



CONTEST
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Page 15

Happy HOLIDAYS



SPORTS
Palmer wins over
rival Monson
Page 9

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The Journal Register

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MONSON



Lissee Lombard conducted the ceremony at Hillside Cemetery.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Town honors veterans with Wreaths Across America ceremonies

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – This past Saturday, the town held three ceremonies, to honor veterans as part of Wreaths Across America.

The first ceremony was held at Hillcrest Cemetery at 9 a.m., followed by one at Hillside Cemetery at 10 a.m., and a third one at St. Patrick's Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

The ceremonies were led by Lissee Lombard, who spoke about the history of Wreaths Across America. The Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Jordan Doyle sang the national anthem.

"This event is a way to remind ourselves of the importance of honoring our veterans and to let them know that their bravery and sacrifice has not gone unnoticed," Lombard said.



Sarah McNamara Pedder helps the Scouts raise the American flag as part of Saturday's ceremony.

WREATHS | page 7

PALMER

Cookies and cocoa with Santa at the Fire Station



Santa shared a moment with a local Palmer nice list member.

Turley photo by Harrison Giza

Santa's visit to Fire Department helps those in need

By Harrison Giza
Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer Fire Department held their Cookies and Cocoa with Santa event this past Saturday, helping to bring the community together and help raise awareness for those less fortunate during the holiday season.

The Palmer Fire Department asked attendees to bring a non-perishable food item for the opportunity to have their photo taken next to jolly Saint Nick himself. Each piece of food or canned good given that was donated that day went directly to the Palmer Food Share.

The Palmer Food Share provides food to feed families and individuals in need, supplying groceries for residents that do not have enough items due to a lack of resources.

Laurie Manning, a firefighter

and longtime Fire Safety Educator, was in attendance that day, happy to see the event she helped plan come to life for a community she loves so much.

"Money for fire and safety education can be tight during times like this," Manning said. "So, it was great to see how many people were able to come together for Palmer during the holidays."

Manning has been a part of the Fire Department for almost 20 years and helps put together all of the fire outreach programs for the town. Despite prior successes, even she was surprised at the number of gifts and non-perishable donations delivered by the local community that day.

"The cocoa was donated to us by Dunkin Donuts in Palmer, our local Big Y gave us a special gift card donation towards the delicious cookies that we had purchased, and The Steaming Tender restaurant gave us the chair for Santa as well as some of the stand up soldiers for décor," Manning said.

SANTA | page 2

SCHOOLS

New homework policy discussed at meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At its last meeting, the School Committee heard a presentation about a survey regarding the reduced homework students have received this school year.

Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke and committee member Katherine Watts presented the results of the homework survey.

According to the survey, 65.2% of teachers were unsatisfied with the changes in the homework policy, citing the lack of opportunity to practice not only the material

in the classroom, but good work habits in general. Teachers were also concerned that parents have less understanding of what their child is studying due to this policy.

In contrast, 71.2% of parents reported feeling favorably towards the changes. The parents who responded unfavorably to the changes said that they wanted their student to be required to practice math and reading on weeknights, to study for quizzes and tests, and finish class work not completed during the school day.

"The responses were polarizing," Watts said. "There were many parents that felt very strongly in one direction or another."

"In kindergarten, by and large, parents are in favor of no homework. Teachers should not

HOMEWORK | page 3

SCHOOLS

Granite Valley band and chorus holiday concert

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

MONSON – Families of the Granite Valley School community came together in the auditorium recently to enjoy the holiday concert performed by the band and chorus.

The show featured over 60 talented students in grades four, five and six who have studied hard during lessons and rehearsals. For the band, it was their first public performance and the second time for the chorus.

Assistant Principal of Granite Valley School Myriah Hudak was excited to see a fun holiday concert that students and staff worked so hard at putting together. Director of Band & Chorus Megan Martin joined her students in the performance and brought joy to the Monson community.

"She makes the magic happen," said Hudak, referring to Martin who has done a fantastic job working with the students who are



The Granite Valley Chorus prepared for their performance during the holiday concert.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

part of the band and chorus.

Helping with the holiday decorations onstage was Kathy Novak. A classic display of art-

work lit up the stage as the band and chorus performed joyfully.

A great team effort between the students and the staff made this

wonderful concert possible.

"A great collaboration of spe-

CONCERT | page 15



8 04879 13180 9



ZENA

This is Zena, whose friend Allison Elizabeth said this photo needed no caption. 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.



Food Pantry leader Cathy Plouffe (center left) Firefighter Manning (center right) Captain Reynolds (left) Firefighter Jessop (right), were in attendance for the Cookies and Cocoa event.



Members of the Palmer Fire Department happy to see their dear friend Saint Nick over the weekend

Turley photo by Harrison Giza



A table full of cookies and cocoa for the attendees were given out.



Non-Perishable donations for those in need filled for the local Food Share truck.



The Steaming Tender restaurant helped out by donating wooden cut outs of Christmas soldiers.

WE'RE ALL EARS

Questions? Comments? Story Ideas? Let us know how we're doing.

Your opinion is something we always want to hear. Call or contact us via email journalregister@turley.com.

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A Turley Publications, Inc. Community Newspaper

SANTA | from page 1

Over 10 huge boxes of fresh hot chocolate were available for kids and their families to sip and share together, while Santa himself was happy to have a cup on a cold Saturday morning.

"I love stopping by and seeing the folks in Palmer," Santa Claus said. "With all the crazy hubbub going on in the world, it is nice to personally meet so many of the wonderful families that I

supply with presents each year." Santa Nick loaded his sleigh with a few goodies before adding, "The Palmer Fire Department has been a joy for my reindeer team over the years, and between you and me, Mrs. Claus will be thrilled to have some of these cookies I'll be bringing back to her today."

Manning said the Cookies and Cocoa event went well, adding, "We had a decent turnout and hope to have even more next year. We have some great stuff on the horizon!" Rumor has it the Easter Bunny himself is in talks to come to town later this spring.

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USDA INSP. FRESH SMOKED PORK SHOULDER \$2⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CAPONS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb
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USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM \$1²⁹ lb		USDA INSP. YANKEE TRADER SCALLOP WRAPPED IN BACON 10 PCS BOX \$7⁹⁹ ea
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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

DEADLINE

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

HOMework | from page 1

be asked to do anything more,' was a response,' Watts said. "In grade one, they want the ability to study for quizzes, spelling tests, but they also said they're more apt to play games without homework, and I think that speaks to the routines at home and the amount of time that the parents and kids have together before the kids go to bed."

The report went on to highlight that at other grade levels parents want homework so their children can work on skills and practice, and so the parents have communication with the school about what students are learning in the classroom.

Clarke presented the District Team Leaders' recommendations in response to the survey.

"The feeling was, [teachers are] almost afraid to send home study guides, or unfinished classwork, because technically there's not supposed to be any homework," Clarke said. "If you approve these recommendations, unfinished classwork will be completed at home."

The DTL also recommended that students be expected to study for tests and that teachers be allowed to assign study guides.

Committee members expressed disappointment that the survey was not done sooner, as some confusion over what constituted homework could have been cleared up earlier in the process.

"I think there's a difference between giving it a little bit of time to see a broader picture of trends, versus 'does this count for this policy?' That's a yes or no question," Colleen Flynn said. "If that wasn't clear from the jump, then we could have adjusted it earlier."

The committee voted to accept the recommendations by the DTL, citing that this was the vision of the policy in the first place.

Teachers Michele Presho and Elizabeth Lyons made a presentation about the make-believe playtime that they run for preschoolers and talked about how it benefits their development.

The presentation included pictures of the students painting and working together. Lyons then described the students getting to run a pretend bakery, using Play-doh and cookie cutters, baking real cookies, and writing down ingredients and steps taken in the bakery.

"Our play place connects real-life experiences through play, so the students are making their peer connections while working together, and it is also encouraging their fine and gross motor [skills]," Lyons said.

Presho thanked Monson Pizza for donating aprons to the school. "Tony is very kind to share those things with us," she said.

Scouts Troop 64 holds first Court of Honor

PALMER -- Scouts BSA (formerly known as Boy Scouts) Troop 64 had their first Court of Honor this past weekend.

Scouts received recognition for their achievements including earned rank advancement, merit badges, and awards. After the ceremony, they enjoyed a potluck dinner and Minute-to-Win-It games.

Scouts BSA Troop 64 welcomes boys aged 11-17 and is chartered by Second Congregational Church in Palmer. The Troop focuses on the youth leading themselves while exploring the outdoors and new interests and supporting each other.

Please visit our Facebook page or email us at bsa-troop0064@gmail.com for more information.



Submitted photos
Senior Patrol Leader Cole Chevalier prepares to begin the Troop's first Court of Honor.



Jackson Quinn and Cole Chevalier play Minute-to-Win-It games after the ceremony.



Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Silas Patel receives his First Class Rank patch.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Polli McCrystal, left and Julie Bullock, right, are providing the T-shirts. The cost is \$19 per T-shirt and sizes range from small to XXXL.

Serving the community for over a century

Mary Lane Hospital's history memorialized on T-shirts

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE -- Remembering a great location in the town of Ware, Mary Lane Hospital has served the community for over 100 years, from 1909-2021.

Mary Lane Hospital was founded in 1909 by the Ware Visiting Nurse and Hospital Association. This association was formed by a group of women who were residents of Ware at the time.

The original facility located at 96 South St., accommodated 12 patients and living quarters for the nursing staff.

The name of Mary Lane was introduced in 1924 when a 25-bed unit was added to the now Wetherby portion of the hospital. A local manufacturer by the name of Lewis N. Gilbert has donated his home and grounds to the Ware Visiting Nurse and Hospital Association.

In accordance with his will, the hospital was named after Gilbert's wife, Mary Lane.

Over the course of its operation, three wings have been added to the original building that currently makes up the complex. The Storrs Wing was completed back in 1948. The Gilbert Wing was next and completed in 1961. The Davis Wing was introduced in 1972. A fourth floor was added to the Davis Wing in 1987.

Thanks to the donations of the Storrs, Wetherby, Gilbert, Schoonmaker, Davis and Sierkeiwicz families Mary Lane Hospital had progressed into its existing hospital campus, which is managed by Baystate Health. In 1995, the hospital underwent renovations on its first floor and then introduced an ambulatory care center, auxiliary gift shop and medical office building.

There was a moment of celebration in the hospital's history as Baystate Mary Lane Hospital celebrated their 100th anniversary throughout the year of 2009. This anniversary marked 100 years of dedicated service to the community.

At this point, Baystate Mary Lane Hospital was a 31-bed community-based hospital offering a wide spectrum of services including 24 hour emergency services, orthopedics, inpatient and outpatient surgical care, intensive care, pediatrics, women's health

MARY LANE | page 12

Two injured in Wales house fire

WALES -- Two people were injured in a residential fire on Dec. 18 on Stafford Holland Road, Wales Fire Chief John Croke said.

The Wales Fire Department responded to the area of 88 Stafford Holland Road following a report of a fire just before 8 a.m. on Dec. 18. On arrival, firefighters saw heavy fire at the front of the building.

Two older adults escaped the

fire, including one who was assisted out of the building by a neighbor. Both of them were transported to UMass Medical Center with serious injuries; the neighbor also sought treatment for less serious injuries.

The fire went to two alarms as firefighters battled flames driven by high winds. It was fully extinguished by about 11 a.m.

"We don't know yet how this

fire started, but we do know that smoke alarms are the first line of defense in a fire," said Chief Croke. "I want to remind all our residents to be sure working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are installed on every level of your home."

The origin and cause of the fire are being investigated by the Wales Fire Department and State Police assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office.

The Town of Palmer seeks two residents to be part of its Town Manager Screening Committee.

Working with the Town's recruitment consultant this Committee will screen and interview candidates for the position of Town Manager and make recommendations to the Town Council.

Experience with personnel and recruitment a plus.

Please send a letter of interest and qualifications to: Mottomaniello@townofpalmer.com by January 4th.

Corrections

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



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Glenda's

Saturday, December 23rd
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Tony Soul Project Band

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
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Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
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Palmer Senior Center

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

EVENTS

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

Special events for January:

Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Family Fued
Friday, Jan. 5 - showing the movie "A Million Miles Away."
Monday, Jan. 8 - Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. take and bake.
Wednesday, Jan. 10 - Wellness Talk Powerback rehab at 11 a.m. and Wii bowling at 1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11 - Sunshine village craft.
Friday, Jan. 12 - from 1 to 3 p.m. brown bag pickup.
Monday, Jan. 15 - Closed for MLK day.
Tuesday, Jan. 16 - at noon lunch bunch "china house".
Friday, Jan. 19 - Showing the

movie "The Peanut Butter Falcon" at 1 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Foot care by appointment.

Monday, Jan. 22 - Betty Boop therapy dog from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 24 - Wii bowling at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 25 - Sunshine village craft.

Friday, Jan. 26 - Powerback Rehab at 10 a.m. and Balance clinic at 10 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 29 - Jeopardy at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - Cards with Marlene at 1 p.m.

MENU

Breakfast is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. and is \$3. Lunch is served every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and a suggested donation is \$2. Please call before 10 a.m. the day before to reserve a meal at 413-283-2670.

Tuesday, Jan. 2 - French Toast and sausage.

Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Pot Roast with gravy, brussel sprouts, garlic mashed potatoes, WW bread and fresh fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 4 - Egg, sausage and cheese on a roll.

Friday, Jan. 5 - Eggplant parmesan, tossed salad with Italian dressing, Penne with sauce, garlic bread and Jello with topping.

Monday, Jan. 8 - Turkey chili, sour cream, mixed vegetable, half a baked potato, mini cornbread and fresh fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 - Ham and Cheese roll.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 - Pork with apple gravy, herbed green beans, roasted potatoes, WW

bread, and mixed fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 11 - Waffles and sausage.

Friday, Jan. 12 - Meatloaf with mushroom gravy, steamed peas, mashed potatoes, WW bread and cookies.

Monday, Jan. 15 - Closed for MLK day.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 - Cinnamon buns.

Wednesday, Jan. 17 - Braised pork, tossed salad with Italian dressing, yellow rice and beans, multigrain bread, and chilled applesauce.

Thursday, Jan. 18 - Blueberry French Toast.

Friday, Jan. 19 - Cheddar baked fish, California blend veggies, lemon rice, WW bread, and a cookie.

Monday, Jan. 22 - Swiss steak, California blend veggies, mashed butternut squash, dinner roll and Jello.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 - Ham, eggs, and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, Jan. 24 - Turkey taco plate, tossed salad with ranch, yellow rice, tortilla chips and chilled pineapple.

Thursday, Jan. 25 - Egg, bacon and cheese croissant.

Friday, Jan. 26 - Jamaican jerk chicken, collard greens, coconut rice, oaknut bread and tropical fruits.

Monday, Jan. 29 - Ham and Swiss, mustard, vegetable soup, broccoli slaw, WW roll and a cookie.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 - Egg, bacon and cheese croissant.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - Lazy stuffed cabbage, peas and onions, WW bread, and Jello with topping.



Ava S. Aldrich

August 19, 2023

Parents: Laura & Kevin Aldrich, Palmer
 Grandparents: Michael & Roseann Mesheau, Monson
 Kevin & Norma Aldrich, Palmer



Ethan J. McEwan

Birthdate: June 5, 2023

Parents: Danielle Sheldon & Neil McEwan III, Agawam
 Grandparents: Betty Jo & Craig Jalbert, Monson
 Steven Sheldon, Westfield
 Joan & Gary Merlo, Myrtle Beach, SC
 Betty Ann Halgas, Bondsville



Raelynn Brown

July 20, 2023

Parents: Ryan & Ashley Brown, Hampden
 Grandparents: Art & Lynn Anderson, Wilbraham
 Rick & Joanne Brown, Monson



Leila Ann Frydryk

August 1, 2023

Parents: Michael Frydryk & Jainama Lucas, Palmer
 Grandparents: Sherrie & Guy Bellefleur, Thomas & Cheryl Frydryk
 Great Grandparents: Ann Frydryk, Janet & Bill Jalbert



Lucy Roberts

October 25, 2023

Parents: Joseph & Julia Roberts, Belchertown
 Grandparents: Ken & Cheryl Kozlik, Belchertown
 Luke & Lisa Roberts, Palmer

CAMPUS NOTES

Elmira College dean's list for fall 2023 Term

ELMIRA— Alexis Barnes of Palmer, MA was named to the Elmira College dean's list for the Fall 2023 Term.

This achievement recognizes the effort of students who performed well academically. The dean's list recognizes full-time undergraduate students who were registered for at least 12 computable credit hours and who earned a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Resident of Monson, inducted into Epsilon Iota Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD— Epsilon Iota, the Western New England University chapter of Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society, celebrated the induction of nine outstanding members from the PY3 Pharmacy Class at an event held on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Munich Haus in Chicopee, MA.

The Rho Chi Society, established in 1922, is an international honor society dedicated to fostering high scholastic achievement, fellowship among students in pharmacy, and the promotion of pharmaceutical sciences.

Sourdough Workshop to be held at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon will present his Sourdough Starter Workshop at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Jan. 22 from 6 – 7 p.m. Attendees will learn how to build, maintain, and store a sourdough starter and will even receive a free sample to get baking. Online registration is required, and space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This free program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Wilbraham Troop 359 Bottle & Can Drive

Saturday, Jan. 6

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their Bottle & Can Drive on Sat, Jan. 6, 2024, from 8 a.m. to Noon. It will be held in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot. All donations to Troop 359 provide support toward camping equipment and supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. People come to the troop's bottle & can drives year after year. The generous community support and donations are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS SALE! TOY CLEARANCE!

OPEN:
 Dec. 22, 9am-10pm
 Dec. 23, 8am-10pm
 Dec. 24, 9am-7pm

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Osvaldo "Ozzy" Nieves, Jake Beaupre, Mia Matthieu, Athletic Boosters President Sara Malo, Molly Szado, Olivia Chrzan, Ella Corthell, Shane Szado, Austin Meacham, Carlee Meacham, and Natalie Hull.



A crowd of residents gathered at Hillside Cemetery to attend the Wreaths Across America ceremony.



The Scouts and Cemetery Commission worked to raise a flag during the ceremony.



Jordan Doyle sang the National Anthem for the gathered attendees.



Scouts watched the ceremony and waited for their cue to participate.

WREATHS | from page 1

Cemetery Commissioner Sarah McNamara Pedder helped the Scouts raise the American flag. Wreaths were then placed in honor of each branch of the military, including the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, and then for Prisoners of War and for Purple Heart recipients.

Athletes from the schools were at Hillside Cemetery to volunteer for the event. Sarah Malo said this is part of a program that the Athletic Boosters are running to get athletes more involved in the community.

"The Athletic Boosters are leading an initiative where student athletes in Monson give back to the community with community service," Malo said. "Each sports season, we ask the teams to do at least one initiative, so we had these kids take part in Wreaths Across America."

Wreaths Across America's website describes its mission as being to "remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom."

For more information, go to wreathsasscrossamerica.org. More photos on page 8.



Scouts and attendees saluted the flag as it was raised.



John Benedict, David Beaudoin, Sarah McNamara Pedder, and Richard Smith held a wreath in front of the American flag to commemorate the event.

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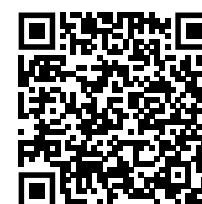
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Second Chance urgent appeal for support

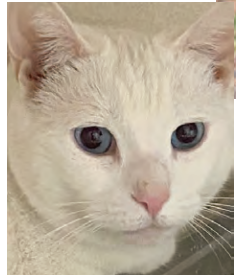
EAST BROOKFIELD— Second Chance Animal Services is shattering all previous records in their mission to help pets live better lives. The nonprofit expects that by year's end, they will have helped over 48,000 animals passing last year's record of 44,000. While this may seem a reason for celebration, the increasing need for help is deeply concerning for the nonprofit. Second Chance is committed to meet the great demand for programs and services for animals as economic pressures contribute to stagnant donation levels.

CEO Sheryl Blancato said, "With less than a month remaining in the year, we know that we have broken old records, helping more pets than ever before. This is wonderful news, but we are bracing ourselves for a tremendous challenge in the new year. The economy has truly taken a toll on pets in 2023 and has erased so much progress for shelters across the country. We expect this trend to continue in 2024."

Blancato highlighted the financial pressures faced by pet owners who are struggling to care for their pets. "At our four veterinary hospitals, more pet owners are relying on subsidized rates than ever before. Meanwhile, across the country, shelters are reaching capacity. Second Chance is taking in as many pets from other shelters as possible to save count-



Six-year-old Roxie is an amazing pup who has been waiting a long time to find a home. She has stolen the hearts of staff and volunteers alike, and a generous supporter has prepaid her adoption fee to help her find a home.



Seven-year-old Sapphire, who came to Second Chance when her owner passed away, is one of the many cats waiting for a home.

less lives, but our space is being limited due to an increase in surrenders from local pet owners."

The economy has also taken a toll on donors who still want to help but may have less means to do so. Nonprofits throughout the US are reporting that donations are flat or declining. Second Chance remains steadfast in its commitment to pets in need and they are calling upon animal lovers to join them in the fight against pet suffering. Supporters are urged to make a donation online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/give-love or by mail to Second Chance, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

Blancato emphasized, "The need is great. Your contribution, big or small, will directly impact our ability to provide vital care, prevent unnecessary suffering, and keep families together."



Photos by Marcelo Gurmão
Miles Hines and Elijah, age 7, volunteered to help with the Wreaths Across America ceremony.



The American flag was raised over Hillside Cemetery by the Scouts, with some help from American Legion Post 241 and members of the Cemetery Commission.

Alisha and Jeff Chaffee, and Chance, age 3, attended the ceremony at Hillside Cemetery.



Aidan, age 9, James, age 11, and Jacob, age 9, spent their Saturday volunteering for the event.



Organizers and attendees took a picture by the archway, (from left) Mat Wawrzyk, Richard Smith, Sarah McNamara Pedder, David Beaudoin, and John Benedict.



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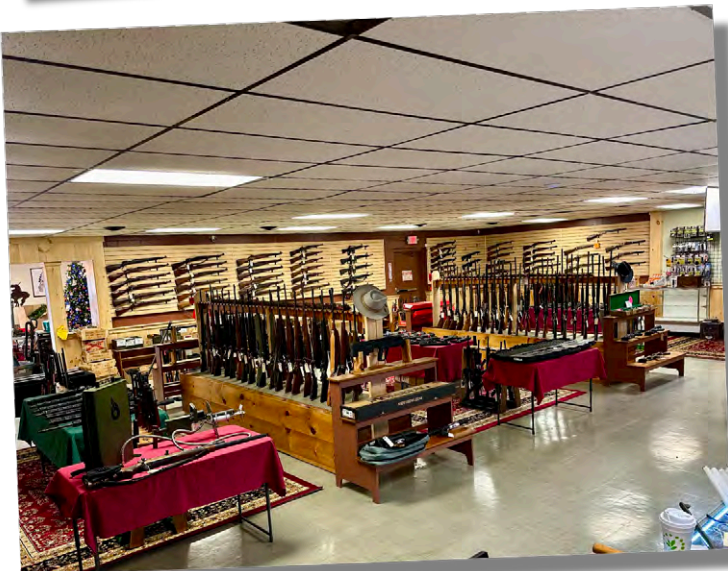
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BASKETBALL

Panthers prevail over rival Mustangs in opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—It took until the penultimate game of the 2022-23 regular season for the Palmer boys' varsity basketball team to get into the win column for the first time. The Panthers players didn't have to wait as long this season to celebrate a victory.

Palmer, who led by as many as 24 points in the third quarter, withstood a fourth quarter comeback by Bi-County West rival Monson. The Panthers wound up escaping with a 50-45 season opening victory before a large crowd inside the Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Monday night (Dec. 11).

"We had a losing record last season, so it feels very good to win the first game of the season," said Palmer senior forward Andrew Menard, who scored 10 of his team-leading 17 points before half-time. "We've been working very hard at practice, and it showed in tonight's game. This is also a very big rivalry game for us."

Monson (1-1), who played their first home game of the regular season, had won four of the previ-



Colin Beaupre looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.

ous five meetings on the hardwood against Palmer. The Mustangs only setback during that span was a 74-41 loss at Palmer High two years ago.

Since becoming a member of the varsity basketball team as a sophomore, Menard has played for three different head coaches.

Nate Connor was the Panthers varsity basketball coach in Menard's first season on the squad. Nate Letendre coached the team last year. Missy Rocker, who's a



Andrew Menard drives to the hoop.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

School Adjustment Counselor at Palmer High School, is the current varsity coach.

"Each coach has had a differ-

ent style," Menard said. "Coach Rocker's practices have been a lot

RIVALS | page 10

BASKETBALL

Offense leads Panthers to first win

Charlotte Theriault makes her way down the court.



PALMER – Last Tuesday evening, Palmer girls basketball rode a huge effort by Charlotte Theriault en route to a 53-38 win over host Southwick in the season opener for the Panthers. Theriault led all scorers with 34 points, with an impressive 13 fields goals and two 3-pointers. Vanessa Baer and Jordan Bigda had six points each. Palmer would lose to Sutton later in the week and are 1-1 to start the year.

Vanessa Baer gets an off-balance rebound.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Hunter Griswold takes a shot under pressure.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Adrien Moskowvitz pushes a pass to his teammate.



Seth Mitchell goes for a midrange shot.



Richie Gula drives toward the hoop.

Pioneers offense too much for Lions

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder boys basketball prevailed over visiting Ludlow 70-48. One of the big keys was a big second quarter for Pathfinder as well as great defense by the Pioneers in the final frame holding the Lions to just four points. Pathfinder was led by Hunter Griswold with

22 points followed by Richie Gula with 20 points. Seth Mitchell added 10 points for the Pioneers. While Ludlow got points from eight different players, it was not enough to combat Pathfinder's high scorers. Stephen Goodreau had 13 points to lead the Lions.

Trevor Allard reaches out for a long layup.



Madison Rathbone sends a pass to her right.



Jordan Bigda fights to go for a layup.



Jayda Pardo passes midcourt as she start an offensive play for the Panthers.

Pioneers place sixth in tournament

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, Pathfinder wrestling had an excellent day at the Knight-Hawk Classic at Holyoke High School. The Pioneers had an individual cham-

pion as well as three runners-up in the event. The Pioneers finished sixth overall with 120 points. William Burke won his bracket at 138 pounds and Taran Prak (113), Bru-

no Medionero (144), and Dominic Jarry (165) all placed second in the tournament.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Aiden Santiago goes for a takedown.



William Burke goes quickly for a pin at 138 pounds.



Dominic Jarry tries to get creative and grab a pin.



Francis Meade goes for a leg takedown in a 175-pound match.



Colm McGrath makes his way up the court.



Jack Repose sends a pass to the left side of the perimeter.

Warriors fall against Doherty

FIKSDALE — Last Friday night, a rough first half was too much for the Warriors to overcome as they fell to Doherty 59-50 at home. Bryce Tessier would lead the Warriors with 16 points. Elijah Webb had 13 points. Tantasqua hosts Minnechaug on Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



James Sciaraffa runs into pressure.



Adam Howe tries to keep the ball away from an opponent.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Andrew Menard

Palmer High School

In the season opener for Palmer, Menard led the Panthers over rival Monson with a team-high 17 points.

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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Dylan Doherty makes a long three-point attempt.



Taydem Haley eyes the hoop as he attempts a free throw.



Shawn Troche avoids an opponent and circles around near midcourt.



Stephen Fredette goes for the jump bank shot.



Jake Beaupre makes his way down the court.



Trey Dillahunt tries to get around an opponent and head for the basket.

RIVALS | from page 9

harder than in the past, and she also pushes us. This is probably

the best basketball team we've had since I've been a member of the

varsity team."

Rocker was an assistant girls' varsity basketball coach at West Springfield High School for more than five years. She's also the varsity softball coach at Ludlow High School.

"I thought we played really well in tonight's game," Rocker said. "We had a 24-point lead in the third quarter and almost lost it, but we were able to come away with the win. The players deserve it, and they really needed it. I'm hoping that we can build on the momentum from tonight's game."

The only other Palmer senior is Shawn Troche, who scored five points in the season opening victory.

Menard and Troche, who's a guard, are tri-captains, along with freshman guard Taydem Haley (9 points), who's a second-year varsity player.

The Mustangs, who won six home games last year, began the new season by squeaking out a 60-56 non-league victory at Easthampton on December 8. Senior guard Colin Beaupre finished that contest with 32 points. He made a total of eight field goals and 16 free throws.

While Beaupre was held to just 12 points in the first meeting of the season against Palmer, eighth grade guard Trey Dillahunt led the home team with a game-high 21 points.



Shane Szado tries to get a jump ball.

Sophomore guard Jake Beaupre and senior forward Sebastian Nava scored six points apiece.

Dillahunt made two of his five 3-pointers in the first quarter. He also made a base-line lay-up, which gave the Mustangs a slim 10-9 advantage with 2:45 left in the opening quarter.

Then back-to-back lay-ups by Troche and sophomore forward Dylan Doherty (5 points) gave the Panthers a 13-10 lead entering the second stanza.

The Panthers built a double-digit lead (20-10) two minutes into the second quarter when Menard buried a 3-pointer from NBA range.

With 4:25 remaining in the first half, a jumper from the right side by sophomore center Stephen Fredette (4 points) capped off Palmer's 15-0 run.

Monson, who was trailing, 24-10, only made one field goal during the entire second quarter, which was a Dillahunt 3-pointer.

Following a put-back hoop

from Palmer sophomore forward Matt Santos, Colin Beaupre, who's the Mustangs lone captain, made a pair of free throws sending the home team into the locker room trailing by 13 points.

A little more than two minutes into the third quarter, Palmer held a 36-15 lead. Haley and Menard started off the second half with 3-pointers. Sophomore center Gavin Smola (4 points) also had a put-back hoop.

The Panthers largest lead of the ballgame was 44-20 following a Fredette inside hoop with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Monson responded with nine unanswered points.

Dillahunt made a 3-pointer from the left side and converted an old fashion three-point play. Colin Beaupre, who scored 340 points as a junior, added the other three points with the help of a short jumper and a made free throw.

It closed the gap to 44-29 entering the final eight minutes of the

contest.

Nava began the fourth quarter by sinking a 3-pointer from the left corner.

Monson got their deficit into single digits (45-37) when Colin Beaupre buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 4:25 remaining in regulation.

Palmer only made four of their 13 foul shots during the fourth quarter, which allowed the Mustangs to stay within striking distance.

Following a pair of lay-ups from Colin Beaupre, Nava buried another 3-pointer making the score 48-45 with 27.7 seconds remaining.

Monson wouldn't get any closer than that, as Haley made a pair of free throw attempts with 22.9 seconds left, which sealed the Panthers first road victory in almost two years.

The Mustangs will be looking to even the season series when they make the short trip to Palmer High School on Jan. 9.

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Oswaldo Nieves looks for a teammate to pass to.

Railers fall short to Thunder

GLEN FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (8-11-2-2, 20pts) fell short to the Adirondack Thunder 13-6-2-1, 29pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-1 in front of 3,841 fans for their Teddy Bear Night at the Cool Insuring Arena. The Thunder extended their win streak to 4 games. The Railers will head back home to face the Trois-Rivières Lions at 5:05 pm on Friday, December 23rd, as one of their three "Home for the Holidays" matchups.

The Thunder scored the first three goals of the game as Patrick Grasso (10th) and Nico Blachman (2nd, 3rd) put Adirondack ahead 3-0 after two. Joey Cipollone tallied his first professional goal on a tip-in out in front before Ryan Smith (11th) gave the Thunder back their three goal lead, and delivered the game's final score of 4-1.

The first period saw a lot of physicality which led to a total of 24 minutes in penalties. It all started with a Rock 'Em Sock 'Em

fight toward center ice with Railers forward Jake Schultz (0-0-0) and Adirondack defenseman Darian Skeoch (0-1-1). Adirondack let the teddy bears fly early in the period after an odd-man rush goal by Patrick Grasso (1-0-1). Grasso received a pass by Grant Jozefek (0-1-1) from across the slot, moving left to right, to beat Henrik Tikkanen on his high glove side. The next goal didn't come until the 16th minute when the Thunder Forward Ryan Smith (1-2-3) placed a low shot on net from in-between the dots on the rush to give a rebound opportunity to Forward Nico Blachman (2-0-2) and beat the outstretched blocker of Henrik Tikkanen. The Thunder lead the period in shots on goal 13-5.

The second period was a lot quieter compared to the first. Henrik Tikkanen made a lot of high-quality saves throughout the period. Blachman and the Thunder would break through, however. After a failed offensive zone entry by the Railers, Adirondack's Forward Erik Mid-

dendorf (0-1-1) entered the right half of the Railers' defensive zone slowly and stopped at the top of the circle. He found Blachman crashing towards the net late and blasted it past Henrik Tikkanen's low blocker side from the high slot to make it a 3-0 game with 4:37 left in the period. The Thunder led the period with shots on goal 9-8.

The Railers finally got on the board early in the third period after a blast from the left point by Ryan Verrier (0-1-1) that was then deflected in the slot by Joey Cipollone (1-0-1) for his first professional goal. The Thunder would capitalize on a breakaway opportunity in the middle of the third after Colin Felix's (0-1-1) minor penalty expired. Felix passed the puck up to the speedy Ryan Smith who elevated the puck upstairs where it hit the crossbar, hit a Railers back-checker, and inadvertently ended up in the back of the net to make it 4-1 Thunder. The Thunder led the period in shots on goal 11-9.

Shenette declares for modifieds tour

WORCESTER – Driving the No. 8, John-Michael Shenette will chase the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Rookie of the Year honors in 2024. When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour begins a 16-race schedule in February at New Smyrna Speedway in Florida, Shenette plans to be in attendance. It will be the first race in his quest to compete in a majority of the races on the schedule to chase the prestigious award.

Formerly based in Thompson, Connecticut, Shenette is the CEO of Eighty-Two Services, a General Contractor located in Concord, North Carolina. The team, Eighty-Two Autosport, will also contest additional SMART Modified Tour and Open Modified events when available in 2024.

Shenette made his debut on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Langley Speedway in 2023 and

finished 12th. He also competed in events at North-Wilkesboro Speedway and Martinsville Speedway prior to the end of the season.

"We're excited for 2024," John-Michael Shenette said. "Last year was about putting a car on the track. We struggled with a mechanical issue that plagued us at all three events and prevented us from logging laps. All-in-all, it was a good year - we were able to build a great group, add a second car and square away all the bits and pieces that it takes to run. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is the best of the best in modified racing, if not NASCAR as a whole. Our team is ready for the challenge. Chasing the prestigious Rookie of the Year award is on our bucket list, but we're also looking for consistency and to chase our first career win in Modified in 2024."

Shenette was born in Worcester,

and started racing at 7-years-old at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's "Little T" track in Connecticut. He's raced on and off his entire life - running in the Pro Stocks, Thompson Modifieds, PASS Super Late Models, ARTS Trucks, Karts and now Tour-Type Modifieds 30 years later.

Shenette and his NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour team, led by crew chief Scott Morin and car chief Stephen Robinson, will open the 2024 season at New Smyrna Speedway on Saturday, February 10, as NASCAR opens their 76th season of racing. For more information on the team, fans are encouraged to follow the team on Facebook on their new page, Eighty-Two Autosport, for the latest news and information, including race day updates.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League had another week of bowling before their holiday party.

The standings as of Dec. 5, Life is Good still leads in the #1 spot with nine wins, two losses and one tie. Tied for second place is The Champs R Here and Acres with each time carrying a 9-3 record.

Team BK has a record of 6-6. Last in Line has a record of 5-6 and 1 tie. The winner of round 1 Compression is 5-7. Blue B's has a record of 3-9.

The two teams tied for second place Acres and Champs R Here bowled each other on Dec. 12. In game one, The Champs won against Acres by a score 413-384. John Colkos of Champs R Here started off strong with a 114 game. Taylor Colkos started off with 109 and Steve Manolakis bowled 101.

In game two, Acres won the game 386-372. Paul Tereso and Dave Cobleigh of Acres were over their average and scored 103 and 100 in game two. In game three, Acres won 436-379. Kenny Trudel of Acres finished the night with a 109 game. Matt Bertelli had a strong finish by bowling a 117. Topping his own teammate's score, Dave Cobleigh finished with a 121 game.

Acres won total pinfall with a final score of 1206-1164.

The number one seed Life is Good bowled against Compression. In game one, Life is Good won by a score of 358-327. In game two, Life is Good and Compression tied at 341. In game three, Compression won over Life is Good 373-329.

Compression won total pinfall by a final score of 1041-1028.

Last in Line bowled against Team BK for the night. In game one, BK was victorious over Last in Line 384-352. Pulling for the team was Jeff Whyte and Paul Nothe by scoring 112 and 107. In game two, BK remained strong and won 388-358. Nothe stayed consistent by remaining in the 100s with a 108 in game two.

In game three, Team BK won the last game 369-360. Team BK won all three games and total pinfall with a final score of 1141-1070.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League will be host-

ing a holiday party and banquet the following Tuesday night. The league will have a fun night of bowling by hosting a random draw doubles tournament.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes continued with the holidays right around the corner.

Team Five bowled against Team Three on lanes four and five. In game one, Team Three won by a score of 382-370. In game two, Team Three won again by a score of 419-384.

In game three, Team Five won the last game by a score of 419-382. Team Three won total pinfall by a final score of 1183-1173.

On lanes six and seven, Team Six bowled against Team Two. In game one, Team Two won a close game against Team Six 383-380. In game two, Team Six defeated Team

Two 440-403. In game three, Team Two won the last game 401-389.

Team Six won total pinfall with a final score of 1209-1187.

On lanes two and three was a match between Team One and Team Four. In game one, Team One was victorious over Team Four 385-371. Kris Rickson of Team One started off the night with a 108 game. In game two, it was close all game but Team One wins another by a score of 427-425. Rickson bowled 120 in game two.

In game three, Team Four won the last game 437-401. Nick Maslon of Team Four finished with a 102. Rickson finished the night with a 115 and three game series of 343.

Teams Four, with a big win in the third game won total pinfall by a final score of 1233-1213.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 N. Main St. The Alley can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

T-Birds suffer 1-0 shutout against Bears

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (14-9-2-0) could not solve the top-ranked defense in the AHL, as the Hershey Bears (22-6-0-0) skated off with a narrow 1-0 triumph on Sunday inside Giant Center.

The battle of the Eastern Conference's two best defensive teams lived up to that billing in the opening 20 minutes, as neither Springfield's Malcolm Subban nor Hershey's Hunter Shepard showed nerves in their goal crease. Subban had a trio of high-danger denials off odd-man rushes, including a right-pad kick out on a Jimmy Huntington breakaway. Shepard had his own sterling saves, including a point-blank snapper from Kean Washkurak.

The biggest fireworks of the period came in the form of mitts dropping between former T-Bird Dylan McIlrath and Sam Bitten less than four minutes into the action. The early scrap between two of the toughest customers in the AHL added a big boost to both benches but ultimately did not lead to either team cracking into the scoresheet in the first 20 minutes.

As difficult as it was for the teams to establish in the first, it became even more difficult in a second period that saw only seven combined shots between the two teams, with Subban stopping four Hershey attempts and Shepard blocking three Springfield offerings, forcing the scoreless draw into a final period.

The game gave every indication that the first goal would be pivotal, and at 5:31 of the third, Pierrick Dube finally got on the board for the Bears, blasting a slapper that glanced off Subban's left shoulder and squeaked across the line just moments before a T-Birds defender could get to the goal line to save it.

The winger's 14th of the season proved to be the only tally, as Springfield could not dent Shepard the rest of the way. Former Bear Jakub Vrana had perhaps the best chance to tie the game on a one-timer from the right circle, but Shepard slid from right to left to deny the chance, and Springfield succumbed to their first shutout defeat of the season.

The two teams will have a grudge match on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center as the T-Birds begin a seven-game homestand. Puck drop on Friday is set for 7:05 p.m. for another Deuces Wild Friday.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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



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QUABOAG CURRENT

DEADLINE January 31, 2024

PUBLICATION DATE February 21, 2024

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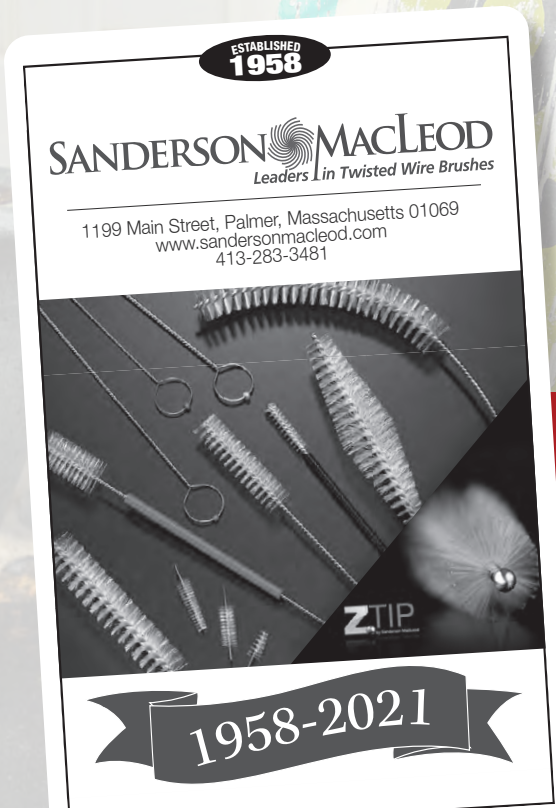
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PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 29, 2024



DEATH NOTICES

Margaret C. (Denning) Backus
Died Dec. 12, 2023
Services Dec. 19, 2023
Beers and Story Funeral Home

Robert M. Zeiler
Died Dec. 14, 2023
Services are private.
Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Police/Fire

Fire Logs

BONDSDVILLE
For the period Dec. 5 to Dec. 11, Bondsville fire responded to 4 calls.

Dec. 7
5:35 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for an alarm activation and medical assist. The department returned to service at 6:10 p.m.

Dec. 8
11:43 a.m., the department responded to Third Street for a forklift on fire. The department returned to service at 1:39 p.m.

Dec. 9
2:34 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Wilbraham Street in Palmer for a fire in a warehouse. The last Bondsville unit cleared the scene at 4:15 p.m.

Dec. 9
3:15 p.m., the department responded mutual aid to Thorndike Street in Palmer for a medical assist. The department returned to service at 3:40 p.m.

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

Dec. 12
4:02 a.m. Motor vehicle accident (extraction), Breckenridge Street, Back in service at 5:24 a.m.

Dec. 14
1:15 a.m. Lock out, Bridge Street, Back in service at 1:47 a.m.
4:40 p.m. Detector activation, Breckenridge Street, Back in service at 5:04 p.m.

Dec. 15
2:01 p.m. Public service, Park Street, Back in service at 2:25 p.m.

Dec. 16
3:12 p.m. Unauthorized burning, River Street, Back in service at 3:41 p.m.

Dec. 17
1:06 p.m. Detector activation, Depot Street, Back in service at 1:27 p.m.

Dec. 18
7:10 a.m. Power line down, Converse Street, Back in service at 7:31 a.m.
7:43 a.m. Tree on a house,

Dublin Street, Back in service at 8:40 a.m.

8:39 a.m. Telephone pole fire, Aldrich Street (Monson mutual aid), Back in service at 8:50 a.m.

8:47 a.m. Arcing electrical equipment, Old Warren Road, Back in service at 9:11 a.m.

8:51 a.m. Station coverage, Wales Road (Brimfield mutual aid), Back in service at 10:50 a.m.

3:18 p.m. Arcing electrical equipment, Old Warren Road, Back in service at 3:47 p.m.

Dec. 19
12:28 p.m. CO detector activation, Bennett Street, Back in service at 12:55 p.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to one call for the week of Dec. 10-16

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Department responded to a smoke detector activation due to a malfunction on Springfield Street.

O B I T U A R I E S

Margaret C. (Denning) Backus

PALMER — Margaret C. (Denning) Backus, 95, passed away Dec. 12, 2023. She was born Nov. 3, 1928 in Ware, daughter of Jerry and Catherine (Hurley) Denning and was a lifelong resident of Palmer. She was a devout Catholic and an active communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church. For many years, Margaret worked at Third National Bank as a bookkeeper, then went on to work for over 20 years as an office clerk at Palmer High School. Marney was a voracious reader and often read a book a day. Her greatest love was time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren and she enjoyed vol-

unteering in the community. In 2013, she was predeceased by her husband, George A. and she is the last surviving and youngest of five children; Maureen, Katherine, Richard and Timothy Denning. Margaret will be dearly missed by her two children and their spouses, Kathy and Earl Chaffee and David and Stella Backus all of Palmer, along with her beloved grandchildren, Jennifer and Christian Young of Monson, Tim and Shannon Chaffee of Monson, Jonathan Backus and Dazaray Larose of Barre and



William and Bethni Backus of N.Brookfield. She also had 11 cherished great grandchildren. A visitation was on Tues., Dec. 19 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a mass that took place at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Church and burial in the parish cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to St. Thomas the Apostle, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer MA 01069. Please visit www.beersandstory.com

Robert M. Zeiler, 1945-2023

MONSON — Robert M. Zeiler, 78, passed away Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023. Robert was born, Jan. 14, 1945 in Jefferson, PA to the late Delmar H. and Irene (Black) Zeiler. He grew up in East Longmeadow and was a graduate of East Longmeadow High School. He moved to Monson in 1977 where he and his wife Linda raised their family. Robert was an engineer for CSX Rail Road and retired after 30 years. Bob loved spending time outdoors. He enjoyed hunting in Massachusetts and Maine

and enjoyed fishing the Quabbin. Robert leaves his wife of 57 years, Linda M. (Laro) Zeiler; their sons, Robert D. Zeiler and David J. Zeiler; daughter in-law, Pamela Zeiler all of Monson; two grandchildren, Hanna Zeiler and Kyle Zeiler; sister, Lorraine Riggians and her husband Eddie; sister in-law, Dolores Zeiler. Bob was pre-deceased by his sisters, Yvonne Hankins and June



Wilson and a brother, Ted Zeiler. Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. All services are private. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Robert's name to the American Heart Association. For online condolences visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

JHPL will be closing building temporarily

STURBRIDGE— On Monday, Dec. 11, the library building was closed for the ongoing HVAC replacement. In the meantime, there is a temporary space set up at the Town Hall for those wishing to order items from other libraries. There will be signs posted at the

town hall directing you to the interim location. In addition, the book drops will be locked and it is requested you do not return materials to the library at this time. Do not worry about returning items, all due dates have been extended until Jan. 19, 2024.

The library thanks the community for your patience and understanding during this time. As always, patrons can call the library at 507-347-2515 with any questions or for help in requesting items from other libraries.

MARY LANE | from page 3

services and a digestive health program. The Ware hospital has served residents of Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties. For employment, Baystate Mary Lane Hospital had over 400 employees, including 94 nurses and volunteers. More than 200 active, consulting and courtesy medical/dental staff including physician specialists in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, anesthesiology, allergy, cardiology, emergency medicine, radiology, hospital medicine, orthopedic and general surgery.

Street home and property to the Ware Visiting Nurse and Hospital Association. In addition, Gilbert left \$500,000 in trust to endow the hospital. In memory of his beloved wife, the hospital would forever be known as Mary Lane Hospital. Gilbert's will stated that with his endowment he wished to allow the WVNHA to "suitably and more effectively care for the sick especially for the town of Ware and the village of Gilbertville."

Building the Hospital
Lewis Gilbert passed away in 1919, but he donated his South

state-of-the-art hospital. The new hospital building was completed in September of 1924. One year later in 1925, the WVNHA board voted to change the name of the association to the Mary Lane Hospital Association in honor of Mary Lane Gilbert. The future of Mary Lane Hospital
In January 2021, Baystate Health announced they will close the Mary Lane outpatient center by 2023. Mary Lane Hospital served the town of Ware and neighboring communities for over 100 years. Its history and story began with the generosity of the Gilbert Family and the Ware Visiting Nurse and Hospital Association. To remember this great institution, the Ware Historical Society made T-shirts with an image of Mary Lane Hospital displayed on the front. KM Graphics printed these excellent quality T-shirts and are symbols of remembering a unique piece of history of the town of Ware. T-shirt orders can be recorded on the answering machine at 413-967-6882.

For those ordering a T-shirt please leave a name, address, telephone number, color and size choice. The cost is \$19 per t-shirt and sizes range from small to XXXL. In 1922, Gilbert's home on South Street was demolished and H.P. Cummings was engaged to construct a new

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Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



Town of Warren, MA Town Accountant JOB POSTING Full-Time – Town Benefited Position

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant oversees the proper expenditure of all Town funds and the proper recording and maintenance of financial records, approves all financial payments and audits financial records and transactions. The Town Accountant is responsible for maintaining and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her direction and control. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Recommended minimum qualifications include graduate of a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in finance or accounting with three years of related work experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge of the position. Preferred experience with Vadar accounting module and municipal accounting. The anticipated salary range for this position is between \$56,000.00 to \$66,000.00 based on relative education and professional work experience. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until **January 16, 2024**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

support local journalism

H.O.P.E. Recovery Group

Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19 guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413- 519-4591.

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

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.

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The Granite Valley Holiday Concert featured a band performance from students in grades four through six. Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



The Granite Valley Chorus prepares to take a bow after their performance in the holiday concert.



Principal Joe Trivisonno introducing the band during the Granite Valley Holiday Concert.



The band gets ready to perform their first song of the Holiday Concert. Joining them on stage is Director Megan Martin, left.

CONCERT | from page 1

cialists," said Hudak.

The school community is very thankful for the teachers who helped with the program and also thankful for the custodial team for their help with setting up and tearing down for rehearsals. A special thanks was given to the parents for their support of the arts.

The artwork on the programs was created by Emily DeCarli, Shyenne Leach and Charlotte Wurm.

During the performance, the band started off the concert after being introduced by Principal Joe Trivisonno. In between songs, many students shared a brief historical fact about each holiday song performed and how they have evolved over the years.

The songs performed by the band were the "Dreidel Song", "Jolly Old St. Nicholas", "Up on the Housetop" and "Ode to Jingle Bells". The chorus performed "Sleigh Ride", "It's the Most Wonderful Time" and "Jingle Bell Rock".

For the band, on strings were Ariya Kenyon, Carly Pixley, Rylee Sherman and Amelia Soucy; flutes, Vivienne Kowalik and Shyenne Leach; saxophone, Jacob Morgan and Lukas Morgan; brass, Jacob Dubois-White, Connor LaCroix, Mariah Porth and Memphis Rocketfield.

On percussion/keyboard were Liam Atkins, Declan Chaffee, James Dubois-White, Sebastian Groleau, Brady Mackiewicz, Max O'Connor, Emily Ostrander, Jackson Pignone, Catriana Pixley, Aiden Raymond, Hayley Strom, Naara Sauri Nieves and Jack Wnuk.

The chorus featured Calli Allen, Anna Almeida, Rylee Amsden, Layla Baj, Veruca Battige, Mia Cancel, Audrey Caswell, Maddi Donovan, Bobby Esposito, Kaylee Fusco, Bryson Gainey, Dakota Glidden, Lyla Gonyea, Maggie Gow, Kailyn Graves-Harrison, Vivienne Kowalik, Khalessia Laviolette, Shyenne Leach, Lucy Maziarz, Fiona McManus, Aleksa Mengel, Maddy Morales, Zoe Nimitz, Emma Pelletier, Audriana Perkins, Carly Pixley, Catriana Pixley, Chrissy Reed, Charles Rodriguez, Makaila Rodriguez, Heinalis Sanchez, Kaylani Santaniello, Naara Sauri Nieves, Callie-Marie Purcell, Hayley Strom, Maddie Strom, Hanna Szymanski, Olivia Theriaque, Emily Wilke and Shayleigh Wright.

The students did a phenomenal job during the performance and look forward to having more shows with the band and chorus of Granite Valley School. The concert was a very joyful way to enjoy the holiday season.

Voting started for holiday contest



Submitted photos

Just some of the beautiful decorations, it is recommend that you take a Holiday ride through the Villages to personally visit each site as pictures don't capture the full beauty of our Participant's Holiday Decorations!



PALMER— Voting begins Dec. 16 and ends Dec. 23, for the 5th annual Light Up Palmer Holiday Decorating Contest. Take a Holiday ride through the Villages to personally visit each site as pictures don't capture the full beauty of the participant's Holiday Decorations.

Please share with family and friends to get the word out to vote for the favorite category. Each category wins \$100 Cash Prize. The categories are; Holiday Spirit, Through a Child's Eyes, Traditional/Classic, Incredible Inflatables, Best Business, Clark Griswold's Best use of Lights, Best Door or Window will each receive a \$50 Cash Prize.

Event is sponsored by Steaming Tender Restaurant and Demore's Automotive. Map is available on facebook, vote today at <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/599a>



Scan and vote today!



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