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☆ Congratulations to the CLASS OF 2026 ☆

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

Palmer High celebrates newest class at graduation

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – This past Saturday, the high school dismissed the graduates of the Class of 2026 with a heartfelt indoor ceremony.

The May 31 ceremony was held in the high school auditorium due to rain that started up just as the school band started playing Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." Principal Sue North introduced each of the speakers individually, and provided background on their accomplishments, starting with Class President Kelsey Coyle, who was praised for her time on the Student Council, as well as 30 hours of community service as part of an EMT course.

"Thank you all for your endless support throughout these difficult years, whether it was through leading us, encouraging us, or simply listening. You never gave up on us," Coyle said. "Tonight, I want you to allow yourself to feel whatever it is that you're feeling, whether it's tears, laughter, excitement, or fear. Enjoy it, because this feeling will only come once in your life."

Coyle was followed by Superintendent Matthew Francis, who recognized students who were going on to



Confetti was fired at the graduating seniors to close out the Palmer High School graduation ceremony.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Salutatorian Chloe Weirbrick read the Salutatory Address.



Valedictorian Hannah Roy delivers her remarks.

two- or four-year colleges, attending a trade school, entering the workforce, or signing on to the armed services.

"The act of giving respect will open more doors than credential ever could," Francis said. "Kindness may seem simple, but it is powerful in a world that can be loud, volatile, and extremely divided. Kindness is revolutionary, whether it was helping a friend through a tough time or simply sharing a smile in the hallway. You've shown us how small acts can make a big difference. As you step forward, let kindness be your superpower, not just something you do, but something you live by."

The class then performed

its Senior Class Song, "Land-slide" by Fleetwood Mac, with lyrics projected onto the ceiling of the auditorium. This was followed by an address by Salutatorian and National Honors Society Secretary Chloe Weirbrick.

"I feel that one of the most essential components of my life thus far has been the drive, confidence, and grace these role models have instilled in me," Weirbrick said. "As I plan to attend Westbrook State University in the fall as an early childhood education major, and my peers pursue their various educational, workforce, and military decisions, I expect we will rely heavily on the lessons we've learned from our

incredible teachers, not only in their designated subject or grade level, but, specifically in my case, how they taught me to be proud of myself, as well as empowering my passion of doing the same for the future generation."

The assembly was then treated to a speech by Valedictorian Hannah Roy, who was praised for her time as Vice President of the National Honors Society, and as a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association student ambassador.

"As kids, we dreamed freely," Roy said. "But what was once viewed as cute and met with words of encour-

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MONSON HIGH SCHOOL



The graduating class of Monson High School 2026 threw their caps in the air as their graduation ceremony came to an end.

Photos by Quinn Suomala

MHS celebrates graduation

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

MONSON – Monson came together to celebrate this year's high school graduates.

Monson High School had a graduating class of 36 this year, with 8 students be-

longing to the National Honors Society.

Families, friends, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate the seniors and all of their achievements.

In athletics, the class of 2026 has achieved the newest 1,000 point score and they achieved the all time state leader in soccer goals scored.

In the arts, students

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Valedictorian Sophia Galarneau reminisced on her and her fellow graduates' time at Monson High School.



Salutatorian Brady Ronaldson gives his speech at graduation.

PATHFINDER TECH

Pathfinder celebrates student accomplishments with Awards Night

By Marcelo Gusmao
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PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School recently hosted its 52nd Annual Awards Night to celebrate its students for their accomplishments, talent, and dedication.

On Wednesday, May 14, 141 students in all grade levels were recognized for excellence across their re-

spective academic disciplines and Career and Technical Education programs. Students received plaques, trophies, gifts, and special recognitions that reflected their hard work and perseverance throughout the year.

The celebration began with a reception in the cafeteria, where attendees could gather to enjoy a selection of house-made hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by the

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Submitted Photos

Superintendent Eric Duda presented graduating senior Autumn Nagle with the Rensselaer Medal Award.



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BASEBALL

Palmer baseball finishes regular season

PALMER – The Palmer High School baseball team was not successful in this year’s Western Massachusetts Class D Tournament, but they were able to score a pair of wins in non-playoff action.

The Panthers defeated neighboring rival Monson High School 13-3 on Wednesday, May 20, and followed that the very next day with an 11-2 win over local rival Pathfinder Tech in a makeup game under the lights at Legion Field.

In the win over Monson, Sebastian Mayberry gave the Panthers a big boost with a complete game win, throwing just 86 pitches and allowing two earned runs on five hits. He walked four and struck out five while Palmer’s offense helped get the game over with in five innings by the mercy rule. Dylan Holbrook had three this and two RBI while Brendan Hess had two hits and four RBI in the victory.

Palmer, with a 12-7 record, earned the right to enter the Division 5 state tournament this year and was scheduled for a Western Mass. matchup to open, making the trip to Northfield to take on Pioneer Valley Regional High School last Monday. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week’s edition.

SOFTBALL

Monson softball wins state playoff opener

MONSON – Last Sunday afternoon, the Monson High School softball team opened up the Division 5 State Tournament with a big 7-0 shutout of Rockport High School. Chelsea Hull pitched and hit Monson to a win with a complete game, three-hitter plus three hits on offense along with two runs scored and an RBI. Cali Zielinski contributed three hits and three runs scored, and Grace Berry turned in three RBI. Monson, now 15-7, was scheduled to face Tahanto earlier this week in the Round of 16.



Elle Somers takes a swing at the plate.



Grace Berry sends a throw to second.



Audrey Gregoire makes the catch in the outfield.



Chelsea Hull sends a pitch away.



Mai Uliana makes an easy throw.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Noella Parker slings a throw over to first.



Kursten Shade looks to shoot in traffic.



Kayleigh Lukasik sends a pass away.



Sam Breton clears the ball away.



Nadia Cassmajor sends a pass away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER

Mutiny battles Hartford to scoreless draw

LUDLOW – On Friday, May 22, the New England Mutiny battled the Hartford Athletic to a scoreless tie. The Mutiny is now 1-1-1 on the season. They previously defeated the Worcester Wanderers and had a defeat against the Hudson Valley Crusaders. More on the Mutiny and their new challenges in next week’s edition.



Kendall Bodak, of Monson, sends a free kick away.



Se-Hanna Mars fights for the ball.