

# The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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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.

AMVETS | page 11



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  
Staff Writer  
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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

BOARD | page 8

**PALMER**

## SC Members running for re-election

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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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.

ELECTION | page 5

**MONSON**

## Candidates for Select Board discuss community strengths and finances

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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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

DISCUSS | page 13



# Brimfield to host living history cemetery tour

**BRIMFIELD** – On June 13, 2026, the Spirit of Brimfield- 250th Committee and the Brimfield Historical Commission will co-host a Revolutionary War themed cemetery tour at the Brimfield Cemetery located at 28 Wales Rd. Guided groups will depart every 30 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m. from the Brimfield Elementary School parking lot. Along the route, narrators and costumed interpreters will present powerful stories of the Brimfield men who left home to serve in the patriot cause, and the families they left behind. Stories told by actors in role, include the following:

**James and Mary Thompson**, a husband-and-wife duo, telling their story of pride and sacrifice, and the family's concern for a certain cousin who led the patriot cause.

**Eudocia Janes**, sharing her father William's service beginning at age 17, and the emotional court testimony he gave in detail 55 years later to secure his war pension.

**Joseph Hitchcock**, the first English child born in Brimfield, who watched a wilderness become a town and colonies become a country. He answered the Lexington alarm, stood at the siege of Boston, and proudly sent his sons and grandsons to fight for freedom.

**Deacon David Morgan**, from a Springfield love story to a Revolutionary legacy, not to mention a family tree that stretched all the way to a Gilded Age financier.

**Beulah Danielson**, the steady support behind her husband, General Timothy Danielson, who held the home and family together while he was away. When peace finally came, would she be there to enjoy the liberty so dearly won?

The tour will also feature the short stories of Captain John Sherman and his son Bazaleel, Nathaniel Danielson, Abner Morgan, Christopher Ward, and the infamous General William Eaton. Members of the Brown family, the Blodgett family and the

Blashfield family will also be recognized as their graves are passed, among others.

Registration for this free event is required and space is limited. Call Sue DeBruin (508)-523-9544 to register or to learn more information.

### Actors sought for Living History Cemetery tour

As part of Brimfield's 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13, 2026. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom. Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at 413-239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive.

# Town-Wide Tag Sale takes on Flea Market Town

**BRIMFIELD** – Brimfield is known world-wide as a destination for treasure hunting, but once a year, the entire town turns into a secondhand shopper's paradise. Organized by Hitchcock Academy, the area's community center located in Brimfield, the 16th annual Brimfield Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All of the sales are included on a map complete with listings that describe what shoppers can find at each site, also noting any sales that will continue through Sunday. Several sales are on-site at Hitchcock, so the community center is a great place to start your shopping. The Brimfield Farmers' Market is also running in the organization's parking lot that day from 9am to 1pm, so consider fueling up with kombucha and baked goods, or adding some fresh farm and hand-crafted goods to your day's loot.

Shoppers can pick up a

printed 11x17 map at Hitchcock for \$2 on the day of the event or download it from Hitchcock's website the day prior. So far, listings include typical tag sale fare such as clothing, household items, toys, tools, housewares, small appliances, free garden pots, cleaning supplies, kitchen items, dishes, jewelry, holiday décor, crafts, baking, books, cds and dvds, baby items, furniture, pet supplies, assorted tools and tech items, and knick-knacks, along with vintage and antique items.

Unique items in the listings include an original Atari system, kayaks, truck boxes, Amazon Mystery Boxes, a 12-foot aluminum boat, tin toys, andirons, prints, baseball cards, a bamboo fly rod, a Modern Greenwood Home Grand Wood Burning Cook

Stove, antique sewing machine, table saw, bench sander, and more.

"It's such a fun day and a unique way to foster a sense of community," says Hitchcock Executive Director Cindy Skowyra. "We hear often how people enjoy interacting with one another as much as they enjoy the hunt."

For more information, visit [www.hitchcock-academy.org](http://www.hitchcock-academy.org). Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. Hitchcock is celebrating 70 years this year following its 100-year history as a school.



# Ringers perform May 30

**WILBRAHAM** – The Merrimack Valley Ringers return to Wilbraham United Church to present their 2026 Spring Handbell Concert, LET FREEDOM RING! Celebrating 250 Years of Our Nation, at 7 p.m., May 30 in the Church Sanctuary, 500 Main Street, Wilbraham. A free will donation will help defray MVR expenses to present the concert. Wheelchair accessible.

# Keep Homestead Museum presents David Polansky June 7

**MONSON** – The Keep Homestead Museum is pleased to welcome career musician David Polansky with his program "Music Through the Decades" on Sunday, June 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Using keyboard, trumpet, and vocals, David presents music inspired by the advent of the automobile, two world wars, the Roaring 20's, the wild west, and more. He engages the audience taking questions, performing requests, and telling funny anecdotes about famous mu-

sicians as well as his own life as a musician.

The concert will be held on the side lawn so plan to bring a chair or blanket for comfort. If there is inclement weather, it will take place in the barn. There is no admission fee though donations are accepted.

This concert is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of Massachusetts Cultural Council. The museum will be open for viewing from 1 to 3:30 p.m. and more

information about it can be found at [www.keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://www.keephomesteadmuseum.org).



David Polansky

# Fanfare Brass to present Patriotic music program

**PALMER** – The Fanfare Brass presents a Patriotic music program celebrating the 250th founding of our country on Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Church located at 1060 Central Street in Palmer, Mass.

The program starts 1768 to current songs and we speak a little about the history of each song. A program/song sheet will be passed out for those who would like to sing along.

Program songs include: The Liberty Song, God Save Good Washington, The Girl I Left Behind, My Country Tis of Thee, British

Grenadiers, Chester, Yankee Doodle, Shenandoah, The Star Spangled Banner, Columbia, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Battle Cry of Freedom, Dixie, Cruel War in Over, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, Eternal Father, America the Beautiful, Stars and Stripes, You're A Grand Old Flag, God Bless America, It's A Long Way to Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles, Armes Forces Themes, Hail to the Chief, God Bless the USA.

For more information contact David Neill at 413-686-5027 or email [tbn8@aol.com](mailto:tbn8@aol.com).

# Banquet to honor Citizen Steve Slozak June 19

**MONSON** – Join us at the 2026 Citizen of the Year banquet in honor Steve Slozak being held on Friday, June 19 at TJ's Pavillion 143 Palmer

Road, Monson. The evening begins at 6:00 P.M. with a social gathering followed by dinner at 6:30 P.M. Neat casual dress is the order of the day.

Tickets are \$35 per person and may be reserved online at [monsoncitizen@icloud.com](mailto:monsoncitizen@icloud.com) or purchased by check made payable to and mailed

to Monson Citizen of the Year Committee, 15 Green Street, Monson, MA 01057 prior to June 12th - no tickets will be sold at the door.

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**SALE**

**REFRESHMENTS!**

# CPE Forum Series sponsored by Country Bank

The CPE Forum has announced its Spring educational series. The seven-week online live streaming series is offered free to the public. The program is in part sponsored by Country Bank. Those professionals seeking Continuing Professional Education credits must pay a nominal fee. The Spring series will offer 22 hours of CPE credits. All programs are 3-hours in length and held on Tuesdays, except for the 4-hour Ethics session on June 9. The virtu-

al programs can be accessed by a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. No camera or microphone is needed to participate. Advance registration is required.

Patrick L Parker, Founder and Managing Partner and representatives from Royal Parker Spruce will deliver the following programs:

- **May 12** - Ethical Issues in Employment Law
- **May 26** - AI on the Job: Drafting AI Policies for the Workplace
- **June 2** - Urgent Chang-

es to Make in Mental Health & Workplace Safety Polices

• **June 16** - Hot Bottom Issues: Navigating AI Initiatives, Using AI for HR Purposes

**Jack Moore**, CFA, Managing Partner & CIO of Harpswell Advisors will speak on May 19 on Modern Endowment Management & Institutional Best Practices

**Joy Fisher**, Principal of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP will provide a four-hour review of Behavior Ethics: Falling over the Moral Cliff

on May 19. This program will satisfy the Ethics licensing requirement for CPA's.

The series will conclude on **June 23** with **Timothy Czerniejewski**, VP of Commercial Banking at Easthampton Savings Bank.

**About The CPE Forum**  
Established by Josephine Sarnelli, CPA, offers 40 hours of educational programming each year. Its mission is to provide high quality educational programs at a low cost to business professionals, including

Certified Public Accountants and others seeking continuing professional educational (CPE) credits for licensing purposes.

It is also open to the general community. For more information, visit online at [www.cpeForum.org](http://www.cpeForum.org) or via phone at (413) 746-9067.

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

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Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at [countrybank.com](http://countrybank.com).

## Monson town election June 9

MONSON – The Monson Annual Town Election will take place on Tuesday, June 9 at Memorial Hall located at 198 Main St. Polling hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early Voting will take place in the Town Office Building located at 110 Main St. Public Meeting Room for the following days/times.

**Early Voting hours:**  
Saturday, May 30 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — This is also the last day to register to vote for anyone who is not currently registered.

Monday, June 1	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday, June 2	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, June 3	8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 4	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, June 5	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The deadline to apply for a vote by mail ballot for this election is June 2.

For inquiries, contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or email us at: [townclerk@monson-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@monson-ma.gov).



## Palmer Senior Center

### Monday Evening Programs 4:30

June 1 - Teri Frankenberg. Speaker "The other pandemic: Dementia (how to protect vulnerable adults)" light supper.

June 8 - Fourth of July Wreath cost \$20.00

June 15 - Movie "Barbie" popcorn, drinks, and candy

June 22 - Kick off to summer - Beach Boys and Jimmy Buffet music, slider, hot dog, mac salad, and ice cream. Cost \$5

June 29 - Pizza and Family Feud. Cost \$5

### Activities

June 4 - Uncle Sam Craft

June 5 - Lunch and Learn "Knowing your discharge plan."

June 10 - Lunch & Learn Fallon Health Navicare

June 11 - Quabbin Presentation "Eagles, Loons, Bears" Rescheduled from 5/18

June 12 - Mother's/Father's Day Party - Entertainment by Musically Married. Entertainment was made possible by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council.

June 17 - Hampden County Registry of Deeds Presentation. Everyone who attends will receive a free copy of their deed.

June 23 - Shopping Trip

to Aldi, Target, Trader Joe's, and a lunch stop. This is a self-pay event.

### Upcoming Events

**August 1** (Saturday) - Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is \$40.00 prepaid, no refunds.

**September 11** - Annual Picnic at Pulaski Park, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Entertainment by The Gemstones, meal by Tony and Penny Catering. Enjoy tasty food, good friends, and good entertainment.

Please Sign up for all Programs by calling 413-283-2670 Ext. 3

## ArtWorks Gallery seeking artists

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery in Ware invites artists of all applied mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to submit works to LandEscape.

This exhibition aims to expand or even reimagine the traditional landscape as a personal sanctuary and urges creators to consider moving beyond mere geographical representation. Ultimately, the exhibition aims to document the diverse spatial forms of escapism that we need to recharge our spirits.

The deadline for entry is May 28 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. LandEscape will be on display from June 27-Aug. 2, opening with

a reception on Saturday, June 27, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for LandEscape is Shona Macdonald. Macdonald received her MFA in 1996 in studio arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her BFA in 1992 from Glasgow School of Art in Scotland. She has held selected solo exhibitions at Real Art Ways, (2025), McDonough Museum of Art, (2023), Zillman Art Museum, (2020-21), Brattleboro Art Center and Museum (2018), Roswell Art Museum, (2011), Tarble Arts Center (2015), Gridspace, (2014) Engine Room, Wellington, New Zealand, (2010), Proof Gallery, Boston, MA (2009), Reeves Contemporary, NY,

NY (2008), Den Contemporary, LA, CA, (2007), Sketos-Gabriele, Chicago IL, (2005), Galerie Refugium, Berlin, Germany, (2002), and Fassbender Gallery, Chicago (1998 and 2000).

About ArtWorks Gallery ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region.

For more information visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org), or call 413-277-6072.

## Father's Day picnic on June 21

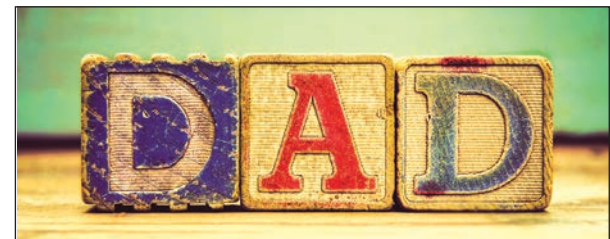
INDIAN ORCHARD – St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Father's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 21 from 12 to 5 p.m. on the church grounds at 135 Goodwin Street in Indian Orchard, Mass.

Visitors are invited to enjoy many favorite Armenian dinners including

shish kebab and rice pilaf. Baked goods will also be available for purchase.

The picnic will also feature a raffle, Armenian music and dancing, and outdoor activities.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call the Church office at 543-4763.



## Crafters wanted for fair

LUDLOW – Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality's St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Light refreshments will be available.

**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.

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**Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library**

## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Help, Social Security Administration says I'm not eligible for benefits

## Dear Rusty:

Help, the Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes.

What can I do?

Signed: Self-employed American

## Dear Self-employed:

For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone including the self-employed must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year.

As a self-employed business owner, only your net earnings are counted, e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken. The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years.

If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently

less than 40) and determine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create your online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security.

If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web link: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf).

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



## The fragrant five

I have fond memories of the patterned herb garden I created at my old house.

Gone are the days of having an entire garden devoted to "useful plants."

Now I tuck them in here and there among the veggies in my raised beds. While I harvest some herbs for culinary purposes, most are grown for the olfactory experience.

Here are my favorite fragrant five.

Lemon Balm is a member of the mint family (Labiatae). Look closely at the plant and you will see the characteristic four-sided stems.

Although many mints possess the bad reputation of running rampant in the garden, lemon balm does not; it increases in girth but manages to stay where planted. It is easy to grow, and like most herbs, it will thrive in a well-drained sunny spot.

Many gardeners think lemon balm looks weedy and unkempt by midseason.

I tend to agree, but this negative feature can easily be remedied with a hair cut, nearly to the ground, after flowering. Not long afterwards it will rebound and once again look respectable in the border.

Speaking of flowering, bees love the white, tubular flowers that appear in early summer. Botanists of old must have recognized this centuries ago, since its genus name "Melissa" actually means bee!

Lemon balm's claim to fame is not its appearance, or its flowers, but its scent—best described as lemony with a hint of mint. Crush a leaf between your fingertips to get full effect.

Another favorite fra-

grant result in spry plants once more. And in the event you are wondering, Lavender is also technically a mint, but it differs from the others in that it is more shrub-like and generally does not die completely to the ground over the winter.

The last two herbs I will mention are annuals. The first is Sweet Marjoram. I have a hard time explaining what this low growing, small leaved plant smells like. A fine cologne? A pizza topping? A nice smelling bug spray?

As the Latin name of Origanum Majorana, suggests, oregano is a close relative, so pizza topping may be a good guess, but it also has undertones of balsam and spice...Hmmm.

To keep the plant producing its wonderfully scented leaves, pinch off the flowers as they form. It is a great candidate for growing in mixed herb planters or individually in small pots.

Last but not least is my all-time favorite fragrant herb: Cinnamon Basil. Like its pesto-producing cousin, this variety can be used in cooking, mainly where its cinnamon scent would complement the cuisine, such as fruit salads or vinegars.

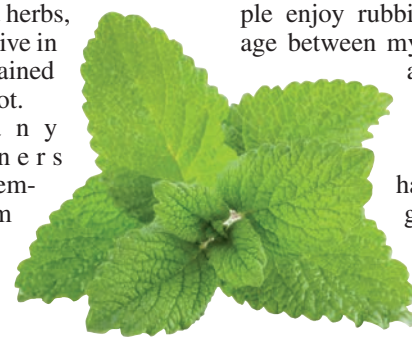
I have honestly never grown it for culinary use, but when some herbal renewal is needed it sure serves a purpose. One sniff will give me a burst of energy, enough to tackle that last garden chore. See for yourself!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

An application of fertilizer and lime as well as some extra water for a time will

## In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

## Not every health challenge is a visible one

"But you look so good!" When someone with a disability hears those words, it's not necessarily a compliment. In fact, it may make them feel unseen and unheard. That's because many disabilities are not immediately apparent to others.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.3 billion people worldwide live with disabilities. In 2008, the number of Americans with disabilities was about 39 million, but that number is probably much higher now because of the effects of the COVID pandemic. About 17 million adults report symptoms of "long COVID," with most saying that the symp-

toms limit their daily activities to some degree.

Many symptoms of long COVID, such as fatigue and "brain fog," are invisible. In fact, it's estimated that more than 70% of disabilities are invisible, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia, chronic illnesses and mental health conditions. Many invisible disabilities go undiagnosed or misunderstood, leading to barriers in education, employment, travel and marketplaces.

"True inclusion begins when we start recognizing what we cannot see," says Mary Anne Ehler, president of Protected Tomorrows in Lincolnshire, which helps special needs families pre-

pare for the future. "Families in all walks of life experiencing all forms of disabilities, no matter if developmental, cognitive, physical or mental health disabilities, need specialized guidance and support."

Autism is a prime example. It lies along a spectrum from mild to severe, meaning that many children and adults who appear "normal" may in fact be struggling with work, school and social interactions. Someone could wonder why that person is behaving as they do without realizing that there is an underlying cause.

Another example in the

## POETRY CORNER

## The Brimfield Waltz

It was a moment once more in May -  
And everywhere again was green ...  
As hard times had closed upon the land:  
And this we were getting from -  
One field at least was open ...  
And back, among many friends?

How much was coming down -  
That further must go on ...  
And then, - in your face was seen:  
And music, from somewhere near -  
What we were all after ...  
Could feel it start to begin.

In the mystery of night, are partners joined?  
Ladies in long dresses, - and men, gallantly tossed:  
And there by the hills, that lay all around us  
We gathered to do the Brimfield Waltz.

- Charles Barnes

## The Journal Register

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## Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St.  
Palmer MA 01069  
or by e-mail to: [journalsregister@turley.com](mailto:journalsregister@turley.com)

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [journalsregister@turley.com](mailto:journalsregister@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.

# Viewpoints

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT

### Tera L. Gordon for Select Board

As we near the Monson Select Board campaign, I want to sincerely thank the residents of Monson for the engagement throughout this process. This experience has strengthened my belief that effective leadership matters deeply.

My family has proudly called Monson home for 26 years. Our children attended Monson Public Schools, and my husband has worked for the town for 21 years.

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

The biggest issue facing Monson today is our financial health. While the recently approved budget meets the legal requirement of be-

ing balanced, departments may need to rely on reserve funds or free cash to support ongoing operations. We are also facing a debt exclusion vote tied to a completed energy-efficiency project that for several reasons, did not deliver the anticipated financial outcomes. Focus on our long-term sustainability is key.

Residents deserve leadership prepared to address these challenges directly.

Leadership willing to ask difficult questions, do the research, and pursue practical solutions with an open mind. Change requires steady, collaborative leadership with positive intention. That is why I am running for Select Board.

The strength of our town depends on our ability to adapt and navigate change together. Please exercise your right to vote and support the change needed in Monson.

## HEALTH | from page 4

news recently is dyslexia, which causes children and adults to have difficulty with reading and writing because of how their brains are wired. Cruelly, children with dyslexia have been labeled “stupid” or “slow,” when in fact, the only difference is that they approach learning differently. Many successful people, from Tom Cruise to Cher to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, have dyslexia.

If you’ve ever watched someone pull into a handicapped parking space and get out of the car without apparent difficulty, remember that three-fourths of those with disabilities don’t use assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, walkers or canes, according to the Invisible Disabilities Association ([invisibleabilities.org](http://invisibleabilities.org)).

“Everyone deserves to live their best life,” Ehlert said. “Whether or not a person utilizes an assistive device, if they are debili-

tated by symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, mental health disorders or cognitive difficulties, they are living with invisible disabilities.”

People are quick to judge, writes Kathleen Bogart, a psychology professor at Oregon State University, Psychology Today. She cites a study that showed people are less willing to help individuals when the disability isn’t visually apparent. “Society relies on appearance when deciding who is legitimate, truthful or entitled to support,” she wrote.

Invisible disabilities may also cause doctors to overlook diagnoses or assume symptoms are exaggerated.

“If providers overlook symptoms, individuals may choose not to disclose their disability at all or lose trust in the health-care system, leading to fewer supports, connections, and increased mental health strain,” Bogart wrote.

In 2016, Gatwick Airport and some partners created the Hidden Disabilities Sunflow-

er as a way to for someone to voluntarily communicate their need for extra time or assistance without having to explain themselves over and over. The sunflower symbol is now recognized all over the U.K., and has been adopted at U.S. airports, too, including Boston Logan.

The Sunflower organization offers lanyards along with personalized ID cards that identify a person’s hidden disability and the types of assistance they may need. Businesses and nonprofits can join the Sunflower network as well. Visit [hdsunflower.com/](http://hdsunflower.com/) for details.

The symbol conveys a universal request: Approach with patience and understanding. It is also a way to increase disability representation and show connection with the disability community.

Recognition of invisible disabilities is likely becoming a larger challenge because “inclusion” has been tainted as the current political climate turns against diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Research shows

that few employees reveal invisible disabilities to their employers, and even fewer are comfortable asking for accommodation, which they are entitled to under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We can all play a part in building awareness of invisible disabilities by not being afraid to reveal them and showing kindness and consideration to those who do.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of “How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones” and her new book, “Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care,” available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Vote for Ronald Keith Valley for Select Board

To the Editor:

I am proud to support Ronald Keith Valley for Monson Select Board. Keith is a leader who listens, shows up, and works to make sure everyone in our community has a voice. He believes in open, respectful collaboration and is committed to creating more opportunities for residents to participate in local government.

Keith’s service on the Pathfinder Regional Vocational School Committee and the Electronic Voting Committee shows his dedication to improving our schools and making our government more accessible and transparent. He supports consistent public comment periods at Select

Board meetings and wants to bring hybrid meetings to Monson, so everyone can participate, even from home.

Keith stands for facts, honesty, and accountability. He has real experience working with local leaders and residents to solve problems and deliver results. He is a strong advocate for our children, families, schools, Parks & Recreation programs, seniors, and veterans.

Monson deserves a Select Board member who puts the whole community first. Let’s support Ronald Keith Valley-leadership that listens, includes, and delivers for all of us.

Laurent R. McDonald  
Monson

### Vote for Keith Valley

I am asking the voters of Monson to cast a vote for Keith Valley in the election for Board of Selectmen. Serving with Keith on the Pathfinder Regional Vocational School Committee I believe that he is a dedicated, dependable, and committed member with a high level of

integrity.

Keith as a member of the Monson Board of Selectmen would be an experienced and dedicated leader exhibiting commitment, stability and a vision for the future of the town of Monson.

David Droz  
Palmer

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

## ELECTION | from page 1

“We have a wonderful school community where everyone works together to offer and provide excellent learning opportunities for all students,” Rathbone said. “Additionally, there are numerous extracurricular options for our students to engage in.”

Rathbone also praised the numerous businesses, companies, and individuals who donate to various events, clubs, and trips for the students in town.

### Concerns

Lovell said that he doesn’t have any intentions to make changes to the district, except to support the efforts of the administration and its current direction.

“Before I became a member of the School Committee, it conducted a superintendent search and hired our current superintendent, Matthew Francis,” Lovell said. “Mr. Francis has made several positive changes to

the school district, including the start of full-time pre-K. He has skillfully navigated a couple precarious budget cycles and kept the district on course, and assembled a top-notch group of administrators who support the teaching staff the best they can.

“We, along with other districts, are facing some economic challenges with budgets,” Rathbone said. “The budget for the upcoming fiscal year will be addressed at a June School Committee Meeting.”

“My only concern is the depleting resources available to keep the forward progress moving,” Lovell agreed. “The community must support its schools.”

### Conclusion

When asked what makes him the right person to serve on the school committee, Lovell had a very humble response.

“I’m not sure that I am the right person,” Lovell said. “I’m here to make sure the school district stays

within its budget and also provides a quality education for our kids. An uncontested election leads me to believe the community is happy with what’s happening in the school district.”

“The Mission Statement for the Palmer Public Schools is to ‘educate, inspire, and empower’ - creating a supportive environment where students learn, grow, and thrive through shared values of respect, kindness, and community,” Rathbone said. “I look forward to hopefully serving another term on the School Committee.”

Town elections will be held on June 9, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Members of Precincts One and Four vote at the Sts. Peter & Paul Rectory at 2267 Main St., and Precincts Two and Three vote at AmVets at 2150 Main St.

For questions relating to the election or your voter status, you can reach the Town Clerk’s office by calling 413-283-2608.

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# Public notices

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 25 State Street, Monson, MA 01057  
 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert L. Meacham II to RBS Citizens, N.A., and now held by **Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.**, said mortgage dated November 24, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 114, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 19, 2023 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25009, Page 341; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on June 30, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon, situate on the southerly side of State Street in sad Monson, bounded and described as follows:

*BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground at the northeast corner of land of Frederick J. Sullivan, thence EASTERLY along the southerly side of said State Street, Eighty-Two (82) feet to land of Alice E. McCray; thence SOUTHERLY along last named land EIGHTY-EIGHT and ONE-HALF (88½) feet to the north-east corner of land conveyed by Mary A. North to Seraph North, November 4, 1941, now of Mabel North, see Probate Record Estate of Seraph North; thence WESTERLY along said last named land, SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) feet to a stone bound in line of land of sad Fredrick J. Sullivan; thence N 1° W along last named land NINETY-SIX (96) feet to the place of beginning.*

*Said premises are conveyed SUBJECT to right of way, in favor of Seraph North, her heirs and assigns, ten (10) feet in width, running along the easterly line of the above described premises from property conveyed by Mary A. North to Seraph North to said State Street.*

*BEING the same premises conveyed to Robert L. Meacham II, from Mary Ann Meacham and Robert W. Nichols by Deed dated 10/07/2015 and recorded on 11/25/2015 in the Register of Deed for Hampden County, Massachusetts in Deed Instrument 67200 Deed Book 20967, Page 110.*

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 October 10, 2015 and re-

corded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 110.

**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  
 Citizens Bank, N.A.  
 f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.  
 Present Holder of the Mortgage  
 (401) 217-8701  
 05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2026

**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.  
 HD26P1120EA  
 Estate of:  
 Elizabeth Dorothy Ogden  
 Also known as:  
 Elizabeth D Ogden  
 Date of Death: 04/13/2023  
 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Maryellyn C. Roche of Palmer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Maryellyn C. Roche** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must**

**file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

**A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoumire**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: May 26, 2026

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
 Register of Probate  
 05/28/2026

**Town of Brimfield  
 Highway Department  
 Invitation for Bids  
 Various Road Materials and Equipment Rentals for Fiscal Year 2027**

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Thursday June 11, 2026, by 10:30 AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday June 11, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2027 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on June 15, 2025:

- I. Various Road Materials
- II. Equipment Rental with Operator

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday May 26, 2026 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](mailto: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 "IFB2026HWY02 - FY2027 Various Road Materials and Equipment Rentals" 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 2026) of \$670 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: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdot-current-contract-price-adjustments> and "Special Provisions" as attached.

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 are subject 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, 2026 through June 30, 2027; 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  
 05/28, 06/04/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Hampden Division  
 Docket No.  
 HD26P0790EA**

**Estate of:  
 Diane M. Santos  
 Also Known As:  
 Diane Marie Santos  
 Date of Death:  
 January 4, 2026**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Anna Piergentili of Vernon, VT**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Anna Piergentili of Vernon, VT**

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.  
 05/28/2026

**Palmer  
 Conservation Commission  
 Public Hearing Notice**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 6:45 PM** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 on the **Request for Determination** submitted by Jeff Zabel of Quaboag Valley Cooperative in Palmer, MA, 01069. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for activities associated with armoring the bank along the Quaboag River to prevent further erosion to the riverbank. The project is located along the bank of the Quaboag River behind 3 Quaboag Valley Co-op Street. Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 413-283-2687.

Elizabeth O'Connor,  
 Acting Chair,  
 Palmer Conservation Commission  
 05/28/2026



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Every Thursday at 6:30 PM

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## UPCOMING

### VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

#### June Vendors

June 3 - Generations of Cookies  
June 10 - How Charming  
June 16 - Wicked Good Treats  
June 18 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs

#### July Vendors

July 1 - Generations of Cookies  
June 9 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs  
July 15 - How Charming  
July 21 - Wicked Good Treats

#### May 30

Brimfield Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on May 30.

#### June 6 and 7

7th Annual Pioneer Valley wine festival. Brimfield Auction Acres, Birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows will host the 6th annual Pioneer Valley wine festival on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

## ONGOING

**WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET** - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: [trulytorie2000@gmail.com](mailto:trulytorie2000@gmail.com) for more info and to register.

**THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check [brimfieldwinery.com](http://brimfieldwinery.com) for any variations.

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

**KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:** Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org)

seum.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 at 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 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).



#### NOTCH VISITOR CENTER

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

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

## BOARD | from page 1

and educated on what is happening throughout the area, which has given me a strong understanding of our community and its growth over time."

### Highlights

Day said his favorite thing about the town is that it's a small town with a tight-knit community.

"I love that we're not overpopulated, yet we have ample restaurants, a grocery store, parks, hiking trails and ball fields," Day said. "We're also close enough to the bigger box stores and multiple other grocery stores within 10 to 15 minutes. We're lucky enough to have a Pike exit and entry in our town, as well as a hospital."

Matthieu echoed this statement, saying he likes how intimate and friendly the community feels.

"Everybody seems close-knit," Matthieu said. "It's close-knit and friendly; we couldn't do anything if we didn't get along together, and we seem to do that."

Walder also admired the close-knit community of the town, and described its natural beauty and small-town character as her favorite things about it.

"We are fortunate to be surrounded by scenic landscapes while still hav-

ing access to many nearby amenities and opportunities," Walder said. "What truly makes Palmer special, though, is its close-knit community feel. People here genuinely care about one another, and there is a strong sense of pride in the town and its history."

### Role of Board

All three candidates were asked to describe what they see as the role of the Planning Board.

"I would describe the role of the Planning Board, with all due respect, as almost being a hall monitor," Day said. "You're elected to make sure that any projects that are going to happen in town follow all of the proper steps. We're responsible for ensuring that – from stormwater to proper frontages, to correct landscaping and lighting, just to name a few things – are being followed before a project gets the green light. It's vital that you think about the community's best interest."

Matthieu described the role of the board as seeing that more businesses come to town, and to help those businesses sort out problems to be able to move into town.

"There was something a while back about signs, somebody couldn't put a sign up," Matthieu remembered. "We can't have that. You can't force businesses

out because they can't have a sign in front of their building. You don't want a big neon sign shining in somebody's window, but to put up a sign to tell people what you are and what you do, you have to help them with things like that."

Walder described the board as playing "an important role in balancing growth, development, and the needs of residents while ensuring decisions are made thoughtfully and with the proper information and support.

"Open communication, fairness, and long-term planning are essential to helping the town move forward successfully," Walder said. "I believe the role of the Planning Board is to serve as a fair and neutral body that carefully listens to concerns, reviews information responsibly, and helps guide decisions that are in the best interest of the community as a whole."

### Concerns

"My biggest concern for the town is the number of empty storefronts in Depot Village, as well as in the other villages," Day said.

Day added that he finds it very concerning that the old K-Mart plaza is sitting vacant, as well as the empty school buildings.

"I know there's been some movement on the old Thorndike Grammar School building, and the work is

underway," Day said. "I've heard rumblings of potential suitors for Three Rivers Grammar School and Converse Middle School. I'm hoping things come to fruition on those sites."

"On a personal sentiment, another concern is some wanting to see Palmer grow and grow," Day added. "Not every town has to become a city. There's a lot to be said for living in a small town."

Matthieu numbered a few ambitions that he hopes to address as a member of the Planning Board, saying that the biggest one would be creating Fire Districts for the town.

"They have to be districts, it cannot be a town Fire Department," Matthieu said. "If they're a town department, the town can take money from them; if they're a fire district, their tax money is their money. That's why, if we make one, it has to be a fire district and a water district."

Matthieu also talked about the need for more businesses in town, saying that "another grocery store would be good so there's a little bit of rivalry between the two stores and they could keep themselves in check with prices."

He also talked about the possibility of putting a Costco in the new mall, as a way

to entice people from out of town and passing through via the highway.

Walder said she wants to ensure that the town continues to grow in a positive and sustainable way.

"I would like to see more businesses come into the community to strengthen our local economy, create opportunities, and encourage continued investment in the town," Walder said. "At the same time, I believe growth should be balanced with preserving the qualities that make Palmer such a desirable place to live. Thoughtful planning and responsible development are important to maintaining the character of the community while preparing for the future."

### Conclusion

Day described himself as "an individual that loves and cares for the Town of Palmer."

"I believe that being from town and seeing its progress or backsteps over the years is very beneficial," Day said.

"I've lived in this town my whole life, and I've been a firefighter, so I know a lot about the town," Matthieu said. "As a member of the Chamber and Amvets, being a member of all these committees, you hear different things about what's going on with this person or that person. Especially

with the Chamber, you hear a business came to town and they're having trouble with this or that. I've gotten to hear a lot of things about the town, so hopefully I can help it to move along."

Walder said her experience, community knowledge, and availability make her well suited to serve on the Planning Board.

"After spending decades working throughout Palmer and the surrounding towns, I have developed a strong understanding of the community, its residents, and its needs," Walder said. "At this stage in my life, with my family grown, I also have the time and flexibility to fully dedicate myself to the responsibilities of the position. I feel it is important to have board members who are informed, approachable, and willing to listen carefully to the concerns and ideas of residents while helping guide thoughtful decisions for the future of the town."

Town elections will be held on June 9, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Members of Precincts One and Four vote at the Sts. Peter & Paul Rectory at 2267 Main St., and Precincts Two and Three vote at AmVets at 2150 Main St.

For questions relating to the election or your voter status, you can reach the Town Clerk's office by calling 413-283-2608.

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## DEADLINE

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

**CORRECTIONS** The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send an email to: [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com), or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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**SOFTBALL**

## Monson softball reaches WMass finals

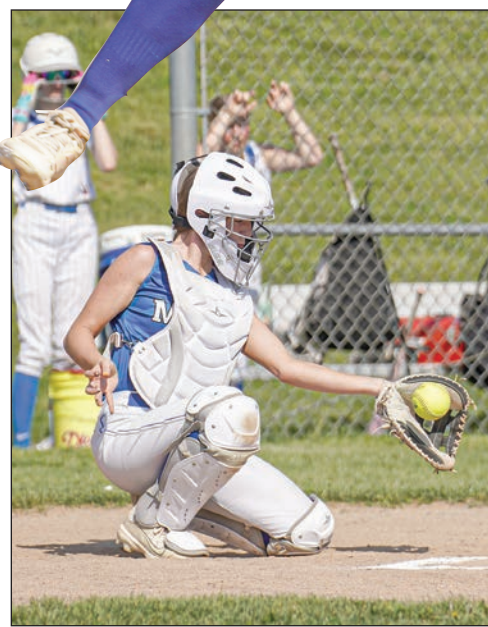
MONSON – Last week, the Monson High School softball team participated in the Western Mass. Class D tournament. The Mustangs first got play underway with a 6-1 win against Mohawk

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.

**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 in 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."

BASEBALL | page 10

**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.

**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.



Dom Menard receives a pass.



Landon Lacroix heads for the goal.



Landon Couture is pressured.



Noah Latulippe runs along the sideline.



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

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

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## Athlete of the Week

**Grace Berry**  
Monson High School

In last week's quarterfinal win for Monson softball, Berry had two hits and an RBI for the Mustangs.

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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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## MIAA makes improvements

FRANKLIN – The MIAA, in conjunction with the web agency Gravity Works Design & Development, is excited to announce the addition of “Game Day” – featuring many new features and enhancements – to the MIAA website.

The new Game Day package takes scores and schedules data already entered by MIAA member schools into the Arbiter platform, and displays it across multiple views and filter-able options.

The MIAA and Gravity Works launched the new MIAA.net in July 2024. We heavily focused on improving the user experience for visitors through streamlined navigation, refreshed content, and a modern, engaging web design. Subsequent updates have included a new system for Tournament Brackets, as well as Open Dates, Games Wanted and a revamped Members Only area for MIAA schools.

Now, the addition of Game Day – which combines the previous Tournament menu with the new features – will provide an enhanced user

experience for administrators, student athletes, coaches and fans.

### What's New?

• **Schools:** A new top menu item brings users to a search-able and filter-able landing page that allows access to individual pages for each MIAA member school.

• **Individual school pages:** Each member school page displays basic information, a filter-able school-specific schedule, and tabbed views of each school's varsity sports (by season). Click on each sport to see team schedules and links to team pages.

• **Team pages:** Provides additional team-specific views of schedules and results, including a ticker of Recent Scores. Schools also can enter Head Coach information and link to Facilities. ... For cooperative programs, Team pages will be linked across all approved Host and Guest schools.

• **Facilities:** Schools can enter and information on venues into a search-able/filter-able database, and link the facilities to be displayed on Team pages.

• **Game day:** Combines the previous Tournament menu options (Tournament Central, Tournament Administration, Tournament Director Vacancies) with several new features:

• **Scores:** Displays scores/schedules data entered by schools into Arbiter, with filters for Sport, School and Customizable data ranges (Note: “From” and “To” dates must be different for filters to work properly)

• **League standings:** Powered by Arbiter data, league standings can be filtered by Sport, Gender (if applicable), League, Division Name (if applicable) and MIAA Division. (Note: League standings currently will be updated daily).

• **Rankings:** When available, Power Rankings data can be filtered by Sport, Gender (if applicable) and MIAA Division. (Note: Power Rankings documents will continue to be displayed in the Tournament Central section.)

• **Committees:** Link to Committees landing page now can be found inside the About MIAA menu.

## T-Birds win Game 4 to force deciding fifth game

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds staved off elimination for a third time this postseason, picking up a 2-0 shutout win over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins last Thursday night at the MassMutual Center. Springfield win ties the series, 2-2, and forces a deciding Game 5 last Saturday at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Early indications were that neither team's red hot goaltender was going to give up anything easy, as the Penguins' Sergei Murashov turned away 13 first period shot attempts from the T-Birds. In turn, Georgii Romanov went a perfect 7-for-7 in the opening period for Springfield.

The Penguins appeared to take a 1-0 lead just past the

6:00 mark of the game when Harrison Brunicke jumped into a rush on the right side and snapped a shot over Romanov into the top shelf. However, after officials gathered to converse, it was ruled that Romanov could not properly play his position, and the goal was disallowed.

T-BIRDS | page 13

## BASEBALL | from page 9

The quarterfinal contest began at 7:30pm after the sun had set behind the trees in centerfield and Millet scored the winning run three hours later. According to Ware Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochain, the MIAA doesn't have a curfew policy. If the score had remained tied, it could've gone past 11pm on a school night.

The extra inning victory improved Ware's overall record to 10-9, while Palmer fell to 10-8.

“We battled hard for all eleven innings and came out on the wrong side of the score,” said Palmer head coach Zach Handzel. “That's all I can ask my players to do. It was just an outstanding ballgame tonight.”

A couple of days later Ware upset second-seeded Mt. Everett ,7-3, in the semifinals before losing to top-seeded Hopkins Academy, 3-1, in the Western Mass.

finals at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

The Indians seniors have never lost to the Panthers on the baseball diamond.

“This is a huge win for us,” Orszulak said. “We've never lost to Palmer and it's the best feeling in the world. It's always a lot of fun whenever we play against them.”

Orszulak also talked about his final at-bat of the game.

“I had struck out in my previous at-bat,” he said. “I just needed to put the ball in play in the eleventh inning, and I got the job done.”

Not only did Millet score the game-winning run, but he was also the winning pitcher.

The righthander replaced senior righthander Brady Guimond before the start of the sixth inning.

“Our game plan was to have Logan take over for Brady,” Clark said. “Logan is also a starting pitcher, and he managed to keep them from scoring any runs.”

“That's all I can ask my players to do. It was just an outstanding ballgame tonight.”

Zach Handzel  
Palmer baseball head coach

While Guimond allowed five runs on six base hits with six walks and four strikeouts, Millet only gave up three singles over the final six frames.

Palmer, who lost ,3-2, to Ware on May 4, took a 1-0 lead in the first inning.

Senior catcher Sebastian Mayberry blasted a double to the gap in right center leading off the opening frame.

After the next batter flied out to center, senior shortstop Theo Haley walked and senior Brendan Hess, who was the Panthers starting pitcher, lined a single to left loading the bases. Junior first baseman Dylan Holbrook drove home Mayberry with a sacrifice fly to center.

The Indians scored a pair of runs against Hess on RBI singles by senior left fielder Jack Gaudreau (2-for-5) and sophomore right fielder Matt Skutnik(3-for-5) in the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs in the fifth inning, Haley cleared them with a triple to right field giving the visiting team a 4-2 lead.

“Theo has been hitting the ball well the entire season,” Handzel said. “That was a big base hit for us.”

Two batters later, Holbrook smacked a double to left field scoring Haley.

The home team also loaded the bases in the bottom half of the frame before

Gaudreau hit a three run double to center field tying the score at 5-5.

“We were trailing 5-2, but my players never quit,” Clark said. “We came right back in the next inning.”

Singles by eighth grade centerfielder Trevor Merceri and senior third baseman Matt Santos, along with a walk by Mayberry helped Palmer load the bases for the second consecutive inning.

Millet got out of the jam with a flyball out and an inning ending double play.

Hess, who's a righty, threw the first 6 1/3 innings before reaching the 115 pitch limit. He allowed five runs (two earned) on seven hits be-

fore being replaced by Santos.

Ware had a golden opportunity to celebrate a walk-off victory in the ninth inning, but sophomore left fielder Liam McKee threw a laser to Mayberry, who tagged out Kaczuwka. He tried to score from second base on a single by Skutnik.

“That was an unbelievable throw by Liam,” Handzel said. “It kept us in the game a little bit longer.”

The Indians players celebrated a walk-off victory two innings later before the clock hit midnight.

The two rivals could face each other for a third time this season during the Division 5 state tournament.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### Peritz awarded degree at Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, RI – Morgan Peritz of Bondsville was awarded an undergraduate degree during Salve Regina University's 76th Commencement held May 17, on the University's oceanside campus. Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, conferred 525 bachelor's degrees upon the Class of 2026 A separate ceremony was held Thursday, May 14 for recipients of graduate degrees -- 204 master's degrees, 25 doctoral degrees and five Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees.

### Allison Moloney Graduates from Stonehill College

EASTON – Allison Moloney of Brimfield, MA, received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Stonehill College's 75th Commencement on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

At this year's ceremony, Leo J. Meehan III '75, president and CEO of W.B. Mason, served as keynote speaker. He also received an honorary degree alongside Matt Brown '16, who established the Matt Brown Foundation, and Sister Andrea Lee, I.H.M., former president of St. Catherine University and Alverno College.

### Messier receives degree from University of Scranton

SCRANTON, PA – Gabriel M. Messier of Palmer was among the more than 900 members of the Class of 2026. The newest Scranton alumni received their bachelor's degrees on Sunday, May 24, at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township. Graduates must have completed their academic degree requirements in August and December of 2025, as well as January and May of 2026.

Messier earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Scranton.

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T.J. Davis works the kitchen grill at the Memorial Day cookout.



Post 241 Firing detail, Post Commander Carl Santos, Darren Evasius, Glenn Perry and Mike Mahitka, stand at attention as Russ Bressette, Post Bugler, plays "Taps" on his bugle.



Deb Lawrence, TJ's Tavern Proprietor, Jodie Seguin and Carl Santos, American Legion Post 241 Commander, set the table.



Judy Stearns, Joyce Nelson and Roger Pascale commemorate the spirit of the day.



Mary Farrin and Karen Nothe-Valley enjoy the event.



Russ Bressette and Rita Laferriere enjoy their meals.



Bob and Deb Lamb enjoy their meals.

**AMVETS** | from page 1

Town Councillor and Post Commander Mark Caci was then asked to say a few words about the sacrifices that are commemorated every Memorial Day.

"Memorial Day is not a celebration, it's a promise," Caci said. "It's a promise that we will never forget the men and women who gave everything so that this nation could remain free. Across our history, Americans have stepped forward, knowing the risks, knowing the cost, and still choosing to serve. They left behind families, futures, and unfinished stories. Some rest in quiet ceremonies, some in distant fields, and some only in the hearts of those who love them. But all of them share one truth; their sacrifice built the freedom we stand in today."

Caci charged the assembly to honor not only how soldiers died, but how they lived, saying "they laughed, they dreamed, they hoped, and when our nation called, they answered with a level of devotion that humbles us still."

"Our responsibility, the responsibility of the living, is clear; to remember them, to uphold the values they defended, to live the lives worthy of the price they paid. So as the colors rise, and the rifles fire their salute, as the bugles sound its final note, let us carry their memory forward. Let us teach our children what this day truly means and let us ensure that the sacrifice of the fallen are never reduced to the date on the calendar."

Caci was followed by State Representative Todd Smola, who said he was grateful that the town still chose to assemble for the holiday, in spite of the weather. He noted that the nation is approaching the milestone of its 250th anniversary.

"If you look back at that 250 years where it all began here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," Smola said, "you'll know how challenging

those times were, that 13 colonies here in our country didn't believe that we had much of a shot at the time."

"We were going up against the most powerful military, the strongest might, the greatest navy, all because we believed in an idea of self-governance," Smola said. "But those individuals, they persevered through cold, through exhaustion, through great illness, through no supplies, through no money, through very little training, all because they believed in this idea of a country."

Smola took a moment to recognize the role played by women during the American Revolution, saying they "raised the families back at

home, they ran the businesses, they plowed the fields, they kept the supplies going, the commerce in our small communities all across those 13 colonies." Smola asserted that without the sacrifice of women, "we would not be a nation today."

Smola then called on future generations to learn to appreciate their role in shaping the future of this nation.

"Your country is not just the place where you live and your surroundings; your country is in here," Smola pat his heart. "And you should carry the values, the ideas, and the ideals of that country with you no matter where you go."

Adjutant of American Legion Post 130 Teresa Hayden

then read the Memorial Day Proclamation. Following the 21-gun salute, Graveline closed the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Graveline thanked Town Manager Brad Brothers for putting on the ceremony under circumstances that he had "normally not encountered."

"I was honored to be asked to be the chaplain this year, and if I'm asked to be the chaplain going forward, that would be wonderful," Motta said. "The town has a lot of veterans to be proud of, and I think days like this really are too little."

The Memorial Day Parade will take place on June 20, as part of the MA250 festivities.

## Public safety

### Monson Fire Logs

**MONSON** – Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week May 18 through May 24, 2026. The department responded to 29 EMS calls and 3 Fire calls.

On **Monday, May 18** at 12:07 p.m. the department responded to 17 Washington Street for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 12:35 p.m.

On **Tuesday, May 19** at 4:39 p.m. the department responded to 433 Lower Hampden Road for the structure fire. The department returned to service at 11:15 p.m.

On **Thursday, May 21** at 9:59 p.m. the department responded mutual aid to 26 Otis Avenue in Ware for the structure fire. The department returned to service at 12:05 a.m.

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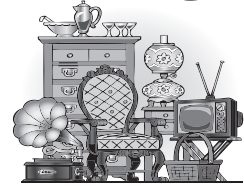
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**T-BIRDS** | from page 10

The scoreless deadlock carried well past the midpoint of the game, with Springfield surviving a pair of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton power plays in the opening half of period two.

The T-Birds' power play then made its presence known, snapping an 0-for-15 drought when Dillon Dube fielded a pass in the slot area and chipped a forehand shot over Murashov's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead at 16:14 of the middle stanza. It was Dube's team-leading fifth goal of the postseason and third in the series.

The T-Birds continued to make life miserable for the Penguin offense as the game shifted into the third period. With Wilkes-Barre/Scranton unable to register more than seven shots in any period, Springfield took advantage to gain some insurance at 6:48 of the third when Akil Thomas fired a pass in the slot to Thomas Bordeleau. Bordeleau's shot deflected back to a trailing Marc-Andre Gaudet.

The defenseman's one-time attempt knocked a stick out of a defender's hand, and the puck slowly elevated and trickled over the head of a perplexed Murashov, making it a 2-0 Springfield lead.

From there, Romanov took care of the rest, securing a Game 4 shutout for a second consecutive round and moving the T-Birds to a perfect 4-0 record following a loss in these playoffs.

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Peter Emerson Geer**  
Died Dec. 14, 2025  
Service June 5, 2026  
Beers & Story Palmer  
Funeral Home

**Obituary**

*Peter Emerson Geer*

Born June 14, 1958, departed this life peacefully on December 14, 2025. Though he is now gone, Peter lives on in the hearts and memories of his friends, family, and all whose lives he touched.

Peter had a rare gift for making everyone feel welcome and deeply valued. He could brighten any room with his quiet wisdom, his quick wit, or one of the thoughtful quips he so often shared on the chalkboard outside his home-words that reflected his humor, insight, and generous spirit.

Peter is survived by his cherished daughter, Taylor Stover, and her husband, Eddie, with whom he spent many joyful days on Block Island. He was especially blessed by the arrival of his beloved granddaughter, Ryland, who lovingly knew him as "Gram-pa." He is also survived by his siblings, Stanton Geer, David Geer, Nancy Cole, and Susan Shea.

A dedicated professional, Peter enjoyed a successful career as an industrial regional manager, bringing passion and integrity to his work with

Warren Pumps and Weir Specialty Group. He took great pride in his career, especially cherishing opportunities when business travel allowed him to see different parts of the world alongside his favorite travel partner-his daughter, Taylor.



all, Peter embraced life fully and enthusiastically. He found joy in golfing, skiing, fishing, and reading, and was a devoted animal lover who shared his life with many dogs over the years. Each was a cherished companion who brought him immeasurable happiness.

To honor Peter and his lifelong commitment to community, donations in his memory may be made to the Mary D Fund of Block Island, the Block Island Community and the good work the Mary D Fund does as a cause close to his heart. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that contributions be sent to the address below. No donation is too small, and all are deeply appreciated. The Mary D Fund, PO Box 323, Block Island, RI 02807.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, June 5, 2026 at 11 a.m. at Four Corners Cemetery in Three Rivers, MA. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

*The Journal Register*  
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**DISCUSS** | from page 1

brings to every challenge.

"I've also been proud to call Monson home for more than 40 years," Valley said. "I was 15 years old when my mother moved us here. My mom felt that Monson would provide the strongest future for our family, and she was right. I graduated from Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in 1989 and entered the workforce immediately after. We built our lives here and like so many residents, Monson is more than where I live - it's home."

Warren spent most of his career in the commercial alarm field, where he spent many years in sales, system design, and project management.

"I was promoted to general management, where I was responsible for all aspects from hiring, growth and profit of the office," Warren said. "My wife and I came to Monson for many reasons, namely the proximity to work and easy access to Massachusetts and Connecticut with an awesome rural setting."

**Highlights**

Gordon said that her family continues to value the town's old town feel, the community vibe, and the amount of green space it has to offer.

"It's a little bit of country not far from other cities," Gordon said. "The heart of Monson really shone through when the tornado came directly through our neighborhood and everyone banded together in crisis.

"Monson's compassion always comes through during challenging situations," Gordon said. "People really care. That's what I like most."

Valley also said that the town's strong sense of community involvement is one of its greatest strengths.

"Ours is a community where neighbors know one another, where familiar faces fill downtown, and where residents genuinely care about the future of our town," Valley said. "The future of Monson should be shaped by the people who live here. Residents deserve not only the opportunity to speak, but to confidently know that their voices are truly being heard and considered. By working together, listening to one another, and staying engaged, we continue to build a stronger community and create a lasting positive impact for future generations."

When asked what his favorite thing about the town is, Warren simply said "the people."

**Role of the Board**

Gordon described the role of municipal government in our community as both strategic and operational, setting policy direction, overseeing the Town Administrator, appointing boards/committees, and helping to maintain productive working relationships across the government, even when there are differing perspectives.

"I also feel it's very important to understand that as private citizens, we all have our own views, beliefs, and votes," Gordon said, "but serving on a Select Board is different. Board members have a responsibility to represent not just themselves, but to represent the community, respect the public process, and listen carefully to the people they serve. That sometimes means putting aside personal preference in order to uphold the will of the town, the integrity of the process, and the broader needs of the community."

"I think that distinction matters, especially during times when emotions and tensions can run high," Gordon said.

Valley described effective municipal governance as requiring integrity, leadership, and a commitment to serving the best interests of the community.

"As an elected official, public trust must be built through transparency, accountability, and consistent leadership," Valley said. "Residents deserve leaders who make thoughtful, fact-based decisions grounded in careful planning and the long-term needs of the town — not personal relationships, politics, or short-term pressures."

Valley emphasized the duty of local government to ethically and compliantly adhere to the principles necessary to operate town departments effectively and provide all the necessary services for residents throughout their stages of life, while being adaptable over time.

Warren said the board's first priority is to protect the town.

"The government should offer solution ideas to the townspeople," Warren said, and also be aware of potential risks. The people at town meetings will ultimately decide based on the information given."

**Concerns**

Gordon said that the biggest issue facing the community today is its financial health.

"While the recently approved budget meets the legal requirement of being balanced, departments may

need to rely on reserve funds or free cash to support ongoing operations," Gordon said. "We're also facing a debt exclusion vote tied to a completed energy-efficiency project that, for several reasons, did not deliver the anticipated financial outcomes.

"Focus on our long-term sustainability is key," Gordon continued. "To get there, I'd like to see committee's and town leadership working more closely together regardless of competing interests and a level of steady and thoughtful determination and communication that prioritizes building relationships first, and respectfully."

Valley said his immediate priority is to have better control of the town budget, and called for a thorough, long-term review of every departmental budget to properly plan for the next three to five years.

"We cannot continue making last-minute budget decisions that fail to reflect the true needs and priorities of our community," Valley said. "Monson must generate more revenue to ensure that the current and future needs of the community will be met. The town needs to work closely with our small businesses to ensure that they can continue to thrive."

"I will be focused on evaluating new opportunities to help ensure a sustainable future that protects the character of Monson but also allows for new growth," Valley said. "I will lead with a clear focus on facts, careful planning, and valuing community input, and will avoid reactionary decisions or short-term fixes. Every taxpayer dollar matters, and residents deserve to know that their money is being managed responsibly

and strategically."

"We must protect the essential services our residents rely on, maintain and improve our infrastructure, and continue investing in the well-being of our community, while ensuring we are not placing unnecessary financial burdens on families and taxpayers in the years ahead," Valley concluded.

As a current member on the Select Board, Warren said his biggest concern is the imbalance of tax revenue between residential and commercial properties.

"We should consider better utilization of existing commercial properties," Warren said. "Both existing buildings that are vacant, and commercial areas such as on Route 20 that could bring revenue. These are opportunities that would provide tax relief to the residents."

**Conclusion**

Gordon said that her experience in operations, changing leadership, and strategic communication lends itself well to balancing the needs of the existing board and town leadership.

"Residents deserve leadership prepared to address these challenges directly," Gordon said. "Leadership that's willing to ask difficult questions, do the research, and pursue practical solutions with an open mind. Change requires steady, collaborative leadership with positive intention."

Valley promised to bring thoughtful, responsible leadership, if elected to the Select Board.

"That means creating policies based on facts, careful planning, and community input," he said. "The decisions we make today will impact Monson for years to

come, and we have a responsibility to get them right. I am a good fit for this position because, as an elected official, I embrace that my role is to serve the public's interests not advance my personal preferences on any given issue."

"Trust is earned through transparency — by making sure decisions, budgets, and processes are open, understandable, and accessible to every resident," Valley said. "You deserve to know not only the decisions being made, but why they are being made. And more importantly, you deserve to know that your voice matters in shaping the future of this community."

"I bring a fiscally responsible viewpoint to the table," Warren said. "I believe in fairness for everyone, and I can also make the difficult decisions when needed."

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# Selectboard hears update on Convenient Care

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard met last Tuesday, where they heard an update on the convenient care site to be installed in the former Smithland Pet and Garden Center at 144 West Main St.

Michael Knapik, a representative from Baystate Health was present to discuss the facility, and talk about the Rural Health Transformation Act.

Knapik said the decision to open a Convenient Care in Ware came from stakeholder meetings led by the new leader of Baystate Health, Peter Banko. Knapik said Baystate Health already has five operating Convenient Care sites across the service area, and this one would have the same operations.

He said it will be licensed as an urgent care, and have laboratory and imaging services. Knapik said the estimated opening date is in nine-12 months, and when it opens,

it will operate seven days a week, with multiple days with evening hours.

Knapik said some other services provided would include treatments for upper-respiratory illnesses, nausea, cuts, strains and sprains, rashes and animal bites. He said there could be primary care physicians on site, and services could always be expanded if the Convenient Care is utilized enough.

Knapik said Baystate Health is partnered with UMass Medical School, and

they run an academic program at the Convenient Care in Greenfield, and he said that could be a part of the Convenient Care in Ware in phase two.

Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz said the level of care his family has received at Convenient Care in the past have been “second to none,” and said he hopes the same service will be available in Ware.

Selectboard member Valerie Granger said there is some weariness in the public

surrounding Baystate Health, and people want to make sure that Baystate Health is giving the town what they say they will.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette had a similar point, saying the board will have to hold Baystate Health accountable, but work together with Baystate Health. Willette said the Convenient Care could add to the economy and vibrancy of Ware.

Baystate Health recently took over operations at Mercy Medical Center in Spring-

field, according to Willette, and he asked how they will be able to focus on both Mercy and the Convenient Care in Ware.

Knapik said the projects are “separate and distinct,” and that Baystate Health “can juggle multiple balls.”

Knapik ended by saying if anybody has a proposal for use at the old Mary Lane site, they can send it to Baystate Health and it will be considered. Kusnierz said the board would invite Knapik back in September for another update.



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