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Scouts assist with grave flagging ahead of Memorial Day

Submitted photo

On Monday evening, May 18, the American Legion Palmer Post 130 along with Troop 164 and Pack 163 together replaced all the veteran flags at Oak Knoll and St. Thomas Cemeteries. The scouts thank legionnaires and family members who attended. The scouts would also like to thank the groundskeepers for having both cemeteries ready for us before Memorial Day.

PALMER

Pathfinder students wow community with Arts & Culture Night

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – The community was recently invited to experience creative projects put together by the students at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Pathfinder hosted its fourth annual Arts and Culture Night on Thursday, May 7, from 5-7 p.m. The open and free event showcased students' creative work in a number of mediums to provide an experience to about 250 people who filtered in and out, some staying all evening.

The idea for this event originally came from Art Teacher Darlene Henshaw, who wanted to create an art gallery experience for the students in her studio art program. Since its inception, participation has increased annually. Caitlin Phelps was the administrator overseeing the event.

"Arts and Culture Night has become one of our favorite community traditions, because it showcases the incredible creativity, talent,

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Submitted Photos
Hospitality student
Corrina S.
served hors d'oeuvres
to the attendees.

MONSON

Town Meeting approves bylaw change, development projects

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Last week, the town held its annual Town Meeting to vote on several articles in the town, most notably an amendment to the zoning bylaws to allow a Planned Village District, and construction of the Macomber Road Bridge.

There were 35 articles being voted on at the meeting on Monday, May 11.

State Developmental Center

The second article was to amend the town's Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map to create a new Planned Village District. The agenda described the district as featuring a residential building with two to eight dwelling units in a row,

a cottage cluster development, a measure of residential density, a building for mixed-use development, multifamily residential developments, a single-family detached dwelling, and to reuse or renovate an existing structure that is already in the area.

Planning Board Member Craig Sweitzer read the report of the board, saying it "held a public hearing on Jan. 20 and

continued it until Feb. 17 to hear testimony on the Zone Change Proposal. WestMass Development Corp. gave information describing their proposed Bylaw and Zoning Map Change."

"The public was given a chance to ask extensive questions and to have them answered to further their knowledge of this proposed bylaw change," Sweitzer continued.

"After hearing the presentation of Western Mass Development, and input from the public, who were, by far, in favor of this bylaw change, the Planning Board voted to recommend Town Meeting vote in favor of this proposal."

"If Monson State Developmental Center returns to state ownership, which could occur if this bylaw change doesn't pass, and the state

wants to develop it as such, the state can be exempt from zoning," Sweitzer said. "Monson won't be able to control the development and income to the town through normal taxes, would this occur?"

WestMass Vice President of Operations, Dan Knapik, made a presentation on the project.

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MONSON

Cross-town collaboration to clean up veteran memorials

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – The Cemetery Commission and Veterans Services Departments have been collaborating to preserve local veteran memorials.

Two weeks before Memorial Day, Cemetery Commission Foreman Mat Wawrzyk and Veterans Services Officer Patrick Renna met in Crane Park in Wilbraham to collaborate on cleaning the veterans' memorials.

"Pat is a Monson resident and has previously volunteered for our Wreaths Across America Program we hold in our Monson cemeteries," Wawrzyk said. "Earlier this month he reached out to me after seeing a video I posted online demonstrating some new products

the cemetery will be using for restoration projects, and asked if I could give him any tips for improving the Veterans Monuments in downtown Wilbraham."

Renna has worked with the town of Wilbraham's Rotary Club and the Minnechaug Military Community Club to clean the monuments once before, for Veterans Day last year.

"I originally met Mat because I volunteered to help out at the Wreaths Across America event in Monson, which he's heavily involved with," Renna said.

Renna had worked on cleaning the monuments the previous fall before Veterans Day, with volunteers from the local Rotary Group and Minnechaug High School's Military Community Club.

CLEAN UP | page 6



Submitted Photo

The Monson Cemetery Commission Foreman and Wilbraham Veterans Services Officer collaborate to clean monuments before Memorial Day.

PALMER

Town Clerk provides updates on election

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – At last week's Town Council meeting, the Town Clerk provided a report on the goings-on of her department, and clarified some information regarding the upcoming town election.

The meeting began with the council voting to appoint Lauren Perry to the Conservation Commission, with a term ending on June 30, 2027. The council then voted to appoint Director of Administrative Services Ashley Place as the Alternate Municipal Hearing Officer, noting that she completed the training program.

"Right now, I'm the sole Municipal Hearings Officer," Town Manager Brad Brothers said. "Sometimes I don't have a lot of time to commit

to these things, and they need full attention to review, so I'm excited to have Ashley as an alternate."

The council voted unanimously to appoint Place to the position. Brothers said he expects Place to take on the majority of the cases, and that he is happy to have her help.

The council then had a departmental update from Town Clerk Susan Coache, who provided an overview of what goes on at the office, as well as highlighting things to look forward to.

Coache started by emphasizing the importance of the Town Census

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SPORTS

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BASEBALL

Mustangs defeat Knights

MONSON – Last Monday afternoon, Monson High School defeated Holyoke 13-7 in baseball action.

The Mustangs were led by a first-inning home run by Benjamin Pignone. He finished with four hits and five RBI in the game. Among his four hits, he socked two doubles. He was a triple short of the cycle. Jake Beaupre also had two hits. Holyoke had two hits from Jeremy Francisco, while Aidan Robinson drove in two runs. Monson finished the regular season at 12-4.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Austin Meacham sends a pitch home for the Mustangs.



Benjamin Pignone is all smiles as he rounds second after hitting a home run over the fence at Monson High School.



Niko Mathieu swings and connects.



Jake Beaupre makes solid contact for Monson.



Shane Szado leads off first base.

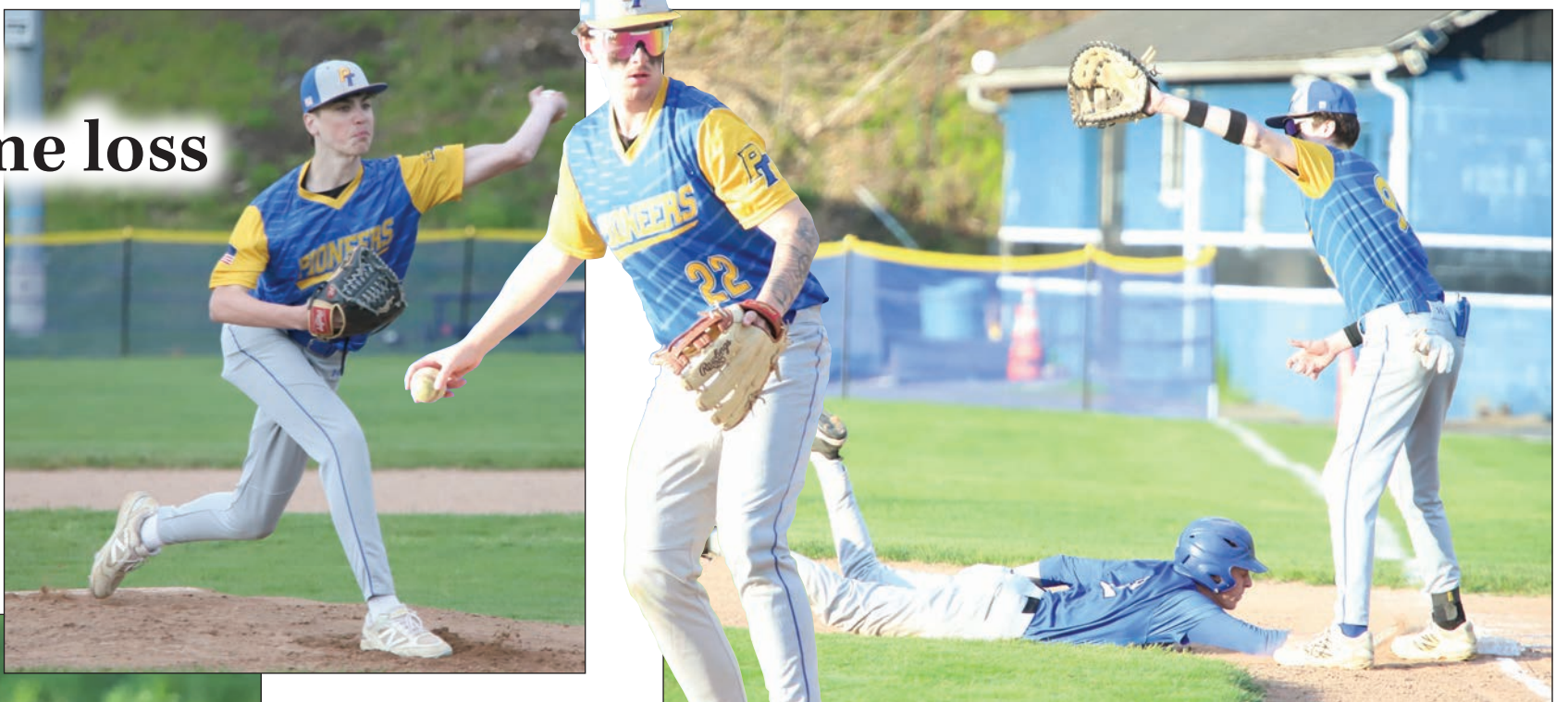


Benjamin Pignone fires back to the infield.

BASEBALL

Pathfinder suffers home loss to Granby

PALMER – Last Monday under the lights of Legion Field, the Granby High School baseball team had a 10-run third inning and it powered the Rams to a 17-4 win over Pathfinder that ended after five innings because of the mercy rule. Brandon Carillon and Anthony Santiago had three hits each. Carillon had five RBI. The Rams are just 4-12 on the season while Pathfinder fell to 1-13.



Above, Zachary Smith delivers a pitch for Pathfinder. Right, Aiden Girard slings a throw to first.

Dayne Shanley brings in a pickoff throw.



Brody Wetnicka sends a throw across the diamond.



Joseph Szostek tries to frame a strike.



Ian Suari Nieves looks to tag out a runner.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli