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PALMER

Town gathers for Memorial Day Service at AmVets

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – Though the parade to be held on May 25 was cancelled, the town still gathered to hold a ceremony at AmVets Post 74 to commemorate Memorial Day.

Master of Ceremonies Paul Graveline began the ceremony by announcing that aside from complications due to the weather, the parade had been cancelled in part due to a lack of band members from the high school.

“Apparently most of the band members graduated last year,” Graveline said. “But that’s okay, I’m sure they’ll resurface in some form down the road.”

The ceremony began with

a prayer from Post Chaplain Reverend Richard Motta.

“It’s a funny word, peace,” Motta said. “Jesus said that a long time ago. He said to his followers, ‘peace be with you.’ He meant them to share that peace. He didn’t mean it for one religion or another religion, he just said ‘peace be with you.’ It’s in the Bible.”

“If the world would have just listened to what he had to say, we wouldn’t have all these uniforms here today,” Motta said.

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This Memorial Day wreath was brought from the AmVets ceremony.

MONSON



AMERICAN LEGION commemorates MEMORIAL DAY

MONSON – On Monday, May 25, the Monson Memorial Day parade and ceremonies were canceled due to inclement weather.

Purcell-LaBrecque American Legion Post 241 of Monson, under the leadership of Post Commander Carl Santos, formed a firing detail for rifle salutes to be performed at the town’s cemeteries and war monuments. The firing detail consisted of Post 241 members Carl Santos, Darren Evasius, Glenn Perry, Mike Mahitka and Russ Bressette.

The detail started at Bethany Cemetery and then proceeded to Hillside Cemetery, Hillcrest Cemetery, North Main St. Cemetery, South Main St. Cemetery

and concluded at Monson Memorial Hall on Main Street.

At each stop, once the rifle salute concluded, Bugler Russ Bressette played Taps. At Memorial Hall, Santos returned the American flag to full post.

Later on Memorial Day, TJ’s Tavern on Main Street a cookout was held for parade participants and attendees.

Deb Lawrence, TJ’s Tavern proprietor, said “it is our honor to host this lunch here at TJ’s Tavern. To see so many local citizens commemorating the spirit of the day, just makes us proud to be part of this community.” TJ Davis ran the kitchen grill while Karen Davis and Lawrence served the meals.



Top left, Firing detail, Post Commander Carl Santos, Darren Evasius, Glenn Perry and Mike Mahitka, fire their rifles. Top right, Russ Bressette, Post 241 Bugler, plays taps for the firing salute ceremony. Above, Post Commander Carl Santos salutes the American flag after returning the flag to the top position. See more photos on page 11.

PALMER

Planning Board Candidates hope to entice businesses in town

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – For this year’s June 9 election, three candidates are running for two three-year seats on the Planning Board; Scott Day, Mike Matthieu, and Lori Walder.

Background

Day was born at Wing

Memorial on April 6, 1966, and grew up in Three Rivers and attended Three Rivers Grammar School for eight years, before attending the high school until he graduated in 1984.

“After high school, I attended Worcester State College, graduating in 1990 with a BA in Media,” Day said. “I moved around the country for quite a few years, North

Carolina, Texas, Florida and New Hampshire, before returning back home. I have now been working at Allied Flooring and Paint, located in Agawam, MA, since 1999.”

Matthieu, born and raised in town, has lived here his whole life. He has worked for the town before, including as a firefighter for 41 years.

“30 years in Three Riv-

ers, and then 11 in Palmer,” Matthieu said. “I’m a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Three Rivers, and a member of the Sons of AmVets, currently their commander. I’ve lived in town my whole life, so I know pretty much about everything that’s going on in town. I feel I would be helpful to the Planning Board.”

Born in Monson,

Walder’s family has deep roots in the area, going back many generations. After some time in California, Walder moved back to the town when she was 21, saying that “this community has always felt like home to me.”

“Professionally, my career began in sales and marketing before I became a realtor nearly 38 years ago, serving Palmer and

the surrounding communities,” Walder said. “Over the years, my work has kept me closely connected to the town and constantly informed about local schools, businesses, economic trends, development, and community changes. Helping clients make informed decisions has required me to stay engaged

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PALMER

SC Members running for re-election

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – This year, two members of the School Committee are running for re-election, including Matthew Lovell and Chair Bonny Rathbone.

Background

In addition to his time on the committee, Lovell works for the commonwealth as a management analyst.

“As far as Palmer, I’m a lifer,” Lovell said. “Born

and raised here, and educated K-12 here as well.”

Rathbone was born and brought up in the Berkshires before moving to town in 1974 and graduating from UMass Amherst with a degree in Elementary Education.

“I began my teaching career in the Palmer Public Schools in 1974,” Rathbone said. “After 26 years as an elementary school teacher, I obtained my Master’s Degree in Administration and was an Administrator at Converse Middle School and then at Palmer High School. I retired in 2010 after 36 years with the District.”

“My passion has always

been and will always be education, and that’s why I chose to serve on the School Committee,” Rathbone said.

Highlights

Lovell said his favorite thing about the schools is, of course, “the kids.”

“They’re the only reason the schools exist,” Lovell said, “they are our future.”

Rathbone praised the parents, guardians, family members, and staff who volunteer their hours to PTOs, the PUB CLUB, School Council, and other organizations in order to raise money for field trips, and travel opportunities.

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MONSON

Candidates for Select Board discuss community strengths and finances

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Three candidates are running for a seat on the town’s Select Board, Tera Gordon, Keith Valley, and current Chair Peter Warren.

Background

Gordon’s family has proudly called Monson home for 26 years, relocating from Southington, Connecticut when Gordon took a job at a local assisted living facility.

“We fell in love with the

tour of the town, including a visit to the Police Department, where we spoke to the dispatcher and she sold us on moving here,” Gordon said. “Both of our children attended Monson Public Schools, and my husband has worked for the town for 21 years.

Gordon has a BS in Healthcare Management from Quinnipiac University and an MS in Strategic PR from George Washington University. Her experience spans 37 years in senior living/healthcare, operations, organizational change, and strategic communications.

Valley has spent more than 30 years in manufacturing leadership, which he described as “solving complex problems, leading teams, and making practical decisions that deliver results.”

“My spouse and I raised our three sons here, and my family’s roots in this community run deep,” Valley said.

Valley said his work across multiple industries has given him a broad knowledge base and strong transferable skills that he

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SOFTBALL

Monson softball reaches WMass finals

MONSON – Last week, the Monson High School softball team participated in the Western Mass. Class D tournament. The Mustangs first got play underway with a 6-1 win against Mohawk

Trail. They followed that with a 4-2 win over Granby in the semifinal round. Monson then advanced into the Class D finals with a matchup against Hoosac Valley. Hoosac ended Monson's run in the tourna-

ment with a 17-3 win. Monson now awaits its seeding in the Division 5 state tournament, with seeds set to come out earlier this week.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Chelsea Hull winds up for a pitch. Far right, Mai Uliana scampers home with a run.



Grace Berry frames up a pitch.



Madelynn Caron gets ready for a ground ball.



Chelsea Hall sends the pitch home.



Mia Cancel takes a swing.



Cali Zielinski takes a swing at the high pitch.

SOFTBALL

Panthers softball defeated in WMass quarterfinals

PALMER – Its been many years, but the Palmer High School softball team found itself in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class D Tournament.

Palmer had the tough task of drawing Hoosac Valley, and fell 19-0 in a five-inning, mercy-rule shortened game. Hoosac jumped out to a 4-0 lead after just one inning. The major blow was in the fourth, when already up 11-0, Hoosac snagged eight runs to make it 19-0.

Palmer would move into nonplayoff action, facing Mohawk and Commerce. The Panthers would split those games and finished the season with an overall record of 8-12. Palmer did rank in the top 32 to qualify for the Division 5 state tournament, with seeds expected to be announced earlier this week.



Dom Menard receives a pass.

LACROSSE

Mustangs close out regular season with win

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys lacrosse team, which co-ops with Chicopee High, was defeated in its regular season finale by Monson High

School 8-3. Monson, which now co-ops with Pathfinder, is set to enter the state tournament this year. The Mustangs went 10-6 and are well above .500 for the season. Monson, which

was set to learn its fate in the state tournament earlier this week, had a nonplayoff rematch scheduled against Comp on Memorial Day.



Brady Ronaldson looks for an opening to pass.



Landon Couture is pressured.



Noah Latulippe runs along the sideline.



Brandyn Wilson fires a pass toward the middle of the field.



Landon Lacroix heads for the goal.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

BASEBALL

Ware edges Palmer

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – Before playing in the Western Mass. Class D championship game last Saturday afternoon, the members of the Ware baseball team watched the dramatic conclusion of the Class C championship game between the Lenox Millionaires and the Greenfield Green Wave, which went 17 innings.

Five days earlier, the Indians players were involved an extra inning game of their own against archrival Palmer in the Class D quarterfinals.

With sophomore Logan Millet, who started the game at shortstop, standing on second base with two outs in the bottom of the eleventh inning, senior first baseman Alex Orszulak hit a groundball that got past the Palmer third baseman into left field. Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark initially held Millet at third base, but after the left fielder bobbled the ball, Millet scored the game-winning run. It gave the third-seeded Indians an exciting 6-5 victory against the sixth-seeded Panthers before a large crowd at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on May 18.

"The left fielder was playing shallow, so that's why I held Logan at third base," Clark said. "After I saw him bobble the ball, I decided to send him home. It was just an amazing ball-game."

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