

# The Journal Register

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**MONSON**

## Schools seek grants

School Committee hears Superintendent Report, votes on Yellowstone trip

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The School Committee met on April 8 to discuss a number of issues, including potential new grants, and a trip to Yellowstone National Park in 2027.

**Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Paul Foster opened the meeting by thanking the school's athletes and their families for its patience during the spring sports season, as the weather "has not been cooperative" as the school works to schedule its necessary games.

Foster announced that the school will apply for two new grants being offered by the state department, PRISM II, for Pre-K to third grade, and PRISM III, for grades four-12. "Those are grants that support literacy instruction, and we're going to apply for both," Foster said. "We've

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**PALMER**



The Palmer High School football program is coming off its first victory in more than a decade over Ware.

## Palmer unable to field varsity football team

100th game with Ware now off

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer varsity football team, despite having only 15 players suited up, concluded a successful 2025 season with a 20-6 victory over the Ludlow Lions at historic Legion Field on Thanksgiving morning.

Due to anticipated low

player numbers, the Panthers will be competing solely at the junior varsity level during the 2026 fall season.

"We only had 16 players sign up for next year's football team. Twelve of those players are incoming freshmen, who have never played high school football" said Palmer High School Athletic Director Matt Marciniac. "After holding a couple of meetings, we've decided to move to J.V. only next year. We just want to keep the

players safe and rebuild our football program. Competing at the J.V. level for one year is probably the best option for us. Our boy's enrollment at the high school is a little bit lower than it has been in the past."

Marciniac, who graduated from Palmer High School in 2006, was the head coach of the Panthers varsity football team between 2019 and 2026. He stepped down from his coaching duties following the 78th meeting on the grid-

iron against the Lions.

Marciniac is hoping to hire a new football coach before the end of the school year.

"I think it's very important that our next football coach is someone who wants to build a program," Marciniac said. "If we can get our numbers back up to 25 or 30 players, I think we'll have a lot of success at the varsity level."

The seniors listed on the 2025 Palmer football ros-

ter and who'll be receiving their diplomas on May 31 are Hunter White, Kodah Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Landon Couture, Gavin Smola, Jared Perry, and Dylan Doherty, who recently committed to playing college football at Westfield State University.

"Without the seniors, we probably wouldn't have been able to finish last season," Marciniac said. "The seniors were the driving force and

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**MONSON**

## School Committee agrees to international travel for students

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At this week's School Committee meeting, the committee discussed several upcoming school trips, including a trip to Spain scheduled for this year, a trip to Mexico next year, and trips to Central America scheduled for 2028.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the 2026 trip to Spain, which was up for final approval. Scheduled for April 18, the trip will involve 12 students and seven chaperones, with stops in Barcelona, Madrid, Andalusia, and Morocco.

Paula Garces, a teacher at the high school for eight years, is the faculty member coordinating the trip. She has

been taking students on trips overseas since 2023, when she took a group to Costa Rica.

The trip is through EF Educational Tours, with all expenses included, and no charge to the district. The parents pay for the trip through EF, totalling \$4,289 per student and \$5,189 for the parents, with options for bi-weekly payment plans.

Garces described the joy of seeing how much students learn from visiting a different country, and said that she has observed students grow and mature from the experience.

"The six students I took, that was the first time for all of them travelling overseas, without their parents, and, for some of them, even their first time taking a plane," Garces said. "It is very rewarding

to see how they make new friends and start valuing the culture."

One benefit for the students, beyond the experience of the trip itself, is that they can get college credit for the trip, if they register beforehand with a college.

"If they do work related to the trip, they can get up to three college credits," Garces said. "They have to take some

online classes and they do a project while they're traveling, so that when they come back and present it, they can get three credits for it."

Garces went into detail about the different trips that the school has planned, including this year's trip to Spain, a trip to Mexico for

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**MONSON**

## Tri-Board Committee votes to approve level funding for the town

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week's Tri-Board Committee Meeting, a vote was held to maintain level funding throughout the town departments, and offer a 1.9% increase to the school budget.

The Tri-Board Committee met on Monday, April 6, made up of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee, as well as relevant town personnel including the Town Administrator.

The meeting involved discussion of various line items for the proposed budget, which seeks to offer level funding to the various departments in town.

The committees were presented with several documents that included potential budgets depicting level funding for departments, where all departments are able to offer the same services to the town as the previous year. These projected budgets left the town with a shortfall of close to \$20,000.

Some of these costs were described as largely "non-negotiable," as dictated by contracts. One example is Community

**PALMER**

## Students clean up for Earth Day



By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, students from the high school sacrificed their Saturday morning to clean up the school's trail and grounds for the annual Trail and Campus Clean-Up Day.

David Triozzi, a biology and environmental science teacher, met the students at the front steps of the high school at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, for the annual trail and campus clean-up. He starts the day off with what he hesitates to describe as a "pep talk."

"I thank them for coming, and emphasize the importance of volunteer work, contributing to the community, and taking care of the environment," Triozzi said. "Especially as they're going to be adults entering the real world pretty soon."

The students are encour-

Submitted photo  
Students spent their Saturday morning cleaning up the trail and campus at Palmer High School.

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# SPORTS

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Julietta Tweedell hustles home on a hit.

## Indians beat Palmer in marathon matchup

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The rivalry between Ware and Palmer High School's added another dramatic chapter last

Thursday afternoon, as the two varsity softball teams faced off in a hard-fought battle that lasted four hours.

Undeterred by a 14-run deficit entering the fourth inning, Ware launched an impressive rally.

After the top of the seventh inning, the Lady Indians were holding a 19-18 lead.

Palmer responded with a run in the bottom half of the frame, which forced the Suburban East League match-up into extra innings.



Turley photo by Maddox Bear

Amhia McElreavy catches an out at first.

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## Pioneers fall to Comp



Addison Doktor swings and connects on a base hit.

PALMER – Pathfinder softball was able to push across a couple of runs early, but Chicopee Comprehensive came roaring back and ended up turning the game around, defeating Pathfinder 25-9 last Thursday at Pathfinder Tech. The Pioneers fell to 0-4 on the season while Chicopee Comprehensive rose above .500 to 3-2.



Emily Forcier squares up some contact.



Taylor Thornton sends a pitch to the plate.

## Mustangs fall to Indians at Dunkin' Park

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

HARTFORD, CT – Over the past couple of years, Shane Szado and Kyle Kaczuwka were teammates on the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team.

Last Saturday night, Szado and Kaczuwka, who are both seniors, opposed each other for the first time at the varsity level as starting pitchers.

The matchup between the Monson and Ware varsity baseball teams took place under the bright lights of Dunkin' Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

Just like during the past two seasons, Kyle Kaczuwka and his Indians teammates were able to celebrate a 19-5 victory over the Mustangs at the home field of the Yard Goats, who are the Double A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

The non-league contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

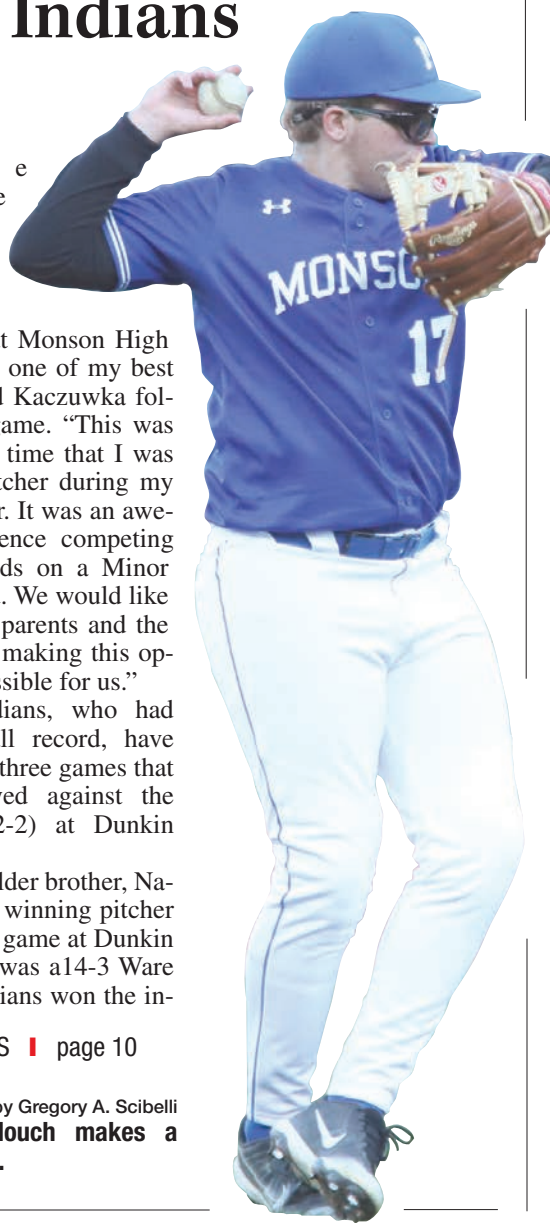
"I've known Shane since I attended his dad's (Craig) baseball camps at Monson High School. He's one of my best friends," said Kaczuwka following the game. "This was also the first time that I was a starting pitcher during my varsity career. It was an awesome experience competing against friends on a Minor League Field. We would like to thank the parents and the sponsors for making this opportunity possible for us."

The Indians, who had a 4-1 overall record, have now won all three games that they've played against the Mustangs (2-2) at Dunkin' Park.

Kyle's older brother, Nathan was the winning pitcher in last year's game at Dunkin' Park, which was a 14-3 Ware win. The Indians won the in-

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Anthony Tullouch makes a throw to first.



Carly Juda makes a throw across the diamond.



Ellisyn Gelinas sends an easy throw to first.



Owen Kupiec-Fox gets a quick return hit.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Owen Pear makes contact to send the ball over the net.

## Panthers edge Pacers in tennis action

PALMER – In a three-match contest between Chicopee and Palmer boys tennis, Palmer scored a 2-1 win over the Pacers.

Owen Pear and the pair of Dexter Luce and Owen Kupiec-Fox scored wins for the Panthers.

Tyler Hoar won a three-set matchup for Chicopee High School.

The Panthers are 1-2 and Chicopee is 1-4.



Shane Normoyle makes a serve.



Dexter Luce serves in doubles action.