newspaper published in the County of Hampden, at

least fourteen days before **the eleventh (11th) day of January next**, and that said Defendants do cause written appearance to be entered and written answers or other lawful pleadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the said **eleventh (11th) day of January next**. If Defendants fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against them for relief demanded in the complaint.  
Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a) your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiff's claim or you will be barred from making such claim in any other action.  
Entered: 11/30/23  
**Brian R. Dolaher**  
Asst. Clerk/Magistrate 12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P2466EA**  
**Estate of: Robert Francis Finnegan Also Known As: Robert F. Finnegan Date of Death: 08/25/2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Deborah C Finnegan of Monson, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Deborah C Finnegan of Monson, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 12/14/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Dept. HD23E0053PP**  
*To Mona L. Rock of Palmer, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.*  
A petition has been presented to said Court by Gilbert Ocasio, of Belchertown, in the County of Hampshire, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Palmer, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand (\$347,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.  
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P2421EA**  
**Estate of: David C Kuzmeski Date of Death: November 6, 2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Roger P Lipton of Whately, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Roger P Lipton of Whately, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 12/14/2023

appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the morning on the **seventeenth day of January 2024**, the return day of this citation.  
Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 17th day of November 2023.  
Rosemary A. Saccomani Register 12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L.c.183A:6**  
By virtue of Judgment and Order of the Palmer District Court (Docket No. 2243CV319), in favor of BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION against AMANDA SAWICKI, ET. AL. establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L.c.183A:6 on the real estate known as UNIT #5, 18 PALMER ROAD of the WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction at 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON ON THE 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2024, AT UNIT 5, 18 PALMER ROAD, MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:  
The property located in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, commonly known as Unit 5, 18 Palmer Road, and being designated as Unit No. 5 (the "Unit") of Woodridge Place Condominium (the "Condominium"), created pursuant to Master Deed dated October 30, 1990, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds on October 31, 1990, in Book 7579, Page 402. Said Unit is shown on the floor plans filed with the said Master Deed.  
The Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 17.05% proportionate interest in the Common Areas and facilities described in said Master Deed.  
The Unit is conveyed subject to, and with the benefit of, the provisions of said Chapter 183A of the General Laws, as amended; the provisions, restrictions, agreements, restrictions, and covenants of the Condominium; the provision of the Master Deed (as amended) and the By-laws of said Condominium, as they may be amended from time to time.  
The Unit is intended for residential purposes and other uses permitted by the applicable zoning ordinance and as set forth in the Master Deed.  
Subject to and with the benefit of, easements for encroachment, and maintenance, repair, replacement, and use of all common elements located within said Units, in common with all other Units and common elements.

Subject to and together with those rights, exceptions, takings, easements, and other encumbrances as referred to in the hereinabove Master Deed.  
For Grantor's title see deed to AMANDA SAWICKI dated December 13, 2013 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20135, Page 590.  
In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.  
**TERMS OF SALE:**  
1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.  
2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.  
3. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
4. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.  
5. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.  
6. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.  
7. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is".  
8. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.  
8. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.  
THE WOODRIDGE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION,  
For the Trustees,

By its Attorneys  
MARCUS, ERRICO, EMMER & BROOKS, PC  
Dean T. Lennon, Esq. BBO#668031  
45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107  
Braintree, MA 02184 (781) 843-5000  
12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
**TRUST CITATION Docket No. HD23P2279PO**  
Eileen M Worthing Irrevocable Trust  
In the matter of: **General Trust Petition**  
To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: **William J Flynn of San Antonio, TX** requesting that the Court order the trustees to furnish an account of the trust, provide to the petitioner, beneficiary an inventory of the assets of the trust, set a date certain by which Trustees shall be required to make final distributions of the assets of the Trust, all as more fully set forth in said petition.  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 01/12/2024.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 07, 2023  
Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 12/14/2023

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

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**Early Deadlines**  
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

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

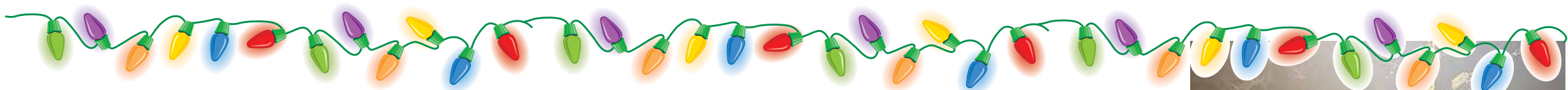
Happy New Year!  
All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

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The carolers were a group of friends and relatives of the Rathbone family.



Carolers either rode on the trailer or walked along the route in downtown Palmer.



Photo by Linda Gouvin

Madison Rathbone and Vanessa Baer were all smiles riding on the hay covered trailer.



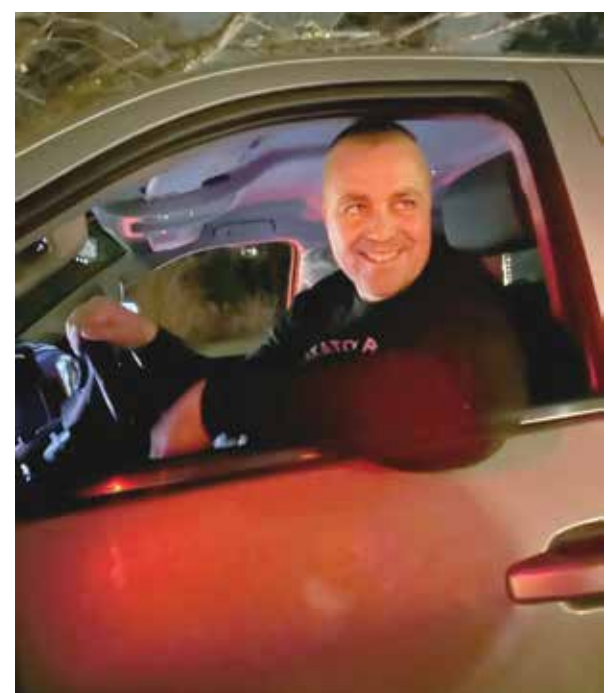
Many of the downtown residents came out to their front steps and were thrilled to have the carolers stop and sing to them.



Shelley Letendre glowed brightly as she walked and sang along with the carolers.



The carolers were very excited to see the people waiting along the street to see them sing.



Bryan Rathbone led the carolers down the streets of downtown Palmer.



Photo by Linda Gouvin

Todd, Stacey and Nick Warren stand with Kevin Gouvin and Sofia Picardi for a photo stop in downtown Palmer.



Photo by Linda Gouvin

Organizer Nicole Rathbone is all smiles while out caroling in downtown.



Residents and neighbors come out of their homes to listen to the carolers.



Photo by Linda Gouvin

Abby Rathbone and Kaylee Sanchez were in charge of the playlist for the carolers.

**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.

# WARE CHRISTMAS STROLL

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2023  
10AM - 2PM**

Maps of the day's festivities will be available at participating businesses

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will be held at the Ware Town Hall

- Cookie Decorating**
- Kids Karaoke**
- Santa!**
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Ware Business & Civic Association

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