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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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MONSON

Select Board approves Fire Dept. use of Memorial Hall

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week’s Select Board meeting, the town voted to allow the Fire Department to use Memorial Hall during upcoming construction.

The Fire Department approached the board to continue the discussion about using Memorial Hall while the station is being repaired and painted.

“This was added to the agenda to address too many interruptions during business meetings,” Warren said.

Town Manager Jennifer Wolowicz explained that at the previous meeting, the department had discussed the possibility of using trailers for temporary housing, but that proved to be infeasible.

“We originally were going to need two, we thought, but we actually need three trailers and we only had funds in the budget for two,” said Wolowicz. “So right there that was a financial consideration.”

Wolowicz asked if the board members had a chance to tour the site, and Warren said that he had been in the building “quite a bit, recently.”

“I really wanted to do something down in the basement, but I was educated in that, by code, you can’t do that,” Warren said. “So I can’t take a hard line on that anymore because I don’t want to create

BOARD | page 3

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Lissee Lombard led the ceremony this Saturday, and announced each speaker.

Town tours cemeteries in annual ceremony

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – This weekend, residents gathered at the town’s cemeteries to commemorate Wreaths Across America, and participate in its mission to “remember, honor, and teach.”

Wreaths Across America is a national event that holds an annual service to donate wreaths to cemeteries across over 4,800 locations across the country. These wreaths are donated via sponsorship, with

Abby and Gemma volunteered to help lay wreaths at Hillside Cemetery as part of Saturday’s ceremony.

members of the community paying \$15 per wreath.

The town held three ceremonies across the morning of Saturday, Dec. 14, starting at Hillcrest Cemetery, the moving to Hillside Cemetery, and then at Bethany Cemetery.

A public statement sent by Davis read, “On behalf of Monson Together, the Patriotic Celebrations Committee, the Cemetery Department, Bethany Cemetery, and our veterans, we thank you for joining us today. Your generosity has helped to ensure that the memory of our veterans lives on.”

Monson Together thanked Lissee Lombard, Kayla McLeod, and Mat Wawrzyk for their work, as well as the Patriotic Celebration Committee and the Select Board for their support.

“We hope that this is the first

WREATHS | page 8

PALMER

Town to pursue Community Dev. Block Grant

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At its meeting last week, Town Council voted to allow Community Development to pursue a grant of \$850,000 for infrastructure improvements.

John Latour, Director of Community Development, approached the Council to request permission to pursue a grant of \$850,000.

“The grant is due April 14, 2025, so we’ll be working on it from this point on out,” Latour said. “Part of the activities that we’re requesting are for infrastructure, public social services, and planning, and general administration.”

Latour said that the infrastructure portion would include improvements for sewer, water, sidewalks and sidewalk access, and drainage.

“It doesn’t come out of your tax base or Capital Planning for this,” Latour said. “It’s a grant, and it doesn’t impact your capital budget in that way – it actually helps with the capital budget.”

Latour mentioned previous studies done over the last three years, and said that the area that the grant will improve has been in “critical” need.

“We have to do an income survey in the Three Rivers neighborhoods of Front Street, Park Avenue, Kelly Street, and High Street,” Latour said. “We’ll be asking for cooperation from the neighborhoods and the people in those areas, the residents.”

Latour said that during previous surveys, the town was able to track the history of infrastructure repairs and installations from the 1850s to present day, and that work is definitely needed.

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SPORTS

Homemade for the Holidays at town’s Craft Fairs



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

PALMER— If you were looking for unique holiday gifts such as a crystal mermaid crown or a crocheted mug of cocoa, you could find them at the craft fairs held at Palmer High School and St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dec. 7.

The High School student council ran the craft fair and a pancake breakfast with Santa, also held on Dec. 7. Sophomore Neila Lachance started working in September to book the fair’s 65 vendors and organize the popular day-long event.

“Neila did an amazing job,” said student council advisor Erik Brennan, a seventh-grade social studies teacher. “This is a well-established craft fair and we had vendors knocking down our door in August wanting to be a part of it.”

Vendors filled the school’s large foyer and gym, selling cloth-

ing, home goods, jewelry, fine art, food, and more. Student groups held fundraisers, including face painting and a 50/50 raffle, while two food trucks served the event. Proceeds from the table rentals will benefit the student council.

“We’ve had a huge turnout—730 customers so far,” said Lachance, as the fair drew to a close. “We had a great variety of vendors. I am so relieved!”

Many members of the school district’s community set up booths or came to shop.

It was the debut craft fair for Brittany North, an eighth-grade math teacher at the school, who ran a booth with her fiancé, Rudy Marek. Through their business, Hidden Hollow Farm, they sell handmade goods such as cutting boards, unique tea light holders and other decor, and crocheted items made by Rudy’s mother, Traci Marek. “It’s a family affair,” said North.

North was impressed with the

CRAFTS | page 7

Tree lighting



Photos by Abigail McCoy

A family took a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus at last weekend’s tree-lighting ceremony. More photos on page 6.



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Pet of the Week



ROXIE & BAILEY

This is Roxie and Bailey, who live with Kelsi in Palmer. 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.

Santa Breakfast



Boomer of the Thunderbirds poses with members of St. Stanislaus and the Scholarship Committee, which heads this event every year. Submitted Photos



Santa Claus took pictures with children at the St. Stanislaus Polish Club last weekend.

Candlelight Christmas Eve church service

PALMER— St. Paul's Church of Palmer warmly invites the community to a Christmas Eve by Candlelight Service on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 p.m. This meaningful and festive service will feature music, readings, poetry, prayers, and candle lighting.

Experience the joy of the Christmas story through beloved hymns and a retelling of the birth of Jesus. The service will also include a reading of The Night Before Christmas and other inspirational selections. The evening will conclude with the singing of Silent Night and a beautiful candlelight ceremony.

St. Paul's Music Director, Wes Hunter, a gifted tenor, pianist, and sought-after soloist and choral/ensemble singer, will lead a joyful and inspiring hour of music and holiday cheer.

Reverend Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's, extends this heartfelt invitation: "We hope you and your family will join us as we joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ. Our 5:30 p.m. service provides a wonderful opportunity for the Palmer community to gather in celebration and still leaves plenty of time for family festivities in the evening."

The Christmas Eve by Candlelight Service will take place in the sanctuary of St. Paul's Church, located at the corner of Park and Central Streets from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Boomer posed with a young boy in front of the backdrop set up at St. Stan's.



A young girl with a candy cane is excited to get a picture with Santa Claus.



Boomer sat on Santa's lap and told him he wanted the Thunderbirds to win for Christmas.

Local musician hits the stage in Palmer

PALMER – Local to South Hadley, musician Kyle Ray will be performing for one night only at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

The concert will feature his brand new single, "Shoobox", a song about his life and story, will be performed live for the very first time on a stage, so be sure to mark your calendar.

You can find tickets by scanning the QR code for \$15 ahead of

time, or \$20 at the door. The address is 2072 Main Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

Don't miss this chance to welcome home a neighbor, and spend some time before the New Year listening to some good music, and hearing for the first time a new song that will end up in your saved playlist.

Notch Visitor Center open for winter 2024-2025

AMHERST – Winter at the Mount Holyoke Range is a magical experience, and a visit to the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West St., Route 116, is the perfect way to enjoy it.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Mount Holyoke Range State Park is ideal for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Notch Visitor Center enhances your park experience with engaging exhibits that highlight the unique features of the Mount Holyoke Range.

Special public programs provide a broader perspective of the park, and staff are on hand to offer trail information and hiking suggestions. There's something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned adventurers.

Free admission and parking. The center is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information and upcoming programs, call 413-253-2883 or visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/mount-holyoke-range-state-park>.

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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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Baby's First Christmas

2024



Ariella Martins

January 15, 2024

Parents: Aaron Martins & Bryanna Lapointe, Monson
Grandparents: Mark & Jane Martins, Ludlow
Bill Lapointe & Tracy Halgas, Springfield



Violet Cormier

August 14, 2024

Parents: Geoff & Ellen Cormier, Worcester
Grandparents: Tony & Krista Silva, Palmer
Mark & Deb Cormier, Worcester



Logan Distler

September 22, 2024

Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & (the late) Bruce Distler, Rocky Point, NY



Walker James DiPietro

Sept. 11, 2024

Parents: Ashley Messina & Phil DiPietro, Monson, MA/Berlin, CT
Grandparents: Debbie Messina, Monson
James Messina
Philip DiPietro & Judy Lashua



Elliot Peter Trainor

September 11, 2024

Parents: Ben & Jess Trainor, Spencer
Grandparents: Paul & Joanne Wyman, Ware
Peter & Christine Trainor, Spencer



Felix Ravasio

November 28, 2024

Parents: Amanda Mack & Marco Ravasio, Buonconvento, Italy
Grandparents: Mr & Mrs. Karl Benware, Palmer
Mr. & Mrs George Mack, Monson



Greta Nichols

February 13, 2024

Parents: Mike & Aimee Nichols, Palmer
Grandparents: Jerry & Sue Nichols, Palmer
Brian & MaryLynn Pelletier, Bristol, CT



Henry Thomas Noel

September 9, 2024

Parents: Dalton & Lauren Noel, Cummington
Grandparents: Lori Wawro, Belchertown
Mike Skowronek, Palmer
Karen Landry, Worthington
Frank Noel, Cummington

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We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!

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Tree lighting



Santa and Mrs. Claus sat in the gazebo to enjoy the festivities before the sun set.



Santa and Mrs. Claus took pictures with local children and families from their seats in the gazebo.



Santa and Mrs. Claus took a picture with some local children in front of the tree.



Rondeau's Homemade Ice Cream had a booth where they sold warm drinks.



The Three Rivers Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary had a table set up to collect donations for the Keep Warm Drive.



Local residents gathered around to socialize at Hryniewicz Park. Photos by Abigail McCoy



The table for the Trial Court had a mailbox for kids to send letters to the North Pole.



A local youngster built a snowman that was taller than they were.



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A nativity scene depicting the birth of Jesus Christ was lit up for the event at the park.



The ice sculpture was highly detailed, with decorations on the tree and "Three Rivers" written on the side of the truck.

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Homemade for the Holidays at town's Craft Fairs



Members of the Palmer student council, Nico Caci and Rylee Santiago, raised money for their upcoming eighth-grade class trip to Washington, D.C.



Boy Scouts from Palmer Troop 64, Spencer Skowrya, Devin Chevalier and Carl Wright, sold holiday wreaths made of grapevine, pine cones and other natural materials that they foraged themselves.



May-Ling Mendrala and Carolyn Gibbs shared a craft table at St. Thomas the Apostle church in Palmer.



Palmer High School sophomore Neila Lachance ran the craft fair for the student council.



Brittany North, an eighth-grade math teacher, ran a booth at the Palmer High craft fair with Rudy Marek.

CRAFTS | from page 1

student council's management of the event. "It's been a great day," she said. "It's about community. I've had so many students and their parents come by to our booth."

Bill Partelo, a graduate of the class of 2024, sold wooden cutting boards made of local cherry, maple, and walnut at the fair. Partelo, who now studies finance at Western New England University, began selling his woodworking six years ago. He learned his craft from his father and grandfather and further developed his skills through YouTube videos and trial and error.

As a student of the district, he ran the holiday craft fair for three years. At this year's event, he enjoyed being a vendor rather than an organizer. "It's not stressful at all on this side of the table," he said.

It was also the first year at the fair for Lisa Newton, a teacher at Old Mill Pond Elementary School. Newton sold goods from her business, Earth Affirmations, including mermaid-themed wares, such as crystal crowns, crocheted mermaids tails, and stuffed whales made of upcycled curtain fabric.

"It's been such fun seeing the community come out today," Newton said. "I've seen students, elementary and high school teachers. And the homemade empanadas were delicious!"

Across town, at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Melissa Boyer pulled together the church's craft fair in only a month. Proceeds from table rentals benefited the parish's charitable programs. Several of the nine vendors were church parishioners.

Boyer sold her own sparkling diamond paintings and diamond art kits at the fair and demonstrated diamond painting. The craft is similar to paint-by-number. Using a special tool, crafters apply tiny colored crystals to pre-numbered adhesive-covered canvases.

St. Paul parishioners Carolyn Gibbs and May-Ling Mendrala shared a table. Mendrala sold her crocheted goods, including an unusual crocheted cup of cocoa.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Lisa Newton, a teacher at Old Mill Pond elementary school in Palmer, wears a crystal crown she crafted for her business, Earth Affirmations.

Gibbs sold her paintings and novels.

Although the St. Paul the Apostle holiday craft fair was small this year, Boyer said the church's first fair will not be its last. "We'll definitely do this again," she said.



Bill Partelo and Maya Cushing at the Wicked Woodworking booth at Palmer High.



Classmates Lucy G. and Rylee L. model the friendship bracelets they made to sell at the St. Thomas the Apostle church craft fair.



It was the first time at the Palmer High Craft Fair for sisters Kathy Lloyd and Susan Clawson. They sold crocheted goods, including beanies with removable pom-poms, and hand-painted slates.



Marissa Clark did a brisk business selling goods from her body care collection, Marissa Gifted Creations, at the Palmer High School Craft Fair.

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Karen Davis laid down a wreath, along with countless volunteers from the community.



Glenn Perry laid down the wreaths for each branch of the military, with help from a young volunteer.



Father Jack Brennan led the benediction for the Dec. 14 ceremony at Hillside Cemetery.



Glenn Perry talked about the sacrifices made by military service members and the importance of honoring their memory.



Chris Gatcomb, representing the U.S. Navy, laid wreaths on vets' graves at Hillside Cemetery.

WREATHS | from page 1

of many successful Wreaths Across America days in town, and that this tradition will continue for years to come," the statement continued. "Thank you for helping us remember, honor, and teach on National

Wreaths Across America Day." To learn more about the organization that collects for and arranges this ceremony every year, visit their website at WreathsAcrossAmerica.org.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão
Glenn Perry spoke from a podium set up near the entrance of Hillside Cemetery.



Jason and Otto were seen playing with the volunteers as they decorated Hillside Cemetery.



The American flag hung over the ceremony as speakers reminded the crowd to remember, honor, and teach about veterans.



Heather Wilson and Cemetery Foreman Mat Wawrzyk laid wreaths together this weekend.



Hillside Cemetery was full of residents and volunteers who wanted to support the Wreaths Across America program.



Kayla McLeod spoke in front of the gathered residents for this Saturday's ceremony.



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SPORTS

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BASKETBALL

Panthers get win, hope to contend for league title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—There are three things that Missy Rocker, the second-year boys' varsity basketball coach at Palmer High School, would like to see her team accomplish this winter.

The first item on Rocker's wish list is to contend for the Bi-County West League title. She would also like to see her players capture the Western Mass. Class C. championship title and make a run in the Division 5 state tournament.

"I think everybody is on the same page on what we would like to accomplish this season," said Rocker following the Panthers home scrimmage versus Quabog Regional on Dec. 9. "I believe we're capable of competing against any team on our schedule."

The Palmer boys' basketball team hasn't finished in first place in the league standings since the memorable 2016-17 season, which concluded with a trip to the Division 3 state finals at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The Panthers finished the 2023-24 campaign with an 11-10 overall record and a 5-5 league record.

The Granby Rams, who are the defending league champions, defeated the Panthers twice during the regular season a year ago. The rivals also met for the third time in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass

PALMER BOYS | page 10



Jordan Jones gets the open layup in Palmer's season opener last week.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

BASKETBALL



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Palmer girls basketball scrimmages Quabbin last week.

Palmer girls hope to reach state tournament again

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—A lot has changed since the Palmer Lady Panthers lost to West Boylston in the Division 5 state basketball semifinal game at Worcester State University last March.

Charlotte Theriault, who joined her older sister, Maddy, as a member of the elite 1,000th point club last February, transferred to

Suffield Academy before the start of the school year.

Charlotte's mother, Amanda, and Denise Levasseur, who had been the Lady Panthers co-varsity coaches during the past couple of years, also decided not to return to the sidelines this season.

The Lady Panthers new varsity basketball coach is Jill Shaw, who has coached at both the collegiate and high school levels.

PALMER GIRLS | page 10

BASKETBALL

Pioneers don't have answer for Duggan

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— First-year Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity basketball coach Ethan Ortyl is hoping to win a lot of games during his coaching career. He had to wait a little bit longer before celebrating his first career victory.

The Pioneers suffered an 80-18 non-league home loss to powerhouse Duggan Academy in the season opening game, last Thursday night.

"This game was a good test for us against one of the best teams

that we're going to play all season," said Ortyl, who replaced Zac Button as the Pioneers varsity coach. "The players continued to play hard in tonight's game, and they care about each other. We're going to bounce back and keep battling in every game that we play this season. I just love this group of players."

It was also the first varsity start for all five of the Pioneers starters. Those five players are junior Dustyn Cook, junior Dayne Shanley, junior Aiden Girard, sophomore Cayden Bousquet, and freshman Cassian Kowalik.

"We've only had four practices, which doesn't include try-outs, before tonight's game. The players are still learning a new system and I'm still learning what they're capable of doing," Ortyl added. "We're going to work hard at practice be-



Dustyn Cook goes low to avoid a defender.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

fore our next game against Pioneer Valley Christian Academy on Monday night.

There are a lot of things that we need to work on. Everyone just needs to keep improving, including myself."

Girard (3 points) and senior Matthew Vanasse (2 points) are the Pioneers co-captains.

Duggan, who posted an 18-2 regular season record a year ago, also didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Pioneers in their previous two meetings on the hardwood.

With the help of several turnovers, the Jayhawks were able to build a 27-0 lead at the end of the opening quarter in last Thursday's game, and

they never looked back.

Junior Isaiah Rodriguez scored 19 of his game-high 23 points for the visitors from Springfield during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Duggan's other two double digit scorers were junior Allen Miranda, who scored 11 of his 21 points in the third quarter, and senior Kyle Combs (12 points).

The Pioneers, who beat Duggan by 14 points during the 2022 regular season, finally broke the ice with six minutes left in the first half when a steal by freshman Grayson Griswold led to a Bousquet lay-up basket.

Bousquet, who was the Pioneers leading scorer with four points, also made another lay-up a minute later following another steal from Griswold.

In the middle of the second quarter, Griswold scored his first career varsity points on a lay-up.

PIONEERS | page 10

BASKETBALL

Mustangs defeat Renaissance in opener

MONSON – On Monday, Dec. 16, Monson High School boys basketball got its season off to a good start with a win over Renaissance School 62-53. The Mustangs were steady on offense throughout the night, working through Trey Dillahunt and Austin Meacham. Dillahunt led the Mustangs with 24 points while Meacham added 21 points. Jake Beaupre came in with nine points scored. The Mustangs sank six treys in the game. Monson faces rival Palmer on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

WRESTLING



Gustavo Vega locks up in an early round match.



Jake Parker-Gregory looks for a takedown in a 215-pound match.



Dominic Jarry looks to avoid a takedown.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Pioneers wrestle at Knight-Hawk

HOLYOKE - Last Saturday, the Pathfinder wrestling team opened the season by participating in the Knight-Hawk Classic hosted by Holyoke High School. The Pioneers scored 49 points and placed 17th out of 19 teams that were at the event. Dominic Jarry was Pathfinder's top finisher, placing third in the 175-pound bracket.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Grayson Griswold sends up a three-point attempt.



Aiden Girard heads down the court.



Cayden Bousquet keeps the ball away from his opponent.



Cassian Kowalik tries to avoid having his shot blocked.

PIONEERS | from page 9

The home team was trailing, 40-6 at halftime.

Pathfinder Tech's only made baskets of the third quarter were from Vanasse and

Girard.

The Jayhawks only outscored the Pioneers, 10-7, during the final eight minutes of the contest.

Pathfinder freshman Jordan Mbi made an old fashion three point play with 5:47 remaining in regulation, which gave the home

fans something to cheer about. Kowalik also hit a runner in the lane. Girard and Shanley each made a free throw.

The Pioneers players and supporters were looking to celebrate a win at home against PVCA on Monday night.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Matthew Santos looks to pass into the paint.



Stephen Fredette goes for the long three-point attempt.



Dylan Doherty gets ready to defend.



Taydem Haley looks to drive to the hoop.

PALMER BOYS | from page 9

Class C. tournament with the Rams celebrating a 51-36 victory.

"Granby was a very tough team for us to play against last year. We're hoping to be able to beat them this year," Rucker said. "Our league is very difficult with some other good teams like Southwick, Monson, and Ware."

The Panthers defeated cross-town rival Pathfinder Tech, 79-51, at home in a preliminary game of the Division 5 state tournament. Their season came to an end following a road loss to Douglas High School in the Round of 32.

This year's preseason practices went very smoothly for Rucker and her players.

"It has been a lot easier this year because I already know what to expect from these guys. The players have been very focused at practice," said Rucker, who's a Student Adjustment Counselor at Palmer High School. "I really didn't know them very well at the start of last season."

After hosting Southwick in the season opener on December 13, the Panthers will be playing six consecutive road games before returning home to battle Granby on January 14.

"We must stay strong mentally during our six-game road trip. I think these guys can handle it," Rucker said. "We did have a better record on the road than we did at home last year. I'm hoping that we play very well both on the road and at home this season."

While there aren't any seniors listed on the varsity roster, the Panthers are an experienced basketball team with seven returning varsity players.

Rucker, who has also been the varsity softball coach at Ludlow High School since 2019, is coaching a team without any seniors for



Gavin Smola takes a free throw.

the first time.

"I'm just going to coach the players who are here," she said. "We do have a bunch of juniors and sophomores, along with a freshman and a seventh grader on the varsity team."

The Palmer tri-captains are junior Dylan Doherty, junior Matt Santos, and sophomore Taydem Haley, who are guards.

"The three captains are very good leaders," Rucker added. "They lead by example on and off the court."

Haley finished his freshman season with 245 points and was the Panthers leading scorer. He made 19 3-pointers.

The trio were also key members of the football team this past fall.

Santos was the starting quarterback, while Doherty and Haley are both running backs.

Doherty rushed for more than 1,000 yards this past season.

"Pretty much what you see on the football field is what kind of a player Dylan is on the basketball

court," Rucker said. "He's a workhorse and he'll always give you 110 percent in every game."

The junior duo of Stephen Fredette and Gavin Smola, who also played football, are returning centers.

Adonis Dupre, who's a guard, and Jordan Jones, who's a forward, are also members of the junior class. Jones transferred to Palmer from Oxford High School before the start of the school year.

The Panther's other four sophomores are Hunter Baird (forward), Dylan Holbrook (forward), Griffin Nawrocki (guard), and Joziah Martinez (guard), who didn't play basketball a year ago."

Rounding out the varsity boys' basketball roster are freshman guard Liam McKee, and seventh grade TJ Smola, who's also a guard. The duo will be splitting time between the junior varsity and varsity squads.

Palmer opened the season with a 52-24 win over Southwick. Santos and Smola had 13 points each in the win.



Dayne Shanley takes a mid-range shot.



The Panthers were scheduled to face Southwick in its season opener.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Palmer reached the tournament last year and made it to the state semifinals.



The girls will have competition this week before some time off for the holidays.



Palmer will have a new coach, Jill Shaw, this season.

PALMER GIRLS

| from page 9

Shaw was the head coach of the women's basketball team at Bay Path University in Longmeadow. She also coached the girls' varsity basketball teams at Windsor High School in Connecticut, and at West Springfield High School.

"The girls basketball program here at Palmer High School has been very successful during the past few years. I'm very excited to be the new varsity coach," said Shaw, who played college basketball at Assumption University in Worcester. "The girls have been working very hard so far at practice."

While Shaw was coaching at West Springfield, the assistant varsity coach was Missy Rucker, who's currently the boys' varsity basketball coach at Palmer High School.

"I took a year off from coaching basketball and Missy told me that this coaching position was open," Shaw said. "I really enjoy coaching because you're able to teach the players about the game of basketball and about life lessons."

During the three seasons that Charlotte Theriault was a member of the Lady Panthers varsity basketball team, she scored a total of 1,164 career points. She led the way offensively last season with 570 points. Theriault was also a member of the Lady Panthers soccer team.

In her final basketball game wearing a Palmer uniform, Theriault scored 31 points in a heart-breaking 58-57 overtime loss against the West Boylston Lions in the Division 5 semifinals.

The only other Palmer players to score in that contest were Vanessa Baer and Jordan Bigda, who each scored 13 points. Baer and Bigda were the only seniors on last year's team.

The Lady Panthers did return several players, and they added a couple newcomers to their varsity roster this season.

"We have an array of players from seniors straight on down to seventh graders," Shaw said. "We have a variety of experienced players and newcomers."

The four Lady Panthers seniors are Madison Rathbone, Loretta Petrasiewicz, Jayda Pardo, and Nevaeh Solis.

"I'm hoping the four seniors

will be our leaders this year," Shaw said. "They're very good basketball players."

Pardo scored 125 points as a junior and which is the most points scored by a returning player.

Rathbone and Petrasiewicz are also returning varsity players, while Solis is a newcomer.

There isn't any juniors listed on the varsity roster and the only two sophomores are Addyson Petrasiewicz, who's a returning varsity player, and Rylee Ostiguy, who's a first-year varsity player.

The only freshman is Lilian Pronovost.

Rounding out the girls' varsity basketball roster are eighth graders Anabelle and Evelyn Ladue, along with seventh graders Harper Brouillette, Anna King, Aria Normpleggi, and Maya Rodriguez.

Jack Letendre, who's the last member of the Panthers boys' basketball team to score 1,000 career points, will be coaching the Lady Panthers junior varsity team.

The Lady Panthers, who are members of the Franklin North League, were scheduled to begin the regular season on Tuesday night by hosting Southwick in a non-league contest.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WNECA Doubles at Bogey Lanes

EAST BROOKFIELD – Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield was the host of the most recent Western New England Candlepin Association doubles tournament this past weekend.

WNECA is dedicated to promoting the game of candlepin bowling throughout western Massachusetts. For years, Bogey Lanes has been a gracious host for tournaments and continues to support tournaments through the WNECA.

The doubles tournament this past weekend was a great success with over 30 teams showing up over the course of four shifts. The results are in, and the winning

team was Brandon Martins and Rob Poirier.

Both bowlers regularly bowl out of Agawam Bowl in Agawam, and bowled excellently during day one of the tournament. Along with their handicap and scratch totals the team of Martins and Poirier combined for a score of 893 to win the doubles at Bogey Lanes.

It was a good day on the lanes for Martins as he bowled a series of 409. This was the second time Brandon Martins bowled a 400 series during the WNECA tournament series.

The team who finished in second place were Jason Gauthier Sr. and Tiffany Gauthier with a combined score of 850. In third place, the team of Erica and Craig Beaudry scored an 839.

A total of nine teams placed in the doubles tournament at Bogey Lanes. The teams who fin-

ished fourth through ninth were within fifteen points of each other. Chris and Laurie Lafreniere finished in fourth with an 830, Robby Wood and Nick Brown with a 826, Stacy Bloomberg and Steve Champagne with a 823, Tharen Ring and Chris Cincotta with 820 and the team of Cody Brunelle and Kyle Wilder tied at 815 with Trever Kenneson and Sophia Hearnlaye.

The point standings for the tournament series have been posted on the WNECA Facebook page. After the doubles event at Bogey, Brandon Martins is leading in points as the #1 seed. His teammate from the doubles Rob Poirier is currently in third place.

The WNECA will host a championship bracket tournament featuring the top 24 bowlers after the conclusion of the tournament series. After a successful doubles tournament, Martins and

Poirier are in good shape to compete in the championship tournament at the end of the year.

The next WNECA tournament will be in January at the Turn Hall in Adams and the event will be singles.

Commercial Elks League

PALMER – Compression bowled against Last in Line this past Tuesday night in the Commercial Elks League.

In game one, Last in Line defeated Compression by a score of 362-318. In game two, Compression bounced back with a win of their own, 409-342. In game three, Last in Line took the final game 396-350. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line finished with a 117 and his teammate Jeremy Laduke finished with a 114.

The final score was 1100-1077 in favor of Last in Line and the team received three points.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Dominic Jarry

Pathfinder



At Pathfinder wrestling's first competition of the year, Jarry finished third at 175 pounds at the Knight-Hawk Classic in Holyoke.

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

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T-Birds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-2-0) dispatched a 4-1 second intermission deficit to earn a standings point before ultimately falling in overtime, 5-4, to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (14-7-1-0) on Saturday night at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Upstart rookie Rutger McGroarty quickly got the Penguins on the board on their Teddy Bear Toss night as he took a delicate saucer pass from Joona Koppanen and deked to the forehand to tuck it behind Vadim Zherenko just 1:53 into the opening period.

The T-Birds were able to draw two power play opportunities while trailing 1-0, but the Penguins' penalty kill dispatched both of the Springfield man-up situations. Special teams continued to trend in the home team's direction as the Penguins cashed in on their first power play on a goal by Emil Bemstrom at 16:06

of the frame to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Filip Larsson was not heavily taxed in Penguins crease in the first, but he came up with the nine saves asked of him to start the night.

Thanks to their top offensive unit, the T-Birds yelled some of the Penguins' momentum at 5:17 of the second. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki took a drop feed from Leo Loof and whipped it in the low slot to Dalibor Dvorsky. While Larsson slid across to deny the T-Birds' star rookie, the rebound trickled behind the netminder, allowing Marcus Sylvegard to backhand it into the yawning net to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Special teams, though, proved to be Springfield's undoing once again just 3:16 later as Valtteri Puustinen slipped behind in the defense on a power play and chipped a backhand past Zhe-

renko to make it a 3-1 Penguins lead.

Late in the period, the Thunderbirds thought they had solved Larsson on a power play scramble in the crease, but after a review, the goal was washed out, and Bemstrom took advantage with just 18 seconds left in the frame, snapping a wrist shot under the crossbar, extending the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrist over Larsson's glove just 17 seconds into the period to make it a 4-2 contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

Larsson and the Penguins tightened to hold the fort into

the game's final two minutes, but a penalty with 2:09 on the clock handed Springfield another power play and a chance to get an equalizer. With Zherenko at the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds seized the moment as Matt Luff found Kaskimaki in the slot, and the rookie's snapper eluded Larsson to tie the game with 1:56 left.

The Thunderbirds had another power play chance to close out regulation, but the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill shut it down to get the game into the extra period.

Unfortunately, the T-Birds' magic ran out in the extra session as a penalty gave the Penguins a 4-on-3 power play, and Bemstrom completed his hat trick with a spinning jam shot at 4:27 of the overtime to snap the T-Birds winning streak. Despite coming short of victory, Springfield earned standings points for the 11th time in its last 13 games.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

Administration Awards \$9.9 Million to Expand Individual Homelessness Winter Capacity

Municipalities, Shelter Providers, and Community-Based Organizations to Receive Supplemental Grants

BOSTON- In anticipation of increased wintertime shelter needs for individuals experiencing homelessness, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has awarded \$9.9 million in supplemental grants for shelter providers, municipalities, and community-based organizations to open or expand seasonal shelter bed capacity.

Through EOHLC's Division of Housing Stabilization's One Time Grants to Expand Capacity, Clinical Support Options has been awarded \$1,053,449 to add an additional 22 beds and capacity to serve 100 people in warming centers in Springfield, Greenfield

and Northampton.

"This funding comes at a critical time when residents experiencing homelessness in the Hampden district and across the Pioneer Valley will face harsh weather conditions", said Senator Adam Gomez. "I'm thankful to Secretary Augustus and the Healey-Driscoll administration for ensuring our most vulnerable men, women and children have access to robust wrap-around services intended to establish stability in their lives."

"Our nonprofit community partners provide a lifeline to individuals who are struggling with the very basic need of a safe place to lay their head at night," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "In addition, these organizations are well-equipped to connect individuals with other important services ranging from behavioral health to the search for permanent housing, which helps lift people out of homelessness."

Annually, EOHLC supports

2,514 year-round beds and 363 winter beds for individuals experiencing homelessness. The funding will support 595 additional winter beds and will expand daytime warming centers to prevent unsheltered homelessness during the cold winter months. Shelters are run by nonprofit organizations that receive funding from the state.

For more information, please contact Senator Gomez's office at Adam.Gomez@MASenate.gov.

Railers get point, fall in shootout

WORCESTER – It has been one of those weekends that seem like a month for the Railers. They have battled one of the ECHL's best teams in the Trois-Rivieres Lions and changed a coach all at the same time.

Worcester lost its final game under Bob Deraney, 5-3, Friday night. They lost their first game under Nick Tuzzolino, 3-2, Saturday night but it was one of those half-a-loaf deals. The Railers earned a point with a shootout loss.

It says something about the Lions that Worcester played one of its best games in recent weeks and still could not get two points. Trois-Rivieres is loaded with offensive opportunists and flawless goaltending.

The Railers out shot the visitors, 41-26, but still could not outscore them. It was, however, an encouraging start to Tuzzolino's head coaching career and in general he liked what he saw.

"I don't want to say that I was excited about how we played," he said, "because the result wasn't there, but we made a few minor adjustments in clogging up the neutral zone and our forecheck, and I thought they were really good."

The goal scorers were Justin Kaplan and Matthew Kopperud for Worcester while the Lions got two goals from Cormier. The first was from

Xavier Cormier, the second from Tommy Cormier. Alex Beaucage had the only shootout goal.

It was a good goaltending night both ways. Zachary Emond made 39 saves for the Lions. Michael Bullion, who had been in a slump, stopped 23 and made the save of the night early in the third period.

He stopped Logan Nijhoff on a penalty shot at 2:31. The period was Bullion's best as he also made some big saves late to keep the score at 2-2.

Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhand.

Kopperud scored from the right circle at 14:26 to give Worcester a 2-1 lead, then Tommy Cormier converted a long breakaway at 18:01.

"If we can carbon-copy what we did tonight," Tuzzolino said, "I don't see us losing more than a couple games here and there. It's one of those things where that type of system can plug in play some players and drive some teams wild up front."

"I guess my overall goal is to work on the consistency of that this week because we'll have a good stretch and really have all things firing for Maine. It's a very big weekend for us."

GRANT | from page 1

Councillor Mark Caci asked how long the process would be to submit the grant and to hear back.

"We won't know until probably after July 1," Latour said. "I think it was September, when they announced the awards."

Councillor Phil Herbert confirmed that there would be public hearings during the process of pursuing the grant.

"Participation of people going to those and signing their name is a big part of the town getting a grant," Herbert said. "From what I remember from ALICE and stuff, a big part of getting that grant is public participation."

The council voted to approve Community Development's request to the grant for \$850,000.

Community Development's mission statement is listed on the town's website as "meeting the housing and service needs of the low- and moderate-income population, building and repairing infrastructure vital to the health and safety of the residents, and supporting business development and retention."

To get in touch with Community Development, call 413-283-2614, or send an email to CommunityDevelopment@TownOfPalmer.com.

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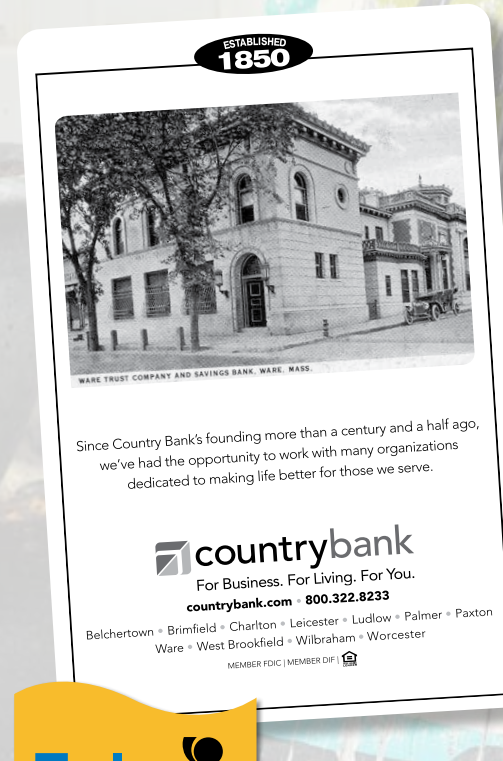
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PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 27, 2025



Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 25 State Street, Monson, MA 01057
 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert L. Meacham II to RBS Citizens, N.A., and now held by Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A., said mortgage dated November 24, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 114, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 19, 2023 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25009, Page 341; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on January 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

23 Messenger Street
 2nd Floor
 Plainville, MA 02762
 Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.
 Present Holder of the Mortgage
 (401) 217-8701
 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Hampden Division
 Docket No. HD24P2450EA
 Estate of:
 Richard Jerome O'Connor
 Date of Death: August 20, 2024
 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Jesse O'Connor of Monson, MA. Jesse O'Connor of Monson, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration of the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 12/19/2024

**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. HD24P2556EA
 Estate of:
 Donna M Regan
 Also known as:
 Donna Marie Regan
 Date of Death: 09/04/2024
 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 **Thomas Apuzzo of Armonk, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Thomas Apuzzo of Armonk, NY** 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 01/07/2025. 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 10, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 12/19/2024

**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. HD15P1865EA
 Estate of:
 Katherine J Shea
 Date of Death: 05/26/2010
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: **City of Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **John J. Ferriter, Esq.** of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 01/08/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. The estate is being

administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**
 Date: December 11, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 12/19/2024

**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. HD24P2570EA
 Estate of:
 Eugene C Vandall
 Also known as:
 Eugene Clifford Vandall
 Date of Death: 09/30/2024
 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 **Doreen J Stanuch of Belchertown, 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: **Doreen J Stanuch of Belchertown, 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 01/08/2025. 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 11, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 12/19/2024

More notices on page 14



Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3

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