

TOWN Reminder

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Santa visits Buttery Brook Park

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – For 52 years, Buttery Brook Park has transformed into a Christmas wonderland, filled with lights, music, and more to explore.

The lights are set up by the South Hadley Parks Department, and the Friends of Buttery Brook Park work together to decorate the cabin for Santa and sponsor free cookies handed out by Mrs. Claus and hot chocolate for all to enjoy.

“We volunteer as we want to keep the Santa’s Land tradition alive and going. Last weekend, we had a great grandmother tell us stories of when she would bring her children and grandchildren to Santa’s Land over the years,” said Kristina Malone and Dave Bernier, Santa’s Land co-chairs and Friends of Buttery Brook Park board members.

The Friends of Buttery Brook are dedicated to bringing Santa’s Land to the people of



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Please see **SANTA**, page 6

Santa listening intently to sisters Izabella and Stella excitedly tell him stories and more.

Human Rights Commission brainstorms unity ideas

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Human Rights Commission met to discuss DEIB initiatives, as well as to begin thinking about the Master Plan as the new year approaches.

Chair Renee Sweeney held the December 11 meeting, and also in attendance were Vice Chair Danielle Cooke, Clerk Lori Souder, and members Dick Matteson, Jackson Matos, and Judy Gooch.

MPIC Liaisons Report

Members from the Master Plan Implementation Committee Liaisons came to the committee in order to give a report and express a desire to increase communication in more effec-

Please see **RIGHTS**, page 5



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The Johnson Family and staff would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported us throughout the years.

We continue to look back fondly on the friendships we have with our customers, built on honesty & trust, throughout our many years in business. The greatest gift a small business can receive is a loyal customer, and we are proud to be of service to you all. We are thinking of you during this festive time of year and send our warmest wishes for a bright, joyful, safe, & healthy New Year to you and your loved ones!

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Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

► South Hadley

Selectboard accepts donation for Comfort Dog Program

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Everyone has hard days sometimes, and for many people, a foolproof way to ease anxiety, stress, and find some sort of comfort, is through petting a fluffy animal.

Police departments have been utilizing this fact and have instituted Comfort Dog Programs. Like Oliver in Belchertown and Auggie in Amherst, South Hadley has finally joined the Comfort Dog team, with nine-week-old English Lab, Murphy.

The Murphy has been with the police department for about a week now, and his presence has already been very rewarding, with the department themselves feeling more at ease and experiencing more joy at Murphy's presence.

The Selectboard met with representatives from Mount Holyoke College, Assistant Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement Josh Powers, and President of College Relations Cassandra Jolley, to receive a \$4,000 donation.

The money will go towards funding the training and necessary licenses that will be needed in order for Murphy to become an officially registered comfort dog.

"It is Mount Holyoke's absolute pleasure to support something very special for our community," said Jolley. "We know Murphy will be a wonderful addition to our community."

"Comfort dogs are becoming very prevalent in community policing, and they have a measurable impact on serving the community," Powers said.

With 2,000 students on Mount Holyoke's Campus, the school is happy to help a program that will in turn be able to help the students in a school so embedded within the community.

"It means a great deal to have Murphy as a partner," said Officer Emily Tebo, who will have Murphy as her trusty partner. "He will be able to help on calls where it is appropriate and safe for him to hop out of the car."

Having Murphy present on calls can help someone hesitant

to talk to be able to open up easier, especially in cases of high anxiety.

"He's going to be a huge asset to both us and the community on mental health related calls," said Tebo. "The change in the station has been pretty cool to see. He's going to do just as much for officer's mental health and well-being as he will with the members of the community."

"I am equally excited for what Murphy will bring to my colleagues at the South Hadley Police Department, but also to the people in the community," said Police Chief Jennifer Gunderson.

"I'm grateful that Mount Holyoke is funding the program. They're amazing supporters, and they do a lot to show they are invested in the community," said Gunderson.

The gift and positive effects of Murphy's presence has already been felt by Tebo just at home, and he is calming, silly, and sweet to everyone he meets.

"He has the ability to change peoples' demeanor and body language within a few seconds of being around him," said Tebo. "I have seen it happen with our co-workers in the few days he has been at the station with us."

Being able to spend time with Murphy, Officer Tebo has seen the little puppy grow and is excited to work with him more as he interacts with his big sister mastiff at home.

"I'm excited for him to start learning basic commands like sit and stay," said Tebo. "Right now, he is still learning his name and getting used to being in different environments with different people and sounds."



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Officer Emily Tebo holding Murphy with Chief Jennifer Gunderson (right) holding the presented check from Mount Holyoke representatives Cassandra Jolley and Josh Powers.



Meet Murphy, South Hadley's new comfort dog, ready for snuggles and to meet you.



Jolley thanking the Selectboard for this opportunity as little Murphy waited patiently.


Officer Tebo and the rest of the department are looking forward to having Murphy with them on the team and can't wait for him to get into the rest of the community to see the difference he can make.



Officer Emily Tebo holding little Murphy, who is absolutely tuckered out from his big day at the Selectboard meeting.

“
IT IS MOUNT HOLYOKE'S ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO SUPPORT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FOR OUR COMMUNITY.”
KASSANDRA JOLLY
MOUNT HOLYOKE REPRESENTATIVE

St. Barnabas Anglican Church



Christmas Eve Mass of Lessons & Carols
Tuesday, December 24 at 10 p.m.
18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown
Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh
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CLOSED: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, CLOSING EARLY: New Year's Eve



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
 Members of the police department ready to accept toy donations, with Comfort Dog Murphy ready for hugs.



Lieutenant Mark Baran dressed as Santa, as he and Murphy show off the packed-full trunk of the cruiser.

Local police collect toys for the community

By Emily-Rose Pappas
 Staff Writer
 epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – With Christmas just next week, the time for gift giving is upon us, but for many people, the idea of shopping for gifts can be a stressful idea.

With the costs of pretty much everything so high, it is difficult for many people to imagine or budget effectively for gifts, but the town of South Hadley has many generous members within it.

The Police Department held a stuff-a-cruiser event at the high school parking lot, and people could come by to drop off unwrapped gifts for kids of all ages, and filled the trunks of the cruisers there.

“It means a lot to us to see the cruisers getting filled with toys,” said Officer Emily Tebo. “We know these toys will be going to local homes of those. We want to be able to help our community members directly.”

Along for the day was new comfort dog in training, nine-week-old English Lab Murphy, who brought smiles to everyone’s faces, bundled up in a little vest to keep warm on a cold day.

“I’m most excited to get Murphy out into the community more and more. In the week that he has been a part of our department, I have already seen the benefits of having him around,” said Tebo.

The toy donations were put together and given to local pan-

try Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the location the toys have gone to for the past two years.

“We’ve got a lot of good community members here,” said Detective Trudy Romanovicz. “It’s good to see everything stay in town, and that the town can help their neighbors.”

Local businesses and families came by to drop off cars, stuffed animals, board games, action figures, craft kits, baby dolls, and more for kids of all ages to be able to have under the tree this Christmas.

“My favorite part about the South Hadley community is the willingness to help each other out. When we have events like the food drive or the toy drive, we always get a good showing. I’m always impressed how much gets collected in a single day,” Tebo said.

Many people came out to help for the day, including high school criminal justice student Bonnie Duerpholc, who helped collect the toys being dropped off and load them into the cruiser.

Murphy the Comfort Dog was an excellent helper as well, keeping everyone smiling and warm with his cuddly nature, many people came with toys and spent a little time longer to give him some pats and get a candy cane.

“Whether it is with community members or other officers in our department, there are smiles instantly when people see him. I know he will be an asset to the department and the town,” said



Lieutenant Mark Baran as Santa, waving to cars driving by.



There were so many toys, a van had to start being filled next!

Tebo.

The police department is dedicated to the community of South Hadley, and is looking forward to the years to come, to see the cruisers fill with toys, and the community come out to help and support one another.

“My favorite part of the toy drive was knowing the toys were staying local. Speaking with members of Neighbors Helping Neighbors after the drive was over and hearing how thankful they were, was very rewarding,” said Tebo.



One of two fully-packed cruisers with toys ready to go home with kids who need them this Christmas.



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Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Hampshire Sheriff explains role in immigration detention

By Patrick J. Cahillane
Sheriff, Hampshire County

I realize that many residents may have questions regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs agency and how it interacts with local and state law enforcement.

I have a legal responsibility to the residents of Hampshire County to ensure that the Hampshire Sheriff's Office follows the law. I hope the following statement will help educate people on the HSO's responsibilities under existing state law.

As the Sheriff of Hampshire County, I make every effort to be transparent in how the Hampshire Sheriff's Office operates. I am writing this to clarify the HSO's responsibility to public safety and meeting our legal obligations under the state Constitution, existing Massachusetts law, and the laws written by the Legislature and interpreted by judges in our court system.

This is how I understand the current responsibilities as dictated by those entities in regard to ICE:

In 2017, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in *Lunn v. Commonwealth* that it is unlawful for state and local officials to arrest immigrants based on civil immigration detainers issued by ICE. As a result, I, as the Sheriff of Hampshire County and a state public safety official, will not detain or hold a person in custody based solely on the existence of an ICE detainer.

If, however, an immigrant is arrested on a criminal charge unrelated to his or her immigration status – burglary or assault, for example – then my office will provide care and custody for that individual based on orders issued from the court of jurisdiction, as we do with all individuals facing criminal charges. In such a circumstance, ICE would be legally entitled to certain information about a criminally charged immigrant, such as last known address, dates for court appearances, sentencing parameters and date of release.

That is the law as it currently stands, and I will follow it.

The HSO operates within the scope and parameters of federal, state and local laws and regulations. In relation to ICE detainers, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court determined in *Lunn v. Commonwealth*, 477 Mass. 517 (2017) that it is unlawful for state and local law enforcement to arrest or detain people solely on the basis of an ICE detainer, beyond the time that the individual would otherwise be entitled to be released from state custody.

The Hampshire Sheriff's Office is bound to follow the law of the Commonwealth, and therefore cannot hold an individual based on an ICE detention request alone, if that incarcerated individual is not subject to separate judicially issued detention orders.

For reference, an ICE detainer is not an arrest warrant. Warrants represent a command issued by a judge or magistrate directing law enforcement agencies to arrest or hold an individual. In contrast, an ICE detainer – by its own terms – constitutes a request from an employee of the Department of Homeland Security that law enforcement detain a person.

The *Lunn* decision clearly articulates the scope of enforcement authority granted to law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth.

I am an immigrant. I arrived in Northampton from Ireland when I was 10 years old, so I have some understanding of the immigrant experience and adapting to a new way of life. It is traumatic enough moving to a new country and then having to worry about arrest and deportation when you are only seeking a better life.

Please see **SHERIFF**, page 5



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Electric cars save money in South Hadley

South Hadley is a very good place to own an electric vehicle. This is because we have electric rates that are about half that of non Municipal Light Plant towns. Electric cars cost less to run compared to gasoline powered cars. They are much more efficient than internal combustion engine cars which have many hundreds of moving parts whereas electric cars only have about 100. There is much less to go wrong. There's little or no maintenance on an electric car. There is no oil to change, no transmission worries, and there's no muffler to worry about being stolen. For that matter, electric cars are less likely to be stolen than gas cars. The brakes seldom need attention because with regenerative braking the car slows when you take your foot off the accelerator. I seldom touch the brakes except when coming to a complete stop to hold a car in place.

This is a particularly good time to buy EVs as in 2025 there are going to be several inexpensive EVs available. There is already one, the Chevy Equinox EV, which has a price of about \$35,000 with a federal tax incentive of \$7,500 and a Mass state incentive (MOR-EV) of \$3,500. Now that we have direct pay, the most dealers can take the federal incentive off of the price of the car at the time of sale regardless of your tax liability. If you got a \$4000 trade-in that brings

the price of the car down to \$20,000. Some companies even pay for a level two charger to be installed in your home.

Because of the cars's rapid acceleration, you need to be careful not to spin the tires while accelerating or to exceed the speed limit. You should also be certain to check the car's eligibility, your income eligibility, and a continuing status of these offers due to political changes. One of the unexpected joys of electric vehicles is that you no longer need to stand at a gas station on a winter day, gloves off to hold the credit card, while holding a nozzle and smelling the gasoline going into your car.

EVs Under \$40,000

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/affordable-evs-electric-cars-you-can-get-for-under-40000-dollars>

Plug-In Hybrid Electric for Under \$40,000

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/plug-in-hybrid-electric-vehicles-under-40000-dollars>

Chevrolet Equinox EV

https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1145264_chevrolet-equinox-ev-green-car-reports-best-car-to-buy-2025-finalist

John Howard
South Hadley Resident



Snowy owls have already been spotted in Massachusetts this year.

They come from the tundra area of Canada into the United States during the winter. Usually, the snowy owls that head to this area are immature. This irruptive behavior may or may not be coordinated with the lem-

ming cycle, one of their primary foods especially during their breeding cycle.

The snowy owl is about 24 inches long and primarily white, yellow eyes and variable amounts of black spots and barring. Immatures are darker than adults and females darker than males.

Snowy owls frequently hunt during the day. Their diet is mainly rodents, Arctic and snowshoe hares, fish, birds including waterfowl and carrion.

They nest on the tundra in a shallow depression on a mound on top or on a gravel mound. They line the nest with feathers and bits of moss. The female lays three to ten

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

TURLEY ELECTION POLICY

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising represen-

tatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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www.turley.com

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white eggs. When prey is abundant the clutch size is larger. They make barking noises during breeding, but are quiet in winter.

They inhabit the open tundra and when they move south, they inhabit airports, beaches, marshes and open fields.

Many years ago, a snowy owl appeared in Oakham during the winter. I was lucky to see it perched on a fence post near an open field in the daytime. People came from all over to see this rare visitor. Logan Airport is a popular winter stop over.



Snowy owl

all birds within a 15-mile diameter "count circle." All are welcome. Compilers do their best to make sure that beginners join a group with at least one experienced birder. Locations in late December include: Quabbin on Saturday, Dec. 28 compiler Scott Sumner at ssumner@aol.com and Westminster on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 compiler Charles Caron at 978-874-5649 or caronev@aol.com.

People may visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to read about CBC history, science and data.

Juncos and snow

The Brimfield resident noted a large flock of juncos about 40 the day before the Dec. 5 snow storm. He said, "Storms a commin' I looked out near where the feeding stations are located and where I spread mixed seed on the ground and a quick count resulted in 40 junco. And chickadees and titmice were constantly back and forth to the black oil sunflower seed feeder." I also saw a large flock of juncos on my daughter's lawn in Barre on that Wednesday.

Pond visits

The Brimfield resident makes frequent trips to ponds in his area. He found most of them frozen over on Dec. 4. He did count 12 hooded mergansers at Holland Pond, a large group of mallards over 200 and three black ducks at Sherman Pond.

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

Bald eagle sighting

On Dec. 2 I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "I've been checking the local ponds but not a lot happening. However, I have seen a bald eagle or two at the pond on New Reed Street four time in the last two weeks and another birder I met there reported seeing eagles there that I missed. On one visit two adult bald eagles were sitting in the same dead tree about fifteen feet apart."

Christmas Bird Count

He plans to participate in the Allen's Bird Count Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 14. National Audubon Society 125th Christmas Bird Counts take place Saturday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. This is one of the most popular birding events of the year. It is rarely held on the actual designated holiday itself, counts are scheduled to take place on various days surrounding Dec. 25 within the official count period noted above. Counting takes place anytime during the 24 hours, midnight-to-midnight.

The goal is to find, identify and count

Springfield woman charged in South Hadley bank robbery

SOUTH HADLEY— A Springfield woman arrested in connection with a bank robbery in South Hadley on Dec. 11 faced related charges in court. Rosa Murillo, 26, pleaded not guilty to charges of armed robbery and making a bomb threat before Eastern Hampshire District Court Judge Bruce Melikian. The charges stem from an incident in which Murillo allegedly went into the Westfield Bank on Willimansett Street in South Hadley and told a teller to give her \$5,000 or a bomb would go off. Following a multi-department investigation, Amtrack Police arrested Murillo in Springfield. Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington

handled the arraignment for the commonwealth. Murillo was represented by Amherst defense attorney Everal Hery. By agreement, Murillo was held without the right to bail under the dangerousness statute without prejudice, which means she can return to court to readdress bail. "Investigators worked around the clock to identify and apprehend the defendant. The Commonwealth thanks the South Hadley Police Department, Chicopee and Holyoke Police, the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services Section, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the Amtrack Police Department for their work on this investigation," said Covington.

SHPD chief office hours

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Chief of police office hours for the month of January.

Thursday, Jan. 9 - 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the South Hadley Senior Center

Thursday, Jan. 23 - 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the South Hadley Center

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - 12 noon - 2 p.m. at Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Holiday office hours

SOUTH HADLEY— The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Dec. 26.

Normal office hours and operations will resume on Friday, Dec. 27, at 8:30 a.m. Residents may visit www.south-hadley.org/Clerk to view all available online services such as ordering vitals records, submitting public records requests, and more.

SHERIFF from page 6

I do not speak for all immigrants, but we must have some understanding and kindness toward each other.

Like many of my fellow Hampshire County residents I have trepidations

about the actions the new administration is proposing to take. Please know that as long as I am Sheriff, the Hampshire Sheriff's Office will follow the law as it was clarified by the courts in the Lunn decision.

RIGHTS from page 1

tive ways.

John Parenteau and Dan Hamel came to the committee with a presentation to share the list of goals from the surrounding departments, commissions, committees, and boards.

Goal one, A Thriving Community, contains goals that concern the town reach the goals to ensure that the community is able to thrive, grow, and prosper.

Sweeney shared the goals to have the committee come up with ideas for the committee to come up with strategies to align with this goal.

"A lot of our stuff is probably going to be around the inclusive community, the thriving community. The goal one areas are probably going to be more to our vent," said Sweeney.

DEIB Worksheet and Master Plan Forum

The committee moved on to reviewing the notes taken in a DEIB breakout session with members splitting off into two groups.

Lori Souder shared that her group worked on the idea of belonging, and how

to come up with ideas for what it means to belong, and how to go about it.

"We had a hearty conversation on the fact that center of town and the Falls are divided, and it ended up to be mostly that and why," said Souder. "They said until we can understand and see South Hadley as one, we're going to have difficulties."

The tension between the Falls and center has lasted for decades, and the committee discussed different ways to build trust and a sense of common ground between the two to begin the work of uniting them after referencing Obama's speech from the week prior.

They also discussed the idea of reaching out to partner with local community organizations like Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Know Your Town in order to be able to enhance outreach and help them with their needs.

The committee also discussed the idea of including the school district as well as Mount Holyoke in talks about DEIB, and how to share these ideas with the public.

Matos offered an idea regarding the idea of an LGBTQ parade, and to have a way for the community to understand the terminology and language of the group.

"I think these worksheets ask some interesting questions," said Gooch.

The committee also discussed CivicEngage, an online alert system for the community to utilize that provides alerts for board meetings, announcements, important warnings, and more.

The committee brainstormed ways that CivicEngage could be improved in order to make it something more easily accessible and understood by all members of the community.

Old Business

Sweeney moved on to discussing the old business, and will move on to the next meeting to discuss the Women of Color Health Equity Collective Training's next steps, and looking over a draft script for an SHCTV15 Video.

The committee discussed the membership pipeline and recruitment, sharing what terms will be ending sooner rather than later, and how to then go about looking for replacement and new members to join the committee.

Committee Reports

Cooke gave an announcement that the

school committee had just passed a district wellness program, which was inspired by a student coming to public comment concerned about food policies.

"I wanted to be able to extend cultural celebrations by bringing in food, but given the different health guidelines, especially after COVID, we had to really reevaluate what policies and procedures we were using," Cooke said.

Sweeney continued reviewing announcements, and said she was awaiting still for the Cultural Council to get back to her regarding potential new members.

Budget season is coming soon now that the tax classifications have come around. "I'm really hoping we'll hear a lot of involvement from the community about it," said Sweeney.

Matos shared a desire to see that the work of the committee, though it pokes at some people in many ways, and finding different ways to explain that South Hadley is a place where people are kind.

They discussed that DEIB is meant to be representative of connection and kindness, and the idea that we are all in this together.

EARLY DEADLINE
 In observance of **NEW YEAR'S PUBLIC NOTICES**
 WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE**
 Place your public notice no later than
Fri., Dec. 27 Noon
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 There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE** for Dec. 30 - Jan. 3.
 Place your advertisement no later than
Fri., Dec. 27 Noon
 A TURLEY PUBLICATION
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Santa visits Buttery Brook Park



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Elves Acelya Dinc and Abigail Vann with Mrs. Claus, handing out cookies and coloring books.



The tree lit up inside the cottage, with presents, and stockings hung with care.

SANTA from page 1

South Hadley every year, and it has become a community-wide favorite, and tradition, amongst the people of South Hadley.

Santa's Land ran last weekend, Thursday through Saturday on December 12 to the 14, and all three nights had crowds gathered for the chance to take some photos with Santa.

Mrs. Claus had coloring books, which were donated by Brighter Beginnings Early Learning Center, and the elves, volunteers from the high school, came to help make cups of cocoa and hand out coloring books.

Bill Foley, our beloved Santa, said, "It's been 13 years that I've been sitting in Santa's chair. The best part is the undivided attention I can give a child, so they know Santa cares about them."

"My favorite part of Christmas is being with friends and family whom I love, and the cookies," said Mrs. Claus.

"The kids are my favorite part of Santa's Land," said Larry Dubois. "You get some cute little kids with some cute reactions. We've got a good Santa, and the kids like the cocoa."

While Santa's Land is not a fundraiser for the park, visitors could make a donation that goes towards Santa's Land, and the needs of the park.

The Friends are running a calendar raffle through the month of

December, however, and it can be found now online through the Buttery Brook Facebook page, or requested by emailing Kim Prough at ksprough@me.com.

"The Friends of Buttery Brook Park are grateful for the Parks Department and for the community support to be able to keep Santa's Land as an annual community tradition," said Prough.

While the kids came with their friends and family to get pictures with Santa and admire the lights, special Christmas carols were played by talented musicians Caleb Cox and Michael Beauchemin.

While the 2024 Buttery Brook Park season closed after Santa's Land, there are many more improvements and things to look forward to in 2025 for the first six months.

"In addition to the many improvements, visitors can anticipate the following: Elvis returning on May 2, a children's series of concerts and programs; the circus; Friday night concerts throughout the summer; and much more," said Prough.

Santa's Land is a magical and wonderful time for family fun within the community, and marks the end of a wonderful season within the community park, and as the new year approaches, so does the excitement for the many new things to come.



Elves Gracie Levreault, Reilly Malone, Kate McArdle, and Nora Matzen ready to serve some delicious hot chocolate on a cold night.



Talented musicians Caleb Cox and Michael Beauchemin playing some beloved Christmas carols.



The illuminated and beautifully decorated Buttery Brook Park sign, welcoming all to Santa's Land.



Little Amya on Santa's lap with her mom, Ruth.



Brothers Bradley and Logan happy to see Santa.



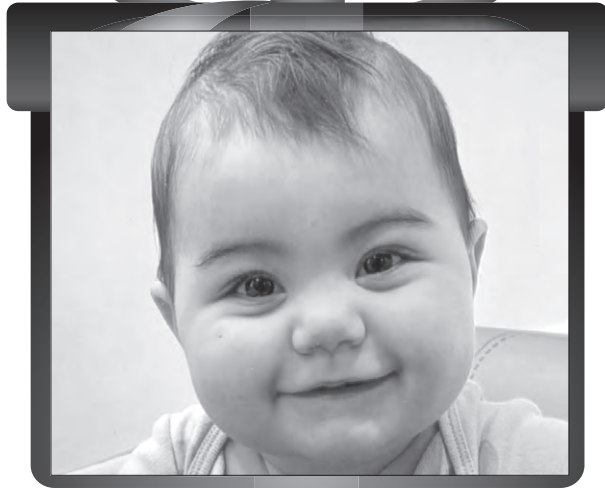
Santa hearing the Christmas wishes of little Lana, happy to be at Santa's Land.



Kevin sharing his wish list with Santa and using his clipboard to show him what he wants.



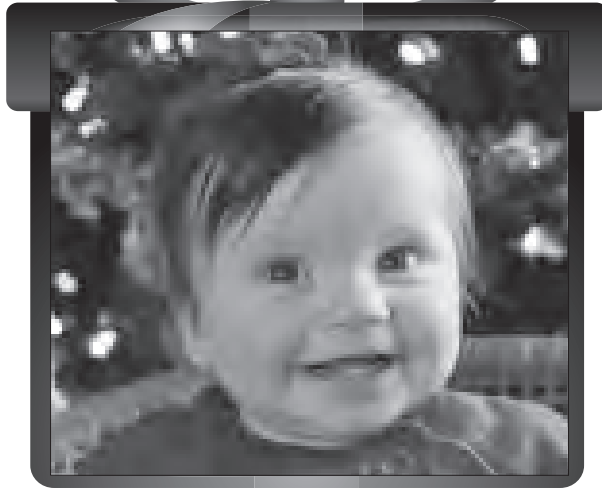
Baby's First Christmas 2024



Leandra Maimaron

March 26, 2024

Parents: Jonathan & Lindsey Maimaron, East Longmeadow
Grandparents: Gary Giacomoni, Wilbraham
Thom & Wanda Merola, Enfield, CT



Rheya DerHovanessian

March 7, 2024

Parents: Valery & Mark DerHovanessian, Warwick, RI
Grandparents: Angela & Bruce Alexander, Belchertown
Earl Raymond, Easthampton
Bob & Estelle DerHovanessian, Sutton
Great Grandparents: Ellie Bergeron, Belchertown
Paula & Bill Sabonis, Broad Brook, CT



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Living nativity returns to United Church

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – One of the most common traditions during the Christmas season, especially in the Christian faith, is the nativity scene.

The nativity depicts Mary and Joseph, with baby Jesus lying in a manger, and usually has animals in the barn, as well as the three wise men, and an angel, and a shepherd or two.

The nativity represents the story of Jesus' birth, found in all four of the gospels within the New Testament, and helps to serve as a wonderful illustration of what it may have looked like that starry and silent night in Bethlehem.

A living nativity is a special rendition, where people dress up as these characters, and like a play, may have lines. Living nativities can be drive-throughs and are often held outside to capture the same fell of that fateful night.

The Granby United Church of Christ held their second annual living nativity last weekend, and it was set up outdoors with the special scene laid out, and benches made of hay and planks to sit on to enjoy the show.

The church served mulled cider, coffee, tea, and cookies for people to enjoy something warm and comforting as they watched the living nativity play out.

Pastor Audrey revived the tradition from many years ago, and the church congregation look forward to it coming back.

The living nativity has live animals join the performance from a local farm in Hadley. "The last two years we've been blessed to be able to and hope to have them again," said Tasondra Jardine.

"My favorite part is watching everyone be transported into the Nativity. Our church really strives to make a difference in our community and spread the word in ways that touch mind, body and spirit," said Jardine.

"The story of Jesus is one known to many but telling it this way with the animals and cast, the music and firepits to keep warm really makes it special," said Jardine.

There were about eleven people total in the cast, and Pastor Audrey directed the production, with members of the congregation acting as the main characters of the story.

"Dennis did the the lighting and many volunteers for set up of the Nativity and keeping the animals safe and warm as well as keeping fire pits well cared for," Jardine said.

The night was filled with wonders and the joyful community of the church and its congregation, and the cute baby lambs were wonderful to have and pet, making it memorable for sure.

"Being able to keep the Christ Child's story alive. It brings joy and peace to many in the community at a time when that's quite precious," said Jardine, sharing how meaningful the annual living nativity is.



In the Purple Lenny Desrosiers, Dave Mazarowski, Jenni Oyola, Liam Scully, Kathy Merchant, Heather Pike, Diane Percy, Gloria Smith in the shadow, Alan Izatt, Cheryl Sawicki and Aubrey Basile.



Sherry Sickler and twin baby lambs born on Monday.



Heather Pike and a newborn Lamb.



Liam Scully as Joseph, Jenni Oyola as Marry, Jeff Dwinell, Lenny Desrochers and Dave Mazarowski as the 3 Kings



Submitted photos

RIGHT: Robert Mason, Marion Mason and Donna Basile getting warm at the campfire.

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USDA INSP. HATFIELD OLD TIME SKINLESS SHANKLESS HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN HADDOCK FILLETS \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... \$19⁹⁹ ea
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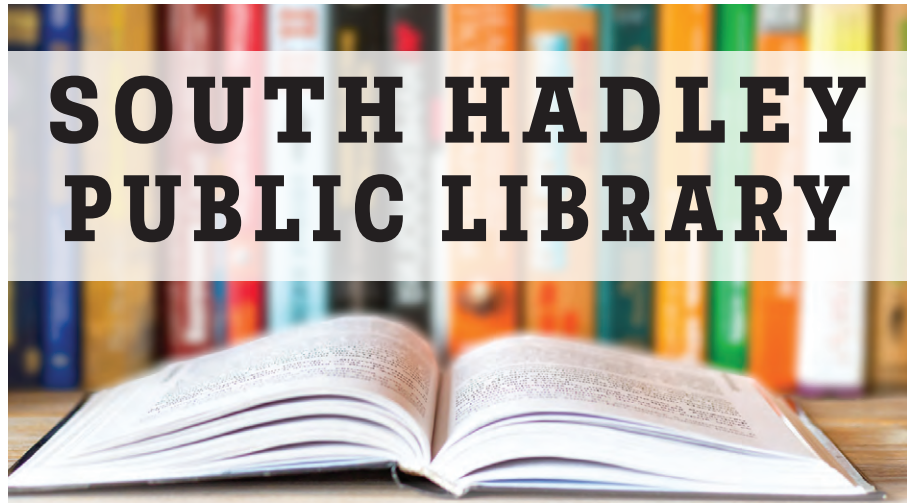
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Events at SHPL

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley Public Library will be hosting many events throughout December, for a full schedule or to register please visit www.shadleylib.org. For those that are feeling generous or want to help locally this holiday season, South Hadley Public Library is accepting food and toiletry donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The local food pantry is seeking much needed soup, hot and cold cereal, canned meat, tomato products, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant and women's hygiene products. Please check the dates on food items and do not bring any expired items. Drop items off in the gift boxes under the tree by the elevator.

Children's Programs at SHPL

Solstice Storytime on Friday, Dec. 20, and Winter Storytime on Friday, Dec. 27, both at 4 p.m., in addition to all the regular weekly Storytimes, rhyme times, playgroup (including a Saturday playgroup on Dec. 28), Comics & Crafts, and Lego & Games.

Don't miss the special events this month:

Colorful Clay Tiles Workshop on Monday, Dec. 30 at 2:00 for kids ages 8-18
 Stuffed Animal Sleepover taking place Monday, December 30-Tuesday, Dec. 31
 Countdown to Noon Year party on Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visit the library anytime to borrow an item from the STEM collection, the Chemistry Adventure program, or check out the puzzle swap. During school vacation, the library also has a Winter Scavenger Hunt around the children's area. This month, the coloring table will have paper strips so little artists can make paper chains; bring them home for decoration, or add them to the library paper chain.

Teen Programs at SHPL

Crafternoon on Thursday, Dec. 26 at 4 p.m. will feature Hot Chocolate Snack Mix. Please sign up.

Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon. This month there will not be the Teen Night Craft. Instead, there will be afternoon craft, DIY Disco Balls on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 4 p.m.

The Teen Takeaway craft this month is Winter Mason Jar. See Bethany for more details or to sign up. Patrons only need to sign up once. Teen Takeaways are available every month. Reach out with any questions through email (broberts@cwmar.org) or call the library 538-5045 and ask for Bethany. See the Teen Room door for more information.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Lego Club meeting Thursday, Dec. 26 from 3 to 6 p.m.
 On Saturday, Dec. 21 from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. join in for Holiday Games like dreidel and pin the nose on Rudolph.

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Chambers donate to South Hadley Council on Aging

Thank you to the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce for their very generous donation of \$1,000. Members of the Chamber are, Regina Zebrowski, Chamber President, Michelle Lyman, Chamber Treasurer and Melissa Whitelock, Ex. Coordinator. of the Chamber. The check was presented to Andy Rogers, Human Services Director and Julie Pearse, Senior Services Director on December 12, 2024.

Local musician hits the stage in Palmer

By Emily-Rose Pappas
 Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

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, "Shoebbox", 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.



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Braydon LaDuke fights to keep the puck.

Hockey co-op falls in opener

HOLYOKE – The Chicopee High School co-op ice hockey team was defeated by visiting Saint John Paul II High School 6-3 last Saturday afternoon in its season opener. For the second straight year, Chicopee will be hosting a large co-op team with Chicopee Comprehensive, Granby, South Hadley, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School. The Pacers were scheduled to face Amherst on Dec. 19 and are next in on action at home on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. against Peabody.



Griffin Stefanik makes his way up the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brennan Corcoran looks to make a pass.



Landyn Duggan makes a block in goal.



Tyler Dennison hustles up the ice.

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.

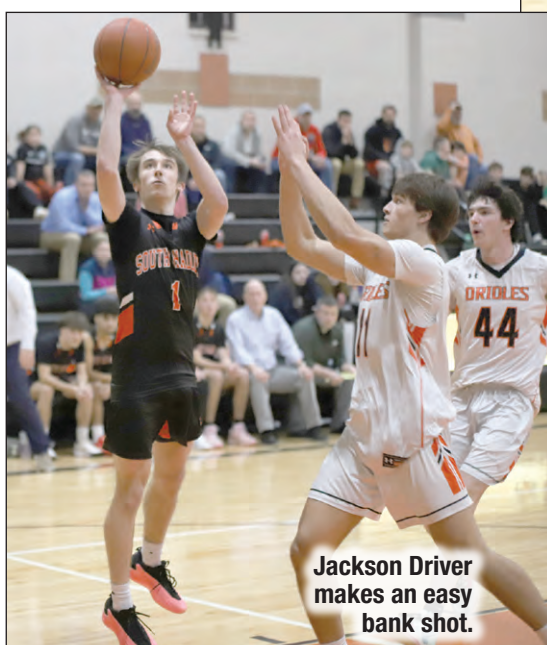
All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with

Please see **COACHING**, page 12

Tigers get win in season opener

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday night, the South Hadley High School boys basketball team lost a little momentum heading into half-time, but picked it right back up in the second half. Belchertown pushed as well, but South Hadley would win 59-52 in the season opener for both team. South Hadley is a contender for the state tournament after a deep run last year and the return of most of its roster. The Tigers will host Monson on Dec. 20 and Monument Mountain on Monday, Dec. 23, both 7 p.m. starts.



Jackson Driver makes an easy bank shot.



Julius Hebeneth grabs a low loose ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

TOP: Isiah James looks to shoot a three-pointer.



LEFT: Jack Loughrey circles the perimeter looking to rush the hoop.



Raymond Colon looks to avoid a steal.



Cody Breault enters the arc.

Thunderbirds 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.



The 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.

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 quelled 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 the defense on a power play and chipped a backhand past Zherenko to make it a 3-1

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrister 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.

Rams pull away from Renaissance

GRANBY — Last Thursday night, Granby High School boys basketball opened up the regular season with a league matchup with Renaissance School. The Rams were able to get the offensive momentum going early and took a lead. Granby would extend that lead in the third quarter as they held Renaissance to single digits en route to a 56-47 final score. Gavier Fernandez had 16 points to lead all scorers with Riley Goodhind turned in 14 points. Granby travels to Southwick on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.



Gavier Fernandez gathers in a pass.



Riley Goodhind makes a pass on the run.



Gavin Moreno looks for an approach to the hoop.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Worcester 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 outshot 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.

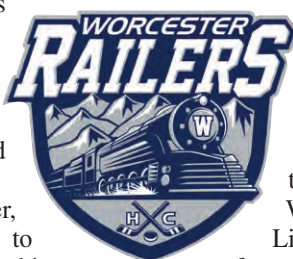
Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhand.

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."



▶ Granby

Jingle Bell Bazaar holiday tradition helping the community

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – The holiday season brings many opportunities to find something new, especially at holiday markets and craft fairs.

A well-loved tradition amongst the various communities and towns across the country is getting together donated items into a bazaar, and these bazaars are oftentimes used as a fundraiser.

The United Church of Christ in Granby has been hosting their annual Jingle Bell Bazaar since 1946- seventy-eight years of community love and participation.

It was started by the Women’s Guild within the church, and not only features handmade crafts and items, but also, true to any good Bazaar, some new-to-you items.

From housewares to beautiful pieces of jewelry, handmade knitting and crochet, earrings, plants and wreaths, and a bake sale, you can find a little bit of everything.

There was also the Jingle Bell Bazaar’s famous Cookie Walk, and the kitchens were filled with the comforting smells of cookies, as hundreds were baked.

People could fill up a box for \$10, and take home a variety of cookies to enjoy with a mug of hot cocoa.

Santa Claus was also present for pictures, and gave kids a candy cane and a present to take home with them after hearing about their wish list.

“It’s a small church, with lots of helpers,” said member Deb LaBonte, who has fallen in love with the members of this tight-knit church.

“I love that people can come and find things for gifts that they can afford,” said member Cheryl Sawicki. “It helps that they are gifts that are affordable, and it in turn helps the church.”

The church’s main goal and mission is that they make it a priority to help as much as they can, and whoever they can.

The church puts together blessing bags for those who need the help, and they



Deb LaBonte and Sharon Dwinell with their aprons, running the bazaar side of things.



Ruth Desroches, Jenni Oyola, and Marion Mason working together at the Cookie Walk to put together customized cookie boxes.

consist of a draw-string bag with personal care items and food to bless someone in a simple way we may take for granted.

The church also hosts a clothing drive, as well as maintaining a stocked food pantry to help those in need.

The church donated to many organizations as well as those in surrounding communities, and once a month, spends a day making and packing PB&J’s for Providence Ministries, sending them anywhere from 80 to 90 sandwiches.

They also donate to the Ministry’s pantries food and clothing, and purchased ten beehives sent overseas through Church World Service in order to bring honey to a community.

All of the money raised at the Jingle Bell Bazaar is used in some way to aid one of the ministries they support.

Whether it’s helping with maintenance in the parish house’s kitchen, to ensure



Gloria Smith and Cheryl Sawicki with some beautiful jewelry.

Please see **BAZAAR**, page 13

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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65						66							67	
68						69							70	

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Miller beer variety
- 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- 9. Stomach
- 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing
- 18. “American Horror Story” actress
- 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house
- 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings
- 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are two
- 37. Mr. T’s “The A-Team” character
- 38. Relative biological

- effectiveness (abbr.)
- 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet letter
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 44. Back parts
- 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 49. Touchdown
- 50. One point north of due east
- 51. Refurbishes
- 55. Silver and Dogg are two
- 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 65. Past (archaic)
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 67. Old English letter
- 68. Young domestic sheep
- 69. Football players need to gain them

CLUES DOWN

- 70. Witness
- 1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs
- 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection
- 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition
- 11. A small quantity of anything
- 12. Mountain Time
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element meaning ear
- 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails
- 25. Newborn child
- 26. Sword
- 27. Groups of people

- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 32. Become less intense
- 34. Polishes
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one's beloved
- 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician
- 47. Pre-digital
- 48. Roaming
- 52. Ambience
- 53. Brew
- 54. Late
- 56. Make ecstatically happy
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 59. Blend
- 60. Dash
- 61. Self
- 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 63. Hill or rocky peak



Jay Dwinell, Lydia Pike, Heather Pike, and Tasondra Jardine selling some beautiful handmade ornaments and other fun crafts.

COACHING from page 10

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



Beautiful quilted squares, as well as some smaller quilted squares with a little cross inside, to "take your faith with you".



Items baked by the ladies of the church, baked to perfection and ready to go home with you.



Donated items for the bazaar from congregation members as well as the surrounding community.

Turley Photos Submitted by Emily-Rose Pappas



The trays of cookies filled to the brim on the Cookie Walk.



Making wreaths and selling some plants on adorable pots.

BAZAAR from page 12

they are up to date for cooking for the community, or to use the money to purchase supplies, the money always circles back to benefiting the community.

"This really is a community event, and it means so much to me to see everyone come together for this," said Tasondra Jardine.

The Jingle Bell Bazaar, since its beginning, has been orchestrated by the dedicated women of the church, and their supportive husbands, beginning with the Women's Guild so long ago, and still being run by it today.

This Christmas season, take some time to pause, and think of how you can bless the community, and see how even the smallest of actions can have the largest of impacts.



Santa going on a stroll through the bazaar, looking at all the gifts to be given.



Jenni Oyola, Xyelena Torres, and Tasondra Jardine taking a family photo with Santa.

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