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PALMER



Submitted photos
Above, the memorial bench that sits at the Palmer High School Track in Lisa's memory. Right, a picture of Lisa mid race when she performed track back in High School.



A Legacy of love, community, endurance

PHS track dedicated to Lisa Domnarski

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – On May 13, a crowd of friends, family, school staff, town officials, and local residents gathered to dedicate the Palmer High School track in memory of Lisa Domnarski, a beloved alumna, athlete, and community member whose life and spirit continue to inspire.

Lisa, a 1986 graduate of Palmer High School and a devoted long-distance runner, passed away on July 24, 2019, following a tragic accident. In her final days, she made her wishes clear: rather than flowers, she wanted donations to go toward something lasting, renovating the very track where she

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MONSON

TOWN MEETING NOTEBOOK:

Hall funding, veterans tax relief passed

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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MONSON – In a meeting marked by spirited debate and competing visions for the town's future, Monson residents gathered last week on May 12 for the Annual Town Meeting, where they approved and rejected a range of financial, infrastructural, and historic preservation initiatives. The evening demonstrated both fiscal caution and a community's strong sense of stewardship for its historic spaces and civic processes.

Savings sacrificed for immediate needs

The Finance Committee's traditional approach of bolstering the town's reserves ran into resistance this year. Article 16, which sought to transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash into the Town's Stabilization Fund, was amended and passed with a \$0 appropriation after resident Jennifer Wolowitz advocated for

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PALMER

PFD members recognized for life-saving actions

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer Fire Department was honored this week with two major awards recognizing exceptional emergency medical service and rapid, life-saving responses in two separate incidents. The

awards, presented during the department's annual EMS Week cookout, highlight the professionalism, coordination, and dedication of local first responders.

The first award, presented by the Hampden County EMS Council, recognized a team of EMTs and a paramedic from Palmer and Ware for their extraordinary ef-

forts during a cardiac arrest call. The incident involved a patient in full cardiac arrest, where rapid intervention by five emergency responders helped restore the patient's heartbeat before arrival at the hospital.

The responders, using CPR and an automated exter-

PFD | page 13



Submitted photos

Hampden County EMS Council Save Award: Lieutenant/Paramedic/EMS Coordinator John Fitzgerald, FF/EMT Patrick Jessop, Lieutenant/Paramedic David Gambino, Hampden County EMS Council Melissa Consolini, Captain/EMT Ryan Gauthier, Captain/EMT Sean Reynolds



Baystate Health EMS Medical Director Clinical Excellence Award: Captain/EMT Ryan Gauthier, Lieutenant/Paramedic/EMS Coordinator John Fitzgerald, EMT Payton Baer, FF/EMT Nikki Schuelke, Dr. Knowles, Lieutenant/Paramedic David Gambino, Chief William Bernat, Chief Jim Martinez

PALMER

Senior Center to remain open

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Palmer Town Council convened on May 12 for a wide-ranging and impactful meeting that addressed concerns about senior services, reviewed departmental updates, and received presentations on

stormwater infrastructure and community programming. Residents and officials alike took to the floor in a show of civic engagement that highlighted both pressing challenges and noteworthy progress across town departments.

Senior Center to remain open full-time after community outcry

Town Council President, Barbara Barry, opened the meeting by revisiting the contentious issue of the proposed closure of the Palmer Senior Center on Thursdays, which sparked public concern last month. The recommendation, made by the town manager, Brad Brothers, as

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MONSON

Select Board to increase to five members

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Town of Monson will make a major change in its form of government as the Annual Town Meeting voted to increase the membership of the Select Board from three to five members.

The majority of attendees at the meeting voted in favor of the change, and the motion passed, marking a significant shift in the town's governance structure. This decision was hailed as a step toward more diverse representation and improved decision-making for the Town of Monson.

Article 40 was introduced as a citizen's petition submitted by Matthew Cranham, proposing a change to the town's government structure by increasing the number of members on the

Monson Select Board from three to five.

Matthew Cranham presented the case for expanding the Select Board, citing Monson's low ratio of Select Board members to the population. According to Cranham, Monson had one of the lowest ratios of Select Board members to residents compared to other towns in Massachusetts. He argued that expanding the Select Board would improve representation, bring more diverse perspectives, and allow for the formation of subcommittees, which would help in better decision-making and the handling of complex issues. Cranham pointed out that increasing the number of board members would bring Monson's representation ratio closer to the average in Western Massachusetts, where towns generally

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Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy

Jean and Robert Kaddy standing outside before the meeting showing their support for Article 40.

PALMER

Chevalier reaches Scout's highest honor

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Under cool May skies at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, family, friends, fellow Scouts, and community leaders gathered on May 18 to celebrate a milestone more than a decade in the making. Sixteen-year-old Cole Chevalier, a member of Scouts BSA Troop 64, officially earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America.

The Eagle Court of Honor, held from 2 to 5 p.m., recognized not just a single achievement but a lifetime of dedication, leadership, and service. Chevalier's journey began in kindergarten as a Lion Scout, and he has since blazed a historic trail,



Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy
Cole Chevalier at his Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony.

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Pathfinder students recognized at awards ceremony

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School honored outstanding academic and technical achievement during its 51st annual awards ceremony, a proud tradition that gathered students, families, alumni, and faculty in the newly renovated gymnasium on a memorable spring evening.

Superintendent Eric Duda opened the night by welcoming a full house of supporters and acknowledging the collective efforts that make Pathfinder thrive, from dedicated faculty and administrators to families and alumni. The ceremony also gave a nod to the school's roots and evolution; from a modest beginning with unfinished facilities in 1974 to today's state-of-the-art campus, including a gym revitalized through a \$50,000 contribution from the Town of Palmer, volunteer work from staff, and student-installed banners. The presence of Scout, the school's therapy dog, drew delighted applause and exemplified the warm and supportive culture Pathfinder aims to foster.

With 148 students recognized, the event highlighted not only academic excellence but also professionalism and perseverance. The "Path to Professionalism", symbolizing perseverance, achievement, teamwork, and honor, was a guiding theme throughout the ceremony.

Among the standout academic achievements, Tricia Murdock was honored for her exceptional work in English and Fine Arts, earning the Highest Achievement in ELA and the Golden Paintbrush Award in art. Alexander Ostrout emerged as a top social studies scholar, receiving the Highest Achievement in Social Studies and commendation in several specialized history courses. Zachary Bera and Zander Auffrey were singled out for their mathematical excellence, while Evelyn Shilosky received multiple honors including Highest Achievement in Science, the prestigious Jack O'Donnell Science Award, as well as AP English recognition and a Mass CTE Presidential Certificate of Merit.

Quinn Richardson, who



Scout, the Pathfinder therapy dog, attends the ceremony to provide a cute face for all attendees.



Academic Director Dan Whalley calls the names of students for the academic excellence awards.



Pathfinder Principal Ryan Rege gives closing remarks for the awards ceremony.



Senior Evelyn Shilosky and Band Director Dan Friedman play the intro music for the ceremony.



A wide shot of all the students who attended the ceremony.

was also recognized as the top sophomore student with the Academic Excellence Award, stood out across academic and technical categories, reflecting the school's mission of integrating rigorous academics with hands-on vocational training.

In the realm of technical education, excellence across 16 vocational departments was on full display. The coveted Golden Hammer Award in Carpentry went to junior Brandon Charron, while Ariana Beaulieu earned the Golden Shears Award in Cosmetology. Samantha Lowe, a senior who also earned a top honor in Financial Algebra and recognition in Cooperative Education, took home the Toque Blanche Award in Culinary Arts and was named a SkillsUSA national representative alongside Zander Auffrey and Riley Olden. Auffrey also received Highest Achievement in Electronics Technology and a CTE Presi-

dential Certificate.

Additional honors reflected student success beyond Pathfinder's walls. Genasis Rodriguez received the Golden Pineapple Award in Hospitality, celebrating leadership and service, and Ethan Bernashe was honored for Highest Achievement in Cooperative Education. Academic excellence at the highest level was recognized by GPA-based awards, with Evelyn Shilosky once again honored as the top student in the senior class.

College-sponsored awards underscored Pathfinder's commitment to launching students into higher education and competitive fields. Institutions including Western New England University, Salem State, Suffolk, and WPI recognized standout students for innovation, STEM excellence, and leadership. Among them, Leean Murdza received WPI's Innovation Award, and Jannah Leclerc was honored

with RIT's Women in STEM Award.

The evening concluded with heartfelt closing remarks from school leadership, thanking faculty, support staff, and the wider Pathfinder community for nurturing a generation of learners, creators, and future professionals. The awards night, now in its sixth decade, remains not just a ceremony, but a celebration of what Pathfinder Tech stands for: excellence through opportunity, dedication, and community spirit.



Superintendent Eric Duda gives the opening remarks and thanks everyone for joining them to celebrate the students.

Monson water quality reports available

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 re-

port 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.

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Students become 'Energy Detective's



One Book, One School celebration event at GVS

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

MONSON – This past week featured the One Book, One School Celebration at Monson Public Schools.

All students in pre-K and kindergarten at the Early Childhood Center at Quarry Hill and all students in grades one-six at Granite Valley participated in a classroom read-aloud of "The Energy Detectives: Secrets of the Sun" by Paul Meisel and Madelyn Rosenberg. This was the second annual One Book, One School Celebration and this time, the kids were reading the second book of the Energy Detectives series.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Katherine B. Watts mentioned the teaching materials were provided by the Grinspoon Foundation, which supports an assortment of innovative programs.

Watts says the kids have taken a liking to the book series and many students remember learning about it last year. Each student got a copy of the book to take home with them and read along with their families. Over 400 books were distributed throughout the schools.

"Teaching how to use energy efficiently and conservatively," Watts said.

Teachers prepared numerous activities tied to the "Energy Detectives" book and gave students a reading experience and will soon learn the connection to the science

standards they're learning now.

Mr. Cust's third grade class was taking part in partner reading, followed by a discussion. His students took turns reading to their partners and discussing what they learned in the book and trying to think about what will happen next.

"What do you wonder," Cust describes it as.

Soon, Mr. Cust's students began working on their own bookmarks to go with their copies of the "Energy Detectives: Secrets of the Sun". The teacher went around the room and was pleased by hearing the partner reading and group discussions the kids were having in class.

One of the pages in the book is a "seek and find" task for kids to try out. Students were trying to find examples of sun power on this page.

Mrs. Royce's second grade class had the seek and find page on the board and students went up and circled examples of sun energy. First graders in Mrs. O'Malley's class were reading and then played a game of I Spy with facts about the book.

Up in the sixth grade area, students were partaking in their Earth Day pledge and reviewed a video discussing the history of Earth Day, dating back to 1970.

The fifth-grade classes worked on a water cycle project. Mrs. Nobbs' class had their projects displayed by the window counter.

The fourth-grade classes went outside to observe the story walk that was put in place. This story walk featured the "Energy Detectives" book the students were reading and gave kids an opportunity to explore the book outside. Mrs. Siddle's fourth



Elijah and Nolan are third grade students reading the "Energy Detectives" book in Mr. Cust's class.

grade class were exploring the story walk and brought copies of the book to read as a class outside.

Kathy Novak and her students created the visual art you first witness when you enter Granite Valley School. This was a fun school wide activity and got students into reading a fun, educational story. The school wants the students to learn the connection

to the science standards and also know that the characters they're reading about are similar to students.

It is a fun learning experience for the students and helps them make connections to not only sun energy, but to the importance of using energy. The students got to take a copy of the book home with them and share with their families on what they have learned.



A picture from the "Energy Detectives" book displayed in a story walk outside of Granite Valley School.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



A beautiful art display of trees designed by Kathy Novak and her students.



Mrs. Siddle's fourth grade class read together outside where the story walk is.



Water cycle projects created by students of Mrs. Nobbs, gift grade teacher.



Mr. Cust checked with one group of his students about what they think will happen next in the story.



Mrs. O'Malley read "Energy Detectives" to her first grade class.



Grade two students of Mrs. Royce approached the board and circled examples of sun energy.



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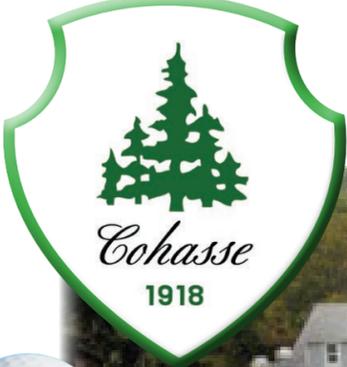
THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will 'DOGE' hurt our Social Security or Medicare benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am a new AMAC member and have an important question for you and your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My question is: Is the new DOGE effort going to help us, or hurt us, all those living on Social Security and receiving Medicare benefits? Please let us know soon.

Regards: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we offer free access to everyone, the public as well as AMAC members, for our acclaimed Social Security Advisory Service, at which we answer all inquiries from anyone with questions about Social Security and enrollment in Medicare.

As you can imagine, we very closely watch all action in Washington, D.C. which will affect Social Security and Medicare, especially any Congressional legislation being considered. The new Department of Government Efficiency organization is tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud and waste in all areas of the Federal Government and that includes Social Security and Medicare. But the important thing to remember is that DOGE is seeking only to discover fraud and government waste.

Recently a great deal of visibility has been given to DOGE's efforts to discover potential fraud and waste in the Social Security Administration.

Everything we have seen thus far indicates that DOGE's efforts have identified opportunities for reducing fraud and waste at the Social Security Administration, so our expectation is that DOGE's efforts will tend to help the Social Security Administration become more efficient but not endanger anyone's Social Security benefits.

Indeed, President Trump and the DOGE team have repeatedly said that no cuts in Social Security benefits will occur as a result of DOGE's efforts. Reducing fraud and waste at the SSA would

tend to improve the agency's financial posture and improve their ability to pay full benefits longer. The same is true for Medicare.

Actually, DOGE is very transparent and posts everything they find on this website: www.doge.gov. A quick look at this website reveals that none of what they have found at the SSA indicates any threat to SS or Medicare benefits.

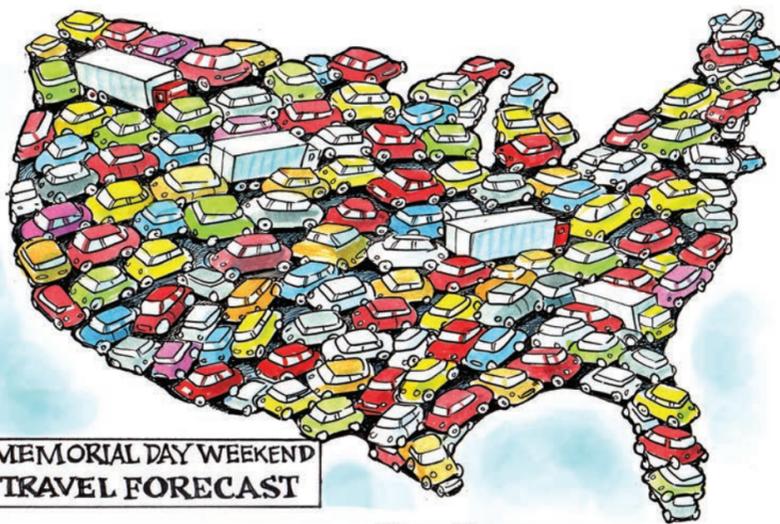
I suggest that any negative news media and social media accounts of DOGE's activities be taken with a grain of salt. All such articles are largely meant to attract attention to unlikely "doomsday" scenarios. The reality is that our government is over \$36 trillion in debt, and that debt is growing, which is an unsustainable financial path for our country.

DOGE is specifically tasked with eliminating the deficit gap by reducing frivolous government spending and fraud. But reducing crucial benefits for seniors on Social Security and Medicare are not part of DOGE's efforts, nor their goal.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

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 or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

DAVE GRANLUNDO www.davegranlundo.com

Rhododendrons 101

I was never all that fond of rhododendrons. Indeed, they are pretty when in flower, but the other 11 and a half months of the year I find them a bit uninteresting.

As I write, however, I am staring out my window at pink rhododendron buds that before long will burst into bloom. The shrub is on the massive side, and each year a multitude of bees and our resident hummingbirds frequent the blossoms.

For this reason, I am rethinking my stand: when sited appropriately and cared for well, this shrub is deserved of a place in the average landscape, if just for its flowers alone.

Please enjoy a column from the archives that will give you some pointers to help you achieve just that!

Where in the yard should a rhododendron be placed? Most rhododendrons look better when grouped with other shrubs in a border or foundation planting.

Before doing so, however, consider the ultimate size of the variety you have chosen and position it the proper distance away from buildings and other plants. Petite two foot tall container plants may grow upwards of seven feet tall in just ten years!

In our locale, siting in partial shade is best; morning sun and afternoon shade make an ideal combination. Too much sun will result in rhodies with yellow leaves.

What kind of soil do rhododendrons prefer? Most of us know that rhododendrons are acid-loving. They require a soil pH of 5.5. Adjust your pH if necessary by adding agricultural sulfur or ferrous sulfate, not aluminum sulfate.

Soils that are light and

well-drained and have a high organic matter content are desirable, especially if the humus is acidic, say from oak leaves or pine needles.

How should they be planted? Never sink a rhododendron too deeply – plant the root ball level with the ground or even an inch or two above it. Water the newly planted rhododendron well the entire first season.

Since they have very fine roots, it will take a while for the roots to grow from the existing root ball into the surrounding soil. If the root ball dries out during this period it will be hard to rewet and the plant may die. Should this happen, drip water from your hose for several hours until the root ball is rehydrated.

What else can be done to keep rhododendrons healthy? Since rhododendrons are shallow-rooted, keep cultivation at the base of the plant to a minimum. To prevent weeds and conserve soil moisture, consider using a coarse mulch.

If your soil is fertile, extra nutrients are rarely necessary.

Rhododendrons planted in less than ideal soil can benefit from a balanced fertilizer intended for acid-loving plants. Apply it in early spring; never add fertilizer past June or you will encourage succulent growth that is apt to be winter killed.

After large-flowered rhododendrons are done blooming, they can be deadheaded quite easily. Simply

hold on to the center of the spent flower cluster and bend it forward. Deadheading will keep your shrub looking tidy as well as prevent excessive seed formation.

Plants that spend energy making seeds have less energy for next year's flowers. If pruning is needed it can be accomplished at the same time as deadheading; any later and you may sacrifice flower buds.

Since flowers are the plant's main attribute, don't risk it.

How do I deal with large areas of winter kill? This spring has brought with it some seriously damaged rhododendrons. My guess would be that this came as a result of excessive wind and a few days of very chilly late winter weather.

Although I addressed this question over a month ago, readers are still concerned about their rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants such as azaleas and leucothoe, that also have large areas of brown leaves and dead branches. Oftentimes, dead stems that are cut back to well within the shrub, to a point of active growth, will respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant.

I am hopeful that this is the case for my readers.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



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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:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
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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 journals@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.

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore Oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.

I saw the first Baltimore Oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male Oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore Oriole is a medium sized icterid black-bird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket nest. As a child, Orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the Orioles from our porch.

Young male Orioles don't molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with



By Ellenor Downer

Baltimore Oriole

every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard. The eagle was eating a fish while perched on a tree limb.

Worthington birds

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "For years the red breasted grosbeak has returned to my feeder in the first week of May. I was thinking he was late this year, but yesterday afternoon (on May 7) one arrived."

He also said, "About a week ago I heard a wood thrush, but not since...I am nervous about bird populations. I know scholars say they are

declining, and this year I am seeing very few robins, making for a silent spring." He also commented he hoped there were plenty of robins my way. Yes, there are.

The Worthington resident also saw a bear. He said, "A bear reached up 7.5 feet and got the bottom of my feeder. I saw him in the dim light of a motion light, full height as he was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalis-

es in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away.

Peregrine falcon cameras

Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the public to witness falcons during breeding season.

Some site in Massachusetts with web cameras: Clock Tower of the Custom House, Boston nesting for over 20 years <https://marriott.ozolio.com/mwc-pulse-boston/>

Fox Hall Dorm UMass Lowell nesting since 2007 [https://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/](https://www.uml.edu/Falcons/DuBoisLibraryUMassAmherstsince2003yearshttps://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/)

Bird experience

The Brimfield resident sent the following email. "I had an interesting experience earlier today, May 12. We

have a love seat that is tucked under a which hazel shrub and behind a winterberry holly. There are other small trees and shrubs nearby and there is a feeding station about 15' away. While sitting very still I began to hear bird's wings flapping close by, then I could feel the air moving near my head."

He continued, "Then the bird landed briefly on the top of my head. Of course I couldn't see the bird. As soon as it left my head I turned my head slowly but couldn't see any birds behind me. I have a very healthy head of hair for an old coot and I think the bird might have been looking for nesting material.

I suspect it was a titmouse because several had been back and forth to the feeder before this happened."

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

Viewpoints

Palmer Ambulance Service announces closure, expresses appreciation

By David Clark
Director
Palmer Ambulance Service, Inc.

Palmer Ambulance Service Closes After 40 Years

As National EMS Week approaches, the management and the Board of Directors of Palmer Ambulance Service want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who worked for Palmer Ambulance Service.

Palmer Ambulance Service has been an invaluable asset to the town for nearly forty years, providing exemplary emergency medical services at no cost to the community. This extraordinary gesture has resulted in sub-

stantial savings for the town's taxpayers, amounting to an estimated 25 to 30 million dollars over the years.

To grasp the enormity of this contribution, one only needs to examine the budgets proposed to replace even a fraction of the services that Palmer Ambulance Service has provided. The financial burden that would have been placed on the community is staggering, highlighting the service's vital role in alleviating this pressure.

The service has played an indispensable role in providing exceptional emergency care and transportation to the residents of the Town of Palmer and its surrounding communities.

The dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment of the staff have had a profound impact on the lives of many, ensuring their safety and well-being during critical moments.

Palmer Ambulance Service has been at the forefront of emergency medical services (EMS) within the Town of Palmer. From its inception, the service was committed to providing EMS care and transportation to its residence, a mission that has saved

countless lives and brought peace of mind to residents.

The team at Palmer Ambulance Service consistently demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and dedication. Each member of the EMS staff contributed to its seamless operation of emergency response, ensuring timely and effective care during critical moments. Their unwavering commitment not only saved lives but also provided reassurance to the community during emergencies.

Palmer Ambulance Service's role in the community extended far beyond emergency medical care. Over the years, they engaged in numerous community outreach programs, educational initiatives, and health awareness campaigns. These efforts fostered a culture of health and safety, empowering residents with the knowledge and resources to handle emergencies and promote overall well-being.

Despite their invaluable service, Palmer Ambulance Service faced numerous challenges in recent years, leading to the difficult decision to cease operations. Rising operating costs, a steady decline in call volume from Baystate

Wing Hospital, staffing challenges within the EMS community, competition from other medical services, and increased regulatory compliance demands all contributed to this decision.

The financial strain of maintaining a free EMS service became increasingly unsustainable. Operating costs rose, making it challenging to continue providing a high level of care without significant funding. Additionally, the decline in call volume from local hospitals further impacted revenue, creating a financial shortfall that could not be overcome.

Given that Palmer Ambulance Service was not a tax-based service and relied solely on revenue from operations, the financial strain ultimately forced the organization to cease its services.

The creation of a municipal tax-based Palmer Fire Department Ambulance aimed at becoming the primary provider would further reduce call volume for Palmer Ambulance Service. This shift in service provision made it clear that the original mission of providing free EMS care was no longer feasible.

Despite efforts to negoti-

ate with the Town of Palmer through its elected officials, the town informed Palmer Ambulance Service that they were not interested in any agreement. Without the necessary resources and support, continuing the service was no longer viable.

The decision to cease operations marks the end of an era for the Town of Palmer, which benefited from the free EMS services provided by Palmer Ambulance Service for nearly 40 years. The legacy of Palmer Ambulance Service will be remembered for its unwavering dedication to the community, its professional excellence, and the countless lives it touched.

As we celebrate National EMS Week the management and Board of Directors honors the commitment and sacrifices of all those who contributed to Palmer Ambulance Service. Their service was not only a cornerstone of the community's emergency medical response but also a beacon of hope and reassurance during times of need.

Thank you to all who served, for being the backbone of Palmer Ambulance Service emergency medical response team.

In the classroom

CAMPUS NOTES

SNHU announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Emma Keith of Brimfield (01010)
Josslyn Seals of Bondsville

SNHU announces Spring 2025 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2025 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Alysia Johnson-Coveney of Holland
Matthew Brotherton of Three Rivers
Rielle Wynn & Andrea Morris of Palmer
Brenna Severin & Joice Ortiz of Monson

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July 12.....	Escape to Rockport.....	\$110
July 26.....	Perkins Cove for a Day.....	\$110
Oct. 4.....	Stockbridge – Rockwell Museum.....	\$120
Oct. 18.....	Turkey Train.....	\$175

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PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call

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Race Cars for a Cause returns to Palmer track

Military
Appreciation Day

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – For the eighth year, Race Cars for a Cause and Palmer Motorsports Park teamed up to provide an unforgettable way to give back to our nation's veterans and their families with the annual Military Appreciation Day.

This past Saturday, despite the threat of rain, close to 150 veterans were given the chance of a lifetime by getting to ride passenger side in a number of performance cars, including various Porsches, BMWs, Mazda Miatas, Ford Mustangs and more.

These impressive cars were driven by volunteer drivers, one of which traces her roots as a professional driver back to the Whiskey Hill track.

Mia Leroux traveled up from Florida, where she is part of the competitive racing circuit, to visit her "home" track, and give veterans and their family members a fast-paced feel for the highly technical track, which was ranked "one of the top 10 road courses in North America" by Road & Track Magazine.

"This is a great event," Leroux said. "It's really inspiring. They really appreciate it."

Leroux honed all of her skills on the Palmer Motorsports Park track, and she developed a love for racing that

has boosted her promising career at just 20 years old.

Leroux was one of 18 drivers at the Military Appreciation Day event, which has fast become one of the most popular events at the track thanks to Race Cars for a Cause.

"This is just our way of giving back," Jeff Archambeault, Race Cars for a Cause founder, said.

Archambeault founded the nonprofit organization 10 years ago to help veterans and active military, and he was thrilled with the number of veterans who signed up to ride along with the drivers this year.

"Today went off without a hitch, which was great," he said. "It ended up being a great day."

Archambeault thanked all of the volunteers and staff who helped make the event possible, as well as event sponsor Tracy Volkswagen Inc., whose generous donation provided free meals for all of the veterans who attended the event.

"We can't thank them enough for that," he said.

Joining Archambeault from Race Cars for a Cause were Steve Richard and James Ryll.

Richard said he has been part of this event for seven years and he has even volunteered as one of the drivers. He said the mission of this organization has a place close to his heart.

"I grew up with a dad that would cross the street and



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Race Cars for a Cause and Palmer Motorsports Park joined together to offer Military Appreciation Day this past Saturday.

shake the hand of anyone in uniform," Richard said. "This marries two of my loves, which is veterans and driving fast. It's a really cool thing."

Richard said getting the veterans out on the track has a positive effect, especially for those who are still dealing with the trauma of the military experience. He said the adrenaline rush is a familiar place for veterans.

"It's about taking them out of their bad space," he said. "Everybody gets out of their car with a big smile on their face. It's a lot of fun."

Ryll said he has been part of Race Cars for a Cause from

its start, having been a lifelong friend of Archambeault.

"It's about the veterans," he said. "We think outside the box and do something fun like this."

Upcoming events

Palmer Motorsports Park, located at 58 West Ware Road, has a full lineup of events for the 2025 track season.

Cars & Coffee events are scheduled on select Sundays from 9 a.m.-noon with a BMW vehicles only event on June 8 and Porsche vehicles only event on June 22. To register for these events, visit palmermsp.com/carsandcoffee.

On Saturday, July 5, the first ever Great All American Muscle Car Show will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 per show car which includes finale laps and group photo at 3 p.m.; and \$20 per spectator vehicle.

For more information, visit palmermsp.com/event/great-american-muscle-car-show/.

Porsche on the Mountain will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and features everything Porsche from show cars to track cars, to race cars and project cars. Show car entry is \$35 (pre-registration required) and \$10

general admission.

Proceeds from this event benefit Homes For Our Troops. For more information and to register, visit www.porscheonthemountain.com.

The annual Trunk or Treat Car Show to benefit food pantries in Palmer and Ware will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 and the popular Mustangs on the Mountain event is also set to take place in October to benefit the Central New England Equine Rescue.

For more information about Palmer Motorsports Park, visit palmermsp.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Driver Mia Leroux gets ready to take a veteran for a lap.



Porsche vehicles were popular rides for the veterans.



This Porsche is ready to roll.

SENIOR | from page 1

part of a cost-saving effort, had met with vocal resistance from residents during the budget subcommittee session.

Due to the issue not being on the agenda at the time, the council was limited in its ability to formally address the matter then. However, the Council President Barry clarified at this week's meeting that she had publicly expressed opposition to the closure at that time and reiterated her stance, calling out social media posts that she said misrepresented the discussion and the town's response.

"We listened to the public for 20 minutes that evening," she said. "It was made perfectly clear how important the senior center is to our residents."

She also clarified that written questions requested at

the prior meeting were meant only for items that could not be answered at that time, not as a means to stifle discussion.

In a positive outcome, the budget subcommittee has since identified \$30,000 in savings from other areas, making it possible to maintain full weekly operations at the senior center. The Thursday closure will not move forward.

Looking ahead, the Council President proposed a new initiative called "Coffee with a Counselor." This rotating monthly program would allow town councilors and the town manager to visit the senior center and engage directly with residents, answering questions and collecting feedback on town issues. The goal is to improve transparency, increase civic participation, and ensure town programs reflect residents' needs and interests.

Citizens voice transparency and budget questions

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Thorndike resident Steve Cosmeter reiterated calls for a new senior center and pressed for more budget transparency.

He asked if residents would be able to view the town's budget before it is voted on by the council. Officials confirmed that a public hearing is scheduled for June 9 and the full budget will be posted online beforehand. The final vote is expected later in June.

Cosmeter also suggested that future budget presentations include more detailed breakdowns of how tax dollars are spent, not just in broad categories like "public safety" or "education," but in finer detail that shows allo-

cations to departments such as police, library, and public works.

Council members agreed to improve outreach by posting updated pie charts and summary breakdowns online and at town events, noting that the FY25 data is already available and FY26 figures are being finalized.

Another point raised was a past suggestion to make budget booklets available at polling locations, which had not been implemented. Council members committed to revisiting the idea.

Town Clerk: Census, Elections, and Dogs

Town Clerk Sue Coache presented an update on her department's activities, emphasizing the importance of the annual census, election preparations, and improving compliance with dog licensing laws.

Only 70% of census forms were returned this year, which could impact voting rolls, school enrollments, and proof of residency for various benefits. Residents who don't respond risk becoming inactive voters.

Coache noted improvements in online services, including the ability to request birth, marriage, and death certificates through UniPay, a secure platform used by the town's bank. Plans are in the works to eventually offer dog licensing online, though challenges remain due to required rabies documentation.

There are currently more than 1,900 unlicensed dogs in Palmer, based on veterinary rabies reports. The town is stepping up enforcement and may coordinate with the Animal Control Officer to address noncompliance.

Coache also shared vot-

ing statistics and ballot previews for the upcoming June 10 town election, with contested races in multiple precincts. Vote-by-mail remains popular, and early voting options will be available upon request.

Veteran Services: Growing engagement and new programs

Veteran Services Officer Tina Brohman offered a heartfelt and comprehensive report on the department's work. From monthly luncheons to wellness outreach and Memorial Day planning, Brohman's commitment to Palmer's veterans was evident.

The Building Bridges monthly lunch now serves 50-75 attendees, up from 30 last year. Veterans and their guests enjoy home-cooked meals, social interaction, and community connection.

The third-Wednesday of every month is their veterans coffee hour which includes rotating speakers on topics such as Medicare, housing, and long-term care. Brohman also discussed a successful meat raffle fundraiser and noted strong community participation.

A 106-year-old veteran remains a regular at events, exemplifying the value of continued outreach.

Brohman emphasized that housing remains a key issue, but said a number of landlords, including one who is a veteran, have stepped forward to offer apartments to veterans in need. A potential housing solution for a long-term unhoused veteran is in progress.

The town's Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 27, gathering at 10:15 a.m. with a step-off from St. Thomas Church at 10:45

a.m., Brohman encouraged participation and shared that AMVETS Commander Paul Gravin will lead the event in her absence.

On the topic of Purple Heart banners, a resident questioned why some known recipients were not yet honored. Brohman explained that family permission is required and encouraged residents to work with her directly to ensure eligible veterans are recognized.

Library leads with innovation and community outreach

Library Director Stephanie Maher presented an energetic and inspiring update, emphasizing the Palmer Public Library's 20-year milestone and a growing portfolio of community-centered programs.

A recent financial gift from the estate of Thomas P. Budnick has already funded a full technology upgrade in the library's community room, and future plans include a professional space utilization study to better align library areas with modern usage.

Maher spotlighted the Community Wellness Program, which began following the death of an unhoused patron. Through partnerships with the Palmer Police, CHD, BHN, and Baystate Health, the library now hosts regular office hours, free screenings, and social services on-site.

The Baystate WOW Bus visits monthly to provide health screenings and doctor referrals.

"Librarians were being asked questions we couldn't answer, and I wanted to do more," Maher said. She and DART Officer Sgt. Burns will present the program at the upcoming Mass Library

Association conference.

Other stats show high usage:

- 94,000 items checked out in FY24
- 254 programs hosted
- Nearly 60,000 visitors
- 1,190 meeting room bookings

This summer, the library will host outdoor movie nights in local parks and a June 26 kickoff party with free mini golf, face painting, and ice cream from Rondeau's. Adults are welcome, too.

Officials advised the library to monitor construction at Hersonwitz Park, which may affect the July 11 event.

Stormwater Management: Compliance and planning

Kelly Crumin and Haley Rivers from the stormwater management program gave their annual detailed presentation on Palmer's ongoing compliance with the MS4 stormwater permit, a federally mandated program designed to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Outfall screening, catchment investigations, and water quality testing have been conducted across the town. Of 207 outfalls, only one potential illicit discharge is under investigation.

Two key compliance items remain:

- Ordinance Update (pending council review)
- Stormwater BMP Project (town hopes to partner with Pathfinder School to install a rain garden at Town Hall)

Despite the pending items, Palmer is largely in compliance, and ongoing maintenance, including street sweeping and catch basin cleaning, is robust. Annual reports and mapping updates continue.

Reunion PHS Class of 1965

PALMER — The Palmer High School class of 1965 will be having their 60th class reunion on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Tony & Penny's restaurant on 18 Canterbury St. in Ludlow, MA.

We'll be sending out the invitations to our classmates sometime in the near future.

If you have any questions, please contact Estelle (Berthiaume) Moynahan at 413-283-6429.

Business

HALFWAY TO HALLOWEEN: 13th World unleashes frights, fun

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER — Fans of fright didn't have to wait until October to get their horror fix, as 13th World in Palmer hosted its "Halfway to Halloween" event, unveiling a reimagined lineup of immersive haunts, interactive games, and horror-themed refreshments. The attraction, owned by Zeke Fortier and Richard Vaillant and managed by Jason Dion, has gained a loyal following for its intense scare experiences. This year, the crew switched up the layout and introduced several new features while keeping a few fan favorites intact.

Guests had the option to heighten their scare factor by signing a waiver, paying \$5, and wearing a glow stick necklace somewhere visible on their body. This signaled to scare actors that physical interaction was permitted, expect to be shoved and startled, though not injured. The waiver, of course, comes with a clear warning for those who think they might regret it afterward.

The heart of the event was Moonlight Mayhem, an extended walk-through experience that lasted between 30 and 40 minutes. Guests began their journey at the Moonlight Motel, where they were introduced to the eerie town's mayor, John King. From there, they ventured into various disturbingly themed locations including the Twisted Clown Art School, the Sisters of Salem Convention, the Precious Blood Church, the Moonlight Mansion, and the Slaughterhouse Sawmill. The experience stretched deep into the woods behind 13th World, with dozens of scare actors fully immersed in their roles throughout the attraction.

In addition to the main haunt, three mini-attractions added variety to the night's horrors. North Pole Nightmare featured deranged clowns taking over Santa's territory. Hellfire

House forced guests to stumble through a disorienting, smoke-filled maze meant to simulate a burning building. Prison of Torture transported attendees via elevator to the basement of a haunted prison, where they had to escape before being locked away.

The park also offered an interactive ride, Buried Alive, where one or two guests were placed in a coffin and violently shaken to simulate the experience of being buried. Cameras inside the coffin captured reactions for friends to watch. Riders could choose from two different experiences, and the cost was \$10 per ride.

Guests could test their skills at five horror-themed games. Horror Hatchet offered axe throwing at \$5 for five throws. Ball Buster featured a hammer strength test where players hit a dummy between the legs to see how high his head could be launched. Pinhead required throwing darts through chains to hit a target modeled after the iconic horror character, while Dead Ringer challenged players to toss rings onto blood-covered clown figures.

Food and drinks were also on theme. The Casket Cafe, styled like a food truck, served items such as mozzarella sticks, fries, cheese fries, chicken tenders, chicken parmesan sandwiches, nachos, doughboys, cookies, and beverages including horror-themed energy drinks. For those looking to unwind with a drink, the Poison Pub served specialty cocktails, one of which came in a novelty blood bag, while Brimstone Tavern provided a more relaxed environment away from the scare zones, offering alcohol and standard drinks in a standing area with tables.

To commemorate the experience, three photo stations were scattered throughout the venue: a giant Ouija board, a graveyard scene with a zombie being shot, and a moonlit forest backdrop featuring a towering pumpkin-headed figure. Guests could also shop

for souvenirs at The Gore Store, which sold horror movie-themed gifts and official 13th World merchandise.

Looking ahead, co-owner Richard Vaillant shared that the team plans to introduce a horror movie theater experience this coming fall, adding another layer of entertainment to the already expansive lineup.

13th World is set to re-open for its main season on Sunday, September 27, 2025. For more information and ticketing details, visit 13thworld.com/massachusetts. Whether you're a horror enthusiast or a curious first-timer, this haunted attraction offers thrills, screams, and unforgettable fun, no matter the time of year.



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy
The scare actors having their makeup applied by other scare actors in the costume and makeup room.



A version of the Grim Reaper with a pumpkin head and scythe.



The sign for the Moonlight Motel, the entrance to the main attraction the Moonlight Mayhem Town.



The entrance to the main area where all the attractions are, The Midway of Madness.



Hailey Crossman and Brimstone Tavern bartender Daniela Toohy prepare to scare.



Various scare actors heading from costumes and makeup to their stations at the attractions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to 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.

UPCOMING

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

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

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

June 21

Concert Butcher & The Summer of Love at Brimfield Winery 35 Main St., Brimfield. Tickets available at Brimfieldwinery.com.

ONGOING

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Hol-

land 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@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit 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.

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.

BOARD | from page 1

have a higher number of Select Board members.

Roxanne Gunther, a vocal proponent of the change, argued that increasing the Select Board to five members would lead to better decision-making and greater accountability. She cited issues with the current three-member board, suggesting that certain members were not adequately performing their du-

ties, leading to inefficiencies and poor governance. Gunther's statements were criticized by some attendees, who accused her of making personal attacks on current Select Board members. Despite this, Gunther maintained that the change was necessary for the future of the town.

The discussion continued with various perspectives being shared. Some residents, like Macarine of Wales Road, expressed concerns about increasing the size of the Select

Board, but others, such as Mr. McDonald of Country Club Heights, supported the idea. McDonald argued that a larger board would encourage more transparency, better debate, and less risk of decision-making being influenced by just a couple of individuals. He noted that a five-member board would be less prone to violations of the open meeting law, as more people would be involved in discussions and decision-making, making it harder for two members to

meet in private and discuss town matters.

Other residents, like Pat Williams, opposed the expansion, claiming that the current three-member board was sufficient for the town's needs. Williams emphasized that a larger board could lead to inefficiencies and more complicated decision-making. He also expressed concerns about the added costs of increasing the board's size, particularly with regard to administrative support and increased com-

munication demands for the town administrator.

Robert Kaddy of Butler Road provided statistics showing that a majority of towns in Massachusetts have five-member Select Boards, supporting the idea that such a structure was more common and potentially more effective. He argued that expanding the board would improve governance and align Monson with other similar communities.

The debate reached its

climax when Jessica Allen of Mayhole Road recounted her personal experience with the Select Board's handling of the school funding issue. She shared her frustration with the board's decision to vote down a proposal for additional funding for schools, which she believed reflected a larger problem with the current three-member structure. Allen argued that the town needed five members on the board to make better, more representative decisions.

★ MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ★

Palmer announces Memorial Day parade information

PALMER – The Memorial Day Parade is Monday May 26. Participants are asked to meet at 10:15 a.m. at St. Thomas church parking lot on 1076 Thorndike St Palmer, same as last year. The parade will step-off at 10:45 a.m. The route is down Thorndike St., left on Main St., left on Central St., and left on Converse St.

On Memorial Day May 26, Amvets Post 74 will conduct brief memorial services at the following locations:

- 8 a.m. Post Monument
- 8:10 a.m. Monument Hryniewicz Park
- 8:20 a.m. Monument Three Rivers Bridge
- 8:30 a.m. Old St. Ann's Cemetery
- 8:45 a.m. New St. Ann's Cemetery
- 9 a.m. Four Corners Cemetery (Main St Thorndike)
- 9:15 a.m. Bondsville Monument
- 9:30 a.m. St.'s Peter & Paul Cemetery

- American Legion Flagging schedule Monday May 26**
- 8 a.m. American Legion Memorial (@ Former Post Downtown)
 - 8:10 a.m. Monument Senior Center
 - 8:20 a.m. Palmer Center Cemetery
 - 8:30 a.m. Monument At Thorndike Junction
 - 8:45 a.m. St. Thomas Cemetery
 - 9 a.m. Oak Knoll Cemetery

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.

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

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 or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Brimfield Memorial Day services set for May 25

BRIMFIELD – The Town of Brimfield will hold its annual Memorial Day Services on Sunday, May 25 at 2:00 pm on the Town Common. The committee extends an invitation to everyone to join us and a special invitation to all area veterans, enlisted service members, and reservists.

“Brimfield has held services for Memorial Day as a town tradition that goes back beyond the memories of its oldest residents. As a committee, we believe it is important to take time to honor those who sacrificed everything,” said committee chair Cindy Skowrya.

Brimfield has a proud history of sending its citizens to fight for our country and is home to many brave military members who have served our country since the Civil War. This year is the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Town historian Mike DeFalco will speak about that significant event in our country's history.

Ceremonies will begin with the drum roll and the Veterans call to order. The ceremony will feature music and readings reflecting on the day, remembrance of current and former town residents who have passed away in the last year, and the ringing of the bell. Students from the sixth-grade class at Brimfield Elementary will participate. Henry Adams will recite Concord Hymn” a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson written for the 1837 dedication of a monument in Concord, Massachusetts, commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord, a series of battles and skirmishes on April 19, 1775 which sparked the American Revolutionary War. This poem was the origin of the phrase “shot heard round the world”. Laura North will speak about the origins of Memorial Day and Lauren Martin will sing the National Anthem.

State Representative Todd Smola will be present

and will share remark and Father Jack Brennan of St. Christophers will lead the prayers. There will be musical performances by vocalist Giana Uwazany, a Tantasqua graduate, vocally trained and studying music at Bridgewater State University as well as a longtime favorite local singer Bill Goodspeed.

A parade immediately follows the ceremony, and all are invited to participate. A wagon is available for veterans and others who want to join the parade but are unable to march courtesy of Village Green Campgrounds who will also provide ice cream to all who participate in the parade. Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes and doll carriages in patriotic themes.

The parade stops at the cemetery and war monuments in town to pay respect with an invocation, ceremonial gun salute, the laying of wreaths donated by Green Thumb Florist, raising of the flag and the playing of Taps by Maura Riel and Bob Frydrick. Tina Harkness will play the bagpipe at the cemetery.

During the American Civil War, citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. In recognition of that tradition, geraniums have been planted at the town monuments with help from Girls on the Run. During the parade, red carnations will be given out to place on veterans' graves that are marked with flags previously placed by Scout Troop 7 who helps set up for the day and additional volunteers.

The committee wants to thank all who worked behind the scenes to make this possible and extends a special thank you to the Champeau-Vilandre American Legion Post 109 for their support.

Be sure to join us on this Day of Remembrance in honor of those who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we enjoy.

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Memorial Day 2025

Another year has passed and more of our servicemembers too. Now we should thank them for sacrifices made for me and you. Is it too much to ask we take a minute to salute them? This one day to, regardless of religion, and say amen. Since the Revolutionary War and even today. Thank you is little enough to say. So as you walk past the flag draped grave. Think of the the veterans' sacrifices they gave. The duty they served our country to keep us all free. Let us not forget they have done for you and for me.

– Earl Bonett

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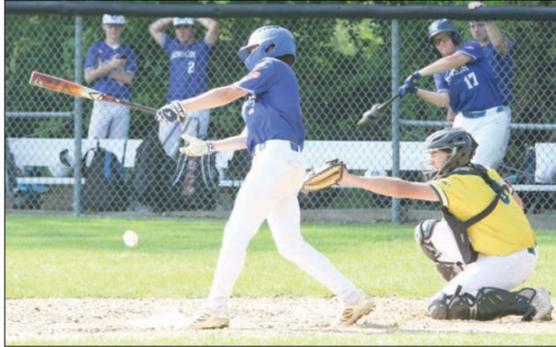
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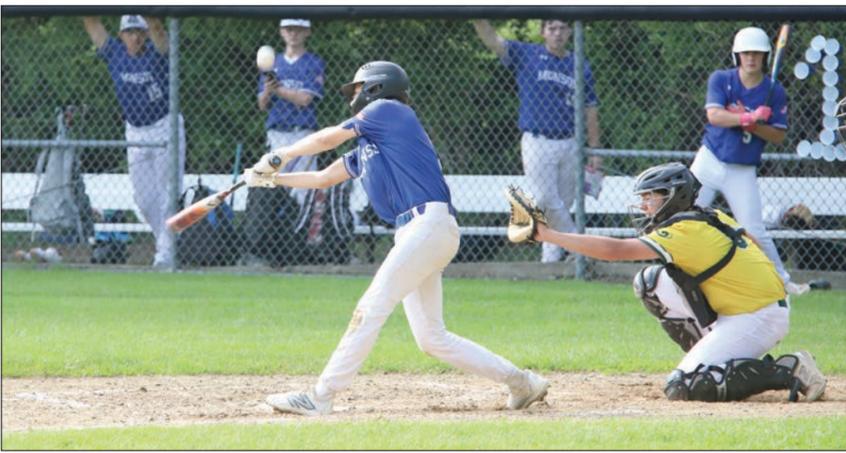
BASEBALL

Pair of wins lifts Monson team into tournament

MONSON – The Monson High School baseball team closed out its regular season by defeating Southwick Regional 10-0 thanks to some key offense in the middle of the game. The Mustangs also defeated Athol 6-5 last week and head into the postseason with a 10-7 record after winning four of their final five games. The Mustangs will qualify for the state tournament and await the seeds of the Western Mass. tournament as well.



Nikolas Matthieu fouls off a pitch.



Max Kowal pops a pitch foul.



Jake Beaupre slings a throw to first.



Tyler Labonte delivers a pitch home for the Mustangs.



Max Kowal smothers a soft roller to third.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

SOFTBALL

Palmer softball leads early, falls late to Ware

PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, the Ware softball team defeated Palmer thanks to 11 runs in the late innings to overcome an early deficit.

The Indians scored five in the sixth and six more

runs in the seventh inning for a 15-5 win. Shelby Hogan had four hits and four runs scored for the Indians while Jill Holbrook had two hits and an RBI for the Panthers. Ware is 11-5 while Palmer is 8-11.



Avigail Lee is ready for this grounder to third.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Jill Holbrook pitches for the Panthers.



Ava Swist is ready at first base.



Amhia Mcelareavy pops up the pitch.



Jayda Pardo sends a base hit to right.

BASEBALL

Warriors baseball set to head for state tournament

FISKDALE – With a couple of games remaining on its regular season schedule, Tantasqua Regional High School baseball is again headed for a run in the Division 3 State Tournament.

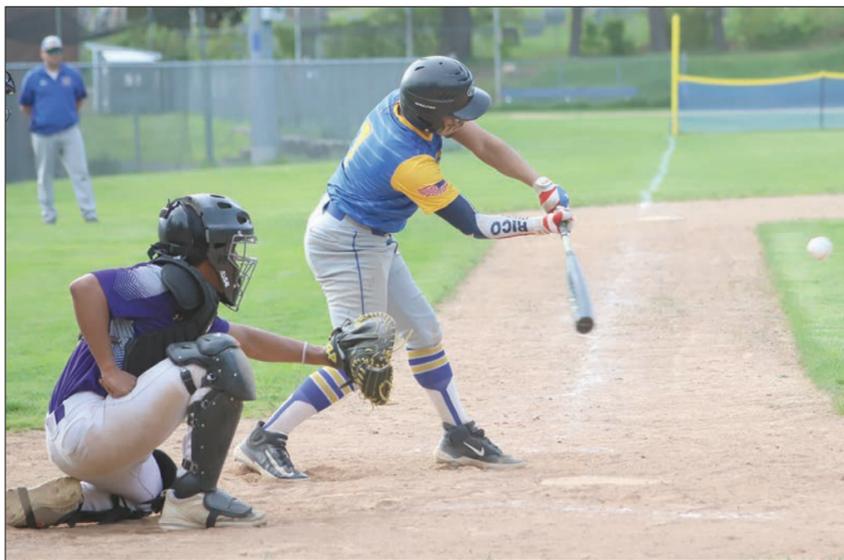
The Warriors entered the final week of the regular season with an 11-5 record, good for the No. 20 ranking in the Division 3 Power Rankings. The top 32 automatically qualify for the tournament, with teams finishing above .500 also qualifying and playing in preliminary round games. The Warriors will most definitely finish the season above .500, but must grab more wins if they want to improve their ranking. Losses in their final games in the next week could hurt their ranking as well, though the Warriors will at worst participate in one state playoff game.

Last year, the Warriors made it all the way to the quarterfinals before being eliminated.

Email us sports news and photos at sports@turley.com

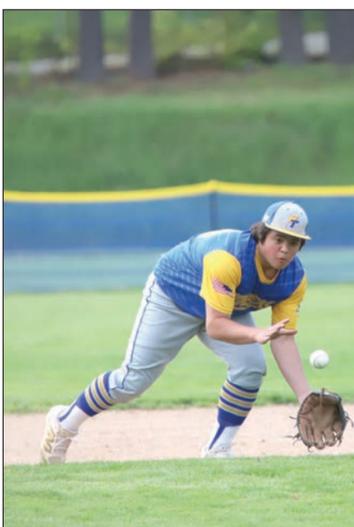


Dayne Shanley shuffles off first base.



Derek Rivera Castro swings and connects.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Brody Wetnicka fields a bouncer to third.



Brayden Mega throws to first.



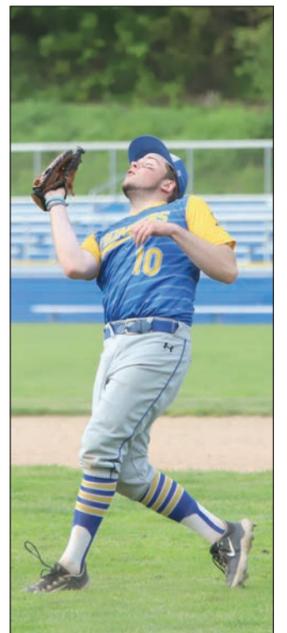
Zander Auffrey sends a pitch home.

BASEBALL

Pioneers suffer shutout

PALMER – Pathfinder baseball suffered an 11-0 shutout against Westfield Tech last Tuesday afternoon.

The game ended after just five innings due to the mercy-rule. Pathfinder is now 8-5 heading into the final week of the regular season.



Tim Russell makes a catch on a pop-up.

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Athlete of the Week

Brendan Hess
Palmer High School

Hess had three hits and three RBI for Palmer baseball in a win over Granby last week.

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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Panthers bust losing streak, beat Granby

GRANBY – Last Friday afternoon, Palmer High School baseball broke a six-game losing streak with a win over host Granby 9-5. The Panthers got three hits and three RBI from Brendan Hess. Matt Santos pitched a complete game and got the win. The Panthers are now 3-13 on the regular season.



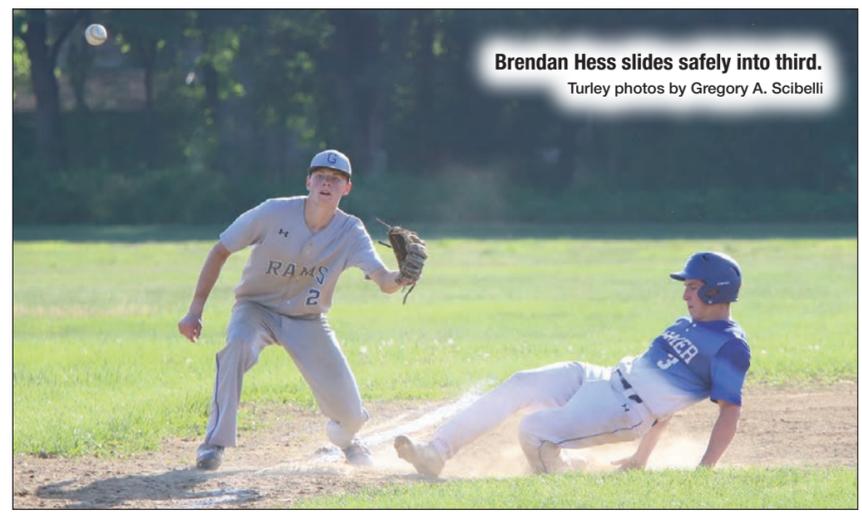
Dylan Holbrook grabs a bouncer to third and slings it across the diamond.



Matt Santos delivers a pitch.



The Panthers grab an extra run in the sixth inning.



Brendan Hess slides safely into third.
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Summer League

EAST BROOKFIELD – Summer Leagues have officially begun at Bogey Lanes and Thursdays is one of the nights to host league candlepin bowling.

The league consists of eight teams, and the first match was between The Furs

and Second Place. In game one, The Furs defeated Second Place in a close game, 433-429. Johnathon Hitchcock started with a 104 in a losing effort.

In game two, Second Place won a close game by a score of 431-429. In game three, The Furs won the last game by a score of 461-432. The highest game bowled was by Patrick Capri with 111. The Furs won total pin-fall by a final score of 1321-

1292.

The Busters bowled against the Glen Echo Rollers in week one of the season. In game one, the Busters won by a score of 433-404. In game two, Zo Nowak of Glen Echo Rollers bowled a 124 to help his team win, 511-452.

In game three, Glen Echo Rollers won the last game by a score of 424-422. The final score was 1339-1307 in favor of Glen Echo

Rollers.

Team Five bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Five was the victor by a score of 476-451. Aaron Halbedel of Team Five bowled a 131 to start the summer league.

Team Five won again in game two by a score of 457-430. Halbedel calmed down in game two with a 105, but his team still got the win.

Team Six won the last game by a score of 437-426.

The final score was 1359-1318 in favor of Team Five.

The Kolb Krew bowled against Team Seven, consisting of Karen Olszta, Jackson Loomer, Nate Fontaine and Aaron Fontaine. In game one, the Kolb Krew won by a score of 446-430. Aaron Fontaine began with 121 and Jackson Loomer began with 120.

In game two, The Kolb Krew won again by a score of 429-424. Aaron Fontaine

had the high game with a 119, but still fell short to the Kolb Krew.

In game three, The Kolb Krew won again, 483-429, for a three-game sweep to start the summer league. Drew Kolb finished with 111 and his daughter Grace bowled a 107. The high series bowled by Aaron Fontaine, who had a 358.

The final score was 1358-1283 in favor of the Kolb Krew.

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CHEVALIER | from page 1

becoming the first Scout in Palmer to earn every rank in Scouting, from Lion to Eagle. He is also Troop 64's first Eagle Scout and was a founding member and the troop's first Senior Patrol Leader.

"I started in Cub Scouts about 12 years ago, and I officially joined Boy Scouts in 2020," Cole said. "It's been a long journey, but I've loved it."

Eagle is the seventh and highest rank in the Scouts BSA advancement program. A Scout can complete requirements for the earlier ranks in virtually any order, but they must be earned sequentially: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally, Eagle. To reach Eagle, a Scout must be active in their Troop and Patrol for at least six months after earning Life rank, earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 12 required badges such as First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Personal Fitness, Camping, and Family Life, serve in a leadership position for at least six months, and complete a major service project that benefits a school, religious institution, or the community.

Chevalier far exceeded those standards, earning a remarkable 71 merit badges and receiving 10 Eagle Palms, each Palm representing five additional merit badges beyond the Eagle requirement. The maximum number of Eagle Palms a Scout can earn is 23, and Cole still has time to pursue more before aging out at 18.

Chevalier's accomplishments began long before Troop 64. As a Cub Scout in Pack 164, he not only earned every rank, (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light), but also completed every adventure in the program, earning the Super Achiever Award at each level. His path has been marked by initiative, discipline, and a drive to push himself beyond expectations.

In addition to his Scouting accolades, Cole recently achieved his black belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate at Villari's Martial Arts Center in Palmer, further evidence of his commitment and perseverance in all aspects of life.

For his Eagle project, titled "Busy Boards for Busy Minds," Chevalier created five custom activity boards for Old Mill Pond Elementary School, where he attended as a child. Four of the boards were made for preschool classrooms to help children develop fine motor skills through interactive play. The fifth board, installed in the school's sensory room, features lights, fidget spinners, gears, and other calming tools designed to help students regulate their emotions and return to learning with focus.

"It was important to me to give back to the school where I started," Chevalier said. "I wanted to create something that would help students learn and feel more comfortable."

Currently a sophomore at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, Cole is enrolled in the culinary program and has already distinguished himself as a Student Ambassador and the Advisory Council Representative for Culinary Arts.

His favorite merit badge? Cooking.

"I enjoyed earning that badge the most," he said. "It helped me realize that cooking is something I really want to do as a career."

Despite the hours of training, merit badge work,

service projects, and leadership responsibilities, Cole said it's the life lessons that have had the greatest impact.

"Scouting teaches you real-world things... like how to cook, how to work with others, how to lead," he said. "Most of what I know now, I learned through Scouts."

As he moves forward, Cole plans to stay active in Troop 64 in a mentoring capacity. He has taken on the role of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, helping to guide younger Scouts as they begin their own Scouting journeys.

"Cole is not just a Scout anymore," said Pierre Chevalier, Cole's Father and Scout Leader. "He's a leader, and a role model for everyone coming up behind him."

State Representative Todd Smola was among the dignitaries in attendance and offered his congratulations to Cole during the ceremony. The event was months in the making, planned since February, and took place outdoors despite brisk spring weather.

Cole's mother, Erin Chevalier, expressed immense pride in her son's achievements.

"He really did it all on his own," she said. "At first, he wasn't even sure he wanted to be an Eagle Scout. But he stuck with it and realized what he could achieve. It's inspiring."

He offered the following advice for younger people thinking about joining Scouts. "Never let anything stop you. Even if you feel like giving up, you can keep going."



The Chevalier Family celebrating Cole's achievements. Erin Chevalier, brothers Devin and Cole Chevalier, and Pierre Chevalier.



Wide shot of the Eagle Court of Honor Celebration for Cole Chevalier.



Wide shot of the Eagle Court of Honor Celebration for Cole Chevalier. Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy



The red white and blue cupcakes served at the event.



A large collection of various patches Cole Chevalier has earned and contributed towards.



A large collection of various patches Cole Chevalier has earned and contributed towards.



Mark Nute with his Grandson Cole Chevalier and wife Cheryl Nute.

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SALE

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*Digital Maps will also be available by email for \$2 via PayPal only on Fri. May 23rd.
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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:
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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. HD25C0162CA
In the matter of:
Anne Marie Charest

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Anne Marie Charest of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Anne Marie Chapdelaine
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/11/2025**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 14, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 05/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1053PM
In the matter of:
Suzanne Lagacy
Of: Monson, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/ Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Baystate Wing Hospital** of Palmer, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Suzanne Lagacy** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Connie Burleson** of Swanton, VT (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/13/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 16, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 05/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1056GD
In the matter of:
Suzanne Lagacy
Of: Monson, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Baystate Wing Hospital of Palmer, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Suzanne Lagacy** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Connie Burleson of Swanton, VT** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/13/2025**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 16, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 05/22/2025

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. 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 Division
Docket No.
HD24P2606EA
Estate of:
George Langlitz, Jr.
Date of Death:
January 11, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Patricia A. Langlitz of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Patricia A. Langlitz of Springfield, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

05/22/2025

Monson Housing Authority
Accepting Proposals for Property

The Monson Housing Authority (MHA) is selling a property owned by the MHA and is requesting proposals from interested buyers. The Property is as follows: 5 Lower Hampden Rd. Monson, MA 01057 "the property"

This property was built in 1930, has 3 units with 2 units each having 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths, and 1 unit having 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. The site is .61 acres. It is currently in disrepair and will require significant investment for habitation. The appraised value is \$100,000.

For a copy of the RFP email Monsonhousing@comcast.net or pick one up at 31 State St. Suite 50, Monson, MA 01057.

DEADLINES: Proposals will be received and evaluated as described in this RFP. Proposals will be received until the initial opening deadline of 2:00 p.m. on June 16, 2025 at which time they will be publicly opened and made available for public review at the Monson Housing Authority's office (address shown above).
 05/22, 05/29, 06/05, 6/12/2025

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 effect 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 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

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 Marciniak, Chairman
 05/15, 05/22/2025

PLEASE
 RECYCLE THIS
 NEWSPAPER

MEETING | from page 1

the funds to be redirected toward more immediate financial concerns, specifically the unfunded Line 52 amendment, totaling \$300,000. "We have the savings, but we have more urgent spending needs," Wolowitz argued.

Similarly, Article 17, which proposed \$25,000 for the Capital Stabilization Fund, failed to gain traction with voters. Although the Finance Committee stressed long-term planning, public sentiment leaned toward reallocating funds to tangible, present-day services rather than reserves. With only \$150,000 currently in the Capital Stabilization Account, some residents questioned the wisdom of adding to it now, particularly in light of other unmet needs.

Preserving Memorial Hall: A community priority
In contrast to the financial reserve articles, the Town was united in its commitment

to Memorial Hall, a historical structure that doubles as a veterans' memorial and temporary fire station during renovations. Article 18, a request for \$16,000 from Free Cash to match a 50% grant from the state for plaster repair and painting, passed with wide support. Residents were reminded that this funding was essential to meet a Veterans' Heritage Grant Program timeline.

However, Article 19, which proposed \$10,000 for the Memorial Hall Stabilization Fund, failed to pass. Critics argued that the money would be better used on immediate needs rather than future planning, echoing the mood seen earlier in the meeting.

Veterans win modest tax relief

In a nod to the town's veterans, Article 25, linked to the recently signed Massachusetts HERO Act, passed with an amendment. Orig-

inally calling for an annual 25% increase in veterans' tax exemptions, the measure was amended at the request of town assessor Drew Pehoviak to apply as a one-time increase rather than recurring annually. The amendment passed with support, showing a balance between fiscal responsibility and veteran support.

Board of Health down-sized for efficiency

With volunteer engagement proving challenging, voters passed Article 26, reducing the Board of Health from five to three members. Proponents, including resident Pat Oney, cited improved transparency and better alignment with surrounding communities. The Select Board currently acts as an improvised Board of Health due to vacant positions, and the hope is that the smaller size will attract more committed volunteers.

House of Art moves toward new chapter

Article 27, which authorizes the sale, lease, or other disposition of the House of Art at 200 Main Street, passed with measured enthusiasm. Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowitz acknowledged that while the town had an unofficial lease with the Monson Arts Council for years, the motion opens the door for an official lease or sale to a group capable of restoring the building for larger events. Residents saw this as an opportunity to reinvigorate a cultural landmark while removing a maintenance burden from the town.

Digital democracy on the horizon

Modernization made its way onto the docket with Article 29, a citizen's petition to establish a committee exploring electronic voting ("klickers") at future Town Meetings. Supporters cited increased transparency and accessibility, with some envisioning a future where res-

idents could vote remotely while livestreaming proceedings. Despite some hesitation, the article passed, signaling a willingness to embrace technological reform in Monson's cherished Town Meeting tradition.

Housing, History, and Conservation: A mixed bag

Several Community Preservation Committee (CPC) proposals met mixed reactions.

Article 33, which requested \$16,840 to fix drainage and foundation issues at 290 Main Street, failed after Monson Housing Authority employee Pete Horen questioned using local funds for what he deemed a state-owned facility.

In contrast, Article 36, a proposal to acquire over 110

acres of conservation land through a \$172,500 state LAND Grant, ultimately passed after amendment. Although some questioned the value of adding more conservation land versus developing housing, the article's lack of a direct cost to the town helped it garner support.

And in a significant win for historic preservationists, Article 38, requesting \$131,125 for stained glass window restoration at the historic Methodist Church at 162 Main Street, passed. While some worried the allocation could violate the separation of church and state, advocates emphasized the building's historic, not religious, significance to downtown Monson.

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>.

PFD | from page 1

nal defibrillator (AED), were able to revive the patient at the scene. Thanks to their quick actions, the patient was later discharged from the hospital with no neurological deficits, a remarkable outcome in such cases.

The award recipients for this event included:

- Lt. John Fitzgerald, Paramedic and EMS Coordinator, Palmer Fire Department
- EMT Firefighter Patrick Jessup
- Captain EMT Ryan Gauthier
- Captain EMT Sean Reynolds
- Lt. Paramedic Dave Gambino, Ware Fire Department

"It was a textbook response," said Lt. Fitzgerald. "From rapid arrival on scene to effective CPR and AED

deployment, everything fell into place just right. We were lucky to have such a strong team on hand."

The second award, the Medical Director Excellence Award, was presented by Baystate Health and Dr. Knowles, the region's affiliated hospital medical director. This rare distinction, awarded to only one other agency in the region, recognized the Palmer Fire Department's exceptional care of a critically injured patient involved in a motor vehicle accident.

"This wasn't just about clinical skills," Fitzgerald explained. "It was about decision-making under pressure, managing limited resources, and coordinating as a unit in the field. Every second counted, and our team made the right calls."

Responders honored for their work during this motor vehicle incident were:

- Lt. John Fitzgerald, Paramedic and EMS Coordinator
- Captain Ryan Gauthier
- EMT Firefighter Payton Baer
- EMT Firefighter Nikki Schuelke
- Lt. Paramedic Dave Gambino, Ware Fire Department

In addition to the individual recognitions, the Palmer Fire Department as a whole received an Agency Award, acknowledging the department's overall excellence in emergency medical services and community response.

The awards were presented at the Palmer Fire Station, during the department's annual EMS Week gathering. The event included a casual cook-out with hot dogs and burgers, followed by a two-hour EMS training session led by Dr. Knowles.

Fitzgerald, who has

served with the Palmer Fire Department for years, currently holds the title of Lieutenant Paramedic and EMS Coordinator. Reflecting on the honors, he expressed pride in the department's growth and commitment.

"These awards aren't just about one call or one team," he said. "They represent the training, coordination, and dedication we strive for every day. It's a real honor to be recognized."

While the patients involved in the incidents were unable to attend the ceremony, one still undergoing rehabilitation and the other unreachable, Fitzgerald said the team's focus remains on service and readiness.

"It's great to be recognized," he added, "but for us, it's all about the people we serve. That's why we do what we do."

Public notices

LEGAL NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING AN -ADULT-USE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED BY MADE IN MONSON, LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for Made In Monson LLC proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 5:00-6:00PM, at the Monson Free Public Library And Reading Room Association, 2 High Street, Monson, MA 01057**. The proposed Marijuana Manufacturer is anticipated to be located at 399A Boston Rd., West, Monson, MA. Community members will be permitted, and are encouraged, to ask questions and receive answers from representatives of Made In Monson, LLC.

*This meeting is **not** sponsored or endorsed by the Town Of Monson.
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 package 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 534,

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

Monson Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter. 131, §.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 7:10 PM in the Granite Valley Middle School Auditorium located at 21 Thompson St, Monson, MA**. Under consideration is a **Request for Determination of Applicability** for the work associated with the replacement of an above ground pool and deck within Riverfront Area for the property located at 67 Upper Hampden Rd, Monson, MA, identified as Assessors Map 030, Parcel 012L, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property owner is Rebecca Sarvela.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
05/22/2025

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@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

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).

Obituary

Joseph Fernand Berthiaume

Joseph Fernand Berthiaume, 105, of Palmer, MA, passed away Saturday, May 10, 2025, at his home in Palmer, MA. He was born on March 24, 1920, in Ludlow, MA. He had been a resident of Palmer for the past year, formerly living in Davenport, FL and Sandown, NH. Joseph proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII. He retired from Marriot Corp as a mechanical engineer.

He was a member of the VFW Post #1617, St. Mark's Masonic Lodge #44 F & AM., and the Bell Chapter No 25 R.A.M., all in Derry, NH. Joseph was also a member of the NH 32-degree Scottish Rite -Valley of Nashua, the St. George Commandry #8 Knights Templar, and the Israel Hunt Council #8 RYSM, all in Nashua, NH. He was a member of the American Legion Post #



0200 and the Bektash Shriners, both of Concord, NH, and the Meridian Sun Chapter #9 R.A.M. Nashua, N.H.

While living in Florida, Joseph was a member of the 1st Baptist Church in Davenport FL.

He is survived by three children, Rene Berthiaume, Estelle Moynahan, and Denise Fletcher. Ten grandchildren, Tina, Coreen, Jayson, Sean, Dennis, Scott, Mark, Janelle, Monica, and David, and 22 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren,

along with many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife Marguerite, second wife Jessie L., his third wife Nellie Fay, and his daughter Rose Marie Oskard, son-in-law James Oskard, and daughter-in-law Roberta Berthiaume.

Following cremation, calling hours will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. at the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch Street, Derry. Burial will follow in the Great Hill Cemetery, Route 121a, Chester, NH. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch Street, Derry is handling the arrangements. To send a condolence please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

Thomas F. Parker

1947-2025

Thomas F. Parker, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on May 18, 2025, at the age of 78. Born on March 2, 1947, in Palmer, MA, he lived a life full of kindness and dedication.



Thomas graduated from Monson High School and furthered his education at St. Francis College in Maine and Western New England College. He had a fulfilling career as a lineman, retiring from Verizon Phone Company after more than 30 years of service, where he was known for his hard work and reliability. In his free time, Thomas enjoyed watching the Red Sox and other sports on TV, and he found great joy in watching his grandson play baseball. He had a love for Irish music and was most comfortable being at home, surrounded by the things and people he loved.

He cherished his family. Thomas leaves behind his loving wife, Margaret L. (Jenney) Parker, and their sons: Thomas F. Parker and his partner Lori Baer of Monson, Timothy M. Parker

and his wife Betty of Oxford, and David A. Parker and his wife Tara of Monson; sister in-law, Vera Parker of Braintree. He was a proud grandfather to Sarah Parker, Ryan Parker, Noella Parker, Vincent Parker, Eric Cadieux, and Joshua Kichar. He will also be missed by his niece, nephews and many extended family members. Thomas was predeceased by his mother, Mary E. (Murphy) Parker, and father, Giles BJ Parker; brother, Giles Parker and a granddaughter, Becky Cadieux.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. A Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, located at 22 Green Street, Monson, MA 01057. Please gather directly at the church. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery on Main St at the Conclusion of the Mass.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Hospice 30 Capital Drive West Springfield, MA 01089. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Berthiaume, Joseph Fernand
Died May 10, 2025
Services June 10, 2025
Peabody Funeral Home

Fredette, Ralph H.
Died May 16, 2025
Services May 31, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Parker, Thomas F.
Died May 18, 2025
Services May 27, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Ricci, Mary Lou
Died May 11, 2025
Services May 30, 2025
Doane, Beal & Ames
Funeral Home



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Ralph H. Fredette

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Ralph H. Fredette, who left us peacefully on May 16, 2025, at the age of 74, at his home in Three Rivers, MA, surrounded by his family. Born on Feb. 12, 1951 in Gardner, MA, he was the son of Joseph A. and Yvette C. (L'Hullier) Fredette.



Maryanne Sharron of Washington, NC, and his brother, Francis Fredette of Mebane, NC. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Yvette (L'Hullier) Fredette.

Ralph is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Kathleen (Currie) Fredette, and their cherished children: Kate Cole and her husband Stephen of Ellington, CT, Stephen Fredette and his wife Tasha of Palmer, MA, and Sarah Troche of Three Rivers, MA. He was a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren: Ian, Lexi, Shawnee, Stevie, Kylie, Henry, and Louis, who lovingly referred to him as "Pop." Ralph is also survived by his sister,

Ralph's educational journey began in Gardner, MA, where he graduated from Gardner High School. He furthered his education by obtaining an associate degree from Mount Wachusett Community College and subsequently attended Northeastern University. Ralph honorably served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1974 to 1980, embodying the qualities of service and dedication throughout his life.

Professionally, Ralph worked at Rathbone Precision Metals in Palmer, MA before dedicating more than 20 years to Nova Chemicals in Indian

Orchard, MA, where he ultimately retired. An avid outdoorsman, Ralph found immense joy in fishing, camping, and skiing during his younger years. He was known for his inquisitive mind and love of reading, often enjoying the latest reports from the Weather Channel and staying informed on current events. Most importantly, Ralph cherished the moments spent with his family, particularly those special times shared with his grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass in Ralph's honor will take place at St. Thomas Church in Palmer, MA, on Saturday, May 31. Family and friends are invited to gather from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. prior to the Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will occur at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Baystate Hospice or the Three Rivers Fire Department.

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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.

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

Mary Lou Ricci

November 7, 1936 – May 11, 2025

Mary Lou Ricci of South Dennis, MA, passed peacefully surrounded by the love of her family on Sunday, May 11, 2025. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she joyfully reunited with her late husband, Lawrence (Larry) Ricci, with whom she shared an extraordinary love and enduring union for 62 years.

Born in Worcester, MA on November 7, 1936, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Alice LaVallie (née Troy) and sister to the late Ronald LaVallie, David LaVallie (both of Palmer, MA) and Diane McDiarmid (Barre, VT). She attended Palmer High School and worked at Palmer National Bank upon graduation.

As a child, she began

demonstrating her caring nature by taking her baby doll for frequent walks in a carriage. During such an outing, her love of animals was ignited by a chance encounter with a couple who owned horses. She began looking after and riding horses on their farm. As her talent grew, she showed horses competitively. Eventually, her father got her a Morgan horse named Queenie with whom she shared many adventures.

At age 19, after her father's untimely passing, she lived with and helped support her widowed mother along with twin siblings with whom she shared a deep bond. Throughout her life, she displayed qualities of selflessness, compassion, kindness and gen-

erosity. From her Irish heritage, she was a gifted listener and storyteller who offered sage advice while passing along generations of wisdom.

Mary Lou's life took on added meaning and purpose when she met and married her soul mate, Larry, in 1961. They soon became parents and built a fulfilling and loving life together. The epitome of motherhood, Mary Lou was a master homemaker. She raised and guided her four children, while managing to sew handmade clothes, maintain a meticulously clean home, prepare gour-



met meals, including her authentic Italian dishes, and enhance the aesthetic of her home as a skilled gardener and decorator with a refined interpretation of Early American style.

As her children got older, she returned to work. She held positions at a pharmacy and later at the Palmer Public Library where she fostered her love of books and helped patrons find information and their next read. She cherished working in her community and treasured friends and memories made.

In retirement, she spent 21

years with her beloved Larry at their Cape Cod home and worked part-time at Dennis Public Library. They shared a love of fine dining, travel, time with friends, and summer days spent with their children and grandchildren on the beautiful beaches of Dennis.

Family and friends will remember her light, happiness and serenity. Her children will cherish thoughtful advice, particularly her principle of encouraging kindness and forgiveness by seeking peace at any price.

Mary Lou will be sorely missed by her children: Lawrence Ricci, Jr. of South Dennis, MA; Lori Kolensky and her husband Rich of Suffield, CT; Gary Ricci and his wife Jane

of Brimfield, MA; and Nicole Stonehouse and her husband Jerry of Cohasset, MA. She also leaves behind six adoring grandchildren: Mathieu and Michael Kolensky; Vanessa and Alyssa Ricci; Jackson and Callahan Stonehouse.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Friday, May 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Doane, Beal & Ames Funeral Home, 729 Rt. 134 in South Dennis, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12 noon at St. Pius X Church in South Yarmouth. Donations in her memory can be made to the Palmer Public Library, Palmer, MA. To share a memory or online condolence, please visit www.doanebealamesdennis.com.

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Remember and celebrate the life of Margaret Henrichon

Margaret passed away on January 22nd one day after her 94th birthday. For all those who knew Margaret and benefited from her open arms and welcoming home, a graveside service will be held at St. William New Cemetery in Ware, Massachusetts beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 7th.

Margaret wanted everyone whose life she touched to celebrate her



life, so a gathering will be held at the home of David and Barbara Henrichon located at 49 Lyon Road in West Brookfield immediately following the graveside service. Family, friends and children of all ages are invited to attend for food, refreshments and the sharing of stories and memories.

Please RSVP at prof101@verizon.net or by calling 508-330-5741.

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.**

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LEGACY | from page 1

once trained and competed. Her husband, Matt Domnarski, made sure that wish came true.

"This was her track," Matt said during a recent interview. "She ran the two-mile. She loved it. And when she passed, she told me: no flowers...fix the track instead."

Lisa's love for running extended beyond high school. It was a part of the life she and Matt built together in Palmer. Both runners themselves, they raised two sons, Henry and Ben, who also ran track, making the dedication all the more poignant.

Matt first noticed Lisa when she was a cheerleader at Park Street School. Though he graduated two years before her, they began dating in high school and remained together for 36 years, 28 of those as husband and wife. They built their life in Palmer, starting the Domnarski Farm after they married, and raising their boys in the same tight-knit community they grew up in.

Though Lisa held degrees in biology and marine biology from what is now UMass Dartmouth, and once dreamed of living near the ocean, she made Palmer her home. "I told her she could live anywhere in the world...as long as it was in Palmer," Matt joked. "She wasn't thrilled at first, but she came to love it."

After Lisa's passing, Matt launched a fundraiser to begin the work. The community rallied. Over \$36,000 was raised through private donations, some from as far away as California. But a full renovation would require far more. Enter Town Councilor Barbara Barry, class of 1983 and a class-

mate of Lisa's sister. Barry played a key role in securing critical grants, helping fund a million-dollar overhaul of the track and surrounding athletic facilities.

"The old track had been pushed to its limits," Matt said. "It wasn't abused...just exhausted. By 2019, when our son Ben graduated, they couldn't even hold home meets anymore."

"This was her track... She loved it. And when she passed, she told me: no flowers...fix the track instead."

— Matt Domnarski

The renovation went beyond resurfacing. It included major improvements to drainage systems, fencing, and adjacent athletic spaces, necessitated by persistent water issues in the area. What resulted was more than an upgrade, it was a transformation.

Teresa Nichols Brzek, a Palmer native now living in California, gave the project an unexpected publicity boost by securing celebrity donations from Rod Stewart, Shaquille O'Neal, and golfer Phil Mickelson. Combined with a groundswell of local and national support, the fundraising effort garnered media attention and renewed local pride.

"It wasn't just the big donors," Matt said. "It was everyone. People I've never met sent five dollars, ten dollars. Every name, every gesture... it all mattered."

One of Lisa's final wishes, Matt recalled with emo-

tion, was to "take care of Hound Dog," their beloved dog. "She didn't need to say the boys would be okay, she knew they would. But the dog, she worried about," he laughed.

Their sons have indeed grown into strong young men. Henry, 27, is set to graduate from the University of Oregon in 2026 with a degree in art, after serving as a military intelligence combat veteran in Iraq. He still runs with the University of Oregon Run Club, faster than ever. Ben, nearly 24, teaches fifth grade at a Catholic school and is engaged to be married this August.

Reflecting on Lisa's memory, Matt added, "She was a beautiful person. Kind, witty, and quietly strong. She became more private as we grew older, but she was the best partner, and the best mother I could have imagined. I miss her terribly."

For Matt, the track is more than a place, it's a symbol. "When people visit it now, they feel like they've stepped outside of Palmer," he said. "That's what Lisa would have wanted. Something enduring. Something that brings pride back to town."

He hopes people will take time to sit on the bench dedicated in her name, like one of her old friends recently did, and feel connected, to Lisa, to their community, and to something larger than themselves.

"There's a saying I have about Palmer," Matt said. "You can't fix it, but you can't break it either. This project reminded me of the Palmer I remember...where people step up, where they belong."

And thanks to Lisa Domnarski, they'll keep stepping up, lap after lap.



Submitted photos
Ben Domnarski and his mother Lisa when he did track during highschool.

Pathfinder Tech students to compete at Business Professionals of America

PALMER – Three students from Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School competed at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference and Competition in Orlando, Florida from May 7 to 11.

Brayden Mega, senior from Palmer, Tanasia Gray, senior from Belchertown, and Howard Wichert, senior from Belchertown qualified for the national competition after placing in the top 3 for their events at the BPA State Leadership Competition on March 8 and 9 in Norwood, MA.

The three students are graduating from the Business Technology program at Pathfinder Tech and are attending

college in the fall. Brayden Mega will be attending Monroe University in NY, Tanasia Gray will be attending UMass Dartmouth, and Howard Wichert will be attending UMass Amherst.

Business Professionals of America is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, office administration, health administration and other related career fields.

Additionally, the students received certifications from Microsoft Office recently for their document processing and spreadsheet development skills.



The women's track team during Lisa's time at Palmer High School.

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Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

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