

# The Journal Register

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SCHOOLS

## Winter CARNIVAL

**Junior Class wins at Monson High this past week**

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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MONSON – Every year, the students at the high school get to participate in a Winter Carnival to kick off the February vacation. “I thought it went really well,” said Coach Eric Degnan. “The student body had good time, it’s a nice way to get into vacation week.”

Degnan praised the work of the Student Council and their advisor, Georgia Perrault, who put “a lot of time and effort” into arranging the events.

“That’s something we’ve done for well beyond 40 years,” Degnan said. “It’s rare, there aren’t a lot of schools that do that. We always tell the kids that we keep doing it because they do a great job with it.”

The overall Winter Carnival involves dress-up days, a poster contest, and decorations in the hallway, along with the athletic events held in the gymnasium. On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the school held an evening volleyball competition from 6-8:30 p.m., followed by the events in the gymnasium in the afternoon of Feb. 14, which included eight different competitions, including an obstacle course designed by the faculty.

“The obstacle course is something we’ve done for a number of years,” Degnan said. “That’s the biggest event there, the kids have one person on the floor. A lot of the other activities have six, eight, 10, 12 kids out there. The kids that were part of that did a really good job.”



Faculty members faced off against the junior class in the final event of the Winter Carnival.



Students dashed across the gymnasium to compete against their classmates in the three-legged race.

All that practice paid off when it was time for these Class of 2025 students to participate in the three-legged race.

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SCHOOLS

## Supt. updates School Comm. on evaluation goals

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER - At its Feb. 12 meeting, the School Committee heard updates on the district’s Evaluation Goals from the Superintendent.

After receiving student reports from the High School and Old Mill Pond, the committee heard Superintendent Matthew Francis’s report on the school’s Evaluation Goals.

“Being halfway through the school year, I thought it was an appropriate time to go through where I’m at with the evaluation goals that were approved in September,” Francis said. “This mid-cycle update is in regards to those three goals.”

Francis reiterated the three goals that the district

and building administrators established prior to the start of the school year, related to providing a baseline data point, and then one following later in the year,” Francis



File photo

student learning, professional practice, and school and district improvement.

Francis said that the Student Learning Goal was to conduct two learning walks across the district’s two buildings.

“I went through in September to go over the benefits of learning walks,

said. “By the end of October of 2024, teams from both buildings had been selected and trained on learning walk-through protocols.

The first key action was to select dates and a focus of inquiries for both of the buildings. By the end of February, two learning walkthroughs for each building will have

been completed.

“We conducted our first on Oct. 24, and our next one is scheduled for Feb. 27,” Francis said. “By the end of May 2025, a summary of findings will be reported back, and we do a summary of findings to staff after each learning walk; that is, we spend the afternoon of that day compiling all of our data, looking for trends, and then the group compiles the findings to be reported out.”

This ties in with the district’s professional development goal throughout the year as well. The Professional Practice Goal has to do with the New Superintendent Induction program, which is in its second year and is put on by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

Key actions for this are to attend four day-long in-person sessions, as well as five

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PALMER

## Fire Dept. projects offering ALS services

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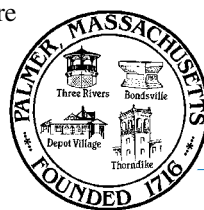
PALMER – At last week’s Town Council meeting, the Fire Department presented a proposition to meet the town’s need for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

The Feb. 10 meeting began with a history of the Palmer Ambulance Service from Bob Haveles. Following that, Town Manager Brad Brothers reviewed the situation, going back to the town receiving notification on Oct. 24, 2024, that Palmer Ambulance would no longer be able to service medical emergencies.

“I reached out to both the Fire Department, because they had just added on BLS service, maybe about 30 days before that date, so they were live for about a month,” Brothers said, “and also the Police Department, to see what the Fire Department could do to pick up

what was going to be lost by Palmer Ambulance.”

Brothers highlighted that the department has 24/7 coverage at the Basic Life Support level as of Nov. 1, 2024, but that Advanced Life Support requires different resources and certifications.



“Under each community, there needs to be a Service Zone Plan that basically says what the primary ambulance is throughout the town”

— Lieutenant John Fitzgerald

“I started having conversations with three different ALS service providers

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CONSERVATION

## Commission convenes about summer camp expansion

Tessa Quinn  
Correspondent

PALMER— On Feb. 5, Palmer’s Conservation Commission heard about a proposed expansion to Camp Ramah.

The Jewish Summer camp is hoping to expand their facilities with a 5,000 square foot building in an area off Bennett Street, just north of Pattaquatic Pond. According to the civil engineer working on the project, Jeff Labeau, the building will be used as a new Health Center for the camp.

During the meeting,

Labeau informed commission members that the proposed plan was approved by the Planning Board on Jan. 27.

The commission did not have any further questions regarding the camp’s plan, and the public hearing regarding the proposed construction was closed. Members approved to issue the order of conditions for the project.

In addition to hearing about plans for Camp Ramah, the commission also heard about a Fuller Road homeowner looking to



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MONSON

## Board reviews policy updates from Town Counsel

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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MONSON - At last week’s Select Board meeting, the members reviewed policy updates with the Town Administrator.

The Feb. 11 Select Board meeting began with Chair John Morrell offering an apology to Roxanne Gunther.

“My reaction while she was speaking was not correct, and I apologize to her for that” Morrell said.

Though it was listed as an agenda item, Town Administrator Jennifer

Wolowicz did not provide a Town Administrator’s Report for the meeting, instead highlighting “two or three” storms that were oncoming for this month, including the snowstorm from last week, and outlined what to expect from town departments during that time.

“Sometimes there are going to be times where the Town Offices, the library, and the Council on Aging need to have limited hours, are closed for the day, or delayed opening depending on what the track of the storm is,” Wolowicz said. “We try to make that decision sooner rather than



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## BASKETBALL

### Palmer prevails over visiting Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Holding onto a lead has been an issue for the Ware girls' basketball team this season.

The Lady Indians held a slim 19-18 advantage against archrival Palmer with 2:50 left in the third quarter.

The Lady Panthers managed to score the final five points of the quarter, and they also added 14 more points during the fourth quarter for a 37-24 home victory on senior night, last Tuesday.

"We've had a hard time holding onto leads this season," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We struggled offensively in the second half of tonight's game. We missed a bunch of inside shots. We also gave up some easy shots defensively. It's a very frustrating loss."

While neither team qualified for the Western Mass. Class C tournament,



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com  
**Addyson Petrashewicz and Loretta Petrashewicz double up on this defensive maneuver.**

the Lady Indians (10-8), who lost their fourth game in a row, did qualify for the Division 5 state tournament because they finished the

regular season with a .500 or better record. They were ranked 35th in the MIAA power rankings.

"We haven't played very

well in two weeks," Orszulak added. "Hopefully, we can play better in the state tournament."

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**Loretta Petrashewicz breaks to the paint.**



**Madison Rathbone has her eyes on the net.**



**Anabelle Ladue shoots the jumper.**

### Pioneers finish with one of best records in team history



**Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop with a low dribble.**



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Addison Doktor passes out of the paint.**



**Megan Clark looks to shoot.**



**Greenly Lagimoniere passes as she clears midcourt.**

PALMER—Last week, despite a setback against Sci-Tech, the Pathfinder girls basketball team rebounded to defeat Hampden Charter 52-36 and finish with an overall record of 15-3. Its one of the best marks the girls basketball team has ever had. Earlier this week, the Pioneers were set to participate in the Western Mass. Class C Tournament, taking on Lee High School on the road in the quarterfinals. The Pioneers will also get to take part in the state tournament, which begins next week.



**Taylor Allen fights to keep the ball.**

## BASKETBALL



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Jake Beaupre gets ready to cross midcourt.**



**Shane Szado grabs a pass.**



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Trey Dillahunt works around a Ludlow guard.**

### Dillahunt, Meacham led Mustangs to win

MONSON – Last Tuesday night, Monson High School boys basketball defeated Ludlow 66-44. Trey Dillahunt and Austin Meacham both led the offense in a big way. Dillahunt finished

with a game-high 28 points while Meacham sank 25 points. Monson entered the Western Mass. Class D Tournament, facing Smith Academy earlier this week.



**Austin Meacham makes an off-balance rebound.**

## ICE HOCKEY

### Amherst hockey gets top seed in tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – This week, the Amherst Regional High School ice hockey team will participate in the Western Mass Class B Tournament. The tournament, which will be held at Olympia Ice Center, will feature the top four teams in each class. Amherst, which co-ops with Pathfinder, will have the No. 1 seed, facing McCann Tech in the semifinals early this week. If the Hurricanes are successful, the Hurricanes would then face the winner

of league rivals Agawam and Easthampton.

Amherst closed out its regular season with a 3-1 win against Taconic last Thursday evening at Orr Rink. All three goals in the game came from Benjamin Remensnyder. Amherst only allowed one first period goal to the Braves. The Hurricanes entered the tournament 11-5-1 and will be in action on next week in the state tournament. Seeds for that tournament will be announced this weekend.