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Looking back at 2023



Stories that made an impression this past year

JANUARY 2023

Palmer Public Schools initiate superintendent search

PALMER – As the Palmer Public Schools celebrates the end of 2023 and prepares for 2024, December marks the district's one-year anniversary for the initiation of a superintendent search.

During the Dec. 14, 2022 School Committee meeting, Chair Bonny Rathbone shared with the committee that she met with a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to discuss the processes involved in hiring a new superintendent.

The committee members announced they would initiate efforts to recruit PHS community members who might be interested in joining a Superintendent Search Committee.

The SSC would be composed of two School Committee members, three parents, three teachers, two administrators, one paraprofessional, one Town Councilor, one community liaison and one student.

Applications to join the search committee were accepted from Dec. 14, 2022, until Jan. 17, 2023.

Director of Student Services Colleen Culligan served as Interim Superintendent throughout the search.

PHS Principal Sue North also recog-

nized 19 students before the committee for receiving the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Award which provides students with free tuition to any state college or public university within Massachusetts for up to eight semesters.

FEBRUARY 2023

Lake Thompson lakefront tax bills increase

PALMER – After receiving notice of a lakefront tax increase in January 2023, Lake Thompson residents shared many comments and concerns regarding their third quarter real estate and personal tax payments due Feb. 1, 2023.

Members of the Lake Thompson Civic Association met several times to commiserate since finding out the assessed value of their properties increased 120% or more from 2022 - 2023.

A pressing complaint shared by several residents was how much more lakefront property was valued at compared to the rest of the town, where the average increase in value of land and houses was in the 10-20% range.

While property values increased, tax rates did decrease from \$19.83 to \$17.93 - a decrease of \$1.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value compared to last year.

Palmer's Principal Assessor, KerriAnn Wenzel said that while the entire town's values increased, Lake Thompson's increase was more.

"According to the numbers we received for 2020 and 2021, properties were selling for approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 above the assessed value," said

Wenzel of Lake Thompson properties. "It's market driven."

She said when she saw the 2023 values she anticipated complaints.

MARCH 2023

State Senators visit potential Rail Trail stop in Palmer

PALMER – While conversation has circulated around the addition of Rail Trail stops throughout "the town of seven railroads" for years, state Sen. Jake Olivera, D-Ludlow and state Sen. President Karen Spilka, D-Ashland visited the Steaming Tender restaurant in March to consider the location as a potential East/West rail line stop.

The building, formerly the Palmer Railroad Station, was purchased by Blake and Robin Lamothe in 1987 and restored into the restaurant it is today.

"I think it would be an embarrassment if we didn't use this building here because of the passenger service that is available," said Blake Lamothe, "not only for East/West but also for North/South down the road."

He pointed out the building has connections that can go north all the way to Vermont and South to New London, Connecticut.

Olivera shared he believes that Palmer should be considered as one of the stops along the East/West Rail.

"I call Palmer the gateway to Western

Massachusetts," said Olivera.

Palmer Station Steering Committee Chairman Ben Hood said the location would not only serve as a Palmer stop "but also a UMass stop," and an "east of Springfield stop."

APRIL 2023

PHS district announces Matthew Francis as new superintendent

PALMER – After a public deliberation process, the Palmer School Committee announced Chicopee Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Matthew Francis to take on the PHS Superintendent role.

The Committee unanimously elected Francis as the district's new superintendent during a special committee meeting held April 4, 2023.

"After getting to know him during the site visit and hearing from students and colleagues about the impact he has made, I think that Matt will make a wonderful superintendent," said School Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone.

"I very much look forward to working with him."

During the month of March Francis was interviewed for the position, along with William Metzger, Brian Ackerman and Susan North. They also attended individual meet-and-greet sessions with the community so members of the public could share their thoughts regarding each candidate and provide feedback.

Vice Chair Sandra Noonan compiled

a list of traits about each candidate to present during the meeting.

Noonan said teachers felt supported by Francis and students said Francis also helped struggling students get back on track.

"He has worked with surrounding districts to collaborate on funding opportunities," said Noonan. "This struck me in particular because Chicopee is a city and yet he still found the time to meet up with other districts and work alongside them."

She added when students spoke of his character, they said he always put "kids first."

MAY 2023

Blue skies shine on Special Olympics

MONSON – Granite Valley hosted the annual Special Olympics for Monson and neighboring communities April 28th, 2023.

Attendees got a break from a week of rainstorms as the skies cleared up for a day filled with athletic events.

Students from Palmer, Monson, Ludlow, Belchertown and Wilbraham participated in the annual event.

Monson Schools Superintendent Cheryl Clarke recognized Special Education Director Colette Bidus as the driving force behind the event's success.

"We have a great team that was put together from all of our service providers and a couple of our special education teachers," said Bidus. "It's a lot of moving



Granite Valley School Holiday Concert



A surprise staff performance by the Granite Valley Jingles singing "Winter Wonderland".



Grade one class began with a scarf dance to a song from The Nutcracker.



Grade two taking the stage at the Holiday Concert.



Grade three performs "Hot Cross Buns" on their recorder



Grade three concluded the concert with a light show to "Carol of the Bells".

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Brimfield to hold public event for preparedness plan

BRIMFIELD—Brimfield residents, businesses, and surrounding community residents and representatives are invited to learn about and provide input on the Town of Brimfield Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Draft Plan on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Francesco's Ristorante and Pizzeria, 45 Palmer Road. The meeting will include a discussion of natural hazards and climate impacts in Brimfield, and the proposed mitigation actions. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and respond to input about the project. The meeting provides an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts and participate in the planning process.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess Brimfield's natural hazard risks and vulnerabilities, and provide an action plan to reduce the Town's vulnerabilities.

This combined HMP-MVP plan is being completed by the Town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to EEA and to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and approval. A FEMA approved HMP makes the community eligible for federal and state mitigation grant funding. Upon completing the MVP Planning Grant, Brimfield will become "MVP Certified" and be eligible to apply for MVP Action Grants.

The draft HMP-MVP Plan can be accessed at <https://www.brimfieldma.org/home/news/town-brimfield-massachusetts-hazard-mitigation-plan-2023-update>.

For more information, please contact PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at mkaplan@pvpc.org or Angela Panaccione at apanaccione@pvpc.org, or call (413) 781-6045.

MassDOT lists winners of 'Name A Snowplow' contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced the winners of the second annual, "Name A Snowplow" contest for statewide elementary and middle school students in Massachusetts.

The winning plow names are Flower Plower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower, Snow Monstah, Fast and Flurryous.

This contest received entries from public school classrooms from across Massachusetts. The contest chose names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service during this 2023/2024 winter season.

The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

"Keeping our roads across Massachusetts clear and safe every winter is a tough job. We are glad to see educators engage their students in a fun competition that pays tribute to this essential public service," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt in a press release. "I want to congratulate the winning classrooms and look forward to seeing all of the snowplows in the field."

"This is a fun way for schools across the state to connect with the crews who perform vital road work every year during New England's harsh winters," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Congratulations to the winners, and our appreciation to everyone who participated."

Winning submissions for students in grades five through eight include Melissa Forni, grade five of Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge with her entry of "The Snolar Express."

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

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.

parents but the students as well. The staff got a nice round of applause for their performance.

Grade one appeared on stage next for the holiday concert. These grade one students are the students of Ms. Clark, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Prentiss, and Mrs. Paulhus.

The first performance by grade one was a scarf dance to go along with a song from The Nutcracker. The first-grade performance continued with performing a song called "Hot Chocolate". The song was originally composed by Stephanie Leavell.

Grade one concluded their performance with singing "Mittens and Gloves". The song was originally composed by Anne Ellsworth and Teresa Jennings.

Up next on stage was grade two students of Ms. Arbogast, Ms. Ingerson, Ms. Scoville, and Mrs. Royce. The first song performed by the second graders was "Light a Candle for Peace." The song was composed by Shelley Murley.

Their next song was a song about a reindeer. Instead of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, the second graders sang a song about Blitzen, the "Blitzen Boogie".

The second graders concluded their performance with the song, "Let's build a Gingerbread House".

The third grade students were next on stage for the Granite Valley Holiday Concert. These students are students of Mr. Donovan, Miss Carrington, Mrs. Simons and Mr. Cust. These students began their performance by bringing their recorders on stage. With their recorders, the students played "Hot Cross Buns" and "Gently Sleep".

In the finale of the Granite Valley

Holiday Concert, the third grade performed a light show to "Carol of the Bells". The version of "Carol of the Bells" that was played during the light show is a version arranged by Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

The families and friends who attended the concert gave the students and staff a standing ovation for their performance. A great way to celebrate the holiday season as the Granite Valley Holiday Concert showcased talented students in grades one-three.

Zonta Service Grants available for 2024

REGION — In keeping with Zonta's more-than-100-year tradition of improving the lives of women and girls, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is currently soliciting proposals from local non-profit organizations for projects that benefit women and/or youth. Since its inception in 1991, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has contributed over \$150 thousand in cash and in-kind donations to local non-profits.

The Zonta Service Grant Form application can be downloaded at www.zontaq.org/service-grant/ or requested by contacting info@zontaq.org. 2024 Grants ranging from \$100 to \$2000 will be awarded biannually, in May with a April 1 deadline and November with a Oct. 1 deadline. Proposals must include specific details of the project including the need that will be addressed with the funds. In reviewing completed applica-

tions the committee will give preference for a hands-on component that can involve Zontians and supporters, if appropriate. The club's efforts to raise funds for these grants included a Calendar Raffle, Golf Tournament and Poinsettia sales. Two-thirds of all profits are used to fund local initiatives; one-third goes to the Zonta Foundation for Women to fund global projects with partners including UNFPA, UNICEF USA, Girls Not Brides, Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and Women's Empowerment Principles.

2022-23 grant recipients included: Girl's Inc of the Valley received a grant to help build new programs at their Holyoke location. YWCA of Western MA received a grant to purchase gift cards for individuals in their network to purchase essentials. Safe Passage of Northampton to off-set printing of a program booklet for Say Something - 8-hour skills-focused training program grounded in effective strategies of bystander intervention and empowerment self-defense. Food Share in Palmer in support of stocking personal hygiene products and other items in short supply for women and girls.

Second Time's a Charm in Palmer received a grant toward the purchase of different-sized gowns in short supply for teens in need. Alianza DV Services, Inc. (formerly Womanshelter/Companieros) in support of a fall showing of the Clothesline Project, a visual display of violence statistics that often go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence.

Inquiries can be directed to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, Mary Knight the Communications Chair at info@zontaq.org or 413-219-8260.



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EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Dallas Gagnon
dgagnon@turley.com

Marcello Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgrismold@turley.com

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

High Schooler appointed Director of Music at First Congregational Church



By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – 17-year-old Orion Boyce was recently hired as the Organist and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church, after a performance on Sunday, Dec. 17, of his original arrangement of “Carol of the Bells” for the congregation.

First Congregational has been without an organist for approximately nine months. Orion started playing the organ for Wales Baptist Church a few months before he turned 10, and has been performing for the church and writing music for patriotic events every year for approximately seven years.

“He grew up in that church,” said Ed Boyce, Orion’s father, who serves as a deacon at Wales Baptist.

Boyce described his son’s performance in Brimfield as “epic and well-received.” Though based on the familiar arrangement by Mykola Leonovych, which was itself based on the Ukrainian New Year’s Song, “Shchedryk,” Boyce composed his own arrange-

ment, including 32 pages of sheet music, for the event.

“When he was younger he couldn’t communicate all that clearly, but boy could he play music,” Boyce said. “When he was three years old, we weren’t sure if he would be able to speak or be verbal at all. Now he’s killing it in a leadership role, and, in my opinion, he’s just getting warmed up.”

“The fact that he’s managed to find a way to be comfortable doing high-intensity music, that definitely had an invaluable impact of breaking him out of his shell,” Boyce said.

A testament to Boyce’s work ethic presented itself on Dec. 24, when he was asked to perform the Hallelujah chorus along with his choir.

“He first set eyes on sheet music 10 days before the performance,” Boyce said. “To do that in a week was bonkers and insane, but he did it anyway.”

Boyce said that any misgivings the 11th grader had about taking on this big responsibility were washed away by the success of these events.

“The number of reasons to say ‘no, this is too big’ floated

away like petals,” Boyce said. “It felt destined, after a point.”

In between his performances, Boyce is a straight-A student at Tantasqua Regional High School. His father said that he has never had so much as an A-minus, and scored a 1510 on his SAT.

Orion Boyce is expected to be installed into his new position at a ceremony on Jan. 7. Pastor Gary Burdick of Wales Baptist has reportedly arranged to attend the ceremony as well.

Boyce said that he intends to expand the choir and involve more kids in music, using his experience mentoring young musicians at Wales Baptist to usher in a new generation of church musicians for the congregation.

Boyce had a message that he wants to share with the congregation at the ceremony, which is that “he’s here not to make music for the congregation, but to make music with the congregation.”

The ceremony to install Orion Boyce will happen during Sunday’s 10:30 service on Jan. 7.

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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

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Submitted photo
17-year-old Orion Boyce played the organ after his performance of Carol of the Bells at Brimfield’s First Congregational Church.

Holiday gifts for local seniors

For the fourth consecutive year, the team at J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc. located in Three Rivers has supported local seniors with gift bags for the Christmas season.

“We started this effort to say thank you to our local seniors and appreciate them during the holidays” said Renee Niedziela, co owner. “The response of donations and support of our local businesses has been amazing and we are very grateful for all they offer to support this effort.”

A team of a dozen volunteers, both youth and adults, spent an evening last week filling over 120 “joy bags” which were then delivered to three local senior housing complexes. The bags contained a wide variety of items, ranging from toiletries to snacks and personal supplies.

Over 25 local businesses contributed to the contents of this year’s joy bags. “A special shoutout to Life’s Memories and More and the Labrie family for their devoted support every year” said Niedziela.

“Following the tradition of our father, John Stolar, we pride ourselves on giving back to the community that supports us” said Chris Stolar, co owner.



Area businesses and friends came together this Holiday season to create these bags and let you know that we are thinking of you this Christmas and wish you all the best for a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Special thanks to:

- MAPFRE Insurance Co for all the blankets!
- Dr. Thoms Schultz, OD
- Savers Bank- Andrew Philbrook
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- Monson Savings Bank- Lena Buteau and Wil Morales
- Norfolk & Dedham Insurance Co
- ServPro of Hampshire County- Kevin Fall and Megan Fall
- J Stolar Insurance Agency – Renee Niedziela and Chris Stolar
- North Brookfield Savings Bank – Rachel Slozak
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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:
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Schools in 2023

PHS enrich student's life-long skills



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Special Education teacher Paul Holloway aids student Andy Robare in determining where the address should be written on the newspaper before delivery.

Dedicated staff makes Kids Corner a great place



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmao
The Kids' Corner staff "love(s) each other like family," said Samantha Herring. (Back row) Ali, Derrick, Julia, Cathy Les, Samantha, Francesca, Megan, Lainey, Jessica, Heather (Front row) Vinnie, Alannah, Stephen, Emma, and Kylie.

OMP principals meet students, families



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Old Mill Pond Elementary School Assistant Principal Penny Manteria and Principal Holly-Beth Riopel smile while spending time with students at the park.

PHS Drama Club is 'IN' again presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"



Snoopy bursts from a swarm of Woodstocks as part of Rylee Santiago's solo.

PHS Girls Soccer host annual Car Wash



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Fallon Lynch is shown washing a red car to raise funds for the school soccer program.

Girls on the Run



Granite Valley Girls on the Run team shown from left to right are Kylie Coursey-Scotton, Coach Sarah Casmiro, Aubrielle Samkin, Maddie Strom, Lailani Bedward, Anna Almeida, Fiona McManus, Coach Alyssa Darling, Coach Jessica Scoville, Ariana Eposito, Maddi Donovan, Sophie Kaminski, Ashlee Kozdronkiewicz, Coach Megan Clifford and Emily Ostrander Rylee Sherman. Front row from left to right are Audrey Caswell, and Kailyn Graves-Harrison.

OMP welcome students back



William Brown III is ready to return to class.



The cast (from left) Jonas Toutant, Grace Stafford, Juli Delaney, Adeline Leissner, Rylee Santiago, Maddy Rathbone, and July Delaney.

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"He was always encouraging and always gave the best advice," Morgan Peritz said.

Peritz is remembered by many for his positivity, free-spirit and love of the outdoors.

"We would go camping a lot," said Morgan Peritz.

Peritz long-term partner, Hodgdon, remembers him as "always smiling, telling jokes and being a great dad."

Peritz-Smith said the four siblings Bob, Ivy, David and Holly, would camp at Mount Greylock every summer.

A special memory Peritz-Smith cherishes was a moment in 2021 when all four siblings hiked to the top and met their parents Pat and Bob Peritz Sr.

The six of them talked and enjoyed sharing each other's company.

"Certain days and memories you don't realize how special they are until after... We knew how special it was in that moment," said Peritz-Smith.

In light of Peritz's free-spirit motto, those who knew Dave or the family are sharing "#DolifelikeDoo," on social media and signs around town to honor Dave.

#DolifelikeDoo

AUGUST 2023

High school's new principal excited for upcoming school year

MONSON (Aug. 8, 2023) – The high school's new principal, Art Murphy, aims to keep it "R-E-A-L" in the upcoming school year, with an emphasis on "Respect, Empathy, Accountability, and Leadership."

"That was started in the seventh and eighth grade last year, but brought to nine through 12," Murphy explained.

Murphy is no stranger to small communities, comparing Monson to his current town, Rutland, describing it as "a small, prideful community." He described visiting the school while class was still in session, which

gave him the opportunity to meet students and staff in person.

"I was actually a finalist in another district," Murphy said, "and after meeting the kids and talking with them, and meeting their families, I just dropped from the other position, because [Monson] just seemed like a place that I wanted to be."

Murphy originally went from teaching to administration at the recommendation of a mentor, so that he could get to know the students better and make a bigger impact on the school.

"Teachers are our biggest asset. I think teachers need to feel respected and need to feel that they have a voice," Murphy said. "What I miss most about teaching is having that time with students in a classroom. You're literally doing the best work you can to get them to where they need to be academically and socially."

Murphy had nothing but praise for the school system and the process of coming into the district, speaking highly of the School Committee and the staff that have been helping him to acclimate to the school.

"Listening, having tough conversations when needed, facilitating conversations between people who might have a hard time doing that, being visible, letting people know that I'm here, and building trust with the community," Murphy cited as the qualities he wants to exude as a leader.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Board rescinds vote to demolish Town Hall Annex

MONSON – After weeks of ongoing discussion, the Select Board motioned to rescind its September 12th votes to demolish the Town Hall Annex.

The board's decision to the vote comes weeks after community uproar regarding the initial decision to

Pathfinder recognizes First Class of Evening Students



The plumbing cohort, (from left) Program Coordinator Lindsey Tracy, Aidan Thompson, Instructor Randy Dimitropolis, Jacob Pont, Pedro Esteves, Victor Figueroa, Colby Genest, Luis Morales, Elizabeth Sullivan, and Instructor Steven Lopes.

demolish the "House of Art," during the construction process for renovating the town Fire Station.

During the initial vote, Fire Chief Brian Harris requested that the board allow the Fire Department to temporarily use the Town Hall Annex during the station renovation project as it would save \$200,000 from the project's cost.

Harris said the use would have eliminated costs for temporary housing units including water, sewer and HVAC hookups. He also requested the demolition upon completion of the project as it was suggested in 1978.

Building Commissioner Justin Larivee said bringing the Town Hall Annex up to code would cost approximately \$300,000.

During the Sept. 26th meeting, the Art Council was joined by more than 30 supporters as they went before the board asking they rescind the vote, which was denied.

"I noticed the Arts Council was devastated when they left the room on September 26th," said Select Board Vice-Chair John Morrell.

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Board rescinds vote to demolish Town Hall Annex

MONSON – After weeks of ongoing discussion, the Select Board motioned to rescind its September 12th votes to demolish the Town Hall Annex.

The board's decision to the vote comes weeks after community uproar regarding the initial decision to

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Schools in 2023

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship winners



Students from Palmer schools were photographed at the high school after Principal Susan North announced the winners of the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship at the Dec. 14 school committee meeting. Photo submitted by Amy Herring

Pathfinder students win regional cosmetic contest



Pathfinder Tech students (from left) Shayla Orodi, Giana Santana, and Xavier Lagimoniere each won prizes for their cosmetics.

Monson Mustangs cheerleaders win first place in regionals



The Mustangs show off one of their routines. Courtesy photos

Students recognized for athletic, academic achievements



PHS Golf Coach Greg Koss and Ethan Beauchemin pose with the banner that showcases Ethans' school record on the golf team.

Blue skies shine on Special Olympics

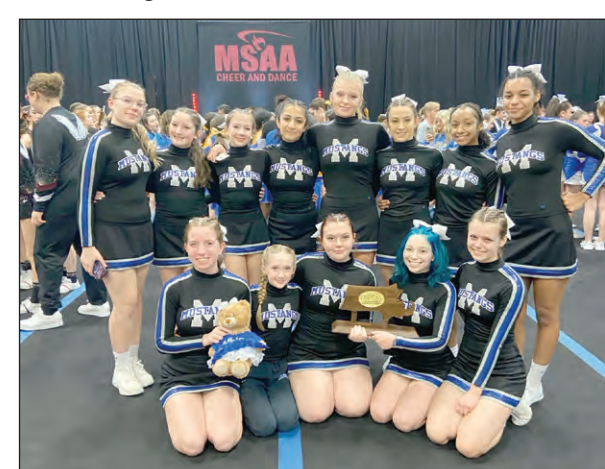


Staff photos by Marcelo Gusmao
Paul Holloway, Special Education teacher from Palmer High School, encouraged students during the running jump.

Granite Valley School chess club attracts over 70 members



Turley Publications photos by Rebecca Wehner
Liam Atkins and Jacob Morgan pondering the board.



A group shot of the Monson Mustang cheerleaders after winning first place in the regional competition.

Standing Room Only at Pathfinder's Plant Sale



Horticulture students (from left) Jack Mahan, Bryant Bressette, Nicholas Pfister, Anthony Clark, and Jacob Longo, pictured in the greenhouse. Horticulture students (from left) Jack Mahan, Bryant Bressette, Nicholas Pfister, Anthony Clark, and Jacob Longo, pictured in the greenhouse.

Cuddle Therapy for mental health at Pathfinder



Submitted Photo
Pathfinder Senior Jenna Matthews snuggled a baby goat.

Old Mill Pond students pie the principals



Student Elizz Cobbins is shown laughing as she puts a plate of Cool Whip in Kerry Lynch's face.

The Signs Say It All



Submitted photos
OMP 5th grade students part of their grad ceremony holding up "goodbye OMP we will miss you" signs.

contended with and has been a perennial powerhouse to deal with each year.

This past November, MHS girls soccer coach Eric Degnan was able to raise that championship arm in the air once more as Monson defeated Mt. Greylock 4-0, capturing the Western Mass C Championship.

"The girls are a very special group," said Degnan. "They work hard and they practice hard."

With the state tournament looming, Degnan shared how well-composed his team was in handling missed calls and continuing to play their game despite some fouls committed by Mt. Greylock.

"Many of the girls have played in a number of big games in the past few years," said Degnan. "They know what they are doing and how to handle themselves."

Addie Peterson had a big game for the Mustangs, with two of Monson goals.

Goalie Emily Provost picked up another shutdown. With the championship win, Monson's record is 18-01.

She said he often called to ask for reference help, do research in the library and would half-jokingly tell the library staff he planned to leave them in his will.

"He claimed to own a stake on the moon," said Maher. She added the staff would joke and say "if he leaves us in his will, we'll have a piece of the moon."

According to Maher, Budnick had actually left a copy of his will while a different director was in charge, though "no one was pinning their hopes on dreams," on anything.

"The will didn't look very official," said Maher. "Clearly, he had done it himself."

McNutt said the first check was cut in September for \$3,032,276.48 and additional checks have since been received amounting to a total of \$3,063,598.51.

"We're not done yet," said McNutt. "He owned a bunch of land around Cape Cod."

DECEMBER 2023

Interim Town Manager shares experience about first days on the job

PALMER – Earlier this month, Robert Reed stepped into his position as interim Town Manager, superseding former Town Manager Ryan McNutt and interim manager Police Chief Christopher Burns.

"It's always going to be busy," said Reed. "There will be a certain amount of time where you're just catching up and trying to find out what the issues are."

Reed said his priority is to ensure the town does not miss any deadlines or projects and to learn about the town's needs through Town Council meetings.

Reeds has experience serving as town administrator in several other communities, including Leicester.

"I just enjoy the work," said Reed. "I find the work challenging."

He said he finds serving as an interim town manager very rewarding, adding that communities seem to value town employees as "that's where the work is done."

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NOVEMBER 2023

Peterson scores pair for Mustangs in Western Mass Championship win

MONSON – Over the past decade, Monsoon High School girls soccer has overcome any turnover it had

2023 | from page 6

"Monson is a special place where we all know each other and live together. I don't want this to come between us as we move forward."

Board member Peter Warren said when he cast his vote he "looked at this from a financial standpoint with a real focus on taxpayers," as residents had previously shared their concerns that "taxes were too high," already.

After receiving emails, phone calls and text messages from residents following the Sept. 12th vote, Warren said it became "abundantly clear (he) had made a mistake."

Board Chair Patricia Oney said "people went into really thoughtful and heartfelt messages," adding "it's clear there are people in town and even in the region who feel how important art and culture is to the fabric of Monson."

She said the board and the council are working together to acquire grant money for capital planning and improvements to the building as well as establishing a lease.

OCTOBER 23

Palmer Public Library bequeathed \$3 million fortune

PALMER – When former Town Manager Ryan McNutt received a hand delivered packet of paperwork last year, he was shocked to discover it contained a will naming the Palmer Public Library as the recipient of a \$3 million estate.

The late Thomas P.



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Around the Community 2023

Seniors celebrate with masquerade party



The mysterious masked party guests of the New Year's Eve party at the Palmer Senior Center.

Brimfield Old Home Days, family fun for everyone



Submitted photo
Old Coots ready to give advice at last year's celebration.

Fun and laughs at Senior Center Picnic



Picnic attendees enjoyed the music and got out on the dance floor.

Palmer Public Library hosts summer scavenger hunt



Ethan, Nolan, Julian and Tiffany Martinez are shown standing in front of the fish tank before participating in the scavenger hunt.

Crafternoon at the Monson Library



Sisters Alanna and Adaline from Monson built paper lanterns.

Reading with rats Monson hosts interactive summer reading program



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Teen Library Coordinator Sarah Thomas smiles as a rat climbs on her shoulder.

"The Town Council has hired Community Paradigm, I've worked with them before," said Reed. "I will try to link up with them and see what I can do to assist and to move the process along."

Mini-Golf kicks off Summer Reading Program



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmao
Sara Menard brought her daughters, Lily, age 8, Autumn, age 7, and Violet, age 4.

Monson Parks and Rec. launches Summer Swim Camp for kids



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Shown are students Molly Mushenko and Calli Allen swimming in the Quarry Hill School pool during a Summer Fun program.

"To varying degrees, this has been my responsibility (as interim town manager,) so I will be giving them a call to coordinate that."

The red, white and blue flying high at Palmer Senior Center



Pictured here are (State Senator Jake Oliveira, Marlene Johnson, Executive Director; Cindy Jasak, Outreach Coordinator; Lisa Jacques, Program Coordinator and State Representative Todd Smola.

2023 | from page 7

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

He told the Town Council he wants to make sure town employees know they can talk to him, and his management style relies on open communication.

"I try to be flexible, whether it's a citizen or a business, or what have you," said Reed.

He added that he expects to be involved in the hiring of the next town manager over the next few months.

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BASKETBALL



Colin Beaupre makes his way down the court.



Trey Dillahunt makes a pass on the run.



Austin Meacham fakes before heading into the paint.



Jake Beaupre takes a drive to the hoop.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Mustangs can't complete comeback

MONSON – Last Monday evening, the Monson High School boys basketball team got off to a tough start. Despite a valiant comeback, the Mustangs were unable to come all the way

to a tie, falling 74-71 at Southwick Regional School. In the defeat, Jake Beaupre had a huge performance with 26 points. Trey Dillahunt also had a big game with 22 points. Colin Beaupre

added 10 points in the loss. Monson is 4-2 heading into 2024.

BASKETBALL

Rams hand Panthers first loss of season



Dylan Doherty takes the open shot in the paint.



Andrew Menard comes with the rebound.



Angel Torres reaches out to get the tip on the hoop.

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Palmer boys basketball suffered its first loss of the season, falling 53-41 to Granby. Palmer faltered late in the match-up, limited to just nine points in the fourth quarter while Granby score 16 to pull away. Palmer got 11 points from Taydem Haley. Dylan Doherty score nine points. Palmer is 3-1 and has a rare boys basketball matchup at Pathfinder on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.



Taydem Haley crosses midcourt.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Gavin Smola goes for the put-back.

ICE HOCKEY

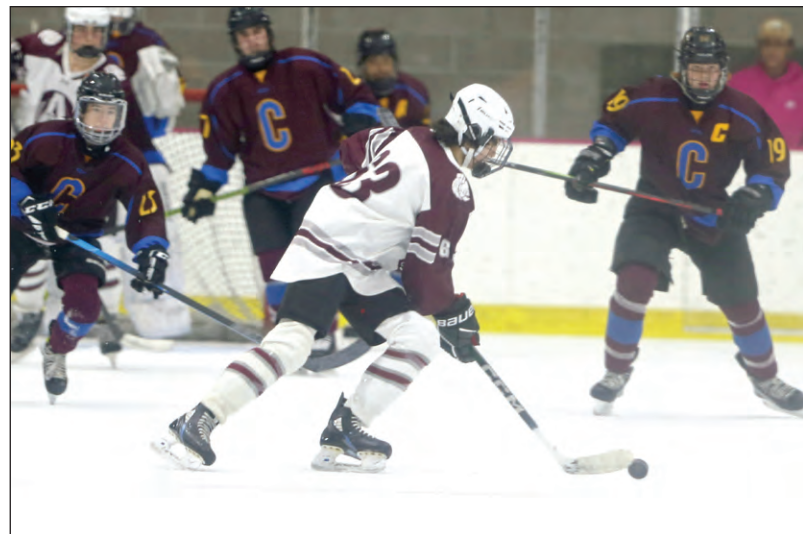
Amherst hockey perfect to start season



Liam Flynn looks to flick the puck up the ice.



Ethan Nompleggi sends a backhand pass away.



Sawyer Ferro makes his way up the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Josh Goodhind chases down the puck.

AMHERST – Last Monday night, Amherst hockey welcomed Chicopee to Orr Rink on the campus of Amherst College. The Hurricanes got a great offensive effort in a 6-1 win to improve

to 4-0 for the season. Jack Dyjack had two goals and Benjamin Remensnyder also added a pair of goals. Pathfinder's Ethan Nompleggi had a pair of assists in the matchup. Amherst has vacation

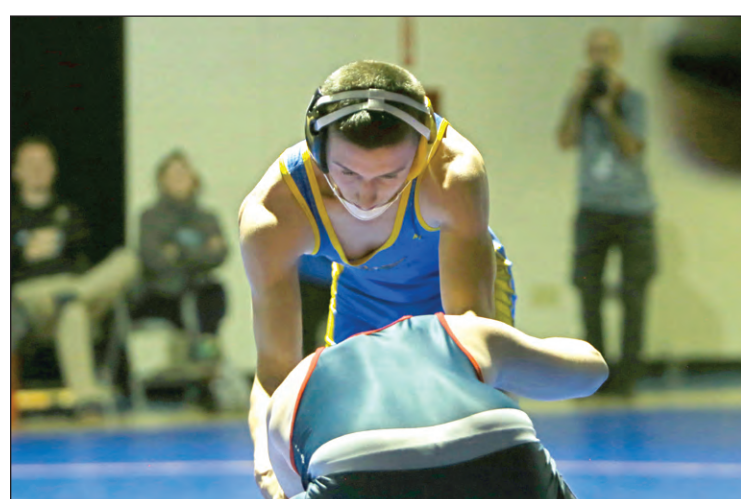
week matchups with Taconic and on Saturday, Dec. 30 against Agawam at Olympia Ice Center at 6:30 p.m.



Bruno Medionero gets the leverage.



Max Alinegena tries to turn over his opponent.



William Burke locks up in his match.



Gustavo Vega tries to break down his opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Taran Prak gets the tackle takedown.

Forfeits help lead Pioneers to win

PALMER — Last Wednesday night, there were few matches, but Pathfinder was able to pick up the 41-30 win over visiting Frontier Regional. Taran Prak got a big win at 113 pounds with a technical fall by a 16-1 score. Pathfinder faced Northampton earlier this week. The Pioneers head to Mohawk on Jan. 3 at 7 p.m.

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Athlete of the Week

Jake Beaupre
Monson

Beaupre had a big performance in a close game with Southwick last week, scoring 26 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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Nikki Vejak slings a pass away.



Sophie Webb gets a rebound.



Maya Gidopoulos lifts a long jump shot.



Sophie Ezzo attempts a three-pointer.



Riley West tries to overcome a block before shooting.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Warriors win OT thriller over Comp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FSKDALE — In the middle of the 2022-23 regular season, the Tantasqua girls' varsity basketball team made the trek west on the Mass. Pike to Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium where they lost a heartbreaker in overtime.

When the two squads battled each other in the Tantasqua Regional Fieldhouse on Dec. 22, the outcome of the non-league contest was once again decided in overtime.

This time, it was the Lady Warriors players doing the celebrating following a thrilling 67-64 victory over the Lady Colts.

"This is our best win so far this season," said Tantasqua head coach Andrew Haley. "We lost to them on a buzzer beater in overtime at their place last year. Tonight's game was very similar, but it ended up in our favor. They're a very good basketball team and we had this game circled on our schedule since the beginning of the season."

The home victory improved

Tantasqua's overall record to 4-1. It was also the Lady Warriors' second win of the season against a Western Mass. opponent. They posted a 57-35 win at Holyoke High School in the season opener. They were scheduled to play at Minnechaug Regional on Wednesday afternoon and will be hosting Longmeadow at the end of the regular season.

The trio of senior point guard Gabby Scanlon (20 points), sophomore center Sophie Webb (20 points), and junior forward Maya Gidopoulos (17 points) combined to score 57 of Tantasqua's 67 points.

"Those three players are capable of scoring from anywhere on the court," Haley added. "Sophie is a very good young basketball player. She plays inside and outside. Maya made a couple of big shots, which kept us in tonight's game. Gabby is one of our leaders. They really don't care who scores the points."

Scanlon, who's a tri-captain, along with senior's Riley West (2 points), and Nicki Vejack (4 points), scored 13 of her points before halftime.

Webb and Gidopoulos picked up the scoring slack in the second half with 15 points apiece.

"We really wanted to win tonight's game more than anything," said Gidopoulos, who made a couple of huge 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter and during the four minute overtime period. "We lost to them in overtime last year and it just feels great to beat them. We're hoping to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament again."

It was the first time that Chicopee Comp (3-2) played a regular season game at the Fieldhouse.

"Even though we didn't come out on top, it was still a cool experience getting an opportunity to play a game here," said Comp head coach Tony Couture. "We did make a couple of big shots in the fourth quarter, which pushed the game into overtime. Then they made a few more shots than we did in overtime."

Tantasqua is the only team from outside of Western Mass. listed on the Chicopee Comp's regular season schedule.

The Lady Colts two double fig-

ure scorers were junior guard Taryn Cariveau (20 points), junior guard Kaitlyn Gilhooly (15 points), senior forward Alyssa Caney (12 points), and junior guard Eliza Burger (11 points).

Cariveau scored 24 points in last year's contest, including the game-winner at the buzzer in overtime.

In this year's meeting, Cariveau made two free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining in regulation, which sent the game into the extra session tied at 57-57.

The Lady Colts took a 60-58 lead with 2:45 remaining in OT following a Caney steal and fast-break lay-up. The Lady Warriors scored the next seven points.

West began the run with an inside hoop. Webb hit a pull-up jumper from the right side of the key and a 3-pointer from the left corner by Gidopoulos increased Tantasqua's advantage to 65-60 with 1:43 left.

Then Comp made one final comeback, as a pair of free throws by Cariveau and Caney cut the defi-

cit down to 65-64 with 41.7 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock.

With 7.5 seconds left, Gidopoulos made a wide open lay-up, which turned out to be the difference maker for the home team.

Following a Comp timeout, Gidopoulos stole the inbound pass and was fouled with 1.3 seconds remaining. She missed both free throws and a long shot attempt at the buzzer by Gilhooly rattled off the back iron ending the action packed game.

Both teams had impressive runs in the opening half.

The Lady Colts put-together a 19-5 run between the last four minutes of the first quarter and the first four minutes of the second quarter.

Cariveau, who hit a buzzer beater at the end of the first quarter, hit another long bomb from beyond the arc with 3:46 left in the first half, which increased the visitors lead to 21-10.

It was the high water mark for the Lady Colts, as the Lady Warriors responded with an 11-0 run.

An inside basket by junior for-

ward Maggie Johnson (4 points) knotted the score at 21-21.

The Lady Colts, who played their final game of 2023, headed into the locker room holding a slim 26-24 lead after Burger hit a jumper just before the buzzer sounded.

Led by Scanlon, Webb, and Gidopoulos, the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 19-9, in the third quarter.

Trailing 43-35 entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Colts battled back with a 10-0 run.

The visitors made seven foul shots before taking a 45-43 lead with 5:20 left when Gilhooly hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

The score was tied several more times in regulation before the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 10-7 in overtime.

It was the only game of the regular season between the two teams. They won't be meeting in the post-season tournament either because they're in different Divisions.

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

FOR RENT

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

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2616EA
Estate of:
Charles H. Jasak
Date of Death: 10/31/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michael J Jasak of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Michael J Jasak of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/18/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 21, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/28/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23A0152AD
Estate of:
Ernest E Leonard
Date of Death: 10/18/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Dorothy E Leonard of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Dorothy E Leonard of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/10/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 21, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/28/2023

MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 02/12/2024.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/21, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23A0153AD
In the matter of:
Jesserica Rachel Daley
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Eric Duval
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by:
Angela Edgerton of Monson, MA
Daniel Edgerton of Monson, MA
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
Jesserica Rachel Edgerton
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.
An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 02/12/2024.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/21, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/11/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).
Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/11/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).
Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/11/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).
Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2539EA
Estate of:
Ernest E Leonard
Date of Death: 10/18/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Dorothy E Leonard of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Dorothy E Leonard of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/10/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
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A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 07, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/28/2023

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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Around the Community 2023

Open house offers fire prevention education and fun



Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon

Patrick, Kaden, Mariska, Bryson, Spencer and Alyssa O'Hara share a family photo at Sunday's event.

HFD hosts eight annual open house



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Liliana O'Connor, Patrick Mullen, Celia Beecher, Natalie Mullen and Norah Beecher are all smiles as they explore the different vehicles in the Fire Department.

Police and community join together at National Night Out



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Daisy and James Jianaces, of Palmer, sport their face paintings while posing for a photo in front of the Palmer Police station.

Granite Valley School says Thank You to Veterans



Turley Photos by Dan Flynn

Granite Valley students present the Veterans Appreciation program.

HWBSL offers family fun at annual Fall Fest



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Holland Wales Baseball Softball League members shown here are from left to right, in the back row, are Andy Saksa, Matthew Greene, Nathan Canty, Stephanie Canty, Maddy Saksa, Brianna Breor and Michael Breor. Front row, from left to right, are Ryder Saksa, Kelcie Greene, Carter Breor, Gavin Canty, Jameson Canty and Landon Breor.

Hitchcock presents restored recreational courts



Hitchcock Free Academy Board of Trustees are shown smiling on the newly-repaired pickleball/tennis courts. Back row, from left to right, are Joe Ballour, Greg Majewski, Mark Carron, Joshua Skowyra and Chris Bolte. Front row, from left to right, are Sarah Majewski, Genise Jackson, Cindy Skowyra, Christina Mealey and Sue Gregory.

Veterans Day Parade makes its way down Main St. in Bondsville



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

The Boy Scouts carried flags for the parade.

27th Memorial Classic Road Race to benefit cancer research



Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon

Participants from all over Massachusetts were in attendance at Sunday's event, including those from neighboring communities such as Ware, Warren, and others from as far away as Dalton and Boston.

Monson celebrates annual Food Truck Festival



Lions Club members Remo and Ginny Pizzichemi, President Kristine Duval, Ann Marie Decoteau, District Governor Curt Jameson, Karen King and Michael Turgeon are all smiles at the annual Monson Food Truck and Music Festival.

Brimfield Old Home Days, family fun for everyone



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Cedric Daniel, Nora Daniel, Christina Mealey, Tilly Taricano, Kathy Taricano, Ivy Taricano and Scout Taricano gathered on the lawn to enjoy the evening's festivities.

Monson Parks and Rec. hosts fun in the sun



Hunter Walker, Logan Derouin, Madelyn Moreau and Kailyn Graves-Harrison are shown sitting in the grass after playing field games Tuesday morning.

Teacher hosts 30th and final Pathfinder car show



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Shown from left to right are Debbie August, Michael Plouffe, Craig Sankey, Jason Bushey, Lauren Sankey, Tom Cote, Jeanine Sankey, Kris Spaulding, Mason Washington, Bonnie Spaulding, Marta Carrey, Glenn Sinon, Jeff Ovit, Adam Holst and Ron Bushey.

Giving back to those who give their all



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Dori Dagenais and Rick Matzko share a photo while stuffing a care package for Matzko's daughter, Hannah Matzko.

Adams Market Mural expected to stand the test of time



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
Town residents and officials cut the ribbon, officially unveiling the mural's completion.

Monson Public Safety Night Out builds community



Monson Police Chief Stephen Kozloski shares a photo with Monson Fire Department members Stephanie Golas, Amber Duby, Monson Fire Chief Brian Harris, Lisa Hamill and Samantha Shrewsbury.



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

Erika, Luke, Warner, Grant and Hadley Paull participate in the annual Public Safety Night Out and share a family photo in front of a K-9 cruiser.



Veterans in attendance stand to be recognized.

Light Up Palmer



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

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



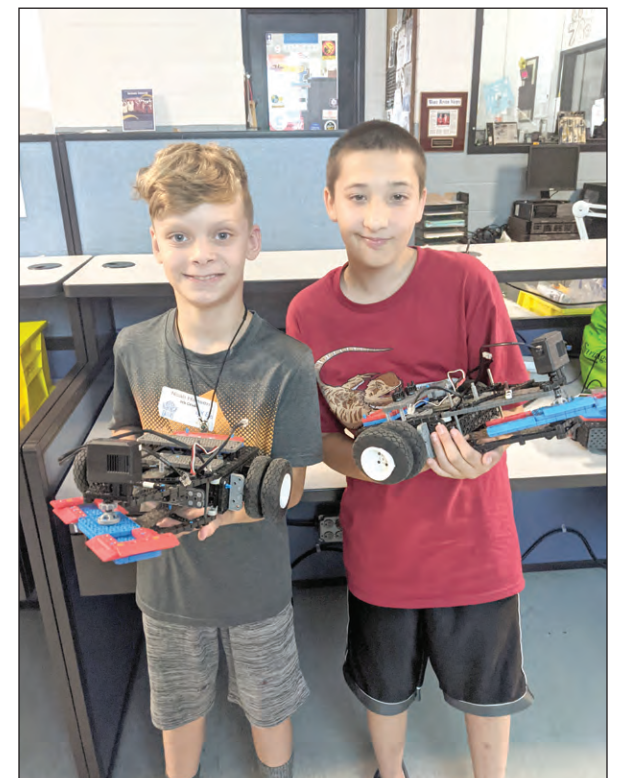
Turley photos by Dallas Gagnon

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



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

Robots battle at Pathfinder's summer program



Finalists Noah Hansen and Louis Beaugard hold the robots they used in the finals.

... and the Winners Are!

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Best Business
1st Place**




Congratulations!
J. Stolar Insurance

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Traditional / Classic
1st Place**




Congratulations!
298 Emery Street

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Best Window
1st Place**




Congratulations!
22 King Street

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Best Door
1st Place**




Congratulations!
129 Thompson St Palmer

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Through a Childs Eye
1st Place**




Congratulations!
125 Thompson St Palmer

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Clark Griswold
1st Place**




Congratulations!
21 Ruggles Court Three Rivers

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Best Blow Ups
1st Place**




Congratulations!
199 Breckenridge Rd Palmer

Light Up Palmer 5th Annual
Decorating Contest
**Holiday Spirit
1st Place**




Congratulations!
26 Robinson Rd Palmer

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