

The Journal Register

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Honoring our local heroes on MEMORIAL DAY

PALMER



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The wreath that was placed in front of the war memorial next to the old Converse Middle School.

Palmer honors the fallen at Memorial Day ceremony

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Town of Palmer gathered Monday morning to mark Memorial Day with a heartfelt parade and ceremony honoring the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who gave

their lives in service to the nation. Under a clear blue sky, residents lined the streets and filled the memorial grounds with flags, flowers, and loud reverence.

The parade stepped off from St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Marchers made their way along Thorndike Street, continued onto Main Street,

then turned left on Central Street before making a final turn onto Converse Street. The procession concluded at the memorial in front of the former Converse Middle School, where the ceremony took place. The event was filmed by M-PACT for future viewing.

FALLEN | page 16

MONSON

Monson highlights service and sacrifice

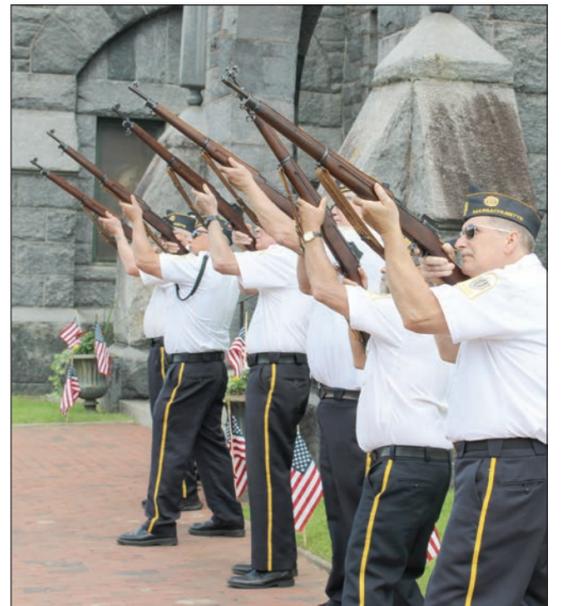
Staff Report
journalregister@turley.com

MONSON – A beautiful morning welcomed the annual Monson Memorial Day parade and ceremony.

Main Street had dozens of local families lining the sidewalk. “We had a wonderful turnout from our community this morning,” said Jennifer Wolowicz. “Monson is a tight knit community who treasures this day and always stands up to honor those who have fallen.”

“This is an inspiring morning and all of us are here to honor the day” said Amanda Roy, owner of The Better Bean. “Families are here, all ages, and it’s a wonderful feeling.”

The parade stepped off at Hillside Cemetery with the placement of a wreath by Purcell LeBreque American Legion Post 241 Commander Carl Santos, which was then followed by a 21-gun salute,



Turley photos by Dan Flynn

Members of Purcell LeBreque American Legion Post 241 perform as the firing detail for the ceremonies.

performed by a firing detail made up of Post members.

The procession continued down Main Street, led by an honor guard comprised of members of the American Legion Post, presenting our nation’s colors and the flags of the military branches.

A Monson Police Department vehicle escorted the Parade down Main Street. The parade participants included members of the Monson Fire Department, local Boy and Girl Scouts, youth

baseball teams, Monson Town Republican Committee, Friends of the Quabbin and local Veterans.

The procession stopped at both North Main and Main Street where Commander Santos placed wreaths and the gun salute was performed.

The procession continued and ended at Memorial Hall. A ceremony was led by Monson Veteran Service Of-

HOLIDAY | page 7



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A boy from Brimfield Boy Scout Troop 7 covered in flags.

BRIMFIELD

Brimfield celebrates with parade, ceremony

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Under cool gray skies, Brimfield gathered in solemn unity on Sunday, May 25, at 2 p.m. on the Town Common to commemorate Memorial Day. The event honored the lives and legacies of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation, drawing community members, veterans, students, and civic lead-

ers together in remembrance and reflection.

The program began with a warm welcome from Cindy Skowyra, Chair of the Memorial Day Committee, who called on the crowd to rise as veterans representing a broad span of American conflicts, from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan, marched with dignity through the center of town.

Reverend John Brennan of St. Christopher’s Church delivered the invocation, a

moving tribute to the fallen. “No love is greater than that which gives itself for another,” he quoted, calling on the community not only to remember those lost but to care for the families and wounded veterans left behind. His words set a tone of reverence that carried through the ceremony.

The National Anthem was performed by Lauren Martin, an elementary school student, whose voice rang clear and proud across the

green. Audience members removed their hats and stood as one during her rendition. Skowyra then led the Pledge of Allegiance, inviting all to join in a patriotic chorus.

A deeply emotional moment followed as the names of Brimfield-area veterans who passed away in the past year were read aloud. Each name was followed by a toll of the bell, seven times in all, each toll representing a core val-

HEROES | page 11

SCHOOL

School Committee finalizes \$21.1M operating budget

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – During its May 21 meeting, the Palmer School Committee tackled a broad and consequential agenda ranging from the approval of the FY26 education budget to hearing firsthand from middle school students advocating for change through their civics project presentations. The evening highlighted both the complexity of school finances and the power of student voice in shaping the future of local education.

Budget for FY26 finalized at \$21.1 Million Superintendent Patricia Francis and Finance Director Sarah Menard led the

meeting with the presentation and public hearing of the district’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget, which totals \$21,143,217. This figure includes not just town contributions but also external revenues such as state and federal grants, revolving accounts, and circuit breaker reimbursements for special education.

The school district is asking the town for a contribution of \$18,794,092, representing a 3.1% increase over FY25. This is a modest reduction from the preliminary March projection of a 3.6% increase, thanks to roughly \$91,000 in targeted savings implemented after internal review.

BUDGET | page 13

PALMER



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A volunteer tamps down the earth around some of the plants for a more solid finished product.

Planting brings out the community

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – More than 20 volunteers turned out last Saturday for a Community Planting Day that capped off a month of environmental-

ly themed activities in town. The event marked the installation of a pollinator-friendly garden organized by the Palmer Conservation Commission and held at the Palmer Town Hall, 4417 Main

PLANTING | page 5

PALMER

ConCom holds wetlands hearing, reviews plan

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Palmer Conservation Commission tackled a full agenda during its regular meeting Tuesday evening, May 20, which included four public hearings, updates on environmental incidents, and planning for upcoming community events and maintenance projects.

DEP Responds to transformer oil spill after storm

The commission reviewed recent correspondence from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning a release of PCB-contaminated transformer oil at Pole 116 on River Street fol-

lowing a severe microburst on May 3. The DEP engaged Ty & Bond for emergency response and monitoring. The site remains under observation, and National Grid has assumed financial responsibility for cleanup.

Public Hearings

The evening featured four public hearings, beginning with a vegetation management plan submitted by CSX Transportation. Represented by consultant Steve Herzog of VHB, the request for a five-year renewal of herbicide application along

HEARING | page 13



Knox marks anniversary with bread-making class

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – In a quiet corner of town where stories come to life and children’s imaginations rise like yeast in warm dough, Bonnie Knox is marking a milestone. This month, Knox celebrates 25 years of service at the Brimfield Public Library, a place she has helped transform into more than just a place to borrow books; it’s a hub of learning, laughter, and hands-on creativity.

As part of that celebration, Knox brought back a beloved children’s program that hadn’t been held in years: the bread making story hour. “It’s been about seven years since I did the last one,” she said. “I was processing a book called ‘The Bakery Dragon’ one day and thought, ‘I haven’t done that in a while.’ So I decided to bring it back.”

The return of the event, which once drew a dozen participants, was a quieter affair this time around, with four children and their guardian’s attending. But for Knox, it wasn’t about numbers. It was

about the joy of reconnecting with an activity that brought warmth back to the library. “It’s easy, it’s not too messy, and the kids really like it,” she said. “They enjoy getting their hands into the dough, and it gives them something to be proud of.”

Knox has always brought that kind of thoughtful care to her role. Officially, she’s a library assistant, but in reality, her responsibilities and contributions go far beyond the title. From checking out and processing books to designing programs and engaging with the town’s youngest readers, she’s been a steady, creative presence in the library for a quarter century. “I just call myself a regular old librarian,” she said with a modest shrug.

Her connection to the community runs deep. Over the years, she has led everything from cookie-decorating sessions to themed story hours, with a focus on making the library a welcoming place for families. Her most recent bread-making event may have been a smaller group than in past years, but the children who attended left with

flour-dusted hands and big smiles, having shaped both dough and memories.

Looking ahead, Knox has no plans to slow down. The library is preparing for a busy summer, including a kickoff event in June featuring Maggie the Clown and the launch of its annual summer reading program, which will carry an ocean theme this year. The program will include story hours, an ice cream party, and a tie-dye activity to close out the season; a full lineup for a small library that punches well above its weight. Full event details and dates will be listed on the Brimfield Public Library website.

Outside of her library work, Knox also supports local students through her role as an aide at Wales Elementary School. Her work there complements her library efforts, tying together a professional life focused on children’s development, creativity, and education. It’s a role she embraces quietly but passionately, often working behind the scenes to ensure children have the tools, encouragement, and opportunities they need to grow.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
A mother helps her young daughter by holding the bag steady while the child handles the flour.



Knox showing how to grease the bread tin and fit the dough in the make it nice and loaf shaped.



Bonnie Knox reading “The Bakery Dragon” by Devin Elle Kurtz to the children while the yeast activates.



The children mix their bread dough in the bags to agitate the yeast before leaving it to rise.



The bread tin, oven mitt, measuring spoons, and bread recipe the kids receive and can take home with them.



A young boy aggressively kneaded the dough inside the bag in order to incorporate all the ingredients, or because it was fun.



Bonnie Knox showing the kids how to knead the bread by hand and say they will have to try it at home.

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Notice to Palmer Seniors

PALMER – The Palmer Senior Center building will be closed from June 9 through June 25, however all activities and programs will be held at Second Congregational church on Pleasant Street.

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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Re-Elect **JOHN MORRELL**
Monson Select Board
Tuesday, June 10th

Dear friends,
I have lived in Monson for 70 years. I have had the honor to serve the people of Monson for 39 years as Highway Supervisor, 6 years on the Water & Sewer Commission and 9 years on the Select Board.

I would appreciate your support at the polls in June.

John

VOTE John “Hub” MORRELL

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Pet of the Week



SCOTTIE HOPPERMAN

She is a beautiful lop bunny who loves to watch old game shows like Classic Concentration. She does not appreciate neighbors coming out of their houses. She will stare at them from the stairs by the window disapprovingly and thump. She loves tunnels, jumping high and creating a bit of chaos everywhere she goes. She's adorable and curious. She lives and is cared for by her dad Steve and her stepmom Missy both who love her very much.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to journalregister@turley.com.

Explore nature and learn about wildlife at Norcross open house

Bring the whole family to enjoy a day of nature exploration and education at The Norcross Wildlife Foundation on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Throughout the event, Norcross staff will lead guided tours of the 3-miles of public trails, providing insight into local plants, wildlife, and conservation efforts. Visitors will also have the chance to engage with local experts and discover new ways to connect with nature and wildlife through a variety of fun, interactive booths and activities.

Exhibitors include:
 • National Parks Service (Springfield, MA)

- CT Science Center (Hartford, CT)
- The Zoo in Forest Park & Education Center (Springfield, MA) – hosting a live animal program at 1 p.m.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- Fernald Entomology Club (UMASS)
- Minorities in Agriculture (UMASS)
- Opacum Land Trust

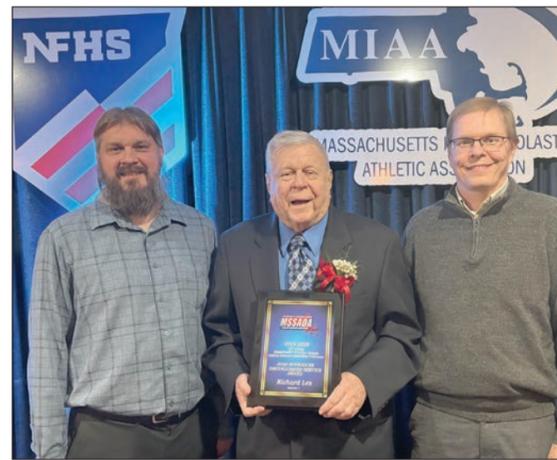
For more information, contact Caroline Cay Adams, Director of Education, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, 413-245-1264, ext. 106, cadams@norcrosswildlife.org, www.norcrosswildlife.org, 30 Peck Road, Wales, MA 01081.

Wildlife on Wheels June 1

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

question-and-answer period will follow the presentation.

The program will be held on the lawn, weather permitting. Bring a blanket or chair for viewing. If there is inclement weather, it will take place in the barn. Admission is free, donations are welcome. The museum is open from 1 – 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information visit www.keep-homesteadmuseum.org.



Submitted photo
 Richard Les and his sons at the awards ceremony on March 27.

Richard Les gets Distinguished Service Award

PALMER – Richard Les, aka "ML," was honored by receiving the "Joao Rodrigues Distinguished Service Award" from Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association. The ceremony was held at the Emerald Resort in Hyannis, MA on March 27.

Rich was recognized for his many years of service as a volunteer, a coach, and an umpire.

There have been many ways that Rich has served the Town of Palmer including the varsity softball coach, field hockey coach, Little League baseball coach, and a member

of the Palmer Little League baseball board.

He also has been a referee and umpire for many years in field hockey, basketball, baseball, girls softball, mens softball, as well as clock operator for basketball and football.

He has volunteered his time in various capacities for the Special Olympics, Easter Seals, and Make A Wish Foundation.

He is currently an assistant coach for the Palmer Varsity Girls Softball team and works part time at Palmer High School.

Brimfield's Town Hall: A pillar of the community since 1878, now stands on the precipice of change

An article from the *Brimfield Historical Commission*

In the heart of Brimfield stands a structure that has quietly witnessed nearly 150 years of town history: the Brimfield Town Hall. Once a proud symbol of civic pride and community strength, the aging building now teeters between historic legacy and abandonment.

Prior to 1878, town business operated out of the Congregational Church, long after the separation of church and state in 1833. When the town finally voted to build a "town house" for its civic operations, it didn't spare the expense to hire a prominent Springfield

architect. Eugene Clarence Gardner was hired to design Brimfield's town hall, and for it he chose Stick Style Architecture, which flourished roughly between 1860 and 1890. Stick Style features exposed wood "stickwork", steeply pitched roofs, wooden siding, porches and brackets, and asymmetry. Overall, stick style celebrated craftsmanship and Brimfield's town hall is a rare example of a town hall built in this style. Because of its architecture and its position within the Brimfield Center Historic District, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Built in 1878, the two-story town hall build-

ing has served as more than just a government center. It has hosted Memorial Day activities, community plays and dances, non-governmental meetings, suppers and luncheons, reunions, and even hosted the first library in 1891, and a school classroom when the Brimfield Elementary School ran out of space several decades ago. Generations of Brimfield residents have walked its wooden floors. For many, it is a piece of home. "This building holds the stories of the past and is part of the legacy of Brimfield", said Historical Commission member Sue DeBruin. "It no longer serves the community as a functional town facility and if we don't act to

breathe new life into it, we risk losing it".

In recent years, the town hall has been all but abandoned. Town meetings have been held in the Elementary School. Town boards have been forced to find their own meeting places, often welcomed by Hitchcock Academy or the school. Voting takes place in the basement of the Congregational Church, which is leased as the town's senior center. The daily operational needs of the town are housed in "the Annex", which was built



Brimfield Town Hall 1878.

Submitted photo

BRIMFIELD | page 7

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 information to Editor at journalregister@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

We, the undersigned citizens of Monson, stand in unified and dedicated support to re-elect JOHN MORRELL to Monson Select Board. His more than 54 years of service to the people of Monson in a number of positions is unequalled in recent history. His documented record of delivering on promises and his genuine compassion for our community is unique, unequalled today and a lesson to us all.

- Tom Haley
- Tom Nasiatka
- Peter Warren
- Peter Wiggins
- Dr. Richard Smith
- John Martin
- Herb Murray
- Irv Arnold
- Michelle Loglisci
- Sandy Bailey
- Ben Murphy
- Brad Medieros
- Robert Nasiatka
- Cam Pafumi
- Scott Malo
- Dennis Donovan
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- Bruce Harris
- Jamison Dupuis
- Dene' & Charlie Ackerman
- Paul Bourbeau
- Mike & Tina Vailancourt
- Prescott Watson
- Jerry Talbot
- Shawn and Jen Gouvin
- Eric and Amy Johnson

- Henry Ford
- Robert & Deborah Lamb, Jr.
- Len & Barb Hooton
- Joseph & Judy Hinchey
- Mike Fitzpatrick
- John Newland
- Marie Bren
- Dennis Sheehan
- Peter Nothe
- Douglas North
- John Rahkonen
- Craig Levesque
- Steve Nasiatka
- Mark Kline
- Tom Brown
- Jessica Klisiewicz
- John Gola
- Aaron Carpenter
- Bret Douty
- Lisa & Domenic Picardi
- Karen & TJ Davis
- David L. Sarrette
- Mike Tassinari
- Thomas and Susan Clayson
- Mike and Laura Cuipenski
- Dan and Johanna Tassinari

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.

Signed:
Seeking Assistance

Dear Seeking:

It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that if you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test.

The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe.

So, you can apply for your Social Security ben-

efits, as indicated above, either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty.

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don't need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it's easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1-888-750-2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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



More basil? Yes, please!

Regular readers of the column will remember just how much pleasure I get out of making and freezing my version of pesto. In other words, pesto without the expensive pine nuts.

We use this spread in the rue for butternut squash lasagna and on pizza in place of marinara sauce. Sadly, we ran out of our frozen "cubes" over a month ago and have had to resort to the store bought tubes of the paste.

They're okay, but certainly not as tasty as home-grown. I vow I will grow more basil this year. Alas, if only the weather would cooperate.

Read on to learn how to grow, harvest and ultimately turn these flavorful leaves into "summer in an ice cube."

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors - rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

As mentioned, we are waiting for the weather to take a turn for the better. Plants will die in a frost, but will languish during rainy days with temperatures in the



away the buds at the first sign of them.

Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle. Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed.

Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night. A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath.

Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

As mentioned, I like freezing basil in paste form. Simply take two cups of rinsed and blotted dry basil leaves and coarsely chop them in a food processor. While the motor is running drizzle in one-quarter to one-third of a cup of extra virgin olive oil. You can add parmesan cheese to taste or save that step for later.

Spoon the paste into containers, or as I like to do, into ice cube trays to be frozen for use later on. If you like garlic, go ahead and add that in. Fan of pine nuts? Go for it!

Pop the frozen cubes out of the tray and into freezer bags. Then you can grab what you need for a particular recipe.

GARDEN | page 8

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, New Jersey

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

Tom and I were strapping our sit pads back onto our backpacks after stopping for lunch at a rocky vista, when we heard faint rumbling in the distance. We weren't particularly concerned. "Maybe it will miss us," Tom said, as we shouldered our packs and continued north. We were three days into a 160-mile backpacking trip of the entire states of New Jersey

and New York on the Appalachian Trail.

Ten minutes up the trail, the trees began swaying ferociously as violent wind gusts barreled up and over the ridge. "We need



to take cover... fast!" I yelled. We scanned the woods and made a beeline to a rock outcropping. Within seconds, the storm was on top of us.

In one fluid motion, I simultaneously unclipped my sternum strap with my right hand and my hip strap with my left and dropped my pack to the ground. Just as quickly, I yanked my rain jacket out of the back mesh pocket, shoved my arms into the sleeves and pulled the hood over my head.

I managed to back myself partly into a small opening between the jumble of boulders, then I sat down, pulled my knees up to my chest, rested my forehead on my knees, and waited for the maelstrom to end. Tom was standing beside me, partially crouched over me.

Neither one of us spoke as the thunder raged and the hail pelted our backs. The driving rain infiltrated every layer of our clothing and poured off of us in rivulets. Adrenaline over-



Day 1 at the Pennsylvania/New Jersey border. Submitted photo

HIKING | page 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Laurent McDonald for Town Moderator

To The Editor:

Dear Monson Voters, I had the pleasure of serving as your fire chief from 2012-2019; and now I would like to serve as your next Moderator. When we come together at Town Meeting, we fulfill an important role as the Town's legislative body, a co-equal branch of local government that among other things, makes the final decision on salaries, budget and by-laws.

Town Meetings are considered to be the cornerstone of democracy. Samuel Adams referred to them as the "cradle of democracy".

The Moderator's job is to be a neutral party presiding over the debate, giving the legislators (you the voter) an opportunity to speak, addressing points of order and motions, and making final declarations of votes. I have nearly 45 years of experience working in all three levels of government, federal, state, and local.

I am a 21-year retired veteran of the United States Air Force. I have presided over several organizations throughout my

career in public, private, and non-profit service, including the Air Force Sergeants Association, Southern Worcester County Community Development Corporation, Southbridge Charter Review Committee, Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, Hampden County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Southbridge Redevelopment Authority, and Southbridge Town Council.

I have a Master of Public Administration Degree, a Bachelor Degree in Fire Science and Government, and an Associate Degree in Fire Science, Leadership, and Management. I am a 1983 graduate of Southbridge High School where my studies included academics and music.

As your Moderator, I will be respectful of your time and work to ensure the business of Town Meeting is conducted in a fair, consistent, and efficient manner.

Please vote for me for your next Town Moderator on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Thank you,
Laurent R. McDonald,
Monson

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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:
journalregister@turley.com
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

Saturday, June 7- Sunday, June 8

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

June 12

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

June 14

Bottle and Can Drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 14 at Hryniewicz Park. Sponsored by the Three Rivers Firefighters - Ladies Auxiliary

June 21

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

ONGOING

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

Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

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

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING

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

PLANTING | from page 1

Street, at the big grassy area at Four Corners.

"It was a bigger turnout than I was expecting, and that's a great thing to see," said Donald Blais Jr., chairperson of the Conservation Commission. "I like seeing community involvement in projects like this."

Among the volunteers were local residents, families, and students from Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School's horticulture program, who joined in planting around 220

native perennials designed to support pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Ian Lapete, a Pathfinder horticulture student and member of the school's FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter, said he came out after being asked by chapter president Connor McGrath. "It was fun," Lapete said. "I didn't have anything going on this weekend, so I figured, why not?"

In attendance as well was Town Manager Brad Brothers, who showed his support for the initiative alongside the volunteers and conserva-

tion officials.

The new garden features a variety of native species including Scarlet Bee Balm, Wild Bergamot, Coreopsis, Purple Coneflower, and Little Bluestem. According to Jessica Laden, Palmer's Conservation Agent, the plants were selected to thrive in local conditions with minimal maintenance while providing essential habitat and food sources for pollinators.

"All of them are perennials and chosen to support native pollinator species," Laden explained. "We avoided anything that needs special

care or isn't suited to this part of Massachusetts."

Laden added that the final design differed slightly from the original concept plan, with some species swapped out depending on availability. Additional elements: trees, shrubs, and educational signage; will be added later through a grant from the Hampshire and Hampden Conservation District.

The signage will help inform the public about the plants' ecological value and offer tips for incorporating native species into their own yards.

"This project is about more than beautification," Laden said. "It's about education and encouraging sustainable landscaping practices."

Though the garden is now planted, Blais noted that the project is far from over. The Commission will be adding mulch in the coming days and discussing plans for future community gardening events.

"We're going to let it grow and see how it looks over the coming months," Blais said. "Hopefully this isn't the last garden we do.

We'll see where the wind blows...literally."

He emphasized that the event was an inspiring way to wrap up Earth Month, which featured several conservation-related activities across town.

"I just want to thank everyone who came out and took the time today...on a Saturday, and a holiday weekend no less," Blais said. "It's great to see people taking an interest in their community and in the environment. That gives me a lot of confidence and excitement for what we can do next."

The Brimfield Girl

*Midst a deeply settled bell-ringing village white,
Like from an ancient caravan, come antique
Dealers in an endless line, to embrace the
Beautiful thing of the past. Despite wild downpours
And shivering in tents. That time selects, and seeks
More admirers for. And in the present might*

*Start anew, where innocence and wiles that sway
The grace - as you move tellingly,
Table to table, to and fro.*

*It's why some turn around to look at you so,
Though with direct smile you say you don't see
The effect you tiptoe to this day.*

*Were gathered in just-grown womanhood
Genius of grace: it's you Brimfield girl,
Moving in the May-moment that's flung
Your way. All yours! To sounds unsung
Minuetting without a partner, but whirl
Hearts like reborn blossoms tossed.*

*Gently aglow, molten, often unsealed:
An out-of-breath look your lips present,
At moments - as though a long race has not
Finished, but its inner life you're looking at
And part of: the rose and the snow whose unspent
Rivalry is never over; however concealed.*

*Before you, will be occasions to wear
Gowns that swish, and garlands of flowers,
Or one plucked for your gold braided hair.
And though a lucky prince may put it there,
Why more of this in you: the powers
Of how the world might move here.*

*Soon the rains will go, and cold days pass
Beyond the majestic middle of the year. Unpitched
Are the tents and time somewhere home,
And the snows come and cover the town
And the Heart-O-The-Mart, and the Meadows reached
With different walking, the antiques sold at last.
And it's sometimes hard to see you skip away
Brimfield Girl in the green morning of May.*

- Charles Barnes



A group of volunteers placing the finishing touches on the garden for the day.



The pollinator garden where the plants will reside. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



A wide shot of all the hardworking volunteers after managing 220 plants.

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*Candidate for Re-election
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413-345-5468
Jmorrell144@icloud.com

Roxanne M. Gunther
69 May Hill Rd.
413-364-2036
Donrox20@msn.com

MODERATOR 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

Peter Francis Matrow
*Candidate for Re-election
15 Green St.
413-887-7308
pmatrow@icloud.com

Laurent Raymond McDonald
28 Country Club Hts.
508-344-6354
lrmcdonald65@gmail.com

BOARD OF ASSESSORS 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

Russell Andrew Bressette, Jr.
*Candidate for Re-election
10 Stewart Ave.
413-267-3645
Russ13@comcast.net

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3 YEARS VOTE FOR TWO

Colleen E. Flynn
*Candidate for Re-election
18 Reynolds Ave. B
413-345-0353
cflynn510@gmail.com

Jamie A. Murphy
*Candidate for Re-election
30 Ayers Rd.
413-246-3416
Jmurp8911@gmail.com

John Joseph Beaudoin
48 Wilbraham Rd.
413-575-0175
ajbgroupinc1@gmail.com

WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

Michael T. Szwed
1 Elm St.
413-267-5743
No email on file

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

October Marie Boots
296 Main St.
413-304-0872
Oboots81@gmail.com

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONER 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

Christopher David Howard
5 Bethany Rd.
413-262-3659
Chrishoward338@hotmail.com

HOUSING AUTHORITY 5 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

Dolores Maria Scott
*Candidate for Re-election
93 Hovey Rd.
413-949-4942
Doloresmscott93@gmail.com

Violinist's story of music, medicine, and healing

PALMER – Linda Newland, a violinist who lives in Monson, MA was settling down for a relaxing evening on a warm summer night. Then the unthinkable happened.

"My husband John and I had finished our showers and were looking forward to a movie in bed," Linda recalls. "As I stood by the closet, I thought, 'Strange! I don't have any feeling in my right arm and leg. Something temporary, maybe. I think I'll try walking across the room.' Total disaster! I went down like a rock."

"John was right there, leaning over me, and said, 'Can you get up?' My lips moved, but no words came. 'Can you talk?' he asked. I shook my head. Scooping me up to the bed, he grabbed the phone and dialed 911, with shock and disbelief on his face. 'My wife is having a stroke,' he said. 'How long ago did this happen?' the person on the 911 line asked. 'She's having it now,' John replied. After answering a couple more questions from EMS, he managed to get me into my pajamas while I used my left arm to help put the lifeless right arm into the sleeve."

Emergency medical service (EMS) providers working in the community have a protocol for alerting the Emergency Department (ED) about a suspected stroke. When the EMTs arrived at Linda Newland's home, they made a quick assessment, and the team notified the Emergency Department at Baystate Wing Hospital that they were coming in with a patient suspected to be having a stroke. The care team in the ED quickly called a Stroke Alert and readied to care for Linda.

"It wasn't long before two angels from the EMS team were there, lifting me and somehow getting me down the stairs and into the ambulance," Linda says. "John drove behind them as the EMT, Lisa Hamill, tested my reactions: left side, OK; right side, nil. Then we arrived at Baystate Wing's

Emergency Department, where more angels took over my treatment while discussing the situation with John."

Stroke is the fifth-leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. The entire team at Baystate Wing works closely with area EMS providers to immediately evaluate a patient with suspected stroke symptoms once they arrive at the hospital to expedite care, knowing that every minute counts.

"We are fortunate that Linda's husband recognized her concerning symptoms and immediately called for help, and our EMS team was then able to get her to us as fast as possible," says Dr. Michelle Holton, the Emergency Department physician who cared for Linda. "Once Linda arrived and we were able to evaluate her, it was clear that she was a perfect candidate for thrombolytics, more commonly known as clot busters. For many patients, symptoms such as slurred speech, slight arm or leg weakness, significant dizziness, facial droop, and difficulty speaking, among others are attributed to other things or are ignored, and patients frequently present too late for us to intervene aggressively. This is why it is so important that these symptoms are taken seriously. We were so fortunate to be able to intervene quickly for Linda and to see her regain the function that she has."

A CT scan confirmed that Linda met the criteria for acute stroke treatment and TNK (tenecteplase), was given. TNK is a medication that can quickly dissolve the clots that cause many strokes. By opening a blocked blood vessel and restoring blood flow, TNK can reduce the damage to the brain that occurs during a stroke. To be effective, TNK and other drugs



Linda Newland

like it must be given within a few hours of the stroke symptoms beginning.

The TNK worked quickly. Linda smiled as she found she could lift her right leg and arm a little. When Dr. Holton discussed a further procedure with Linda's husband John, he immediately gave his approval, and Linda was taken by helicopter to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield for a thrombectomy, the surgery to remove the blockage in her artery and restore normal blood flow to her brain.

"With John's permission, they loaded me onto a helicopter, and I was on my way to a miraculous procedure," says Linda.

Linda arrived at Baystate Medical Center where she was cared for by neuroendovascular physician Dr. E. Jesus Duffis, and stroke neurologist Dr. Heydi Flores-Podadera.

"I was the neurologist on call and talked to Dr. Holton, then jumped to the video where we were able to assess Linda, give the thrombolytic and decide need for transfer and intervention," said Dr. Flores-Podadera. "Linda's care happened very quickly and efficiently. The goal for thrombolytics and the procedure known as a thrombectomy, is to obtain better functional outcomes in the next three months. But sometimes we see amazing results similar to Linda's who had a great improvement very soon after the procedure and a complete recovery. These better results depend on many factors, but

definitely, rapid recognition and 911 activation play a very important role."

A thrombectomy involves anesthetizing the patient and then inserting a thin, metallic, stent-like device into an artery in the leg. The neuroendovascular specialist then threads the device up to the blockage in the brain, where it opens to immediately restore blood circulation, eventually grabbing onto the clot and pulling it out. Until recently, clot-busting treatment was the only proven therapy to treat ischemic stroke. Now doctors nationwide are performing this advanced procedure, which has transformed care for those with an acute ischemic stroke. In western MA, the procedure is performed exclusively at Baystate Medical Center's state-of-the-art neuro-interventional laboratory.

"When I woke up at Baystate Medical Center, a smiling nurse put me through a test: 'Can you move your right leg? Your right arm? What is your name? Date of birth?' says Linda. "Then my beloved John was there, leaning over me as I spoke as well as I could through the oxygen mask. 'Well, we can take that off, now, so you can make out what she is saying,' the nurse said. As I formed some words, joy, and relief transformed John's face. I was back again! 'She'll speak better tomorrow morning,' the nurse said, 'but we'll wake her every hour tonight to check on her.'"

Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times.

"The physician who gave me the MRI after her thrombectomy, marveled that in all the years they'd been giving MRIs, they'd never seen such a minimal amount of damage with a major stroke," recalls Linda. I told John to go home and sleep, and the nurse heartily concurred, cautioning him against emotional collapse after the stressful night. He had been central to my quick

treatment. If he hadn't been right with me at the time of my stroke, it would have been a sadder story. I'm forever grateful to all involved in my recovery. Every day is a gift from that devoted crew."

"As soon as I got home, four days after the surgery, I picked up my violin," recounts Linda. "I can do it! Yes! Right arm, right hand, left hand - they all work! My life is back!"

"A few days later, I started giving online lessons, and the week after that, I began teaching all 25 of my precious students in person again. My heartfelt thanks to all who made all these things possible."

Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer and Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where Linda received her care, has received the Get with the Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for their commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, leading to more lives saved and reduced disability. In addition, Baystate Wing also received the American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes™ Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up to date- evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

"We are grateful to our care teams at Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Medical Center who drive our success in delivering the very best care to our patients," says Karli Barrett, MS, RN, NE-BC, vice president and chief nursing officer/ chief administrative officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. "This is an example of our team's hard work and commitment to providing the highest quality of care in the many communities served by Baystate Health."

Monson water quality reports available

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

Hard copies of the report are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free Library located

at 2 High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street Monson, MA.

Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Reunion PHS Class of 1965

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

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

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

Pioneer Valley's Wine and Food Festival to be held June 7-8

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

This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Breweries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the

Pioneer Valley and beyond. The festival will continue its early partnership with Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR).

Featuring local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, plus a sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs like Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary

mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://PIONEERVALLEY-WINEFESTIVAL.COM>.

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



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Bugler Russ Bressette performs taps.



American Legion Commander Carl Santos places the wreath at the Monument.



Local veterans ride in the parade.

Turley photos by Dan Flynn



Attendees salute the American flag as it is being raised to position.



Attendees listen to the National Anthem being performed.



The Monson Fire Department participate in the parade.



Girl Scouts march in the festivities.



Youth baseball was well represented in the parade.

HOLIDAY | from page 1

ficer Hailee Fullen.

Fulton welcomed the ceremony attendees, a crowd of more than 100. Fulton then led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next on the program was Monson Board of Selectmen Chairman John Morrell offered welcoming remarks and thanked all who attended, for taking time out of a holiday weekend, and keeping the meaning of the day forefront in their thoughts.

Fullen then welcomed Post 241 Chaplain Glen Peary and Father Jack from St. Patrick parish for prayers.

Post Commander Santos laid the wreath at the memori-

al and Russ Bressette of Post 241 played taps, followed by a 21-gun salute from the firing detail. Local resident Jordan Doyle came up to the stage to sing the National Anthem.

Commander Santos then returned the colors to their proper position on the flagpole.

Fullen concluded the ceremony and then invited the crowd to attend a collation at TJ's after the conclusion of the ceremony.

"I thought the parade and Memorial Day ceremony went very well," Fullen said. "I look forward to being a part of it next year and cannot thank the Monson Patriotic Committee, members of the American Legion Post 241 and volunteers enough for

their hard work and dedication to the community. Without them, the Memorial Day events wouldn't be the same.

"The event had an amazing turn out. We were blessed with gorgeous weather and it was so nice seeing the Monson community come together to honor the fallen. What made today special was being able to honor all service members who made the ultimate sacrifice especially SrA Jason Phan who I served with during my time at Hanscom Air Force Base. SrA Phan tragically lost his life while deployed in 2020. Memorial Day is for remembering service members like SrA Phan."

At TJ's Tavern after the parade, where dozens attended the meal, volunteers were

busy preparing and cooking for the crowd Debbie Lawrence, proprietor of TJ's Tavern hosted the buffet.

"This buffet is a honor for us to provide," said Lawrence. "With the help of Karen Davis and the Monson Patriotic

Committee, this gathering happens and everyone has a good time. It's a nice way to conclude the day's events."



Parade attendees enjoy a collation after the parade at TJ's Tavern.

BRIMFIELD | from page 3

in 1855 and sits next to the town hall. Much older than the town hall, the Annex boasts a host of its own issues in need of attention.

"The town hall is one of the iconic structures in town and has witnessed almost 150 years of Brimfield life, both mundane and historical. Those generations fulfilled their obligation to its preservation and now it's incumbent upon us to continue that legacy," said local Brimfield town historian Mike DeFalco.

Soon, Brimfield citizens will be asked to vote to save their town hall. A "save" vote will both mod-

ernize and restore many of the historical features of the building and will bring all civic activities back within its walls. All town offices, town board meetings, and town elections will be welcomed back. All town offices will be ADA accessible to the public. "This building is ours" said DeBruin. It belongs to the community and by choosing to invest in it, we are making a profound statement about what we value as a community. We owe it to the past and to the future to preserve it before cost escalations make preservation unattainable. Preservation will allow us to participate in the ongoing story of this building, to be

its caretakers in our time, and to pass it on enriched to the next generation".

If residents have questions about the specific proposed project, they are encouraged to visit the town's building committee web page at www.brimfieldma.org, or contact them via email, also through the web page.

The Brimfield Historical Commission will be hosting an evening exploring the history of the town hall in detail and all interested citizens are encouraged to attend. This presentation will be held at Hitchcock Academy on Thursday, June 5th from 6-7:30pm. Refreshments will be served.



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HIKING | from page 4

took fear as we waited for the storm to pass.

The next three days on trail were a repeat of this one-from sudden downpours to all-day steady rainfall. It was the kind of weather that awakens frustration and aggravation even in the most easygoing of hikers.

After all, rain makes life far more challenging when there is nowhere to go to escape from it. Out here, we eat in the rain, walk in the rain, did a cat hole in the rain. We set up and take down our tent in the rain. We awaken each morning and pull on the wet shoes, socks and clothing that we wore the previous day.

But a strange thing happened on this trip.

We became more accepting of the challenges. We gained perspective... undoubtedly due to the heartache we have been experiencing since our granddaughter, Charlotte's brain cancer diagnosis in January.

On this trip, packing up a sopping wet tent was just packing up a sopping wet tent. Wearing wet shoes and socks for four days was just wearing wet shoes and socks for four days. Not fun. Not enjoyable. But in the grand scheme of things, minor inconveniences and not major catastrophes.

Because we now understand that out here in the wilderness, we have the privilege

to CHOOSE our suffering. It is one of our own making. Going into these long hikes, we are aware that there are numerous variables which will affect our comfort and safety. And we are willing to accept them.

Out here, our 'suffering' pales in comparison to the suffering that some are experiencing in this world. Ours is not cast upon us against our will. Many people don't have a choice.

We have now completed 7 of the 14 states on the A.T. Our 16-day backpacking trip ended abruptly at day six, just after we reached the New York border, due to medical emergency back home. More about that in my next column. See you in the wild places, my friends!



Day 6 at the New Jersey/NewYork border.

Submitted photo

GARDEN | from page 4

All this talk of basil has got me itching to get my transplants into the ground. Soon enough, let's hope!

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



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SOFTBALL

Mustangs come back to beat Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – The three seniors listed on the Monson varsity softball team accomplished something in the regular season finale that hadn't happened since they were freshmen.

The Lady Mustangs snapped their five-game losing streak against Valley Wheel Division rival South Hadley with a 4-2 victory, in a make-up home game held on May 20.

"I don't think we've beaten South Hadley since

our current three seniors were freshmen," said Monson head coach Matt Hull. "Our plan in today's game was to keep bunting against the South Hadley pitcher. She's a quality pitcher and it's very difficult to get base hits against her. We finally played a game where the other team made more errors than us and we came out on top. This is a very big win for us"

The last time that the Lady Mustangs (8-10) defeated the Lady Tigers on the softball diamond was a 1-0

MUSTANGS | page 10

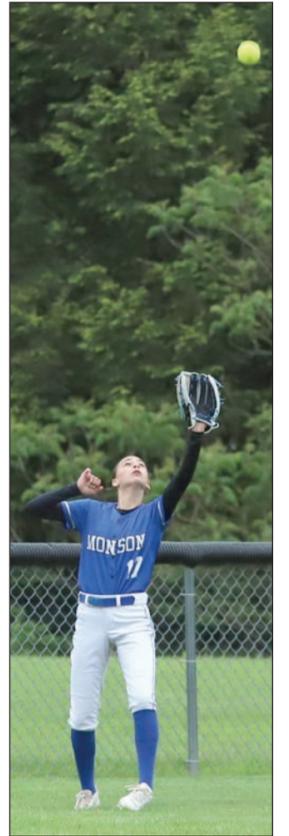


Chelsea Hull sends a pitch to the plate.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Evangeline Renna fields the ball in the shallow outfield.



Cali Zielinski makes a catch in the deep outfield near the fence.



Maya Summers fires a throw to second.



Natalie Hull goes for a bunt.



Molly Szado fouls off a pitch.



Taylor Thorton connects on a base hit.



Sam Prouty hustles for first base.



Emily Forcier fires a throw back to the infield.



Greenly Lagimoniere makes the catch in center.



Kyleigh Travis pinch-runs at first base.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kendra Burke fires to the plate.

SOFTBALL

Pioneers win consolation game

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder softball suffered a tough loss in the quarter-finals of the Western Mass. Class D Tournament 18-0. The Pioneers would then play a pair of consolation non-playoff games, concluding on Monday with SICS. The Pioneers defeated the Bulldogs 7-3 to finish the season 12-5 and increase their standing in the Division 5 State Tournament. Seeds for that tournament will be announced late this week or early next week.

BASEBALL

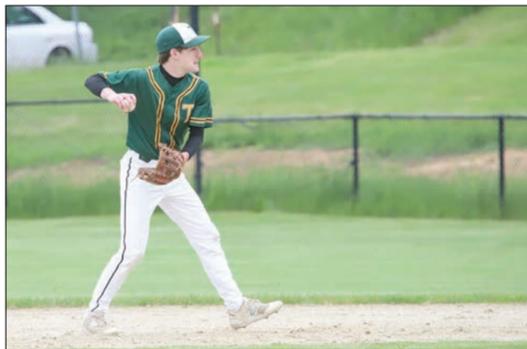
Warriors pick up mercy-rule win

WARREN – Last Monday afternoon, Tantasqua picked up a 17-0 win over host Quaboag. The season has ended for Quaboag at 0-18.

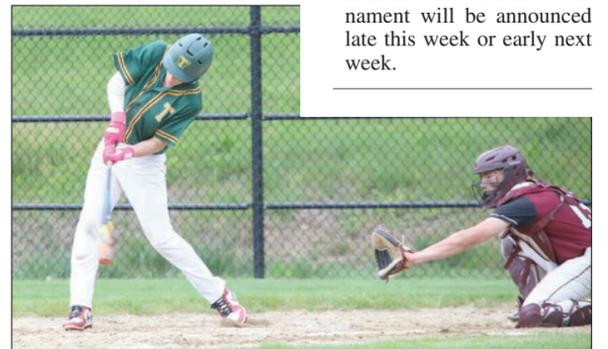
Tantasqua is 12-6 and

holds the No. 24 spot in the power rankings heading into the final week of the season.

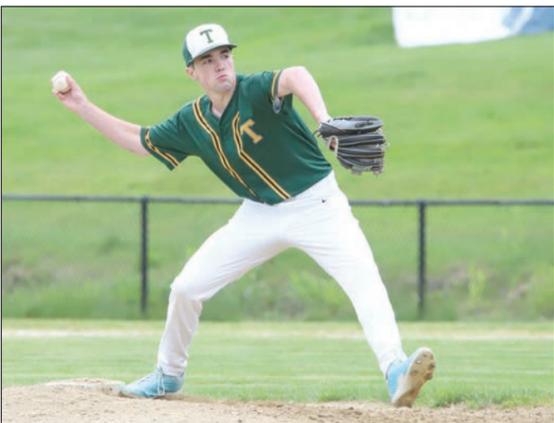
The Warriors will head for the Division 3 State Tournament.



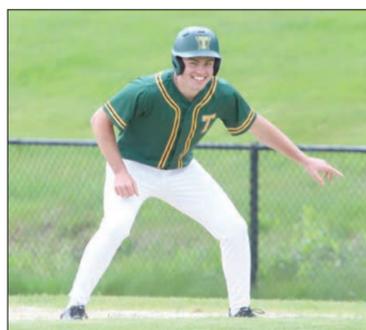
Tyler Truax throws to first.



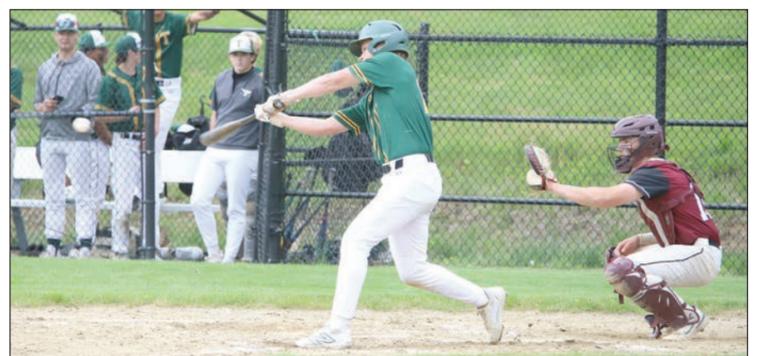
Mark Kenton connects on a base hit.



Evan LaFountain pitches for the Warriors.



Chase Bond leads off first after entering as a pinch-runner.



Jack Nichols goes opposite field.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

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Athlete of the Week

Cali Zielinski
Monson High School

Zielinski made a key catch near the outfield fence early in a matchup last week with South Hadley. The Mustangs came back to get the win.

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

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Summer edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Wednesday Mixed Summer League at Bogey Lanes is two weeks into the season.

The Rolling Stones bowled against Sophia's Raiders in week two. In game one, Rolling Stones prevailed with a win by a score 425-410. In game two, Rolling Stones won again by a score of 441-423.

In game three, Sophia's Raiders won by a score of 450-436. Phil Clough had the high game of 113 to help his team get the win. Total pinfall was won by Rolling Stones with a final score of 1302-1283. The highest game by the Rolling Stones was from Cindy Finney with a 99.

Gutter Fingers bowled

against Kristen's Squad. In game one, Kristen's Squad were victorious by a score of 431-429. Teammate Bob Button and Emily Black each bowled 101 to start the match.

In game two, Kristen's Squad won again by a score of 435-419. The last game was won by Gutter Fingers by a score of 432-414. Both teams tied for total pinfall at 1280.

Straight Shooters bowled against Gutter Dolls. In game one, Gutter Dolls won by a score of 437-432. Alan Nason of Straight Shooters started the match with 112.

In game two, Gutter Dolls won again by a score of 451-448. The last game was won by Gutter Dolls for a three-game sweep over Straight Shooters. Final score was 1326-1300 in favor of Gutter Dolls.

Gutter Snipes bowled

against Clock Barn in week two of the summer league. In game one, Gutter Snipes won the first game by a score of 441-438. Marc Vinciulla of Gutter Snipes began with a 107 game.

In game two, Gutter Snipes won again by a score of 447-423. Vinciulla bested his first game by bowling 111 in game two.

In game three, Gutter Snipes salvaged a three-game sweep over Clock Barn by winning game three, 453-437. Vinciulla finished with 110 and a series of 328. Bob Davenport of Clock Barn finished the match with 109.

Final score was 1341-1298 in favor of Gutter Snipes.

The Wednesday Mixed Summer League welcomed another team to the league. The Swistaks (Dawn, Kathy, Pete and Steve) will be bowling this summer at Bogey Lanes.

Basketball Hall of Fame announces college series

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced the field for the 2025 Hall of Fame Series Baltimore at the CFG Bank Arena on Monday, Nov. 3. This marks the Hall of Fame's return to Charm City following last year's successful debut event.

The Baltimore double-header will feature compelling local matchups that celebrate the region's rich basketball heritage. Headlining the night, Maryland will face Coppin State—located 30 and 3 miles from CFG Bank Arena, respectively—while Towson takes on Loyola Maryland, situated just 10 and 6 miles away. These regional matchups promise an electric atmosphere and a can't-miss night

of college basketball.

"Returning to Baltimore for a second year demonstrates the growing excitement around the Hall of Fame Series and the region's passion for college basketball," said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. "With Maryland headlining alongside respected local programs like Coppin State, Towson, and Loyola, this event highlights the incredible basketball tradition in and around Baltimore. It's an honor to partner with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to bring these matchups back to the world-class CFG Bank Arena."

Fans can sign up for pre-sale information now at HOFSeries.com. Further details regarding ticketing,

game time, broadcast coverage, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a premier collection of multi-game, singular events that feature top collegiate basketball programs in high-profile non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoenix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit HOFSeries.com or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

Western Mass. Pioneers up regular season with pair of wins

LUDLOW – Ahead of their home opener on Friday, May 23, the Western Mass. Pioneers played their first two regular season games in the USL-2 League. On Thursday, May 15, the Pio-

neers defeated Boston City 9-0, then defeated Albany Rush on Monday, May 19 6-0. There was no shortage of offense for the Pioneers as they geared up for their home opener against Seacoast

United Phantoms. Following that matchup, the Pioneers are headed for Boston to play the Bolts on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. Their next home game is Friday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Luistano Stadium.

MUSTANGS | from page 9

home win on May 17, 2022.

One of the Lady Mustangs seniors is Molly Szado, who was the winning pitcher against South Hadley as a freshman. She allowed four base hits and recorded nine strikeouts in the 1-0 victory.

Szado, who's a right-hander, also had 19 strikeouts in a 7-2 road win in her first varsity start against the Lady Tigers during that same season.

The other two Monson seniors this spring are Ella Corthell, who's the starting centerfielder, and Natalie Hull, who starts at second base.

South Hadley senior right-hander Isabella Schaeffer was the losing pitcher in both games against Monson as a freshman. She then won the next five games in the series.

The Lady Tigers (11-7) posted a 4-3 extra inning home victory in the first meeting of this season on April 10.

The other seniors listed on the South Hadley roster are Alannah Mackay (first baseman), Sophia Butler (shortstop), Karli Carmody (centerfielder), and Sevilla Kinney (leftfielder).

There are also six eighth graders listed on the Lady Tigers roster. They were on a class trip to Philadelphia and Washington D.C. last week.

"It was challenging without the eighth graders today," said South Hadley head coach Arianna Williams. "We're looking forward to their return."

The starting pitchers in the second meeting of this season were Schaeffer, who struck out 20 batters in the first meeting, and sophomore left-hander Chelsea Hull.

Hull struck out the first two batters that she faced in the top of the first inning before Schaeffer drew a walk on a full count pitch. Butler also didn't swing at a 3-2 pitch out of the strike zone, which put two runners on base. Then sophomore Natalie Quinn blooped a single into shallow right field giving the Lady Tigers an early 1-0 lead.

Schaeffer, who had ten strikeouts in the second meeting, struck out the first five Monson batters that she faced.

With two outs in the second inning, freshman leftfielder Cali Zielinski attempted to bunt, but sophomore catcher Ryley McMahon caught the pop-up.

The home team did put down six consecutive bunts and they took advantage of a couple of errors to take a 4-1 lead in the following inning. Freshman third baseman

Grace Berry began the bottom of the third inning with a walk. Freshman first baseman Madelynn Caron bunted back to the pitcher, but she was safe at first base when the second baseman dropped the throw, which put runners at the corners. Both runners scored on another fielding error following a bunt from eighth grade right fielder Evie Renna. Natalie Hull also had a bunt hit before an infield hit by her younger sister scored two more runs.

Those were the Lady Mustangs only runs and hits of the ballgame.

"We struggled defensively in that one inning," Williams said. "We just need to be more focused entering the postseason tournament."

Schaeffer retired nine of the final eleven Monson batters that she faced, which gave her team an opportunity to make a comeback.

With two-outs in the fifth, Butler hit a flyball single to left field, scoring Carmody, who slapped a ground ball single into left field.

The Lady Tigers had runners on first and second in that same inning before Chelsea Hull recorded her tenth and final strikeout.

Hull was replaced in the middle of the circle by Szado at the start of the sixth inning.

Szado struck out the three batters on nine pitches for an immaculate inning.

"I thought Chelsea pitched well in the first five innings," coach Hull said. "Then Molly had the immaculate inning, which I've only seen in travel ball. It's a very difficult thing to do. We have two very good pitchers."

With one-out in the seventh inning, Carmody hit a double to left field. After the next batter grounded out, Schaeffer drew a walk bring-

ing the potential go-ahead run to the plate. Butler hit a ground ball, which deflected off Caron's glove at first. The ball was quickly fielded by Chelsea Hull, who had moved to second base. She tossed the ball back to Caron for the final out of the game.

Both teams began the Western Mass. tournament the following day.

The third-seeded Lady Tigers defeated sixth-seeded Pittsfield, 6-3, in a Class B quarterfinal home game.

Schaeffer allowed three runs on six hits with 15 strikeouts.

There was a little more drama in the Class D quarterfinal game between fifth-seeded Lee and fourth-seeded Monson. The Class D contest was scoreless until an infield bloop hit by Renna in the bottom of the seventh inning giving the Lady Mustangs a thrilling 1-0 home victory.

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Brimfield Boy Scout Troop 7 lining up to march in the Parade.



The Veterans being called down the walkway in order of the wars they fought.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



State Representative and Keynote Speaker Todd Smola, talking about how veterans are the backbone of this country.



Sixth grader Henry Adams reciting Ralph Waldo Emerson's Concord Hymn.



The Veteran's Wagon the Village Green Campground provided.

HEROES | from page 1

ue such as honor, patriotism, and the ultimate value of life. Veterans from multiple eras and services were recognized, including Michael Morris, WWII Army veteran Richard Stanton, and others who left a lasting impact on the community.

Giana Uwazany's performance of "Amazing Grace" served as a poignant tribute to these lives, her voice capturing the bittersweet harmony of memory and loss.

The program also highlighted Brimfield's youth. Sixth-grade student Laura North offered a thoughtful overview of the origins of Memorial Day, tracing its roots from the Civil War era when it was known as Decoration Day, to its current sta-

tus as a National Day of Remembrance. Fellow student Henry Adams recited Ralph Waldo Emerson's Concord Hymn, invoking "the shot heard round the world" to connect today's observance with the nation's founding moments.

Mike DeFalco, local historian and member of the Brimfield Historical Commission, delivered a keynote address rich in both solemnity and pride. DeFalco wove local history into the national tapestry, noting that 288 of Brimfield's 240 eligible men (a testament to multiple enlistments and volunteers beyond the census) took up arms in the Revolutionary War. He highlighted the town's early resistance to British rule through the 1773 Resolutions and 1774 Covenant, and

shared a lesser-known story of four Hessian prisoners of war, including Dr. Julius Wasmus, who were housed in Brimfield in 1777 and integrated into community life.

DeFalco's remarks were also part of a broader theme: the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. He reminded the audience of the sacrifices that secured liberty, honoring not only American fighters but foreign allies such as Lafayette, Pulaski, and von Steuben, whose contributions helped shape victory.

The event's special guest, State Representative Todd Smola, praised the ceremony and emphasized the ongoing responsibility of citizens to preserve the legacy of freedom. He highlighted Massachusetts' pivotal role in American history, sharing

an anecdote of a fellow legislator awed by the historic State House in Boston. Smola urged all attendees to become "teachers" of patriotic values to future generations, stressing the importance of civic engagement in today's world.

He also drew attention to the recently passed HERO Act, which addresses veterans' mental health and transitional support. "Many wounds are invisible," Smola said, underscoring the need for year-round care and respect for veterans.

Following Smola's address, local carpenter and singer Bill Goodspeed performed "More Than a Name on a Wall," offering a heartfelt reminder of the human stories behind the headstones.

Reverend Brennan returned to deliver a final ben-

ediction, praying for peace, healing, and appreciation of both the living and the fallen. His message echoed the ceremony's core: remembrance, gratitude, and unity.

The event concluded with a community parade led by Officer-in-Charge Joe Ballou. Marchers included veterans, scouts, town departments, and members of the public. The procession stopped at key memorial sites, where wreaths were laid, flags raised, and Taps played by Bob Frydryck and Grant MacFarlane. Bagpiper Tina Harkness lent a haunting rendition of "Amazing Grace," and carnations were placed on veterans' graves in a quiet, reflective gesture.

Behind the scenes, countless individuals and groups made the day possible: Brim-

field Boy Scout Troop 7, the Village Green Campground (which provided the Veterans' Wagon), American Legion Post 109, Green Thumb Florist, Hitchcock Academy, and the Highway, Police, and Fire Departments, among others.

Musical highlights included a powerful rendition of "God Bless America" by Giana Uwazany, a Brimfield native and current master's student in music performance at Bridgewater State University.

The day ended with a simple but heartfelt thank-you from Cindy Skowrya to the town: "Brimfield, you are a wonderful community."

Ice cream was served on the Common following the parade, an offering of sweetness to close a day of solemn pride.

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Public notices

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, §8 and §15, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 26th, 2025, at 7:10 P.M.** at the Monson Town Offices located at 110 Main St., Monson, MA to hear an appeal of a determination made by Monson Zoning Enforcement Officer dated May 7th, 2025. Melissa Blackburn of 218 Cedar Swamp Road is appealing the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer as it relates to the property is located at 222 Cedar Swamp Road, Map 122 and Parcel 3C, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the appeal is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
05/29, 06/05/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John M. Arooth a/k/a John M. Arooth, Sr. to Monson Savings Bank, said mortgage being dated April 25, 2019, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22658, Page 118, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosure, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 27, 2025**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 95 Upper Palmer Road, Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land lying on the Easterly side of the highway leading from Monson to Palmer known as Margaret Street, in the Town of Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a pipe set in the intersection of stone walls at the Northwest corner of land now or formerly of John S. Arooth et ux. and tract to be conveyed and at the Southwest corner of land now or formerly of one Rindge; thence running

Along Margaret Street, and a stone retaining wall South 18° 35' 20" West 150.03 feet to a drill hole in a rock; thence running

Along land of said John S. Arooth et ux., South 74° 26' 40" East 152.65 feet to a pipe; thence running

Along land of said John S.

Arooth et ux., passing through the center of a large rock, North 18° 35' 20" East 150.03 feet to an iron pipe set in the stone wall at land now or formerly of said Rindge; thence running

Along land now or formerly of said Rindge and a stone wall, North 74° 26' 40" West 152.65 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing about 22,800 square feet.

Being the same property conveyed to John M. Arooth and Deborah Lynne Arooth, Husband and Wife, as tenants by the entirety, and not as tenants in common by Deed from John M. Arooth, Married recorded 01/07/1976 in Deed Book 4220 Page 358, in the Registry of Deeds Plan for Hampden County, MA.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$10,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$10,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale

shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

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

MONSON SAVINGS BANK, Present Holder of said Mortgage
By:
David A. Lavenburg, Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FY26 BUDGET

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY26 Budget for the Town of Palmer, on **Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6:45pm** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA 01069. Anyone interested in being heard should appear at the time and place designated above.

Palmer Town Council
05/29, 06/05/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOAN AUTHORIZATION 2025-03

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **June 9, 2025 at 6:35 PM** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer for public comment on proposed Loan Authorization 2025-03 to approve a loan order in the amount of \$2,280,000 to pay costs of designing, constructing, reconstructing, and equipping a centrifuge sludge dewatering system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Palmer Town Council
05/29, 06/05/2025

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 001317 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Joseph E. McLellan III; Renee A. Vaillancourt

And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

CitiMortgage, Inc.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Brimfield, numbered 64 Washington Road, given by Joseph E McLellan III and Renee A Vaillancourt to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated July 18, 2014, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 136, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated January 22, 2018 and recorded at said Registry in Book 22157, Page 559 and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 30, 2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIP-

ER, Chief Justice of said Court on May 22, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
05/29/2025

Monson Housing Authority for Property

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, June 26th, 2025 at 7:05 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Equestrian Hills Estates, LLC, Stafford Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Rural Residential and located on Stafford Road, Map 101, Parcel 007. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
05/29, 06/05/2025

DEADLINE

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

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Fire Logs

MONSON FIRE LOG

MONSON – The Monson Fire Department responded 4 fire calls and 22 medical calls for the week of Monday, May 19 through Sunday, May 25.

On Friday, May 23 at 7:42 a.m., the Department responded to Wilbraham Road for the residential fire alarm sounding. The Department returned back in service at 8:13 a.m.

On Saturday, May 24 at 10:37 p.m., the Department responded to Bethany Road for the oil leak. The Department returned back in service at 11:05 p.m.

On Sunday, May 25 at 6:56 p.m., the Department responded to Hovey Road for the vehicle fire. The Department returned back in service at 8:13 p.m.

On Sunday, May 25 at 9:38 p.m., the Department responded to Main Street for the sprinkler activation. The Department returned back in service at 10:23 p.m.

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Obituary

Robert Thomas Levesque

Robert Thomas Levesque, aged 81, of Monson, MA, passed away at his home on May 15, 2025. Born on December 22, 1943, Robert was the son of Edgar and Ruth (Miller) Levesque, both of whom preceded him in death. He leaves behind his children, Craig Levesque (Chelsey), Daniel Levesque, and Lisa Ronaldson (Leif), along with being a Grandpa to Nicholas, Madelyn, Mia Levesque, and Ava, Maggie, and Brady Robinson. Raised



in Monson on Maxwell Road, Robert embraced the values of hard work from a young age. He garnered a Ph.D. in Hard Knocks, a testament to his approach to life's challenges with grit and determination. As a second-generation heavy hauler, he owned and operated LJR Trucking Inc in Monson. He had an appreciation for building and racing cars in his youth and devoted much of his later years to restoring older vehicles. He had a soft spot for

the music of Elvis and even remembered him during his youth. Known for his bear hugs and engaging storytelling, Robert had a unique ability to connect with others, leaving a lasting impression wherever he went. Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by a service and personal words of remembrance at 1:30 p.m. A graveside service will be held Monday, June 2 at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Cemetery. Please meet directly at the cemetery. For those wishing, donations may be made to "Make a Wish".

DEATH NOTICES

Levesque, Robert Thomas
Died May 15
Services June 1
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

BUDGET | from page 1

"We made a number of intentional reductions that did not impact the classroom," said Francis.

Among the adjustments:

- A \$12,000 cut to the superintendent and professional development line.

- Elimination of a paraprofessional position at Palmer High School (PHS) due to a staff retirement.

- The discontinuation of a small after-school program at PHS, saving an additional \$1,700.

- A reduction to the summer SPED supplies line, while still ensuring that actual services will be delivered through other budget categories.

However, some increases were necessary. Legal and security-related funding has been increased to address potential liabilities and anticipated needs.

Looking back at FY25, the district's \$20.36 million budget included important investments in technology infrastructure, curriculum, instructional software, and summer programming; expenditures aimed at long-

term academic growth and engagement.

Enrollment growth and preschool planning signal funding shifts

Student enrollment has increased by about 20 students since October 1, an uptick that may impact Chapter 70 state aid allocations. Superintendent Francis emphasized that even modest enrollment growth has financial implications in a formula-driven state funding system.

However, some financial stressors remain. The district's Medicaid reimbursements are rising, but those funds are sent to the town's general revenue, not directly to the school district, making long-term budget planning more complex.

The district also faces pressure around its preschool expansion, which has been funded through a dedicated revolving account. That fund, however, is expected to be depleted by the end of FY26.

"Our revolving account will be exhausted after FY26... we'll have to plan accordingly," said Francis, noting the need for sustainable funding solutions moving forward.

Transportation Costs: A persistent budget variable

Student transportation continues to pose fiscal unpredictability for the district. The FY26 budget allocates approximately \$1.8 million toward transportation, which includes regular bus routes, special education transport, and extracurricular travel.

Several contributing factors were highlighted:

- Unplanned special education placements, which may require out-of-district transportation.

- McKinney-Vento Act mandates to provide transportation for homeless or foster students, regardless of where they live.

- Successful athletic programs advancing to regional or state competitions, which require travel beyond normal district routes.

"Transportation is volatile," Francis explained. "A successful sports team or a new SPED student can blow up the budget."

To manage these financial uncertainties, the district strategically reserves School Choice funds for emergencies and leverages circuit breaker reimbursements to close year-

end shortfalls in special education transportation costs.

Grade 8 Students Bring Community Concerns to Life Through Civics Project

In one of the most engaging segments of the evening, Grade 8 students from Palmer Middle School presented their Civics Project findings to the committee, highlighting four key issues that they believe need urgent attention.

1. *Lack of an Athletic Trainer:*

Students voiced strong concern over the absence of an on-site athletic trainer, noting the risks posed to the school's 142 student-athletes.

"Being able to have an athletic trainer to assess you after an injury that could be detrimental is huge," said Evelyn Ledoux.

2. *Field Conditions and Safety:*

Poor maintenance of the school's athletic fields was raised as a serious safety concern.

"I am scared that I will injure myself," said Owen Kupiak Fox, calling for better upkeep.

3. *Schedule Reform:*
The current 84-minute

class blocks were criticized for being too long to maintain focus and engagement.

"With eighty-four minute classes, students get distracted after a while," said Emma Gomes.

4. *Yondr Pouches (Phone Policy):*

The district's phone pouch policy was described as anxiety-inducing, especially in the context of school emergencies.

"In case of an emergency, we won't be able to contact them [our families]," said Kayla Reynolds.

Committee members thanked the students for their well-researched presentations and agreed to review the issues in future meetings.

At Old Mill Pond School, students wrapped up MCAS testing and took part in numerous enrichment activities:

- The Ecology School trip, where sixth graders explored environment

- A well-attended Career Day and Art Show.

- Athletic achievements through the Girls on the Run program.

"The students loved the food and activities," said Olivia Squires, a Grade 6 student council member.

HEARING | from page 1

railroad tracks emphasized that no spraying would occur within 10 feet of wetlands. Herzog noted, "The wetlands won't actually cross the railroad; it's just where there's a wetland that approaches within 10 feet." The commission opted to continue the hearing to June 17 pending a site visit to verify mapped wetland boundaries.

Next, the Commission approved a plan to conduct pond maintenance at 276 Flint Street. Patricia Poehler, represented by Don Frederick and Mark Rubin of Goddard Consulting, proposed sediment removal from two in-stream ponds. Biologist Mark Rubin assured the Commission of minimal ecological disruption, stating, "As long as it's filled back up by October, I can't see any negative impact to wildlife." Special conditions were attached to ensure habitat protection during the proposed work window from late July through September.

The third hearing in-

involved construction plans for a single-family home on Lot 8 Foster Street by Cedar Construction LLC. Neighbors voiced concern over runoff from an adjacent property, Lot 7, which falls outside the commission's jurisdiction. "There doesn't seem to be a responsible party. You call DPW, nothing happens," one resident commented. Commissioners discussed the broader issue of cross-departmental accountability and the need for a designated stormwater coordinator. The project was approved with conditions, including recording an operation and maintenance plan to ensure ongoing oversight.

Frustration mounted during the final hearing regarding the State Street Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) subdivision project. Continued for a third time without a representative present or a completed site visit, the Commission voted to continue the hearing once more, to June 17, but stipulated that future continuance requests would require in-person representation. "After

this, if there's been no site visit, any continuance will be at our choosing," said Chairperson Donald Blais Jr.

Graffiti, Trail Conditions to Be Addressed in June

A working session has been scheduled for June 6 to assess trail conditions and address recent vandalism at the First Street gazebo. Graffiti removal and general maintenance needs will be prioritized during this session, which will take place in the early afternoon.

Other Updates and Reminders

- Eight rain barrels remain available for sale through the town's sustainability program.

- Future regular meetings are scheduled for June 17, July 15, and August 19. The Commission will return to a bi-monthly schedule starting in September.

As Palmer continues to balance development and conservation, the Commission remains a key forum for managing environmental concerns while engaging the public in stewardship of the town's natural resources.

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For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at **(774) 315-3107** or by email: brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com

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Applicants must possess at least a Massachusetts Class D driver's license. Class A or B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement is preferred. Must possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$22.00 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Post your job openings in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!

HELP WANTED

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer**. Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR**.

18 hours per week to be worked Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour based on experience. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

YARD AND BARN HELP. 14-years or older working with Morgan horses, grooming and helping with showing (I need some good help). **508-867-7855**.

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

FOR RENT

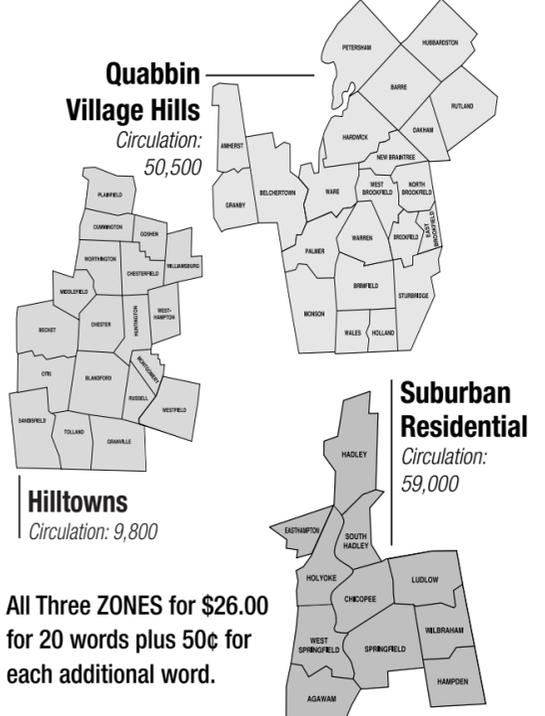
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about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

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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

In the classroom

Teens take center stage at 18 under 18 awards dinner

SPRINGFIELD – Cheers, applause and proud smiles filled the room as the community came together to recognize the inspiring achievements of some young, local trailblazers. Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts (JAWM) honored the 18 Under 18 Class of 2025 at a special celebration sponsored by Teddy Bear Pools and Spas, Holyoke Community College, Savage Arms and The UPS Store. About 120 people attended the event at Storowton Carriage House on Monday, putting a spotlight on outstanding teenagers from throughout Western Massachusetts who exemplify innovative spirit, leadership and community involvement.

“It was a wonderful night celebrating 18 inspiring young people from across Western Mass.,” said Amie Miarecki, president, JAWM. “They go above and beyond to serve their communities and lead by example. We are proud of their accomplishments and can see a very bright future ahead of them.”

Two local students who were members of the 18 Under 18 Class of 2025:



Kassandra Perry



Howard Wichert

Howard Wichert
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School

Kassandra Perry
Palmer High School

The event featured Western New England University’s Brenda Garton-Sjoberg as the emcee. Speakers included Ted Herbert, owner of Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Ted; William Reyes-Cubides, Assistant Vice President of Student Success at Holyoke Community College; and Charter Oak Financial’s Terrell Joyner, head of The Consulting Web and co-chair of the JAWM Board of Directors.

Nominations for 18 Under 18 were open to anyone 18 years or younger who attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties, as

well as the Quabbin, Quabog and Tanta-squa regional school districts and the state of Vermont.

About Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts

Junior Achievement Worldwide (JA) is the world’s largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA learning experiences are delivered by educators and community volunteers and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from ages 5 through 25 knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. JA was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1919, making Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts (JAWM) the organization’s first chapter. Today, it serves thousands of young people in Western Massachusetts and parts of Worcester County and Vermont who participate in JAWM learning experiences annually. For more information, visit jawm.org.

College notes

Sayball-Wimmer named to Clarkson University’s Spring 2025 Dean’s List

POTSDAM, NY – Ty Morgan Sayball-Wimmer of Bondsville, MA, a junior majoring in business intelligence and data analytics, was named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean’s List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Ty Sayball-Wimmer named a Presidential Scholar at Clarkson

POTSDAM, NY – Ty Morgan Sayball-Wimmer of Bondsville, MA, a junior majoring in business intelligence and data analytics, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Spring 2025 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Abel Lidonde graduates from Holy Cross

WORCESTER – Abel Lidonde of Holland received a bachelor of arts degree from College of the Holy Cross.

Lidonde is among 733 bachelor of arts degree recipients Holy Cross celebrated at its 179th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 23 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Dr. Linda LeMura, president of Le Moyné College and the first female layperson to be named president of a Jesuit institution of higher education in the United States delivered this year’s address to the Class of 2025 and received an honorary degree.

Malone receives Bachelor’s Degree at WPI

WORCESTER – On Friday, May 16, Ryan Malone, from Brimfield, who majored in Mechanical Engineering, was bestowed a bachelor’s degree at WPI’s 156th Commencement. Nearly 1,300 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

SNHU Spring Dean’s List

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

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

Emma Keith of Brimfield
Josslyn Seals of Bondsville

SNHU President’s List

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

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

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

Read The Journal Register online at journalregister.turley.com

HCC awards \$364,400 in scholarships

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$364,400 in scholarships to students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000.

HCC celebrated this year’s recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 15.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college’s mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

An alphabetical list of all scholarship recipients and their awards can also be viewed on the HCC website.

FISKDALE:
Amy Woods

MONSON:
Ambar Cabral Mendez
Cady Grant
Kim Harris
Kazelis Rosario

PALMER:
Jeffry Black
Lauren Pari
Lauren Vaill

THREE RIVERS:
Richard Gula
Joseph Voudren

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Gathering

WHAT IS IT?

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

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

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

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

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

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

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month

3:00pm-4:30pm

at The Palmer Public Library

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

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

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!



The Palmer High Marching Band and the Color Guard.



Palmer Boy Scout Crew 164 marching in the parade with flags held high.



A military truck is filled with veterans. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



The Palmer softball Little League sitting on the bed of a truck handing out candy and beads to other kids.



Two officers lead the Palmer High School baseball and softball teams through the parade.



Veterans walk in the parade as flag bearers.



An old-fashioned fire engine that has been restored and repainted.



Cool Car Driving through the parade.



The Palmer baseball Little League throwing candy to other kids on the sides of the parade.



The Palmer High Drum Major directs the rest of the Marching Band to play while walking.



The 21-Gun is often performed at military or state funerals.



Keynote Speaker, Todd Smola, giving a speech on the necessity of our armed forces.



Palmer Boy Scout Troop 64 marching in the parade with flags held high.



A small Palmer Girl Scout contingent marching in the Parade with their flags.

FALLEN | from page 1

Father Richard Turner of St. Thomas Parish offered the opening invocation, calling for blessings on those who gave their lives in defense of the country and strength for those carrying their legacy forward. His words set the tone for a day rooted in remembrance and reflection. A formal proclamation that was received from Governor Maura Healey was read aloud during the ceremony. The message traced the origins of Memorial Day back to its beginnings as Decoration Day following the Civil War. It acknowledged the sacrifices made by thousands of Massachusetts residents across generations and urged citizens to reflect on the high cost of freedom. The proclamation declared May 26, 2025, as

Memorial Day in the Commonwealth and was signed by the governor, Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll, and Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin. Several town officials were in attendance, including Town Manager Brad Brothers and Town Councilors Robert Marcaccio, Carl Williams, Matt Lemieux, and Jessica Ferry. Councilor Ferry addressed the crowd on behalf of the Palmer Town Council. She thanked residents for standing together as a community and emphasized that Memorial Day is more than a holiday; it is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who served. She spoke of how service continues at home, through everyday actions and commitments that build stronger communities. She highlighted the continued

dedication of local veterans, many of whom return from duty and serve as coaches, mentors, and volunteers. Her message called on the community to carry forward the values of unity, compassion, and public service. The keynote speaker, State Representative and Palmer native Todd Smola, delivered a powerful address. He began by thanking the honor guard and local veterans who had spent the past several days visiting cemeteries and participating in ceremonies throughout the region. Smola reminded attendees that this year marks the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and spoke with pride about the important role Massachusetts played in the birth of the nation. He tied the legacy of the Revolution to the present-day sacrifices of

American service members. Smola also spoke about recent legislative efforts in Massachusetts to support veterans. He referenced the Hero Act, which was passed in response to concerns about unmet mental health needs among veterans. He described heartbreaking accounts of veterans suffering in silence for years due to shame, fear, or lack of resources. He emphasized that the scars of war are not always visible and urged greater understanding and support for those who carry them. Smola praised the character and courage of veterans, calling them extraordinary individuals whose service extends beyond the battlefield. He encouraged young people in the audience to speak with veterans in their families and communities, to

learn about their experiences, and to understand the burdens they bear. He reminded everyone that true appreciation for freedom includes caring for those who protect it and honoring their legacy not just on Memorial Day but every day. He closed by affirming that America's strength lies in the willingness of its citizens to serve and sacrifice for others. The Palmer High School Band performed throughout the ceremony, offering stirring renditions of patriotic songs including "Salute to Freedom," the "Presidential March," and "God Bless America." Their music added emotional resonance to the program and was met with enthusiastic applause. A rifle salute was delivered by a combined honor guard representing local veterans organizations, followed

by the playing of "Taps," a moment that brought the crowd to quiet attention in memory of the fallen. Father Turner returned to deliver the closing benediction, asking for continued blessings on those who serve, guidance for the future, and a renewed commitment to peace and unity. The ceremony concluded with a final musical tribute from the Palmer High School Band. As the last notes of "God Bless America" echoed across the memorial grounds, residents stood in respectful silence, remembering those who gave everything so that others might live in freedom. The Town of Palmer once again showed that Memorial Day is not only a day of remembrance, but a reflection of community, resilience, and enduring gratitude.