

# The Journal Register

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**PALMER**

## Stakeholders continue to rally for East-West rail

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

**PALMER** – Last Wednesday a private meeting between only invited guests, transportation advocates, town leaders, and business owners was held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant to push for a pivotal decision in the future of New England rail: the establishment of a centrally located downtown station in Palmer.

At the center of the discussion was the Central Corridor Passenger Rail Coalition (CCPRC) and its vital North-South link, which is currently at risk of being overlooked in Massachusetts' broader East-West rail planning.

Scarlet Lamothe, speaking on behalf of the CCPRC, welcomed attendees with a call to civic engagement and stressed the committee's focus on connecting various regions along the north-south-east-west rail, and broader areas across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and even into Montreal.

"Our mission is to create a viable, comfortable transportation that strengthens our communities and economies," Scarlet said. "Palmer is the linchpin in that vision."

The project's goals go beyond just transportation. Restoring regional rail service is seen as a driver for

RAIL | page 16

**SCHOOL**

## Creativity and culture come alive at Pathfinder Arts and Culture Night

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
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**PALMER** – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School was filled with the sounds of music, the scent of international cuisine, and the buzz of community pride on Thursday, May 8, during its Third Annual Arts & Culture Night. Held in the school cafeteria, the event offered a dynamic and interactive celebration of student creativity and multicultural learning, drawing families, staff, and community members into a space where the arts and vocational education met in harmony.

Guests were welcomed into a transformed cafe-

CULTURE | page 11



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
Mia Keegan (left) and Parker Rasys (right) at the CAD Pre-engineering booth showing off their machine.

**MONSON**

## Senior Center celebrates Mother's Day with concert

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

**MONSON** – The Monson Senior Center was filled with celebration and cheer during its annual Mother's Day luncheon last week. Attendees enjoyed a festive turkey dinner complete with mashed potatoes, vegetables, and cookies, while Neil Di-

amond tribute artist Charlie Lask provided live musical entertainment. The center's staff offered warm greetings and encouraged everyone to enjoy the afternoon's gathering, which honored the many mothers and grandmothers in the Monson community.

The joyful occasion was part of the center's broader mission to create inclusive, welcoming spaces for seniors

to connect, socialize, and thrive.

A variety of upcoming programs aim to keep that sense of community going strong. On Thursday May 15, the center will host Pizza with the Police, which includes lunch and a tour of the local police station. The event is open to anyone interested in learning more about Monson's law enforcement

and fostering positive connections. Advanced sign-up by Tuesday was encouraged to ensure enough pizza for all.

This Wednesday marks the debut of Mindful Connections, a monthly support group designed for individuals who may be feeling disconnected or low in energy. The group, led by Alyssa Rodriguez in partnership with the Behavioral Health Net-

work, will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Center staff emphasized that the group is open to all and aims to promote mental wellness in a friendly and stigma-free environment.

Also continuing are several trusted support services. The Caregivers' Support Group, held on the third

CONCERT | page 3



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy  
Charlie Lask starts off his set by singing Holly Holy by Neil Diamond.

**MONSON**



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Green paddles go up as residents pass a motion.

## Town Meeting approves \$28.3M operating budget

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

**MONSON** – At the four-hour long Monson Annual Town Meeting, marked by impassioned testimony and financial caution, residents voted to approve a \$28.3 million operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026, including a contested \$300,000 increase to the school department's budget. The decision followed more than an hour of debate on Article 15, which set the town's annual spending plan for the year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

The total approved operating budget, \$28,296,292, supports general government operations, public safety, public works, human services, debt service, and other municipal functions. However, it was the education line item that commanded the meeting's focus, revealing deep divides over

how to prioritize student services while maintaining the town's financial stability.

Budget structure and departmental allocations

Article 15 proposed the annual operating budget for all tax-supported departments. Categories included:

- \$2,043,795
- Public Safety: \$3,618,695
- Public Works: \$1,501,572
- Human Services: \$409,225
- Culture & Recreation: \$618,659
- Debt Service: \$1,101,025
- Assessments: \$1,570
- Unclassified: \$6,536,868

- Education (originally proposed): \$12,164,882
- Education (final, after amendment): \$12,464,882

In addition, the town approved the Pathfinder Vocational High School assessment of \$1,489,720.

MEETING | page 6

**PALMER**

## Record crowd joins Honor Society induction

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
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**PALMER** – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School marked a significant milestone this week as 49 outstanding students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), one of the largest induction classes in the school's history. The ceremony, held in the school's cafeteria, celebrated not only academic achievement

but the values of leadership, service, and professionalism that lie at the heart of career and technical education.

Superintendent Eric Duda opened the ceremony with a warm welcome and a deep sense of personal pride, noting that he himself was inducted into the NTHS at Pathfinder almost exactly 26 years ago. "To see 49 of you here tonight is truly remarkable," he said. "It speaks to the growth of our school, the

HONOR | page 3



Submitted by Olivia Falcone  
Destiny Rodriguez is pinned by her little brother at the Pathfinder Honor Society induction ceremony.

**MONSON**



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The town meeting awaits a financial presentation.

## Town meeting gets budget tutorial before voting

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

**MONSON** – Monson Finance Director Jamie Farnum delivered an in-depth presentation before the start of the Monson Annual Town Meeting titled "Annual Town Meeting: Funding Articles, the Budget and What It All Means," aiming to demystify the town's financial structure and highlight the importance of the evening's decisions. Her presentation, developed over two weeks, responded to repeated questions from residents about how various funding sources are used across town operations.

The Importance of Community Involvement Farnum emphasized that the choices made during Town Meeting would impact

every core service in Monson; from education and public safety to infrastructure and community programs. While Monson faces many of the same fiscal challenges as other small towns in Massachusetts, she noted that what sets the town apart is its collective willingness to tackle these issues together. "This isn't a one-time issue," Farnum said. "The budget pressures we're discussing tonight will grow each year." She stressed the importance of community engagement, not only at Town Meeting but throughout the budget process at public hearings, board meetings, and workshops. She urged residents to

BUDGET | page 6



# Girl scouts welcome new member event

PALMER – Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA is hosting a recruitment event in your area! This FREE Sip and Paint will take place on Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at Second Congregational Church.

Girls in grade K who are not currently Girl Scouts and their guardians are invited to attend. Girls will enjoy a typical Girl Scout troop meeting with hands-on activities and girls will receive their first patch. Adults will be discussing forming a new troop. More info can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/3640275139597754>.

# Girl Scouts offer recruitment hike

MONSON – The 2024 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Reports are available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

Hard copies of the report are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free Library located at 2 High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street Monson, MA.

Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA is hosting a recruitment event in your area.

This FREE Hiking Event will take place on Thurs, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. at Peaked Mountain Trail.

Girls entering grades K-1 in the fall who are not currently Girl Scouts and their guardians are invited to attend. Girls will enjoy a typical Girl Scout troop meeting with hands-on activities and girls will receive their first patch. Adults will be discussing forming a new troop.

More info can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2632170686989207>

Would you be interested in sharing this opportunity with the community? Please let me know if you have any feedback.

# Couture graduates academy



Photo courtesy of Al Couture  
Nicholas Couture receives his diploma at the Springfield Police Academy graduation ceremony on May 1st at Springfield College. Nicholas was originally selected for the Springfield Police Department Cadet Program as a 2022 graduate of Monson High School. He is the son of Joseph Couture of Palmer and Kelly Couture of Monson. Nicholas is now a full time police officer for the Springfield Police Department.

# Monson water quality reports now available

MONSON – The 2024 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Reports are available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street Monson, MA.

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This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

# Pioneer Valley's 6th Annual Wine and Food Festival to be held June 7-8

BRIMFIELD – 2025 Marks the 6th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. The event will be held Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at Brimfield Auction Acres at 35 Main St., Brimfield.

together New England Wineries, Cideries, Breweries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and beyond. The festival will continue its early partnership with Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR).

Featuring local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill

their secrets, plus a sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs like Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's

Beat Bobby Flay.

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://pioneervalleywinefestival.com>.

Location: Brimfield Auction Acres is conveniently located just 5 miles off the Mass Pike/I-84 Sturbridge exit, making it easily accessible for a weekend getaway.

# Monson Memorial Day activities begin May 24

MONSON – The Monson Patriotic Celebration Committee is again this year organizing Memorial Day Activities. On Saturday

morning May 24, American Flags will be placed on the graves of Monson Veterans who have gone to their Eternal Rest. Hillcrest Cemetery,

Hillside Cemetery and Bethany Cemetery are the 3 major cemeteries included in this event.

The Committee is asking people who would like to volunteer their time to meet at any one of these locations by 9:00 am on Saturday morning. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

On Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m. a parade will begin at the Monson Animal Clinic, 2 Main Street and march down Main Street to the front steps of Memorial Hall for a ceremony to behold honoring all Veterans who have served

this country with honor and distinction. At 11 a.m. American Legion Post 241 will be performing a gun salute, with Taps being played, and the raising of the American Flag.

Monson clergy and other local and state dignitaries are scheduled to attend. The National Anthem will be sing by local Monson Singer, Jordyn Doyle.

Everyone, please join in this Patriotic Event, honoring all our Veterans.

For further information, contact Karen Davis, 413-544-1555 at your earliest convenience.

# Wildlife on Wheels at Keep June 1

MONSON – Forest Park's "Wildlife on Wheels" program is coming to the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Rd. in Monson on Sunday, June 1, at 1:30 p.m. It is a FREE educational outreach program that will bring five ambassador animals to the museum. The selection of animals varies and may include mammals, birds, reptiles, or invertebrates. Information will be provided on each animal's special adaptations, habitat, behavior, diet,

and status in the wild. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation.

The program will be held on the lawn, weather permitting. Bring a blanket or chair for viewing. If there is inclement weather, it will take place in the barn.

Admission is free, though donations are welcome. The museum is open from 1 – 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information visit [www.keep-homesteadmuseum.org](http://www.keep-homesteadmuseum.org).



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**DEADLINE**  
The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition space permitting, email Editor at [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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Submitted by Olivia Falcone

The crowd applauds the new inductees



Eric Duda and Ryan Rege, lead the 49 inductees into the hall to receive their accolades.



The first candle being lit, the candle of Knowledge.

**HONOR** | from page 1

strength of our programs and staff, and the incredible dedication of our students."

Duda introduced members of the Pathfinder School Committee, Lorraine Alves, Keith Bailey, and John Nason, alongside key members of the school's administration. He emphasized that the honor society recognizes more than just grades; it celebrates perseverance, integrity, and the willingness to lead and serve others. "Success is not always about talent or natural ability," he reminded students, quoting Steve Jobs.

"It's about pure perseverance."

Among this year's inductees are Eagle Scouts, star athletes, and medal-winning students in statewide competitions. Notably, three students recently won gold medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Championship in Urban Search and Rescue and Baking, earning the opportunity to compete nationally in Atlanta this June.

"These students are not just excelling in the classroom," Duda said. "They are contributing to our school community through clubs, athletics, and national or-

ganizations like SkillsUSA, DECA, FFA, and FIRST Robotics. They're role models."

Following Superintendent Duda's remarks, Caitlin Phelps, Director of Cooperative Education, shared the meaning and symbols of the National Technical Honor Society. She explained that the NTHS emblem, which is a shield with a scroll, the head of a bald eagle, and a circle of seven stars, represents the core values of the society: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

"Silver stands for value and worth. White represents

truth and honesty. Purple symbolizes achievement and honor," said Phelps. "These colors, and this organization, highlight the value of excellence in workforce education."

A central moment of the evening came during the candle-lighting ceremony. Faculty, staff, and school committee members took turns lighting candles, each representing one of the seven attributes of an NTHS member. The ceremony was both symbolic and moving, reminding the audience of the values that underpin true leadership and success.

The formal induction

was led by Academic Director Dan Whalley, who guided the students through the NTHS pledge, committing them to uphold the society's standards and apply their skills and knowledge toward careers and citizenship.

The evening also honored 22 returning members who continue to demonstrate the society's values in their technical programs. These students were recognized with graduation stoles, tassels, and gifts, with treats provided by the Culinary Arts Department.

"Tonight was about more than awards," said Rege. "It was about character. You've

embodied the values that these candles represent, and you now carry the responsibility of leading by example."

The ceremony concluded with a standing ovation, celebrating not just the individual accomplishments of the inductees, but also the supportive families, faculty, and community that have helped them succeed.

Pathfinder Tech's NTHS chapter continues to set a high standard for career and technical education in Massachusetts, preparing students to excel not just in their chosen fields, but as leaders in their communities and beyond.

**CONCERT** | from page 1

Wednesday of each month, offers private space for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia to share experiences and support one another.

Additionally, the Memory Café continues to be a meaningful option for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Held on the first Monday of every month at the Monson Library, the café offers music, games, and light refreshments in a relaxed, secure environment. The program is part of the town's Age & Dementia Friendly initiative.

The center's commitment to education and engagement remains strong. On May 28, Judge Santanello will visit the center for an informal discussion on civil and family law. Residents are encouraged to bring questions for this accessible and informative session.

Looking ahead to June, the center is preparing for a Father's Day celebration,

with details on entertainment to be announced soon. A National Grid Energy Fair is also planned later this summer to help residents learn how to better manage home energy costs.

Behind the scenes, Director Lori Stacy noted that the center, like many others across the country, is keeping a close eye on developments related to federal and state funding. While there's currently no cause for alarm, Stacy acknowledged that delayed federal budget decisions can sometimes create uncertainty for programs that rely on grants for transportation, outreach, and nutrition services.

"Our approach is to stay informed and keep planning," Stacy said. "We're moving forward while we wait for clarity. The important thing is that our doors are open, and our programs continue."

While some neighboring communities are navigating more immediate budget shortfalls, Monson is continuing to operate on a steady course.

Stacy expressed appreciation for the community's support and encouraged residents to reach out with questions and ideas.

The day's message was one of celebration and resilience. Staff reminded guests that staying active and engaged is one of the best ways to support personal wellness and community strength.

As the Senior Center looks ahead to a busy summer, its team remains focused on what matters most: serving Monson's seniors with compassion, creativity, and commitment.



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The crowd waits for Charlie Lask to perform. Refreshments were served as part of the concert.

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  - ~ Shampoo Sink/Chair
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**OPEN HOUSE**

- **Date & Time:** Sunday, May 18 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Location:** 17 Palmer Road, Monson, MA 01057
- **Contact:** Lindsay Richard (413) 267-4373
- **Website:** [gigglebugspreschoolcenter.com](http://gigglebugspreschoolcenter.com)

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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Must I take Medicare Part A even if I have VA or Medicaid coverage?

Dear Rusty:

Does everyone need to sign up for Medicare part A, even if you are ex-military? Or only on Medicaid, regardless of whether you are eligible for Social Security or not? Also is there a cost for just part A?

**Signed: Confused Senior**

Dear Confused:

For Your Information, there is no cost for Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage for those who are also eligible for Social Security benefits. And it is mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part A if you are age 65 or over and are collecting Social Security benefits. If you are ex-military and get all your healthcare services from the VA, you must still enroll in Medicare Part A, which is free, to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

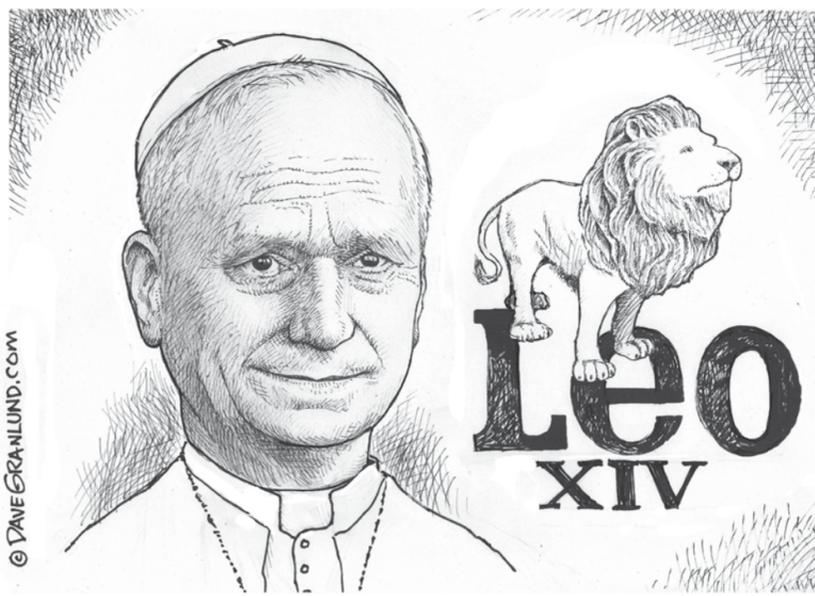
Enrollment in Medicare Part B, which is healthcare coverage for outpatient services, is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B. But if you receive all of your healthcare services from the VA, you can, if you wish, decline Medicare Part B and, thus, save the monthly Part B premium. Enrolling in Medicare Part B when you get all your healthcare services from the VA is a matter of having the convenience to choose any healthcare provider you wish versus using only VA healthcare services.

If you receive Medicaid benefits and are also eligible for Medicare, you should probably enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B (Medicare would be primary payor and Medic-

aid the secondary payor). You would be considered "dually eligible" and likely exempt from most healthcare costs with coverage from both programs. That said, it is sometimes not mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part B to get Medicaid benefits, but each state has separate Medicaid eligibility rules. Thus, you should check with your state's Medicaid office to see if it is mandatory to take Medicare Part B to keep your Medicaid benefits. FYI, in most instances, Medicaid will pay your Medicare Part B costs, so there is little reason not to enroll in Medicare Part B while on Medicaid. Regardless, enrollment in Medicare Part A is required to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

I would like to thank you for your service to our country and also assure you that we are always here for you if you have any further questions.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



### A little of this and a little of that

I went outside yesterday to assess the damage after nearly five inches of rain fell from last Thursday night through Saturday mid day.

To say that I was mortified was an understatement. My pea seedlings were underwater, there was a river flowing into the trenches that my newly planted potatoes were in, and the floor of my greenhouse literally had an empty bucket floating in it.

Although the water table has fallen in the last 24 hours, I still wonder when, if ever, I will be able to plant the parts of my garden still covered in winter rye, as tilling it in might not happen until July, and that's if we don't get anymore rain. I was mad about it all day, because this was the year I was going to have the best garden ever.

My transplants look fantastic, and I have all sorts of seedlings going in succession, so that, for example, my broccoli and cauliflower don't

## in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

age ensues. Squishing the slug-like, poop-covered larvae deserves a "bravest gardener of the year" award-hard to do even by this "well-seasoned and especially fed-up" gardener's standards!

ripen all at once. How will I ever plant them, I thought?

The day ended and a new day came, and with it joy in the morning. The standing water was gone, at least, and so was my desire to pack it all up and move to a condominium. Maybe there is hope.

I spent Mother's Day gardening after all, in higher parts of the yard, and it was a good day.

While I was working among the plants I made note that the lily leaf beetle has arrived. Hand-picking and destroying the bright red



insects over the last couple of years has thankfully inspired a resurgence in my patch of tiger lilies. It can in yours too!

Search out adults early in the season, beginning in mid April, when they are hanging around looking for a mate or in the process of mating. Pick them up and drop them into soapy water.

Well seasoned and especially fed-up gardeners can simply squish the bug. That's me.

Chances are you won't be able to get every adult before some eggs are laid. Find them on the undersides of the leaves; they are brownish-red in color, and are easily "done in" by running your thumb along the vein of the leaf.

If you miss some eggs, dealing with the larva is your final option before real dam-

If you just can't bring yourself to handle the buggers, try an insecticide made from neem extract. Although neem is a botanical, it is not to be sprayed when bees are out. Using it in the evening is a good option.

My peony plants have put on some nice buds. All but one of my plants had already been staked, and the one that wasn't is on the small side, perfect to be put in one of those circular tomato cages.

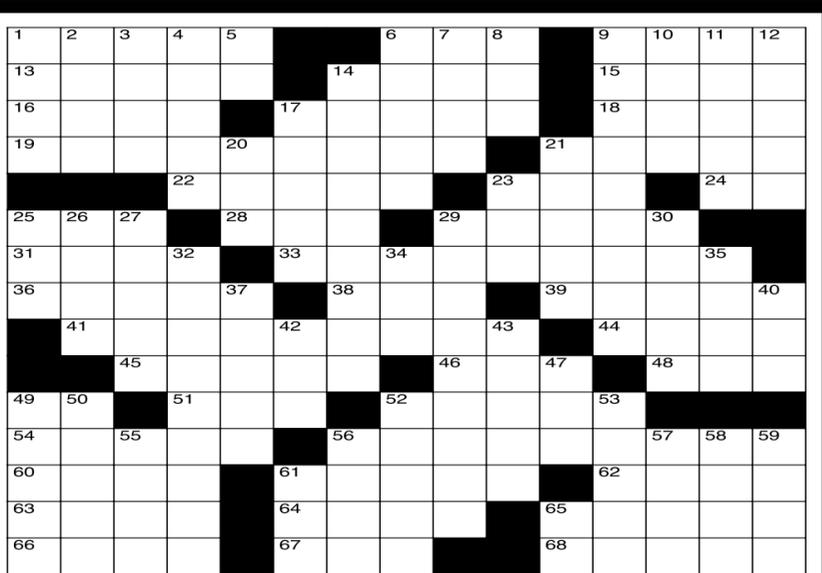
I was sprinkling fertilizers as I weeded and groomed, but I left the fertilizer out when I came to these old-timers. Too much nitrogen for peonies can be a no-no; instead of making more flowers, it can actually cause them to abort, or just develop lots of leaves at the expense of flowers.

I just got word from a friend that there is a frost warning for tonight. Although I didn't see frost in my area, I did see that temperatures may fall to around 37 degrees.

Alas, peppers and tomato transplants would revolt in an unheated greenhouse at those temperatures. Out I go, trucking them in to the kitchen, tray by tray. At least I am not up to my ankles in water tonight.

I guess it is all part of the wonderful ups and downs of gardening in New England, or anywhere else for that matter!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Two-person German submarine
- 6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Vertical position
- 14. American jazz singer Irene
- 15. Ancient Greek City
- 16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
- 17. Japanese seaport
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks
- 21. Beloved type of cigar
- 22. Discounts
- 23. Cambodian communist leader Pot
- 24. Important football position
- 25. Kilometers per hour
- 28. Lentil
- 29. Extremely angry
- 31. Yellow-flowered
- 33. European plant
- 36. Some are made by rabbits
- 38. Express with a head movement
- 39. Affair
- 41. Cured
- 44. Youth organization
- 45. 18-year astronomical period
- 46. Automobile
- 48. Focus a shot
- 49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 51. Mouth
- 52. Infections
- 54. Curved pieces of a horse collar
- 56. Shameless
- 60. Assist in escaping
- 61. Capuchin monkey genus
- 62. Cold wind
- 63. Retired Brazilian NBAer
- 64. Tropical Old World tree
- 65. Bulgarian city

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Not soft
- 2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 3. Line a roof
- 4. Greek god of the underworld
- 5. Software
- 6. Large-headed elongated fishes
- 7. Shag rugs
- 8. Type of whale
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Spill the beans
- 11. Some is "heavy"
- 12. One who has been canonized
- 14. Indicate times
- 17. Greeting
- 20. Broadway actor Josh
- 21. Seashore
- 23. Indicates before
- 25. Electrical power unit
- 26. Destitute
- 27. Drags forcibly
- 29. Impropriety
- 30. Word forms
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Official
- 49. People living in Myanmar
- 50. Notable tower
- 52. Type of sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Listing
- 56. Summertime insects
- 57. Concluding passage
- 58. Guitarist Clapton
- 59. Damp and musty
- 61. Central nervous system
- 65. Against

## The Journal Register TEAM

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@ Journal Register



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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:  
**The Journal Register**  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)  
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

### Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

**Campaign news**

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

## The Brimfield Waltz

*It was a moment once more in May -*

*And everything again was green ...*

*As hard times had closed upon the land:*

*And this we were getting from*

*One field at least was open -*

*And back, among many friends?*

*How much was coming down -*

*That further must go on ...*

*And then, - in your face was seen:*

*And music, from somewhere near -*

*What we were all after ...*

*Could feel it all return.*

*In the mystery of night, are partners joined?*

*Ladies in long dresses, - and men, gallantly tossed:*

*And there by the hills, that lay all around us*

*We gathered to do the Brimfield Waltz.*

- Charles Barnes

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

**Saturday May 24, 2025**

**RED SOLO CUP concert;** a tribute to Toby Keith at Brimfield Winery 35 Main St., Brimfield, tickets available at [Brimfieldwinery.com](http://Brimfieldwinery.com)

**Saturday, June 7- Sunday, June 8**

**6th Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival!** Featuring Farmers, Wine, Beer, Cider, Mead, Distilleries, Food and Art, at Brimfield Auction Acres Field- 35 Main St., Brimfield. Tickets available at [pioneervalleywinefestival.com](http://pioneervalleywinefestival.com)

**June 12**

**JEEP SHOW** to benefit Autism in my Pocket- Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St., Brimfield. Free to the public. Jeep entries please email Robin at [autisminmypocket@charter.net](mailto:autisminmypocket@charter.net)

**June 21**

**Concert Butcher & The Summer of Love** at Brimfield Winery 35 Main St., Brimfield. Tickets available at [Brimfieldwinery.com](http://Brimfieldwinery.com).

**ONGOING**

**CRAFTERNOONS:** Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

**KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:** Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomestead-museum.org](mailto:khm@keephomestead-museum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

**QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD:** Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

**LINE DANCING CLASS:** 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

**GAME NIGHT:** 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

**NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

**QI GONG:** Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

**UPCOMING**

**WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET** - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. Every Saturday morning from 9 a.m - noon. It will begin on Memorial Day weekend and run throughout the summer until Labor Day. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

**Police Logs**

**Palmer Police Department**

The Palmer Police Department reported 177 incidents on its logs from May 6 through May 13.

**Tuesday, May 6**

7:24 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of an animal complain at Flynt and Beech Street.

9:03 a.m. – An officer took a report of hazardous conditions at Main Street and Thorndike Street.

10:17 a.m. – Naoufel Benmoussa, 26, off 1570 North Main Street, Palmer, was arrested on charges of a subsequent offense of operating with a suspended license and speeding.

12:46 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street business for a report of a disturbance.

5:54 p.m. – AN officer responded to an accident at Thorndike and Converse Street. There was reported property damage.

6 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident at Beebe Road and Reed Road. Personal injuries were reported.

11:56 p.m. – Jaimaree Coronity, 23, of 1024 School Street, Palmer was arrested on charged unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to dim headlights.

**Wednesday, May 7**

6:41 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. There was reported property damage.

9:14 a.m. – An officer responded to Ware Street for an accident with property damage.

9:32 a.m. – An officer took a report of larceny.

10 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance.

12:36 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of an accident with property damage.

1:36 p.m. – An office responded to a report of an accident on Thorndike Street.

2:28 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bridge Street. Personal injuries were reported.

5:09 p.m. – An officer responded to a Park Street business for a report of disorderly conduct.

5:42 p.m. – Gaurav Patel, 36, of 88 Lawton Street, Springfield, was arrested on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

8:56 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a hit and run in a Thorndike Street business parking lot.

**Thursday, May 8**

7:02 a.m. – An officer responded to Fairview Street for a report of vandalism.

10:57 a.m. – An officer responded to Springfield Street for a report of a medical emergency.

2:54 p.m. – An officer responded to a Park Street business for a report of shoplifting.

2:57 p.m. – An officer responded to Beacon Drive for a report of a medical emergency.

**Friday, May 9**

3:18 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence to assist with someone having a mental health crisis.

5 p.m. – An officer responded to Ware Street and High Street for a report of an accident.

9:04 p.m. – An officer responded to Orchard Street for a report of a threat.

9:45 p.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of a hit and run accident.

**Saturday, May 10**

9:22 a.m. – An officer responded to Wilbraham Street for a report of an accident with property damage.

11:07 a.m. – An officer responded to Rugles Street for a report of a threat.

1:07 p.m. – An officer responded to the Mass Turnpike west bound lane for a report of an accident with injuries.

1:49 p.m. – An officer took a report of larceny.

4:55 p.m. – An officer responded to a Depot Street business for a report of a hit and run accident.

**Sunday, May 11**

2:32 p.m. – An officer responded to the Mass Turnpike west bound lane for a report of an accident with injuries.

**Monday, May 12**

11:55 a.m. – An officer responded to Pine Street and Thorndike Street for a report of an accident with injuries.

4:37 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident at a Thorndike Street business with property damage.

8:32 p.m. – An officer responded to Converse Street for a report of vandalism.

8:43 p.m. – An officer responded to Beacon Drive for a report of harassment.

## 13th World Fright Park's Annual Halfway To Halloween is May 17

PALMER—Whoa, Halloween fans are halfway to their favorite season and while 13th World Fright Park promises to take fans by the hand, there is no guarantee they'll make it out of the haunted house's annual Halfway to Halloween event on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

"Last year was our first ever Halfway to Halloween

and our fans loved it so much, we decided to do it every year so our fans can get a taste of what to expect for the new season," said Rich Vailant, 13th World Fright Park Co-Founder.

"We have some exciting additions in store for the 2025 season that we know will scare the living daylights out of attendees and we're eager

to test them out at Halfway to Halloween and make fans scream and run for their lives."

Halfway to Halloween was created as a way for fans to celebrate their love of Halloween and to get a sneak peak of what's lurking for the new season. Doors open at 6 p.m. 13th World is located at 1701 Park Street, Palmer, Massachusetts 01069.



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**BUDGET** | from page 1

become involved early, when there's time to weigh options and fully understand implications, rather than introducing major changes without collaboration or input.

**Understanding the Budget Categories**

The presentation walked attendees through the major funding categories in the town's financial structure. The general fund is the main operating account, supporting departments such as schools, public safety, and public works. Enterprise funds cover services like trash, water, and sewer through user fees, and must remain self-contained. CPA (Community Preserva-

tion Act) funds, generated by a 3% property tax surcharge and supplemented by state matching funds, are restricted to open space, recreation, historic preservation, and community housing.

**Financial Reserves and Fiscal Stability**

Farnum outlined the town's financial policies, which aim to maintain reserves between 5% and 7% of the budget in both free cash and stabilization funds. These reserves are vital to maintaining Monson's strong AA credit rating and controlling the interest costs on capital projects. A graph displayed during the presentation showed a 20-year history of the town's free cash, illustrating why this

unpredictable revenue source should be used for one-time expenses rather than recurring operating costs.

**Rising Budget Pressures**

Addressing increasing budget pressures, Farnum noted that health insurance and retirement assessments have surged; health insurance alone jumped nearly 13% this year, and retirement costs are up between 8% and 10%. The town is also seeing higher assessments from regional agencies, including \$135,000 more for Pathfinder and \$65,000 more for West-Com. Meanwhile, Monson's revenue growth remains limited, with the town relying on Proposition 2 1/2 increases and uncertain state aid.

**Breakdown of the General Fund Budget**

The town's general fund budget, presented as Article 15 on the warrant, reflects a 3.3% increase from the previous year, just over \$900,000. Nearly 60% of that budget is dedicated to education-related costs, including school operations, transportation, and regional assessments. Rising fixed costs, such as pensions and healthcare, are consuming a growing share of the budget and limiting flexibility elsewhere.

**Long-Term Financial Strategies**

Farnum touched on long-term strategies the town is exploring to manage costs and improve efficiency.

These include shared services between departments, expanded financial coordination through regular Tri-Board meetings, and exploring alternatives for health insurance coverage. She also referenced past and future capital needs that may require debt exclusions, such as school repairs and safety improvements.

**Advocacy Success and Positive News**

One bright spot in Farnum's presentation was a recent \$75,000 earmark secured through advocacy efforts at the state level, with support from Senator Ryan Fattman, Representative Brian Ashe, and Select Board member Don Kupfer. The

earmark will support the school district with \$62,000 for math curriculum, \$4,000 for Chromebook replacements, and \$7,000 for engineering equipment and training, freeing up funds in the school's operating budget.

**Closing Remarks and Future Steps**

Farnum closed by thanking residents for their participation and reminded everyone that the budget process begins months before Town Meeting, typically in October, and benefits greatly from early and sustained community input. "Recurring budget problems won't disappear," she said, "but our financial reserves will, if we use them to fix our problems."

**MEETING** | from page 1

All motions were presented and passed by department category. The only modification came under the education category, where a major amendment, which was proposed by resident Erica Nissenbaum, sought to increase the school budget by \$300,000 to avoid imminent layoffs of teachers and support staff.

Amendment sparks fiscal and emotional crossroads

The amendment to the education line item proposed increasing Line 52 of the school budget by \$300,000, bringing it from \$10,844,619 to \$11,144,619. The total education budget, after all line items, rose to \$12,464,882.

Nissenbaum, a resident of Butler Road in Monson, introduced the amendment on behalf of a group of concerned parents and residents. She described it as a one-time emergency measure necessary to preserve critical positions at the Early Childhood Center, Granite Valley School, and Monson High School.

"This amendment is about avoiding devastating cuts to student services," she said. "We are not adding new programs. We are simply trying to keep trusted staff in our classrooms."

Her remarks received applause from a sizable group of supporters in attendance, many of whom voiced frustration over the state of public education funding.

School layoffs loom as budget timing collides with

state uncertainty

One central point of concern was the school department's legally mandated June 15 deadline to issue layoff notices to staff, which is weeks before the state budget is expected to be finalized. This timing mismatch has created acute financial uncertainty.

Even with the \$300,000 increase, school officials acknowledged that approximately \$500,000 in cuts would still be necessary. Without the amendment, the layoffs would likely be deeper and more immediate.

Jessica Allen, a local parent, gave an emotionally charged speech supporting the amendment. "We are in a mental health crisis," she said. "Our students need counselors, interventionists, and stable staff. This isn't just about math and reading—this is about human connection and support."

Allen challenged town officials, asking whether they had recently spent time in the district's schools. "If you haven't walked our hallways, you don't truly know what we're asking you to vote on," she said.

Finance officials urge caution over use of free cash

While public support for the amendment was strong, town officials and the Finance Committee raised red flags. Finance Director Jamie Farnum explained that funding the amendment through free cash, a non-recurring revenue source, would lower the town's unappropriated reserve below its self-imposed 33% threshold.



Participants enter the school for the Monson Annual Town Meeting. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Before the amendment, free cash was projected to end the meeting at approximately \$822,158. Allocating \$300,000 would reduce the balance to around \$536,000, below the \$711,985 reserve target. Although the 33% policy is not legally binding, officials warned that violating it could have real consequences, including:

- Lower state free cash certifications in future years
- Reduced ability to respond to emergencies
- Possible credit rating downgrades
- Increased pressure for a Proposition 2 1/2 override in FY27

"Free cash should be used for one-time capital expenses, not to plug holes in an operating budget," Farnum said. "Once it's gone, it's gone."

Override Concerns and Sustainability Questions

Jo Sauriel, a town resident, asked whether the amendment might lead to an override in the next fiscal cycle. Farnum confirmed that re-

taining positions paid for with one-time funds will indeed require recurring revenue in FY27 or cuts elsewhere.

"If new funding isn't identified," Farnum said, "then yes...either an override or program reductions will be needed next year."

Finance Committee members echoed this concern, emphasizing that the amendment, while well-intentioned, may set an unsustainable precedent.

Capital spending and broader free cash strategy

In addition to Article 15, the meeting also addressed Article 21, which proposed approximately \$457,000 in capital spending from free cash for equipment and infrastructure. When combined with the earlier \$200,000 used for the omnibus budget and the \$300,000 education amendment, the town's free cash utilization this year approached \$1 million.

Finance Committee members said they supported the use of free cash in this cycle because of anticipated

revenue growth in FY27, but warned that this was not a long-term strategy.

Community speaks: equity, priorities, and shared responsibility

Several residents offered commentary highlighting the broader values and conflicts at stake.

Roxanne Gunther criticized recent increases in administrative salaries, arguing that money could have been reallocated to preserve education services.

Lindsay Garman, a graduate of the local schools, encouraged more sustainable planning. She noted the district's declining enrollment—roughly 800 students—and the rising cost per student, which she estimated at \$13,000 annually.

Adam Moro called for a broader vision of community support. "We're all in this together," he said. "Our kids matter, our seniors matter, our town services matter. We need to stop seeing this as one group against another."

Others noted demograph-

ic data indicating that just 9% of town residents are under 18, while over 50% are above age 50. Several speakers, including Pat Oney of 1 Elm Street, cautioned that increasing school funding may force cuts to vital programs such as the Senior Center, Parks and Recreation, or the library.

"We can't make last-minute decisions that risk other services," Oney said. "We already support the schools through multiple channels, including \$115,000 for transportation, a \$500,000 state earmark, and annual school choice revenue."

Governance clarified: School Committee authority maintained

Throughout the meeting, multiple residents raised questions about the budget process, particularly the town's role in school finances. Finance officials and the Town Moderator reiterated that while Town Meeting approves the total school department budget, line-item decisions are the domain of the School Committee.

Farnum reminded voters that the school committee and administration are responsible for internal budgeting. "All town departments operate within the revenues available," she said. "We trust our school officials to do the same."

Final votes and conclusion

The amendment to increase the school budget passed by majority. The updated education line was set at \$12,464,882.

The omnibus budget, incorporating the education amendment and all other department appropriations, was then approved in its final form.

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Memory Café - Lunch and Advise Program

**Friday, May 16**  
Oregano Oil Class - Oregano Oil is considered nature's penicillin. Stop by and see how to make your own

**Friday, May 23**  
Movie - "Nebraska" - When father and adult son embark on a journey to claim a million-dollar prize, what begins as a fool's errand be-

comes a search for the road to redemption.

**Monday, May 26**  
Memorial Day - Center Closed

**Friday, May 30**  
"Rock Painting" - We will provide the rocks, brushes, and paint, you provide the creativity.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Boston Harbor Cruise - October 9, 2025—\$110 includes transportation & tips, cruise w/ buffet lunch and three rounds of Bingo, on-board DJ. \$55 due at sign up and \$55 due by August 1.

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USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI DOMESTIC HAM.....	<b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS.....	<b>\$3.69</b> lb	USDA INSP. SUPERIOR ON MAIN MINI ECLAIRS JUMBO PAK 15 CT....	<b>\$9.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE.....	<b>\$4.99</b> lb			USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG.....	<b>\$15.99</b> ea

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Oct. 18.....**Turkey Train**..... \$175

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# Business

## Consalvo named Assistant Vice President of Marketing

WARE – Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to welcome Cristina Consalvo as the new Assistant Vice President of Marketing.

Cristina brings more than 13 years of diverse marketing experience to the team, with a background spanning the financial services, insurance, and cannabis industries. Her expertise includes marketing communications, digital strategy, media planning,

website management, and event coordination. Most recently, she was the Marketing Director for three brands simultaneously in a corporate B2B setting, overseeing everything from lead generation and public relations to website redesigns and advertising campaigns.

Cristina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in



Cristina Consalvo

Marketing with a minor in Management from Quinnipiac University. She was recently recognized as the 2024 Marketer of the Year by the ADCANN Cannabis Advertising Awards, an honor awarded to just one individual across the country.

“We are thrilled to welcome Cristina to the Country Bank team. Her experience,

expertise and vision in bank marketing make her an excellent fit for this role” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer. “Cristina’s passion for effective and efficient marketing, teamwork and her digital capabilities are abundant and align with our Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are confident that her energy, skills and leadership will elevate our marketing efforts so that we can continue to drive our

strategic initiatives forward.” Cristina was drawn to Country Bank’s strong reputation and culture as she transitioned back to an in-office setting after five years of remote work. “I love seeing projects through from planning to execution to results,” she shared. “I’m excited to support the Bank’s strategic goals through thoughtful and impactful marketing initiatives.”

Cristina serves as a strategic advisor and board member of TeeHC Open, a

nontraditional networking event in the cannabis industry that brings over 500 professionals together annually. She has also been a Brand Partner with Young Living Essential Oils, sharing her passion for living a clean, nontoxic lifestyle for the last four years.

Outside of work, Cristina enjoys gardening and spending time with her husband, son, and their two dogs. She is also a proud Boston Bruins season ticket holder.

## Country Bank welcomes Lucila Sánchez as Retail Loan Officer

WARE – Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the addition of Lucy Sanchez to its Retail Lending Team. Lucy brings nearly two decades of experience in the banking industry and a strong commitment to community engagement.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lucy to the Country Bank team. Her extensive background in banking and mortgage lending, with deep ties to the community and financial literacy, make her an exceptional addition to our retail lending team,” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer. “Lucy’s passion for serving others, along with her entre-

preneurial spirit and commitment to building strong customer relationships, aligns perfectly with our Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are confident that her experience and energy will further strengthen our customer experience and community impact.”

Lucy began her career in banking in 2006 as a teller and steadily advanced through the ranks to senior leadership roles. Prior to joining Country Bank, she spent over a decade at Freedom Credit Union, where she was recognized with the prestigious President’s Award: Employee of the Year for her outstanding dedication to both the organization and the community

it serves.

A proud bilingual professional fluent in English and Spanish, Lucy has long served as a trusted voice within the Latino community. She played an active role on the Latino Initiative Board and became a familiar face through her appearances in local television, radio, and newspaper campaigns. She also authored a financial education column in Spanish for El Pueblo Latino, covering essential topics such as budgeting, credit, and retirement planning.

Lucy’s commitment to financial literacy has extended into faith-based and nonprofit spaces. She has led multi-session workshops on financial education for local congregations and has

served on the board of the Puerto Rican Cultural Project under the Holyoke Public Library. Her dedication has earned her recognition from Mujeres A La Vanguardia in Springfield for her leadership and community contributions.

In addition to her career in banking, Lucy is a seasoned entrepreneur with experience as a former restaurant owner and the current operator of a sewing academy. Her firsthand understanding of small business ownership allows her to better support and guide customers in their own financial journeys.



Lucila Sánchez

“I’m honored to join Country Bank, an organization that shares my passion for community and financial empowerment. I look forward to helping individuals and families achieve their homeownership goals and build stronger financial futures,” said Lucila (Lucy) Sánchez.

About Country Bank: Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security.

Country Bank is a full-service \$2.0 billion mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

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**Saturday, May 17, 2025**  
Gates open at 9:00am

**Military Appreciation Day**

Our mission is to give Veterans an unforgettable track experience.

Veterans are invited to join us for a day of racing fun as we celebrate Military Appreciation Day at PMP. Ride along in amazing race cars with Palmer Club drivers and experience the thrills of racing. There will be food and beverages, static displays, and so much more! Sign in with your valid military ID at 9:00am and let the fun begin.

**Location:** Palmer Motorsports Park  
**Address:** 58 W Ware Rd, Palmer, MA 01069  
**Start Time:** 9:00am  
**Event Signup:** <https://palmermsp.com/vets/>

# Business

## Resident opens new preschool GiggleBugs

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON—After more than a decade operating a successful home daycare, local educator Lindsay Richards is expanding her vision with the launch of Giggle Bugs Preschool, set to open soon at 17 Palmer Road in Monson. Though the official start date is pending state licensure, the community is invited to an open house on Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Lindsay's journey into early childhood education began not in a classroom, but in retail sales. After 12 years in that industry, she was taking a college education course that required her to observe children at play. She chose

to complete the assignment at her aunt's preschool in Belchertown. That visit changed everything.

"I was hooked," Lindsay recalls. "I thought, 'I could do this for a living.' It just felt right."

From there, she volunteered at Belchertown Community Preschool while continuing her studies, later securing a preschool teaching role at Cute Kids Preschool in Palmer around 2010. After about a year, she moved on to Rise and Shine Academy in South Hadley, teaching infants and toddlers.

When she gave birth to her daughter, now 13 years



Lindsay Richards

old, Lindsay re-evaluated her path. The cost of childcare prompted her to open Lindsay's Home Daycare in 2013, a move that blended professional purpose with personal convenience. Eleven years later, that experience has paved the way for Giggle Bugs Preschool.

The name "Giggle Bugs" has a special origin. It was inspired by Riley, one of Lindsay's first daycare children. "She had the best laugh," Lindsay says. "I wanted something that incorporated bugs, kids love bugs, and when I thought of her giggle, it just clicked: Gigglebugs."



Submitted photo

Giggle Bugs Preschool recently opened and will have an open house this weekend.

The new preschool will serve children from two months to 14 years old, offering a curriculum-based program led by fully certified teachers. All staff are CPR and first-aid certified in

accordance with Massachusetts state requirements. The school will also host field trips and family engagement events throughout the year. Gigglebugs will be open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., giving working parents a flexible and dependable childcare option. While some have requested even longer hours, Lindsay draws the line at 5:30.

"That's already nearly a 12-hour day," she says. "This work is rewarding, but it's demanding too. I want to give children and families my best."

With her long-time dream of opening a preschool finally coming to life, Lindsay looks forward to welcoming families into a space filled with learning, creativity, and plenty of giggles.

For more information about Giggle Bugs Preschool or the upcoming open house, contact Lindsay at (413)-267-4373.

## New ownership for 'Pre-Brimfield' Flea Market

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Just a stone's throw from the bustle of Brimfield's famed antique week, another flea market has steadily grown into a thriving destination in its own right, and its new owner is giving it fresh life.

The Palmer Antique Flea Market, formerly known under the Marier's family name, is now in its third season under the stewardship of Kris Dunn, a longtime vintage vendor who turned promoter after decades in the second-hand trade. The market operates for five days, running Thursday through Monday, just ahead of the Brimfield Flea Market's Tuesday opening. It's part of a long-standing rhythm for vendors and antique lovers in the region, many of whom wrap up in Palmer and head straight down the road to Brimfield.

"I've been doing second hand since I was 18," said Dunn, seated near the front gate of the market, clipboard in hand. "We had a family-run thrift shop. Closed that in 2015, moved everything to an antique mall, and then this came up for sale. I jumped on it."

Dunn, who runs the event alongside her husband Jack, said she considers herself more a "coordinator" than promoter, but her passion for the market and its community is clear. "I'm normally a vendor, but now I'm not. It's a

shift. But it's worth it."

The market has continued to grow under her leadership, with this season's Thursday opening day marking the busiest setup she's seen yet. "It was packed," she said. "I had a lot of new vendors, a lot of returning ones. And I'm expecting a good crowd tomorrow, even though it's Mother's Day."

Held three times each year in coordination with the Brimfield shows, the Palmer Flea Market offers a slightly more relaxed, community-driven experience with the added benefit of drawing serious antique buyers on their way through. The next scheduled market opens July 3 and runs through July 7.

Dunn is actively seeking new vendors for the upcoming July show, especially younger sellers with fresh stock and energy. "It's the Fourth of July weekend, and some of my regulars can't make it," she said. "We lost a vendor last year. My husband keeps telling me, 'You've gotta get younger people in.' And he's right."

Though the market still carries the Mariers family name on social media, Dunn is slowly rebranding it. "I changed the sign out front and not one person noticed," she said with a laugh. "People are just used to showing up. But it's time to make it my own."

As for the market's roots, Dunn admits she doesn't know all the history. What she does know is that it began with a bait shop and a

father-son duo who expanded the site into a full-fledged market. Eventually, it was passed down within the Mariers family before Dunn took over. She now lives on the property full-time.

Despite the occasional weather-related hiccup, like the rain that forced a day's closure this season, Dunn remains optimistic and energized about the market's future. "Mother Nature's had a lot to say," she joked as the

wind rustled nearby tents. "But we keep going."

Interested vendors can contact Kris Dunn through the market's "Mariers-Palmer Antique Flea Market" or directly via her number, 978-761-8136, listed at the site. "Just stop by or give me a call," she said. "I've got a spot for you."

### Upcoming Market Dates:

- July 3 to 7
- Aug. 28 to Sept. 1



Kris Dunn is the market's main promoter now.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The new sign for the Antique Palmer Pre-Brimfield Flea Market.



There were plenty of tents with numerous items for sale.



Interested vendors should get in touch with Dunn to take part.



More vendors are being sought for the next show.



The Pre-Brimfield Market takes place in Palmer.

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LACROSSE

## Mustangs fall at home

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Mirella Vargas was a sophomore on the 2015 Chicopee girls' lacrosse team, which defeated Monson, 13-8, at home in the program's first ever varsity match.

Vargas is currently an assistant varsity coach for the Lady Pacers, and she filled in for varsity coach Ashley Ziemba during last Wednesday's game at Monson High School.

Vargas didn't have very much to worry about, as the Lady Pacers built a 13-3 half-time lead and coasted to a 20-5 victory over the Lady Mustangs in a Suburban League match-up.

"This is a very good group of lacrosse players, and they played very well in today's game," Vargas said. "It also feels very nice to win my first game as a varsity coach."

Chicopee had a perfect 8-0 league record and a 12-1 overall record following the road win.

"I believe this is the most wins we've ever had in the history of the girls lacrosse program. We're also hoping to win the league title for the first time," Vargas said. "All of the girls have been working very hard. We just want to continue playing well heading into the postseason tournament."

LACROSSE | page 10

BASEBALL

## Monson falls to Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE – Because six of the players with Monson and Ware varsity baseball were teammates on the Monson Legion Post 241 baseball team last summer, it's become a friendly rivalry game.

The Ware Indians swept the season series against the Monson Mustangs for the third consecutive year with a 7-5 senior night victory at Memorial Field in Ware, last Wednesday.

"We've been playing baseball with and against the Monson players since we were kids," said senior

Nathan Kaczuwka, who was Ware's starting pitcher. "We put our friendships aside for a couple of hours, but we're friends again after the game."

Kaczuwka is also a member of the Post 241 squad, along with his younger brother, Kyle, who's a junior catcher, and senior centerfielder Jason Mumper.

The three Legion players on the Mustangs varsity roster are junior Austin Meacham, who was Monson's starting pitcher, junior catcher Shane Szado, and sophomore second baseman Niko Mattieu.

Nathan Kaczuwka has been a member of the Indians

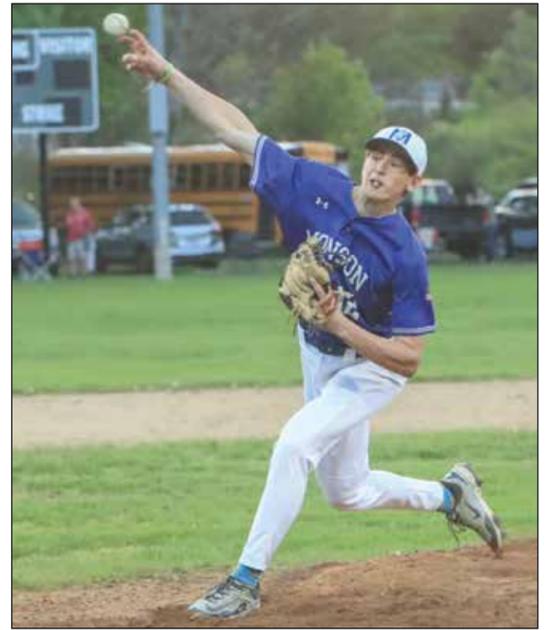
varsity baseball team since he was a freshman.

He and Monson junior shortstop Jake Beaupre have been teammates on a travel baseball team in the past.

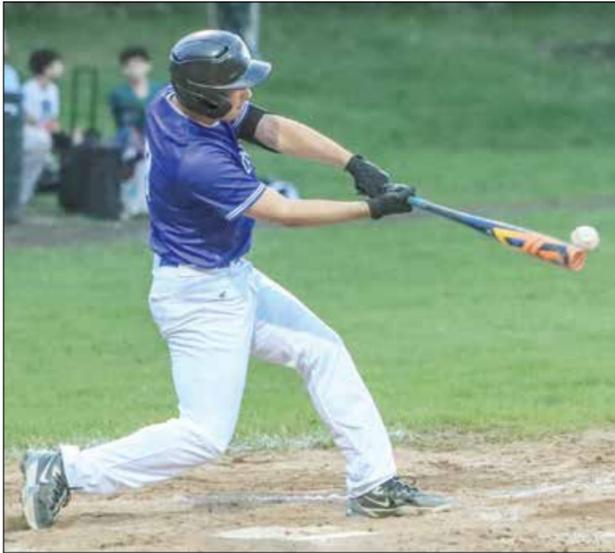
Kaczuwka, who's a righthander, won his third game of the season by allowing four runs on nine base hits with three walks and four strikeouts in six innings. He was replaced on the mound by junior righty Jack Gaudreau after allowing a single and a walk in the top of the seventh inning.

Kaczuwka and Mumper were honored during a pre-

BASEBALL | page 10



Austin Meacham releases his delivery during the early innings.



Ben Pignone makes solid contact as he clocks this pitch.



Jake Beaupre snags this hot shot.



Niko Mattieu knocks down and smothers this grounder.

LACROSSE

## Tantasqua Warriors girls lacrosse edged by Brownies

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Between 2016 and 2019, Taylor DeGeorge scored a total of seven goals and had three assists in the four games that the Agawam girls' varsity lacrosse team won against Tantasqua Regional.

DeGeorge, who's the first-year Brownies varsity coach, guided her team to a

10-9 victory versus the Lady Warriors on a rainy afternoon at Harmon A. Smith Field in Agawam, last Monday.

"I do remember playing them in high school, but we really needed this win today," DeGeorge said. "It was a game of possession, and we were successful whenever we were making smart passes."

The home win improved Agawam's overall record to 7-5. After winning their first

five matches of the regular season, the Brownies went 2-5 in their next seven matches.

"Our main goal is to qualify for the Western Mass. Class A tournament and the Division 2 state tournament," DeGeorge added. "We just have to stay focused and keep doing the little things."

The Lady Warriors headed back to Central Massachusetts with a 9-3 overall record.

"We started today's game very slowly," said Tantasqua head coach Heather Egan. "We played much better during the second period, but they came back against us during the second half. They just played a little bit better than we did."

Since the two teams played an 11-11 tie at the beginning of the 2012 regular season, Agawam has now won the last eleven games in

the series.

"Agawam has always had a very good lacrosse program and they're well coached," Egan said. "We've played a couple of close games against them in the past."

The Lady Warriors split their other two games last week. They defeated Notre Dame Academy of Worcester, 15-4, on the road before losing at home to Nipmuc Regional, 16-9.

The Brownies were shut out, 16-0, at East Longmeadow, last Thursday night.

Tantasqua should be able to finish the regular season with an above .500 record and clinch a berth in the Division 2 state tournament.

The Brownies will most likely need to finish the regular season with a .500 or better record to qualify for the

WARRIORS | page 10

TENNIS

## Rain hampers schedule, leads to extension of cutoff date for playoffs

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Rainouts are a part of every spring, especially for baseball and softball. But some seasons are more excessive than others.

As it stands, the spring season is the shortest regular season during the school year, starting in the first week of April and only last until the third or fourth week of May. The new state playoff system implemented in 2021 further shortened the spring season, as the sectional playoffs now take place a week earlier.

While there has already been a lot of rain this spring, this past week has been the worst of it, with some areas of Western and Central Mass. getting between four and six inches of rain combined throughout the week.

While sports like lacrosse, which is played on

artificial turf in many places, and boys volleyball which is played indoors, have been largely unaffected, other sports have not been so lucky. Baseball, softball, tennis, and track have taken big hits, with lots of games, meets, and matches needing to be rescheduled. And time is running out.

Andy Rogers, who has the tall task of scheduling umpires for high school baseball in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties, said while he has a lot of games to get rescheduled, experience matters, and he is ready to through the task of getting umpires to all the needed games.

"There are a lot of moving pieces with umpires. One of the big challenges is I have over 10 college umpires on staff, and they are in their playoffs now," Rogers

RAIN | page 10

SOFTBALL

## Panthers grab pair of wins to get to .500

PALMER – Last week, the Palmer High School softball team won a pair against Quaboag and Holyoke on the only days of the week without rain.

Palmer defeated Quaboag in an ugly matchup 18-13. They then nearly shut out Holyoke 10-1 last Thursday and are now 7-7 heading into the final week and a half of the season. The Panthers need two wins to qualify for the state tournament.



The runner is safe.



The Panthers connect on a base hit.



Hannah Roy is set to snag this shot for a throw out.



Jayda Pardo winds up for delivery.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

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## Athlete of the Week

**Jayda Pardo**  
Palmer High School

Pardo had two walks and two runs scored for Palmer in a big 10-1 win over Holyoke High School last Thursday afternoon.

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

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## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bogey Doubles

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – The bi-weekly Bogey Doubles League on Monday nights concluded as of May 5.

The final round was successfully won by the team of Tom Clauson & Gary Santora, who also were the victors of round one earlier in the season. The team had a total of 44 wins in the final round. Finishing in second place was the team of Lonny Murphy & Trever Kenneson with 42 victories.

During the last set of matches of the season, Clauson & Santora bowled against Sandman & Marvin. In game one, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 285-278. Gary Santora bowled 131 to begin the match. Travis Sandman bowled a 117 in a losing effort.

In game two, Sandman & Marvin bounced back and won the game 284-253. Luke Marvin bowled a 132 to help his team take the lead. In game three, Clauson & Santora won

the last game by a score of 279-253.

Santora had a series of 354 to finish the season. The final score was 817-815 in favor of Clauson & Santora.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Gauthier & Clough in the final match of the season. Gauthier & Clough were the victors of game one by a score of 284-276. Tina Ward bowled 122 and Phil Clough bowled 119.

In game two, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 275-269. Steve Renaud Sr. bowled 119 to go with his teammate's 110.

In game three, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 268-260. Ward finished with 128 and a series of 360. The final score was 819-813 in favor of Renaud & Ward.

The team of Murphy & Kenneson bowled against Talamini & Gravel. Games one and two were won by Murphy & Kenneson, who scored 279 and 281. Kenneson had scores of 126 and 110.

Talamini & Gravel won the last game by a score of 272-260. The final score was 820-791 in favor of Murphy &

Knesson. The team finished in second place this season during two separate rounds, including the last one.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the victors by a score of 289-253. Aaron Fontaine started off strong with a 141 game. Halbedel started the match with 114.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won again by a score of 291-265. Fontaine continued with a strong bowling performance with a 135. Halbedel bested his first game score with a 122.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the last game by a score of 294-281. Tim Brayton finished the match with a 124. Fontaine finished with a 122 and a series of 398. Halbedel finished with a 125 and a series of 361.

The final score was 861-812 in favor of Fontaine & Halbedel. Aaron Fontaine bowled the highest series of the season with a 432. The high single game of the season was bowled by Luke Marvin which was 183.

### WARRIORS | from page 9

Division 2 state tournament.

Agawam built a 3-0 lead against Tantasqua during the first twelve minutes of the match.

The three Brownies goals were scored by freshman Olivia Giovoni, junior Finnola Mahoney, and sophomore Gianna Goodrow.

Tantasqua broke the ice when sophomore Carey Bryn scored a free position goal less than a minute into the second period.

After winning the ensuing faceoff, Agawam senior Isabella Spaulding fired a shot into the cage past Tantasqua junior goalie Fiona Knott (7 saves).

The Lady Warriors answered with goals by sophomore Dessa Demears, senior Kaydie O'Neil, and freshman Maeve O'Neil, which tied the score for the first time at 4-4 with 6:45 remaining in the first half.

Kaydie O'Neil, who has committed to play soccer

at Wheaton College in the fall, scored a game-high four goals.

"Kaydie is going to be playing soccer at Wheaton, but she's also thinking about playing lacrosse," Egan said. "I think she would be able to handle it. She's an outstanding athlete."

A couple of minutes later, a free position goal from Spaulding, who finished the contest with three goals, gave the home team the lead back.

Then Kaydie O'Neil stole a pass from Agawam sophomore goalie Megan Outhouse (8 saves) before tying the score for the second time with an unassisted goal.

With 43 seconds left in the first half, Kaydie O'Neil netted a free position goal giving her team a 6-5 halftime advantage.

Sophomore Tess Alexander also began the second half with a free position goal and sophomore Tayvia Reissner added another goal, as the Lady Warriors built an 8-5 lead three minutes into the

third period.

Goals from junior Makayla Rosario, Spaulding, Goodrow, and Mahoney gave the Brownies a slim 9-8 lead entering the final period.

"Lacrosse is a game of runs," said DeGeorge, who also played college lacrosse at Assumption University. "A three goal deficit really isn't very much."

With 5:34 left in regulation, Govoni netted a free position goal which gave her team a two-goal advantage.

Tantasqua final goal of the match was scored by Kaydie O'Neil with 1:35 left on the scoreboard clock.

The Lady Warriors couldn't score the tying goal, as sophomore Lily Charrest made a steal in the final seconds, which sealed the Brownies victory.

Both head coaches are looking forward to facing each other again in the spring of 2026, but they could meet for the second time this season during the upcoming Division 2 state tournament.

Email us sports news and photos at [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

### LACROSSE | from page 9

The Lady Pacers' only loss came against Hoosac Valley, 16-11, in the second game of the regular season.

Despite only losing one game, Chicopee was ranked 38th in the Division 3 state power rankings. They're also sitting in the fourth and final spot in the Western Mass. Class B rankings.

Monson (5-8,3-4) was ranked 49th in the Division 4 state power rankings.

"We've won five games this season and the players have improved a lot since the start of the season," said Monson first-year head coach Emily Strycharz. "We only scored two goals the first time that we played Chicopee. We scored five goals in today's game."

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. The other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record will also be playing in the state tournament.

The duo of freshman Kiyah Price and sophomore Cassidy Pytel each scored five goals for the Lady Pacers. Junior Madison Thibault also added four goals while senior Ashley Galica netted three goals for the visiting team.

"We played very well offensively," Vargas said. "We did a very good job of finding the open player."

Price scored four of her goals during the opening period. Pytel recorded a hat-trick as Chicopee built an 8-1 lead.

The first Monson goal was scored by senior Nevaeh Chiacchia on a free position shot with 2:47 left in the first period. She's planning to play college lacrosse at Fitchburg State University next year.

"Nevaeh is going to be leaving a lasting impact on our team," Strycharz said. "She'll be a very hard player for us to replace next year. We have a lot of young players who are learning how to play at this level."

Monson sophomore Lyla Strycharz, who's the younger sister of the head coach, received a red card during the first period for what the referee termed as a dangerous play. Not only did Lyla Strycharz have to sit on the bench for the rest of the Chicopee game, she also wasn't eligible to play in Tuesday's road game at Hampshire Regional.

"This is the first time that one of my players received a red card this season," coach Strycharz said. "The other team has some fast players, and my sister was a little bit too aggressive. It was just a mistake."

Chiacchia, who's Monson's only senior, scored the first goal of the second period.

The Lady Pacers didn't allow the Lady Mustangs to make a comeback, as Galica and Thibault combined to score the next four goals.

Chicopee held a 13-3 halftime lead following a goal from freshman Sophia Maheux with 44 seconds left in the first half. Maheux suffered an injury during the pre-game warm-ups, but she was still able to play in the game.

"I was a little bit nervous when Sophia was injured before the game," Vargas said. "She's a key player on our team."

The Lady Pacers scored five more goals during the third period.

Senior Ivelisa Aponte and Maheux netted Chicopee's only goals of the fourth period.

Chiacchia padded her season stats by scoring two more goals during the final 12 minutes of the match.

### RAIN | from page 9

said. "They get their games the day before for college, and come off of high school games and they are working very competitive games for me. Youth leagues are also fully going, so when I take an umpire to work a high school game, the youth assignors then struggle to cover their games. It's all connected. Same with the adult leagues that are out there. With the rain, I just continue to adjust and do the best I can. I want to credit our umpire staff for staying on top of so many changes. With the geogra-

phy that I cover (Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin), I have to look at how far I send umpires, how many times they see the same teams, etc."

The state tournament has had a minimal impact on Rogers' ability to schedule, but said there have had to be some adjustments.

"The state tournament really hasn't impacted me that much," Rogers said. "What is tough is the Western Mass tournament week, you have a lot of games scheduled the day before that I have to cover including the non-playoff matchups which can still be important for teams trying to get into the

state playoffs. Two years ago, I had a Palmer/Smith Academy game with 3-16 Palmer Playing 9-10 Smith Academy and Smith needed that game to get into the states. It was the same day as the high school semifinals. Knowing the matchups is very important during those times."

One help for the tournament is that the cutoff date for baseball and softball has been moved from May 15 to May 19, which will give teams more time to make up games. Several teams were preparing to play 4-5 games this week and next in order to catch up with their schedule.

per into left for a base hit scoring Labonte, who's the Mustangs only senior.

The home team took a 4-1 lead in the third inning when Nathan Kaczuwka hit a sacrifice fly scoring his younger brother, who blasted a double to left center with one-out before advancing to third on a wild pitch. Kyle Kaczuwka collected three base hits in the ball game.

An RBI single by Ben Pignone cut the Mustangs deficit to 4-2 with two outs in the fifth inning.

The Indians, who left two runners in scoring position in the bottom of the fifth inning scored what turned out to be three big insurance runs in the following frame.

Mumper drove home the first two runs of the sixth



While this week was likely the worse, rain has been an issue all spring.

Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

### BASEBALL | from page 9

game ceremony by longtime Ware head coach Scott Slattery, along with classmates Josh Dulak, Owen McKeever, and Trevor Millet.

"The five seniors are outstanding baseball players, but they're even better human beings, which is the most important thing," Slattery said. "They're respectful, kind, and hardworking. They've meant a lot to our baseball program during the past couple of years and we're really going to miss them a lot next year."

Ware (13-1,9-0) also captured the Suburban Central League title for the third consecutive year. The Indians were league co-champions the past two seasons with South Hadley and South-

wick. They were able to win the league title outright this spring.

"It feels awesome to win the league title again and not having to share it with anybody," Nathan Kaczuwka said. "This is the first time that we've won it outright during my high school career."

Entering last Wednesday night's game, Monson (8-7, 7-3) still had an opportunity to be league co-champs with Ware. Had the Mustangs won the game; the Indians would've needed to beat Ludlow on Tuesday afternoon to capture the league title outright.

"We did have a chance to tie Ware for the league title, but they're a very good baseball team," said Monson head

coach Curtis Orlik. "This was one of the better games that we've played all season. We kept hitting the ball hard in each inning, but we couldn't come up with the clutch hit."

Ware defeated Monson, 14-3, in the first meeting of the season, which was held at Dunkin' Park in Hartford on April 23. The Indians took control of that contest by scoring six runs in the first inning.

The Indians held a 3-0 lead after the first inning in last Wednesday's contest.

With two outs in the opening frame, Kyle Kaczuwka began the rally with a walk. Then his older brother hit a line-drive single to the gap in left center. Millet (2-for-3), who started the game at third base, drove home the

game's first run with a ground ball single into left field. Another run crossed the plate on the play following a throwing error and Millet wound up at third base. He scored on a wild pitch.

The Mustangs answered right back in the top of the second inning.

Senior right fielder Tyler Labonte drew a leadoff walk and advanced to third base on a double to left field by junior centerfielder Ben Pignone, who led the Mustangs attack with three base hits.

"Ben swung the bat really well," Orlik said. "This was his best game at the plate all season and we've been waiting for it."

Following a strikeout, sophomore left fielder Lucas Pignone (2-for-3) hit a chop-

per into left for a base hit scoring Labonte, who's the Mustangs only senior.

The home team took a 4-1 lead in the third inning when Nathan Kaczuwka hit a sacrifice fly scoring his younger brother, who blasted a double to left center with one-out before advancing to third on a wild pitch. Kyle Kaczuwka collected three base hits in the ball game.

An RBI single by Ben Pignone cut the Mustangs deficit to 4-2 with two outs in the fifth inning.

The Indians, who left two runners in scoring position in the bottom of the fifth inning scored what turned out to be three big insurance runs in the following frame.

Mumper drove home the first two runs of the sixth

inning with a single that deflected off third base. Then Kyle Kaczuwka gave his team a 7-2 lead with a single to center which scored another run.

The Mustangs didn't go down quietly in their final at-bats.

Sazado greeted Gaudreau by hitting a triple to right field scoring two runs. After the next batter struck out, Szado crossed the plate on a ground ball out by Ben Pignone.

Then Gaudreau ended the Mustangs comeback hopes and the game with another strikeout.

The two rivals could possibly meet twice more this spring in the Western Mass. Class D tournament and in the Division 5 state tournament.

**CULTURE** | from page 1

ria space showcasing student work across academic and vocational departments. The Studio Art program displayed colorful, original pieces alongside ceramic artwork, while nearby tables featured 3D-printed projects created by the Programming and Web Design students, highlighting the school's embrace of both traditional and modern mediums. Creative writing and zine-making were also on full display, thanks to the English Department's collaboration with artist Lisa Hersey. A grant-funded workshop introduced students to book-binding techniques, allowing them to create their own zines, some of which were available for attendees to browse. Pathfinder's fledgling literary magazine, now in its second issue, had copies available as well, with a third issue planned before the school year ends.

Adding to the evening's artistic atmosphere, student Geraldine Lorrande delivered a poignant poetry reading between live music sets. Lorrande, who recently earned a full scholarship to the Juniper Institute for Young Writers at UMass Amherst, read original work inspired by her life and cultural identity. Her performance was one of the highlights of the evening, earning admiration from staff and guests alike. Geraldine was also named a co-winner of the Palmer District Court's Cultural Appreciation Day poetry contest, further underscoring her talent and promise.

Music played a central role in the evening's relaxed and festive atmosphere. Band Director Dan Friedman opened the night with a casual, welcoming message, encouraging guests to treat the event not as a formal concert but as an open celebration. As the audience moved freely among displays

and food stations, the Senior/Sophomore Band performed a repertoire that included "America the Beautiful," "Bella Ciao," "Infernal Gallop," and "This Little Light." Student musicians such as Evelyn Shilosky, who performed on flute and vocals, Cooper Ferguson on baritone saxophone, Gabriel Petelle on guitar, and Nevaeh Apraham on vocals helped carry the energy of the night with expressive, crowd-pleasing performances. Later, the Junior/Freshman Band took the stage with classics such as "Ode to Joy," "Simple Gifts," and "When the Saints Go Marching In," rounding out the musical component of the program with confidence and heart.

The Culinary Department served as both host and contributor to the evening's cultural theme, providing an array of international dishes prepared and served by students. Guests sampled margarita pizza and lemon ricotta cookies at the Italian station with Izzy Perez, enjoyed California rolls and spicy shrimp rolls at the Japanese station with Aiden Santiago, tasted Torta Chilena and Papas Chorreadas at the Costa Rican station with Kendall Riggott, and were treated to Chaliapin Steak with rice at another station with Kimberly Smith. The effort and attention to detail demonstrated by the student chefs gave the evening a sensory richness that complemented the artistic presentations.

In addition to music, food, and visual art, several vocational and academic departments contributed to the showcase. Programming and Web Design, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Advanced Manufacturing, Hospitality, and the Foreign Language De-

partment all shared student projects and displays. The interdisciplinary spirit of the evening reflected Pathfinder's educational mission, one that blends technical training with creativity and cultural literacy.

Throughout the night, school staff and administrators were present to support and applaud the students' work. Caitlyn Phelps, Co-op Education Director and Grant Administrator, and Superintendent Eric Duda mingled with guests, underscoring the leadership's commitment to holistic, student-centered learning. Their attendance, along with that of numerous staff members, added to the sense that this was more than just an end-of-year event, it was a celebration of everything Pathfinder Tech strives to be.

As the evening drew to a close, there was a shared

sense of accomplishment and pride. Arts and Culture Night brought together the best of

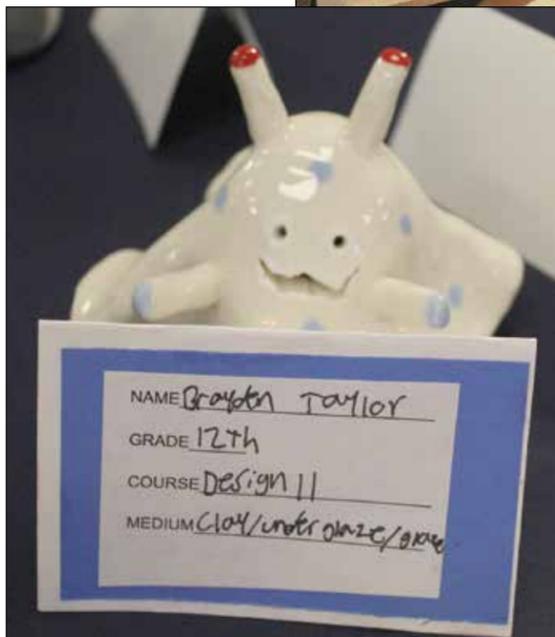
Pathfinder, its students' talent, its educators' dedication, and its community's support,

into one unforgettable evening of celebration and connection.



Izzy Perez, serving Italian food.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Brayden Taylor's Ceramic Ghost for Design.



Leeann Murdza, a student running the CAD Pre-engineering booth.



Geraldine Lorrande, poet and scholarship winner of the Juniper Institute of Young Writers.



Ryleigh Laraqe's glazed ceramic tile from Design class.



Kimberly Smith, serving Chaliapin Steak and Rice.



Aiden Santiago, serving sushi rolls.



Ireland and France poster boards talking about their culinary delights.



Superintendent Eric Duda, and School Committee Members Lorraine Alves and Keith Valley.



Caitlyn Phelps



Angela Sweeney, the English Department Head and the Creative Writing Teacher.

## Palmer Lions Club to hold tag sale

PALMER - The Palmer Lions Club will hold their annual tag sale Friday, May 16 from 12-5 p.m. and Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church on Pleasant Street. There will be a selection of furniture, children's toys and household items to choose from.

The Lions Organization's mission is, "To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through

Lions Club.

"We serve" - Through many of our global causes, such as diabetes, the Lions bring awareness through screenings and treatment programs and improve quality of life through diabetes summer camps. With vision and hearing, the Lions provide screening through their Sight Mobile program to help with early detection. The Lions also collect unwanted prescription eyeglasses, readers and sunglasses to be refurbished and sent to those in need throughout the world.

## Cohasse Golf Course

Semi Private - Join Today!  
Visit [Cohasse.com](http://Cohasse.com) for Times Memberships Available for 2025 Season  
*Restaurant and bar not open yet*

**COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB**  
393 Eastford Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone: (508) 764-6801



# Public notices

## Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, May 22nd, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Daniel Strum, for a special permit as provided by § 7.3 and §5.3.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant is seeking a special permit to keep the existing sign. The property is zoned General Commercial, owned by Jeff Allard and is located at 494 Boston Road West, Map 001, Parcel 2B. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman  
05/08, 05/15/2025

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Barbara A. Bren to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Longbridge Financial, LLC, dated November 17, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22458, Page 372, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Longbridge Financial, LLC, its successors and assigns to Longbridge Financial LLC, recorded on December 24, 2024, in Book No. 25707, at Page 68 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 PM on June 3, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises located at 3 Green Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The land in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF Green Street at a point one hundred (100) feet westerly from the westerly location line of the Three Rivers Road, so-called;

thence southerly in a line parallel with the westerly location line of said Three Rivers Road, one hundred (100) feet;

thence westerly in a line parallel with the southerly location line of said Green Street, fifty (50) feet;

thence northerly in a line parallel with the first mentioned location line, one hundred (100) feet to said Green Street;

thence easterly on said Green Street fifty (50) feet to the place of beginning; said premises being Lot# 28 on a plan designated "Plan of Lots owned by C. W. Hastings and Co., Palmer, Mass." dated April, 1900 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book of Plans 1, Page 203 and the same premises conveyed to Adam Wasala and Josephine Wasala by deed dated October 15, 1928, recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 1408, Page 64.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 8554, Page 291. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, New-

ton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**

LONGBRIDGE FINANCIAL  
LLC  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES,  
P.C. 150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
27430  
05/01, 05/08, 05/15/2025

Section 00 11 13  
**BRIMFIELD HOUSING  
AUTHORITY  
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID  
MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K**  
The **BRIMFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Select Tree Removal at State Aided Development: Colonial Park (667-1) in Brimfield, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GRAVES ENGINEERING, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to: Select Tree Removal  
The work is estimated to cost **\$50,000.00.**

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 05/23/2025 at 5:00PM EDT for general bids. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.**

General Bids will be received until **30 May 2025 at 11:00AM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **BRIMFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:**

Scheduled Date and Time: 05/20/2025 at 11:00AM EDT  
Address: 20 Colonial Park, Brimfield, MA 01010

Instructions: Pre-bid conference: To be held on 05/20/25 at 11:00 AM at the Community Building of the Brimfield Housing Authority (project site), 20 Colonial Park, Brimfield, MA 01010; the conference is not mandatory.

There is a plan deposit of \$50/ set (refundable)

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:  
Nashoba Blue Inc.  
433 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-1167:00AM EDT  
05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2025

**TOWN OF BRIMFIELD  
Public Hearing  
Monday, June 2, 2025  
6:00 PM  
Brimfield Elementary School  
Cafeteria  
22 Wales Road  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
FY22/23 CDBG  
Performance Hearing**

The Town of Brimfield, on behalf of the Towns of Holland and Wales, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a public

hearing regarding the FY22/23 Community Development Block Grant Program. The hearing will take place at **6:00 PM on Monday, June 2nd, 2025, in person at the Elementary School Cafeteria, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010.** If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the hearing will take place during the rescheduled Select Board meeting.

The hearing will review the projects funded through the town's FY22/23 Community Development Block Grant Programs including public social services and housing rehabilitation. These activities received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG program.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance hearing will have an opportunity to submit comments up until and through the public hearing. Please submit comments to Joseph Hagopian at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ jhagopian@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the hearing date at (413) 245-4100 Ext. 4100.  
05/15/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE Town of Palmer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing

The town of Palmer will conduct a public hearing regarding their ongoing Community Development Block Grant Programs. The performance of the town's current FY2022/23 and FY24 programs will be discussed. The hearing will be held on **June 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Development Office of the Palmer Town Hall**, located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The FY22/23 program provided funding for engineering design services for Maple Street and Maple Terrace, as well as construction funds for comprehensive infrastructure improvements to Maple Street. The FY24 program provided construction funds for comprehensive infrastructure improvements to Maple Terrace. Both programs have also provided funds for Domestic Violence prevention and for transportation services through the Quaboag Connector.

The hearing will also discuss the possibility of reprogramming funds from either or both the FY22/23 program or the FY24 programs. Several projects are being considered and in order of priority, they include: a slum and blight inventory of the Three Rivers village area. This involves an analysis of existing physical conditions of public and private buildings, infrastructure, and facilities within a defined study area; an updated ADA Transition Plan and Self Evaluation that will assess accessibility of Palmer's public facilities; engineering design to various streets in the Three Rivers area; and emergency housing rehabilitation assistance.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning Palmer's CDBG program and ongoing activities will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to either meeting date at (413) 283-2614. Written and verbal comments will be accepted one week preceding the hearing, at the hearing, and through one week following the hearing.

These activities and programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Department of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts CDBG program.  
05/15/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD25D0176DR  
Daniel R Ramirez Detres vs.  
Nadine Marchand  
DIVORCE SUMMONS**

## BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

Allow plaintiff to resume the former name of Daniel R. Ramirez.  
Order any such further relief that the court deems fair and proper.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:  
**Daniel R Ramirez Detres  
57 Dixhill St.  
Brimfield, MA 01010**

your answer, if any, on or before **06/18/2025**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 17, 2025

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/15/2025

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 2nd, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Administration Building 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to amend Article XIII, Section 171.59 – Floodplain District.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://mass-publicnotices.org>).

Michael Marciniac, Chairman  
05/15, 05/22/2025

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Chad R. Graves, Jennifer L. Graves to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated June 13, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20313, Page 414, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, recorded on November 21, 2023, in Book No. 25235, at Page 465 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **9:00 AM on June 2, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises located at 54 Mashpaug Road, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin near the Bridge over Stevens Brook on line of the Mashpaug Road; thence generally NORTHERLY along the westerly line of said road, about one hundred ninety-six (196) feet to iron pin in the ground at land now or formerly of Oliver L. Howlett;

thence WESTERLY about one hundred forty-five (145) feet to an iron pin in the ground; thence SOUTHERLY about

one hundred sixty-three (163) feet to an iron pin at line of said Stevens Brook, last two courses being along land now or formerly of said Howlett;

and thence EASTERLY about one hundred fifty (150) feet, more or less, following this line of said Stevens Brook to the bound and point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20313, Page 412.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC  
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
27311

05/01, 05/08, 05/15/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF BRIMFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Invitation for Bids FY2026 Heating Oil, Diesel, and Boiler Maintenance

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received by **Thursday May 29, 2025 at 10:00AM**. Sealed bids

will be publicly opened and read on Thursday May 29, 2025 at 10:05AM in the Brimfield Town Annex,

Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items for Fiscal Year 2026 will be

awarded by the Select Board on Monday, June 2, 2025 at their duly posted meeting.

**I. Fuels: \*Must hold an Ultimate Vendor's License**

1. Heating Fuel 1,000-gallon capacity

2. Diesel – Ultra Low Sulphur 2,000-gallon capacity

3. Boiler Maintenance See Below\*

\*Boiler Maintenance: The Town of Brimfield has a total of four (4) furnaces/boiler systems in its municipal buildings (Town Hall, Town Hall Annex Building and Library) that require annual cleaning and periodic repairs. Bids are to include the per hourly labor rate for this work. Materials will be paid for as necessary.

**The Town of Brimfield will consider bids based only upon "mark up over daily rack price"**

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning May 14, 2025 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at [selectboard@brimfieldma.org](mailto:selectboard@brimfieldma.org). All questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer. All questions/answers and addendums will be distributed to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked **"IFB2025HWYFLS01 - FY2026 Heating Oil, Diesel, and Boiler Maintenance"** and include the date and time of bid opening. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid form (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the

time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Duration of bid is for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026); otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment Terms: Net term, 30 days.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of provisions of Chapter 149, M.G.L., section 26-27D. Bids submitted for heating oil and diesel are subject to the provisions of the Prevailing Wage law where applicable.

Contracts will be awarded on an item-by-item basis to the responsive and responsible bidder(s) offering

the lowest price for each item. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or accept

that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux  
Highway Surveyor  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
(413) 245-4103  
05/15, 05/22/2025

**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.  
HD23P0662EA  
Estate of:  
James Thomas Martin  
Also known as:  
James T Martin  
Date of Death: 09/23/2022  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James J Martin of North Holywood, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **James J Martin of North Holywood, CA** 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 06/10/2025. 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: May 12, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate

05/15/2025



# Public notices

## Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **May 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National Grid to install 3 JO poles on Main Street, beginning at a point approximately 1,423 feet Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Haynes Hill Road and Main Street. National Grid proposes to install pole P14-84 Main Street ~ 46' East of P14, Main Street. Install pole P15-84 Main Street ~ 38' East of P15, Main Street. Install pole P16-84 Main Street ~ 47' East of P16, Main Street, Wales, MA. The documents and maps related to this matter are available for review from the Executive Secretary during regular business hours.

Wales Board of Selectmen  
05/15, 05/22/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PAVING VARIOUS STREETS FOR TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS

The Palmer Department of Public Works will accept sealed bids for projects paving various streets. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement – Surfacing, for Project Palmer – 1 with an estimated value of \$405,490.00. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement – Surfacing, for Project Palmer – 2 with an estimated value of \$184,565.00. Valuation for purposes of MassDOT Prequalification is based on total value of all bid items. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to Bid is for one year. All bid envelopes must be clearly marked as **“FY 2026 ROAD MATERIALS & SERVICES”**.

The successful bidder shall comply with all prevailing wage laws as established under provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 149, Sections 26-27G inclusive. Bids are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B as amended, the Uniform Procurement Act.

Wage rates are subject to minimum wage rate as per M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27F, inclusive and a wage rate schedule is included in the specification. 100% performance bond is required of successful bidder, 5% bond required with bid. Prequalification of contractors is required under provisions of Section 34 of Chapter 90 and in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00. Bidders must be on the prequalified list provided to the Engineer by the MassDOT Highway Division Prequalification Department. All proposals submitted by non-prequalified bidders are subject to rejection by the municipality at or after the bid opening. OSHA 10 requirement with this project.

Price adjustment clause in affect for hot mix asphalt mixtures. Period base price for liquid AC is \$635 (ton) dated April 16, 2025, per MA DOT website

The Department of Public Works Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding if he deems it in the best interest of the town to do so. Bid specifications can be obtained from Town Hall at 4417 Main Street Palmer, MA 01069, or can be emailed upon request by emailing rjosephson@townofpalmer.com. Bidders must be prequalified by the Contract Engineer of Mass. D.O.T., before specifications can be handed out. Bids will be received **until 2:00 pm., Thursday June 5, 2025**, and will be opened and read at that time at Town Hall. The bid shall include a statement of non-collusion.

Richard Josephson  
Interim DPW Director  
Town of Palmer  
05/08, 05/15, 05/23, 05/29/2025

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 11 Christine Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Randall E Paxton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First Federal Savings Bank

of Boston, and now held by **U.S. Bank National Association**, said mortgage dated September 12, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20424, Page 171, as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 7, 2016 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21287, Page 50; as affected by a Affidavit dated March 2, 2023 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24927, Page 586; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for First Federal Savings Bank of Boston to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment dated September 18, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 20876, Page 399; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on June 11, 2025 at 1:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The following real property situate on the Southerly side of proposed street, known as “Christine Street” Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe which is located S. 78 degrees 06 minutes E. a distance of four hundred thirty-six (436) feet from an iron pin in the Easterly line of Flynt Road and at the Northwesterly corner of land formerly of Albert L'Heureux, now believed to be of Stephen Stoneberger, all as shown on “Plan of Land in Palmer, Mass. owned by Charles T. Carter, dated August, 1957, Theodore P. Drazek, R.L.S.” recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 70, Page 28; thence running

S. 78 degrees 06 minutes E. a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running

N. 18 degrees 54 minutes E one hundred fifty and no/100 (150) feet to an iron pin in the Southerly terminus of a proposed street known as “Christine Street” thence turning and running

N. 78 degrees 06 minutes W along the line of said proposed street one hundred fifty and no/100 (150.00) feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running

S. 18 degrees 54 minutes W along land of Charles Carter et al one hundred fifty and no/100 (150) feet, more or less to the place of beginning.

Together with the right in common with the Grantors and other, to use the proposed street, as shown on said plan for all purposes of travel.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor by deed recorded in the Hampden County

Registry of Deeds simultaneously herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated September 12, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20424, Page 168.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for U.S. Bank National Association  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE Town of Brimfield Highway Department Invitation for Bids Various Road Materials, Equipment Rentals, and Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2026

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Thursday May 29, 2025, by 11:00 AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday May 29, 2025 at 11:05 AM. in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2026 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on June 2, 2025:

I. Various Road Materials  
II. Equipment Rental with Operator  
III. Road Resurfacing and Related Work

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Wednesday May 14, 2025 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 AM. to 3:00 PM., Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfield.ma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid pack-

age holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked **“IFB2025HWY01 – FY2026”** and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (April 2025) of \$635 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and “Special Provisions” as attached.

Contractors intending to bid on Super Pave, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is “Pavement Surfacing.” The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$687,228.30. NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2026 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Road Resurfacing, are subject to the provisions to applicable provisions of the General Laws including Chapter 53A, Chapter 30B, and Chapter 30, Section 39M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction). All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications.

Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

Contracts will be awarded

on an item-by-item basis to the responsive and responsible bidder(s) offering the lowest price for each item. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield..

Zachary Lemieux  
Highway Surveyor  
Town of Brimfield  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
(413) 245-4103  
05/15, 05/22/2025

## 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. HD25P0985EA Estate of: Thomas R Stone Also known as: Thomas Robert Stone Date of Death: 01/28/2025 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 **Beth Ellen Smith of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Beth Ellen Smith of Palmer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/18/2025. 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: May 08, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate

05/15/2025

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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### newspaper correspondent

Journal Register seeks **Experienced Writers/ Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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**Deanna Sloat**  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
[dsloat@turley.com](mailto:dsloat@turley.com)

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## Town of Warren Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

The Warren Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the vacant position of FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. The Warren Police Department is a non-civil service department that is seeking individuals who are motivated, proactive and community oriented. All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. Citizen, have a minimum of a high school diploma, possess a valid driver's license, and currently have, or have the ability to obtain a Class A license to carry firearms in the state of Massachusetts. Candidates must have successfully completed a Massachusetts full-time police academy or the equivalent to be considered for the position.

All applicants who move forward in the hiring process will be subject to a background investigation as well as a medical, physical, and psychological examination. All candidates will also be required to meet all requirements set forth by the Peace Officer and Standards Commission (POST). It is preferred that applicants currently hold an unrestricted certification from POST at the time of applying.

The Town of Warren currently offers full-time employees of the Police Department with an education-based incentive. Officers with the Warren Police Department will be required to work a schedule consisting of four (4) consecutive days on followed by two (2) days off and will be assigned to a shift based on departmental needs. All Officers will also be eligible for vacation time, personal time and holiday pay as outlined in the union contract.

All interested applicants are asked to please submit a cover letter and resume to: Lieutenant Kyle P. Whitcomb, 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, P.O. Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or E-mail to [Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov](mailto:Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov)

The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Therefore, it is required that the Warren Police Department be in receipt of the candidates resume and cover letter no later than this date to be considered. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

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**TAG SALE**

**LARGE INDOOR TAG SALE.** Apple Storage, 1207 So. Main St., Palmer. **Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Vintage furniture, antiques, decorations, home goods! All proceeds donated.

**MOVING SALE: May 25 & 26, 9am-3pm.** Everything must go. Dishes, furniture, small appliances. **134 Rutland Road, Oakham.**

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**OLD CARPENTER TOOLS** wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken (413)433-2195.

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Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
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**STUMP GRINDING**

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

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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**Hilltowns**  
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Circulation: 59,000

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Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# NOTICE

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# Obituaries

## Frances Helen Bareiss

**PALMER** — Frances Helen Bareiss, 98, went home to be with her Lord on January 14, 2025, at Life Care of Wilbraham. Born in Palmer on July 24, 1926, to Calogero (Charles) and Francesca (Santucci) Barone, Franny lived a full and vibrant life in Palmer, where she spent most of her years. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Charles,



Rose Smith, Carolyn Murphy, Anne Hagerty, Joseph, and Mary Mozden, as well as her former husband, Robert Bareiss. A graduate of Palmer High School, Franny began her working career at the telephone company in Palmer and later at the Springfield Armory. She spent many years working in the office of Dr. Zarcharian, a respected derma-

tologist in Springfield. Franny's passions were as diverse as her personality. She was a fabulous cook, and her fudge, cornbread and strawberry shortcake were staples at family gatherings. Franny loved being outdoors and was an avid gardener. She enjoyed exploring museums, antique stores, and thrift shops, often accompanied on these adventures by one or more of her many nieces and nephews. And oh, how she loved a good bargain! Her eccentricities and outspokenness only added to

her warmth and charm that made her unforgettable. Above all, Franny will be lovingly remembered as a woman who lived life on her own terms, a devoted daughter, sister, and aunt, and a faithful servant of her Lord. A private memorial service has been held in Oak Knoll Cemetery. In honor of Franny's memory, the family kindly requests that any donations be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for Lung Cancer Research, a cause that was deeply meaningful to her.

# DEATH NOTICES

**Frances Helen Bareiss**  
Died Jan. 14, 2025  
Services were private  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Judith Reid Mathieu**  
Died May 5, 2025  
Services are private  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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**BRIMFIELD** — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Judith Reid Mathieu, 84, a longtime resident of Brimfield, Massachusetts. Judy passed away peacefully at her home, surrounded by her family, on May 5, 2025.



Born on June 5, 1940, Judy was the daughter of the late Gordon N. Reid Sr. and Madelyn (McGowan) Reid. She spent most of her childhood in Brimfield, where she built lifelong connections and memories. In 1958, she married the love of her life, Jacques A. Mathieu, with whom she shared 63 devoted years of marriage. Together, they lived in several locations before settling permanently in Brimfield in 1975 to take part in the family business.

Alongside her husband Jacques, her sister Jill Reid Lukesh, and brother-in-law Peter Lukesh, Judy operated Gordon Reid Company Antique Shows, later known as J&J Promotions. Carrying on the legacy started by her father in 1959, Judy and her family grew the show into a premier outdoor antique event at Auction Acres, cherished by exhibitors and attendees alike. They continued to run the shows until their retirement in 2016.

Judy was predeceased by her beloved husband, Jacques; her parents, Gordon and Madelyn Reid; her brother, Gordon N. Reid Jr.; and her sister, Jill Reid Lukesh.

She is survived by her daughters, Laurel Mathieu Prescott and her husband John

of Brimfield, and Jill Mathieu O'Day and her husband Darryl of Warren, MA; her stepchildren, Bernard Mathieu of Georgia and Michelle Brooks of Fort Lauderdale, FL, whom she welcomed into her heart with open arms; her brother-in-law, Alphonse Mathieu of Erie, PA; brother-in-law, Peter Lukesh of Vero Beach, FL; and her cherished grandchildren: Christina Mathieu, Andrea Kaiser and her husband Tyler, Benjamin Keating, Hannah Prescott, Ian Prescott, Jonathan Balderelli and his wife Meghan, and Evan Balderelli and his fiancée Tiffany Williams. She also leaves behind her treasured great-grandchildren: Parker Loggie, Harper, Kylie, and Kannon Kaiser, Charlotte and Georgia Keating, and Alexander and Caroline Balderelli; as well as her niece and nephew, Kathy Mathieu-Pipemeyer and Gordon N. Reid III.

## Judith Reid Mathieu

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**RAIL** | from page 1

economic development, expanded housing, increased tax revenue, and the revitalization of New England's towns and cities.

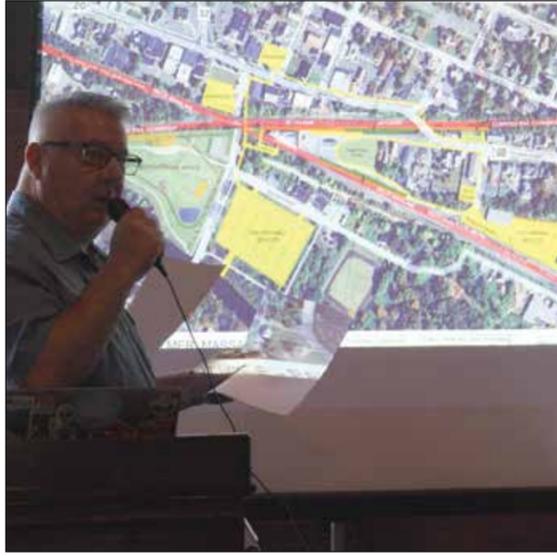
The town of Palmer, once a rail hub of the Northeast, holds deep historical significance. In 1884, Palmer's Union Station was built at the junction of major North-South and East-West rail lines. It was designed by renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson and landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted. The station remains a symbol of integrated infrastructure and urban accessibility.

"Few towns can boast such a ready-made opportunity," said Blake Lamothe, co-presenter and local business leader. "The original underpass, 680 parking spaces, and even land for a bus terminal and recreational park... it's all here, just waiting for investment."

Despite its strategic value, Massachusetts' current East-West rail planning excludes Palmer's North-South connection and proposes a new station nearly half a mile outside downtown.

Critics argue that the remote location would squander economic potential, sever ties to Palmer's historical infrastructure, and hinder urban integration. Lessons from places like Windsor Locks, CT, which is now relocating its station from a highway interchange to its downtown core, underscore the risks of suburban station placement.

Blake and Scarlet Lamothe emphasized that a central downtown station would boost accessibility, business activity, and walkability. It



**Blake Lamothe talks about the architectural plans for the potential train station.**

would align with the criteria of a successful downtown as defined by urban planning benchmarks.

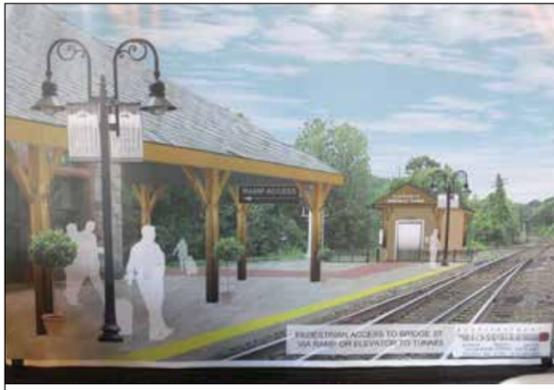
The proposal calls for a 903-foot platform, exceeding standard requirements. It includes plans for ADA-compliant access, elevators, and direct pedestrian links to South Main Street.

Unlike many ambitious infrastructure projects, this one does not require new rail lines. "The freight lines are here. With coordination, they can be shared with passenger service," Blake explained. "We've already spent over \$100 million on upgrades in this corridor. Let's build on that."

The meeting was not just informational. It was a call to action. Attendees were urged to contact transportation officials and lawmakers to advocate for the downtown location. Flyers, informational



**Plans and mockups of the station were on display at the meeting.** Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



**A mockup of what the potential train station would look like.**

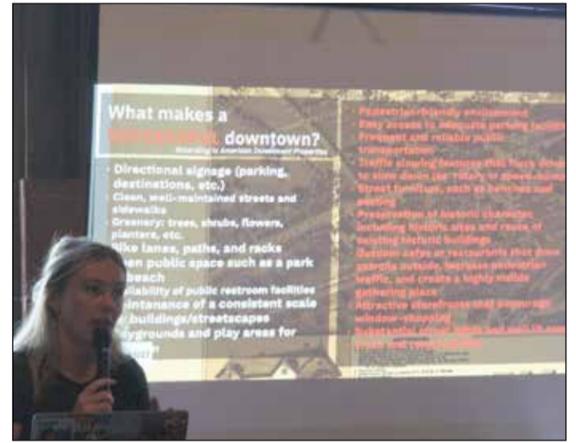
packets, and pre-written letters were made available. The public was directed to [ccprc.org](http://ccprc.org) for further resources.

Letters of support are encouraged to be sent to:

**The Honorable Sean Duffy**  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20590  
**Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

Blake also called on the Connecticut DOT, Amtrak, and the Federal Railroad Administration to collaborate.



**Scarlet Lamothe presents a slideshow on the plans for the Rail stop.**

He stressed that rail strategy should transcend state lines and serve the entire region.

Speakers painted a vivid picture of Palmer's potential. They proposed turning the area into a regional stadium destination, attracting tourists, reviving local businesses,

and restoring historic hotels. Once home to more than 100 businesses and five hotels, Palmer's downtown could thrive again, if connected effectively.

"This is about more than a train station," Scarlet said. "It's about choosing a future where our towns grow, our students move freely, and our economies thrive."

With a potential ridership of up to 9 million people, including 67,000 students and a corridor population of over 340,000, the advocates argue that failing to connect the North-South line would be a missed opportunity of generational consequence.

As the formal meeting concluded, sandwiches were served. Scarlet and Blake remained available to answer questions and encourage further discussion.

"We've waited long enough," Scarlet said. "It's time to put Palmer, and the people who live and travel here, back on the map."

For more information, community members are invited to visit [www.ccprc.org](http://www.ccprc.org). The site contains project maps, historical archives, contact details for officials, and instructions for how to get involved.

**EVERYONE  
IS INVITED  
TO JOIN!**

**PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:**

**PALMER FOR  
TOMORROW**

*Gathering*

**WHAT IS IT?**

Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

**COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:**

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

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**WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

**WHEN & WHERE**

The Second Wednesday of Every Month  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:  
**(413)283-2606** or [ngauthier@townofpalmer.com](mailto:ngauthier@townofpalmer.com)

\*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

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