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The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com June 4, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 19 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

☆ Congratulations to the CLASS OF 2026 ☆

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

Palmer High celebrates newest class at graduation

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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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



Salutarian 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 Salutarian 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-

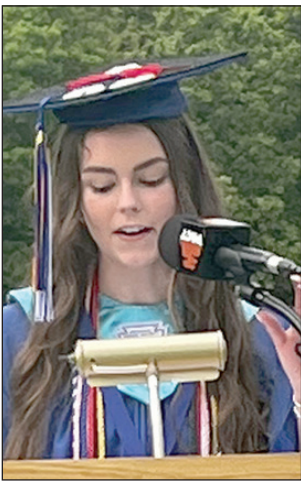
longing to the National Honors Society.

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

MHS | page 6



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



Salutarian 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.



Field of Flags tradition continued on by AmVets

By Marcelo Gusmao
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THREE RIVERS – This past Memorial Day weekend, the rain did not stop AmVets Ladies’ Auxiliary Post 74 from holding its annual Field of Flags ceremony.

For the fourth annual Memorial Day Field of Flags ceremony, AmVets asks for a donation of \$5, which goes toward veterans’ needs, such as bus trips or filling in pot-holes at the post. Andrea Sullivan, the outgoing Treasurer for Post 74, credited Valerie Wlodyka, one of the Ladies Auxiliary members, with bringing the ceremony up at a meeting.

“This is a great idea to honor veterans and loved ones,” Sullivan said. “It’s not strictly for vets; it’s open to Palmer residents, non-residents, veterans, and non-veterans. I have vets in my family, so my flags were bought for vets, but if someone had a relative who was very patriotic and a flag was bought for them, their name would be read, too.”

Though Wlodyka is still involved with the Ladies Auxiliary, she has since “passed the torch” of running the ceremony to the rest of the group, which is committed to keeping the tradition going. Sullivan said that the ceremony grows every year.

“If the weather had permitted us to be outside, we would have chairs set up,” Sullivan described. “The flags are all in a grid in rows of 25, and we spread them a foot apart in the rows, about two feet apart for a walkway.”

Traditionally, an Auxiliary member stands by each flag as the presenter reads the number of the flag, the name of the veteran or loved one and, if they served, what branch and what conflict. The presenter then moves to the next flag, and the next name is read, and so on.

“This year, we had the ceremony in the Main Hall,” Sullivan said. “We did the reading of the names and numbers, but we couldn’t have a person standing at the flag.”

After all names are read, veterans perform a gun salute, and a performance of “Taps” is played, and then the ceremony is concluded.

“It is a very heartwarming humbling ceremony, I’m honored,” Sullivan said. “I’m

hoping that I will get to run it for the next few years. I take a lot of pride in setting up the grid and the flags, and I participate in reading the names. That’s a hard job, especially when you’re looking out into the crowd.”

Despite the weather putting a damper on the ceremony, Sullivan was pleased to report that donations for flags were comparable to previous years.

“111 flags were purchased,” Sullivan said. “We leave the flags up for just under a week – we took them down Sunday because of the weather – another rainy Saturday.”

The flags are numbered according to the list, and are being stored in the Member’s Lounge for anyone who wants to pick up the specific flag of their loved one in the next week. Any flags left over will be repurposed for next year’s ceremony.

“My family is a very long line of veterans,” Sullivan said. “It started back in 1663 in Quebec, Canada, when my great-great-great-grandfather came here from France.”

Sullivan’s father and uncle served in the navy during the Korean War, and another uncle served in Vietnam. Her brother was in the Coast Guard.

“I’ve been involved with AmVets in one form or the other since 1984, when I started as a bartender,” Sullivan said. “My relatives didn’t belong to Amvets – my father was in the Knights of Columbus, he wasn’t a club sort of man. I joined the Auxiliary and moved up to president for six years, then stepped down and became treasurer for one year.”

This year, Sullivan is stepping down as treasurer to become a regular member, which she said will give other members a chance to participate.

“I’m part of another organization that’s taking up a lot of my time. There’s a lot going on, you have to be available and unfortunately I missed a couple meetings,” Sullivan shared. “It’s not fair that I’m not available like I was in the beginning. There are many, many tal-

ented women that are in the position and it’s stronger than ever.”

Sullivan said she hopes the event continues to grow, and mentioned that a goal of the group is to find “a bigger piece of lawn” to place the flags.

“That was Val’s goal,” Sullivan explained. “We talked about grassy areas that were visible to public, and had space so that people could come to the ceremony.”

If you’d like to purchase a flag for next year’s Field of Flags ceremony, you can download and print the form from the AmVets website, and drop it off with cash or a check at Post 74.

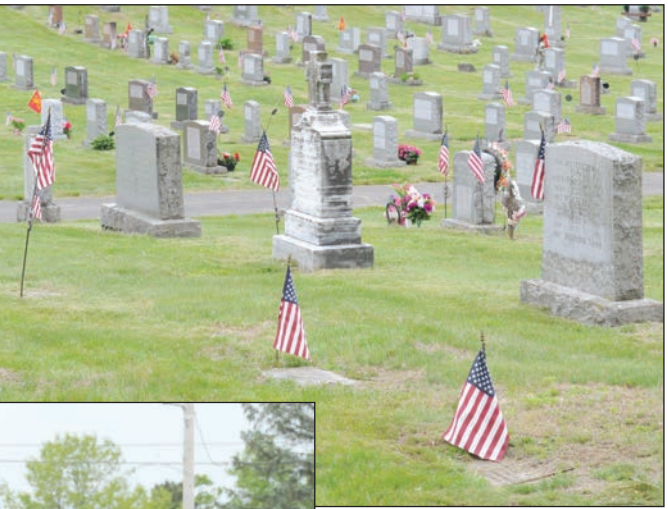
“We have some veterans who were killed in action, and purple heart recipients,” Sullivan added. “If they put that on the form we say that when we read the name, to honor them that way.”



Town Councillor and Post Commander Mark Caci placed flags as part of the ceremony.



A Boy Scout pats the ground next to a recently placed flag.



The cemetery was full of American flags that were placed by the AmVets Ladies Auxiliary this Memorial Day.



Flags were placed this Memorial Day on the graves of veterans as well as patriotic loved ones.



Submitted photos Patriots of all ages attended the cemetery and helped AmVets Post 74 place flags on the graves of veterans and loved ones.



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DEADLINE

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

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

The Library Loft

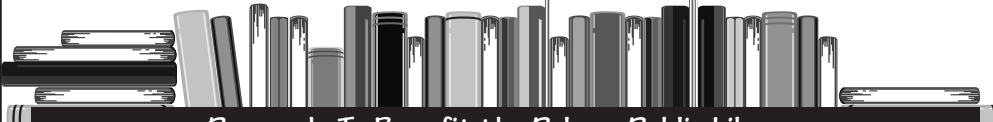
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Revolutionary War patriots celebrated in new Cemetery Tour

By **Marcelo Gusmao**
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Openings are limited for the upcoming Cemetery Tours that will be held throughout the morning of June 13.

This is the town's first-ever cemetery tour, which initially came together thanks to the volunteers at Spirit of Brimfield as part of a day's worth of events to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.

"I've always wanted to do one," said Sue DeBruin, Chair of the Historical Commission, "but, having participated in script-writing for a cemetery tour in New York, I know how big of an undertaking it is. I almost had to wait for the right moment."

DeBruin said that the cemetery walk would be a fitting way to honor the town's patriots who served in the Revolutionary War, as well as the families that supported them. The tour will be an opportunity for residents to experience and be a part of the town's living history.

"I thought a cemetery tour would be a good way to highlight those stories in a different way, other than just reading the history of the town and the Revolution," DeBruin said.

As a member of the Historical Commission and someone who loves studying genealogy, family history, and cemetery records, DeBruin started the project in the fall

by creating scripts for actors to perform that would cover a narrative related to the town's patriots and their families.

"I've always had an interest in history, and storytelling is living history," DeBruin said. "Storytelling is a great way for people to learn about a time and place in history, by hearing someone's experiences at the time."

DeBruin's experience with cemetery walks primarily comes from her work in New York, but she's been collaborating with Mat Wawrzyk, the Cemetery Foreman for Monson, who has held annual cemetery walks for his town in the fall. Wawrzyk said he's excited to participate in the event, and said that DeBruin is "capable of a lot of things."

"Sue had never done a cemetery tour before, so she was only going off of trying to replicate one that she had attended, and the way that she described it to me sounded exactly the way we do ours," Wawrzyk said. "I can't wait to figure out how her direction takes this, because without her knowing anything, she's already planned things and solved problems that Monson had to iron out over the last few years that we've been doing cemetery walks."

"I'm so excited to go to the Monson walk this fall and see how they do it," DeBruin said. "If I do this again in the future, I might want to change it up by looking at how other communities are using this kind of educational or infor-

mative event."

DeBruin had a lot of praise for Wawrzyk's work in collaborating with her, having received information about what worked for his town and how their cemetery walks are run, including details on group size and dress rehearsals. Wawrzyk will also be participating in the cemetery tour as an actor.

"Our collaboration began over the winter," DeBruin said. "I immediately asked if he would be interested in being involved, and he said he would if his schedule permitted, which it did."

DeBruin also credited Wawrzyk with putting her in contact with Genny Pizichemi, who has participated in the Monson Cemetery Walk for several years, and will also be acting in the upcoming tour in town.

"There are two roles in the tour whose descendants are going to be there on the day," DeBruin said. "One of the stops in the tour is for Joseph Hitchcock, who marched on Lexington Alarm, at the Siege of Boston, and rode to Springfield in defense of the government. His 7th or 8th great-grandson is in his 80s, and he's flying up here from Florida to see his ancestor come back to life."

Wawrzyk will be playing the role of Joseph Hitchcock, representing one of the more recognizable names in the town.

"Joseph Hitchcock has his own background, those were details I got to learn over

months of reading the script, going to cemetery where the tour is going to be, and doing my own research," Wawrzyk said. "There are a lot of different connections, not only Hitchcock, but some other characters have ties to Monson, and me and Sue were able to make those connections with her experience on the Historical Commission and mine with the cemetery. We started talking about some individuals' last names and found out someone I take care of in Monson is cousins with someone she knows about in Brimfield. It's very cool digging up that shared history."

DeBruin said that Dave, Hitchcock's descendant from Florida, is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and will attend in a Revolutionary War uniform. She added that another of Hitchcock's descendants has expressed interest in travelling from Vermont to film footage for a documentary of the event.

"When Sue reached out and told me about the first gentleman coming up from Florida, I was basically floored that I had the honor of being able to meet somebody connected to the person I'm portraying," Wawrzyk said. "Another one reached out from Vermont, making some type of documentary film; I'm no stranger to media presence, that's something that I enjoy, and I think it's a good way to share experiences with others and get ppl connected to things I'm interested in."

The event is being put on through collaboration between the Historical Commission and the Spirit of Brimfield volunteers. DeBruin has been doing a lot of research on the town's history, looking over cemetery records, genealogy, Find-a-Grave, and records from the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, in order to better understand who served in the American Revolution and their relationship with the town.

"When you're looking at graves, you're looking at names, birthdates, and deathdates, but there's not a lot of story behind that," DeBruin said. "When you do the research, you look into when they moved to town, how old they were when the Revolution started, and what their service was."

DeBruin said that one authoritative resource has been "Historical Celebration of the Town of Brimfield" by Reverend Charles Hyde, which tells the history of the town through 1876, published by vote of the town at that time.

"All winter, my dining room table was covered with papers and books and my laptop," DeBruin shared. "When you do that kind of research, you try as hard as you can to piece together these 18th century lives that no one – other than their family members – has gone into in the past 250 years. It's a real honor to try to do some of their stories justice."

DeBruin said that, once all the research is done, the

"tricky" part is to write from the individual's perspective and imagine what they might say about themselves and how the Revolution wove into their life.

"I also wanted to bring some women into it," DeBruin said. "In one circumstance, the daughter of a local patriot is telling the story of her father's service, so you have to imagine what she might say about her dad. There is some creative liberty taken, but not with the facts or concrete information."

The Cemetery Tour will be held on June 13, kicking off with a musket firing and a performance of "Taps" at 9:55 a.m., and with tours at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and at noon. There will be further celebrations in the afternoon, including a parade at 2 p.m., and living history demonstrations that will be held at the winery.

All tours have already filled their 15-18 spots, except for the 11:30 a.m. and noon tours, which still have openings.

"I feel really lucky," DeBruin said. "Our first cemetery tour has been supported by people who've done these tours before, and other reenactors and actors who come from all over; not just Brimfield; one comes from Longmeadow, and we have someone coming from the eastern part of the state."

To register to attend the Cemetery Tour, you can contact DeBruin by calling 508-523-9544.

Keep presents musician David Polansky

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

Using keyboard, trumpet, and vocals, David presents music inspired by the advent of the automobile, two world wars, the Roaring 20's, the wild west, and more. He engages the audience taking questions, performing requests, and telling funny anecdotes about famous musicians as well as his own life as a musician.

The museum will be open for viewing from 1 to 3:30 p.m. and more information about it can be found at www.keephomesteadmuseum.org.

Musical performance at Senior Center

BRIMFIELD – Join us on Friday, June 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Brimfield Senior Center for a do not miss performance: "Stories & Songs of Appalachia" with Michael & Carrie Kline, acclaimed musicians and storytellers. Below are two glowing testimonials to their amazing talent!

"Michael and Carrie weave West Virginia stories and folklore with spine tingling harmonies on voice and guitar. To hear them and be invited to join in on a chorus is to be transported to a country church, a one-room school, or grandma's kitchen. From songs such as Walk with Granny One More Time, to The Coal Tattoo, and gospel numbers such as Turtle Dove and Love Like This Was

Never Known, the Klines evoke the times that really matter, time with family and friends, spiritual times, wrapped in a patchwork quilt of vivid images. Kitchen songs. You can smell the biscuits baking." -- Sparky and Rhonda Rucker, Modern Day American Folk and Blues Legends

"Carrie and Michael live and breathe Appalachian culture and music. Their voices carry the songs with truth and authenticity, and their guitar accompaniments are excellent, just what the songs call for. With their vast knowledge of West Virginia history and culture, and their deep roots in the mountains, their concerts are not only a treat for the ear, but a journey into the depth and breadth of the

real Appalachia and beyond." — Magpie, Bringing the People's History Alive Through Music

Michael and Carrie Kline have been studying and chronicling the history and culture of Appalachia for forty years. Michael, with a Ph.D. in Public Folklore from Boston University, and Carrie, with a Master's Degree in American Studies from SUNY/Buffalo, have cumulatively written twenty articles for West Virginia's official folklife journal, Goldenseal Magazine since 1978, when Michael served on Goldenseal's editorial staff at the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. Michael's efforts to document 20th Century West Virginia life were supported in the early

1970s with receipt of a Ford Fellowship Award, and with a grant from the West Virginia Humanities in 1980. He has served on the Citizen's Advisory Board of the West Virginia Humanities Council and has far ranging contacts throughout the State with historians, Appalachian Studies scholars, artists and musicians. He has conducted extensive oral interviews with farmers, home makers and workers in most of the State's industries and communities.

You are invited to stay for a light luncheon immediately after the program. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Banquet to honor Steve Slozak June 19

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

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a social gathering followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Neat casual dress is the order of the day.

Tickets are \$35 per person and may be reserved online at monsoncitizen@icloud.com or purchased by check made payable to and mailed to Monson Citizen of the Year Committee, 15 Green Street, Monson, MA 01057 prior to June 12th - no tickets will be sold at the door.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm being released from incarceration. What are my Social Security options?

Dear Rusty:

In a previous column, you wrote about people who filed for Social Security late in life.

I am currently incarcerated and will be filing for Social Security in the fall of 2029. I will be 74 years old in the first week of January 2029. Unless I read it wrong, could I be eligible to collect the previous six months?

If this is so, how would that work? Would I get that all at once or incrementally? According to the chart we once got in the mail, I should be collecting the maximum amount. I've worked all of my life and never collected Social Security before. Also, my ex-wife remarried and has since passed away. Do I qualify for part of her Social Security?

Signed, "D" in Danbury

Dear "D" in Danbury:

I'm afraid you cannot receive Social Security benefits while you are incarcerated, even if you are eligible for them prior to your release.

Thus, you cannot get retroactive Social Security benefits for any period you were still incarcerated. For clarity, although most who apply at a later age (e.g., in their 70s) do have the option to claim retroactive benefits, you cannot get any SS benefits for any month you were still incarcerated. Further, you will not get credit for delaying your application for SS benefits while you are incarcerated (you won't earn Delayed Retirement Credits during your incarceration).

Assuming (from what you shared) that you expect to be released from incarceration in the fall of 2029, you can apply for your SS benefits to start upon your release. Be aware, however, that it usually takes several months for your application for SS benefits to be processed and you can specify the month you wish your benefits start.

Your benefit amount will be based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime. But you cannot get retroactive SS benefits for time prior to your release from incarceration. Since Social Security does not pay benefits for partial months, you can file for your SS benefits to start effective with the month following the month in which

your incarceration ends. Be sure you have your official prison release documentation (parole or discharge papers) in hand when you apply for your Social Security benefits.

FYI, some correctional facilities have a "Prerelease Agreement" with Social Security, which may enable you to file for your SS benefits three to four months prior to your release from incarceration. Be sure to check with your facility to see if they have such an agreement with Social Security and, if so, use it to apply for your benefits in advance of your release. This will facilitate your SS benefits starting more quickly upon your release.

You did not ask about healthcare coverage, but since you will be eligible for Social Security, you will also be eligible for Medicare upon your release. When you apply for your Social Security benefits, you can also apply for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services), the premium for which will be deducted from your Social Security payment. FYI, Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) is free and automatic because you are also eligible for Social Security.

Finally, regarding survivor benefits from your ex-wife, you can only get a surviving ex-spouse benefit if you were married for more than 10 years and your own SS retirement amount is less than your ex-wife was receiving at her death. In other words, you can only get one SS benefit either your own or your deceased ex-wife's amount, whichever is higher.

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.



A question and an answer?

Carole, who faithfully reads the column in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times each week, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady:

"I am hoping you can provide me with some advice as to how to rid my garden of an incredibly invasive plant. It is called Houttuynia cordata or chameleon plant. I bought a single variegated plant about 25 years ago and now I literally have hundreds of them in my gardens and lawn. The plant is no longer variegated but reverted to green with red around the edges. For at least three or four years, I have been trying to dig them out one by one which has been extremely difficult due to the long roots - some can be over a foot long - which become intertwined with other plants, choking them. I have not been very successful, despite spending hours at a time. And I painstakingly try to get every piece of root out. I am not sure if they are spreading solely through the roots or also from the flower pod seeds.

I notice they also spread under my brick walkway even though they get no sun there. It's been very frustrating. For that reason, I am considering using a herbicide, but am concerned that it might poison nearby plants or may not be effective due to the long roots. Yet, at this point, I am open to the idea. I look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Incidentally, I just learned from the internet that it is considered to be a medicinal herb, which I find

cuts with herbicide. To me that sounds like a smart plan to get the chemical right to the roots. Time consuming, but targeted. I'll be curious to know how you make out trying to rid your landscape of this plant.

Diane, who gardens in West Chesterfield, had a possible solution for my hyacinths getting cut off at the soil line.

"We had a great disappointment this spring when something chopped off most of our cultivated black berries. When I was trying to prune what was left and save something I found the stalks laying on the ground but the tops were eaten. It looked like someone took a clean angle sweep with a hatchet to cut down the stalks. Then one evening at dusk we saw the culprit. It was about a 60 pound porcupine! He was chomping on our wild white rose bushes. He would bite the stalks off but since the rest of the bush wouldn't let the branch fall, he couldn't eat the top. What a mess. When I read your article I was thinking this might be the answer to the mystery."

Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

While I have never grown Houttuynia cordata, I have dealt with similar invasive plants. Not always have I been successful, but here are a few tactics you can try. If there is a way to smother, go for it. Try black plastic, a thick tarp or cardboard covered in mulch.

Eventually, if the plant can't photosynthesize, it will die.

You are smart to try and remove every little bit of root when hand digging it out; it's kind of amazing how a tiny piece will start a whole new plant. For that reason, never take the rototiller to a patch of any invasive plant, especially those that spread by rhizomes. The roots will be dispersed throughout the garden.

I also read about cutting the stems of the plants and then "painting" the open



quite shocking, given how much I have come to dislike them! Thank you very much for your time and assistance."

Happy to help, Carole! It's funny you mention that this plant is a medicinal herb.

Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

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John Kunhardt of Belcher-town took this photo of a green heron catching a fish at Lake Wallace.

The green heron is solitary at most seasons and often somewhat secretive, living around small bodies of water or densely vegetated areas.

When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously and raises and lowers its crest.

The small heron is about 16 to 22 inches long. The green on this bird's back is an iridescent color and often looks dull bluish or simply dark.

They have orange yellow legs, chestnut neck, black crown feathers. Young birds are duller and brown with a striped neck.

Northern birds migrates as far as Panama and northern South American. Green herons in the most southern states



Green heron

Photo by John Kunhardt

POETRY CORNER

A Day To Marry

Winding through the Met were the wedding words -
Past the quiet still figures cast in stone:
Carried by marble dancers of the light -
Thru the streets of Athens, moving along?
Coming from out an ancient school of thought -
Long as golden maidens, the age lives on.

Till, above air else, was it made out by two -
Who each repeated aloud by heart,
To sink there deep into the mystery,
Which, for them would soon come about.

And we rejoiced to be of the wedding party -
Our hopes for them, no longer kept down;
And those who heard, will hold it close -
Before joining in the part of springtime.
But outside! you must go - where the days run fast -
And all you will have is your name and being young.

- Charles Barnes

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The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

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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

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

June Vendors

June 10 - How Charming
June 16 - Wicked Good Treats
June 18 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs

July Vendors

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

June 6 and 7

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in

the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

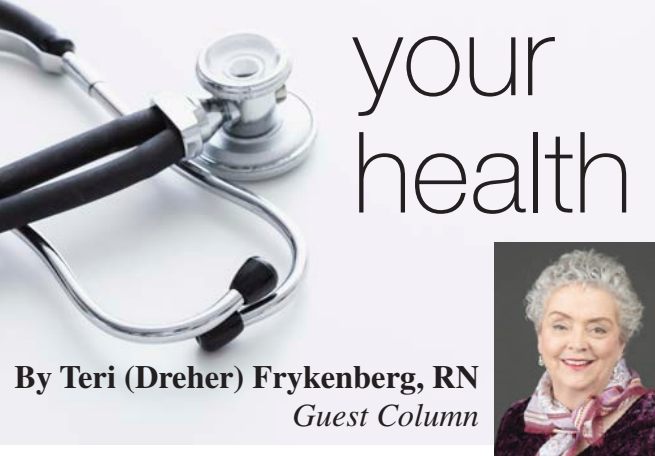
QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more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

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

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

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.



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

In health coverage, the details really matter

When it comes to your health insurance, whether private or government-provided, not paying attention to the details can be costly. Patient advocates like me do more than help clients in the hospital. We also spend a lot of time unraveling health insurance mysteries that can leave clients with thousands of dollars in medical bills.

You may have seen a recent article about a Florida woman whose health insurance, which she purchased through the federal exchange, was canceled because she was late with her premiums – a total of five cents.

Yes, for want of a nickel, she lost her insurance and began receiving large medical bills.

Her premium had been \$0, but when she dropped her mother from the family policy because she had become eligible for Medicare, the premium became one cent per month. She figured it was a rounding error and didn't pay much attention to the letters saying she might lose her coverage because premium payments weren't met.

After five months, her insurer dropped her. Was it legal for them to do that? Yes. Did it make sense? Hardly. Her insurance has been restored now, but she's still disputing the bills she received while it was inactive. Stay tuned.

I find that a lot of clients, and people in general, don't

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BIRDS I from page 4

do not migrate.

Green herons inhabit coasts and shorelines, forests and woodlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and saltwater wetlands. Their call is a sharp "kyowk" or "skyow."

They nest in a wide variety of situations, including willow thickets, mangroves, dry woods and open marsh. The female lays three to five pale green or blue green eggs. Both the male and female incubate the eggs which takes 19 to 21 days.

The male chooses nesting territory and calls repeatedly from prominent perch in tree or shrub. Displays of male include stretching neck forward and down and snapping bill shut, pointing bill straight upward while swaying back and forth. Male and female may perform display flights around territory. Nest site is usually in shrub or tree 5-30 feet above ground, but sometimes on the ground.

It is often very close to water, but it can be quite distant away. The nest is a platform of sticks. The male begins construction, then female builds while male brings materials.

Both parents also feed their young by regurgitation. Young begin to climb about near nest by 16-17 days after

hatching, usually make first flight at 21-23 days.

They are fed by parents for a few more weeks. Young are reportedly capable of swimming well. These herons have one to two broods per year.

These herons forage mostly by standing still or stalking very slowly at edge of shallow water, waiting for prey to approach. Sometimes they use bait" by dropping a feather or small twig on surface of water to lure fish within striking distance.

They eat mostly small fish, but will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs and tadpoles. Other items include grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms, snails and small rodents.

Black and white warbler
My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler by the cross country trail at Quabbin Regional High School last week. As the name implies, the warbler has black and white feathers with black streaking on the breast and white wing bars, white eye line and white belly.

Red shouldered hawk
A Montgomery resident had a red shouldered hawk in her yard. She sent a photo of it in flight.

Whippoorwill
I received an email on May 15 from a Belchertown resident. She stated, "The

whippoorwill is back in my yard again this year. The calls starts around dark and continue off and on till sunrise. She or he perches on the roof and calls all night. It can be very annoying as you are trying to sleep, but I still feel blessed or cursed."

Common Ravens
A Brimfield couple had common ravens in their yard last month. They stated in an email, "We mostly hear them and sometimes see them flying over a local feature called West Mountain that is about 1000' elevation and runs north/south about a half a mile east of our house."

They stated, "On a Thursday a raven was in the driveway where I throw a seed mix daily for ground feeders. I saw the bird from inside the garage, my wife saw it with binoculars from inside the house."

They stated, "We both noticed the larger size, bigger than the American Crows that often feed in the same area. I noticed the wedged shaped tail when it flew away and my wife saw larger, heavier bill and the shaggy throat feathers." A few days later they saw three ravens.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Journal Register

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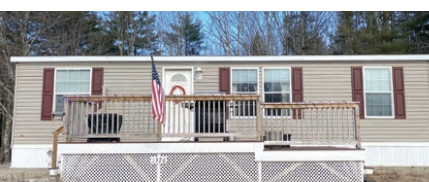
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MHS | from page 1

have also been recognized at the state level for excellence in art.

“While these accomplishments are extraordinary, what makes me most proud to stand before you tonight is not the awards, records, and recognitions: it’s the character that you demonstrate every single day,” Principal Christopher Fontaine said.

Fontaine and the other speakers all praised the seniors’ exceptional character. They spoke of how they supported one another, celebrated each other, and impacted their community.

“I’ve seen leadership, I’ve seen welcome, I’ve seen advocacy,” Superintendent Paul Foster said. “At the athletic awards two weeks ago, I watched this class celebrate with genuine joy. They celebrated with each other, but what struck me even more was as I sat there I watched you celebrate younger students, too[...].not every senior class does that.”

The speakers also left the seniors with advice. President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank Daniel Moriarty told them to remember that “set-backs are temporary, come-backs are forever.”

He wanted the class to know that there will be struggles and times they falter, but that they will get through it as long as they know when to keep pushing and how to support one another.

“Failure can build resilience and obstacles can reveal strength you did not know you had,” Moriarty said.

The class also heard support and reminiscence from their fellow classmates. Valedictorian Sophia Galarneau and Salutatorian Brady Ronaldson both gave speeches at the ceremony.

Both Galarneau and Ronaldson shared their gratitude for growing up in Monson.

“My favorite thing about growing up in a small town is that no one really lets you grow up alone,” Galarneau said.

She shared how grateful she was to know each of her classmates personally and to have their support as she has made it through her time at school.

“If you ever feel alone there will always be this town to call home,” Galarneau said

Ronaldson shared similar sentiments.

“This proximity to each other is something that no other school around can say that they’ve had,” Ronaldson said. “We’ve had the chance to form lifelong connections starting in elementary school.”

The class also got a chance to thank their loved ones. Before the presentation of diplomas, each member of the class got to give flowers to someone they were grateful for.

The seniors gave flowers to their family, friends, and their teachers. Several stu-

dents gave special thanks to their class advisors, Georgia Perreault and Nathan Pluta.

“Some of our favorite high school memories were made with [Perreault and Pluta],” Galarneau said.

Once the students finished giving out their flowers to their loved ones, they received their diplomas. After which, their vice principal. Mary Zurawka, left them with one last send off.

“Today is the day the rest of your life begins,” she said. “As you exit the risers, you will walk towards your future, your new chapter, your destiny.”



Principal Christopher Fontaine celebrated the achievements of the graduates.



Superintendent Paul Foster gave advice and congratulations to the graduating seniors.



The faculty entered the field for Monson's graduation.

Photos by Quinn Suomala



The senior class of Monson High School processed toward their graduation.



Ma’Niya Kelly-Griffin, Brook Armour, Jake Beaupre and Jared Perry received their diploma.



Hannah Murphy gladly hugged her mom, Jamie Murphy, after receiving her diploma from her.



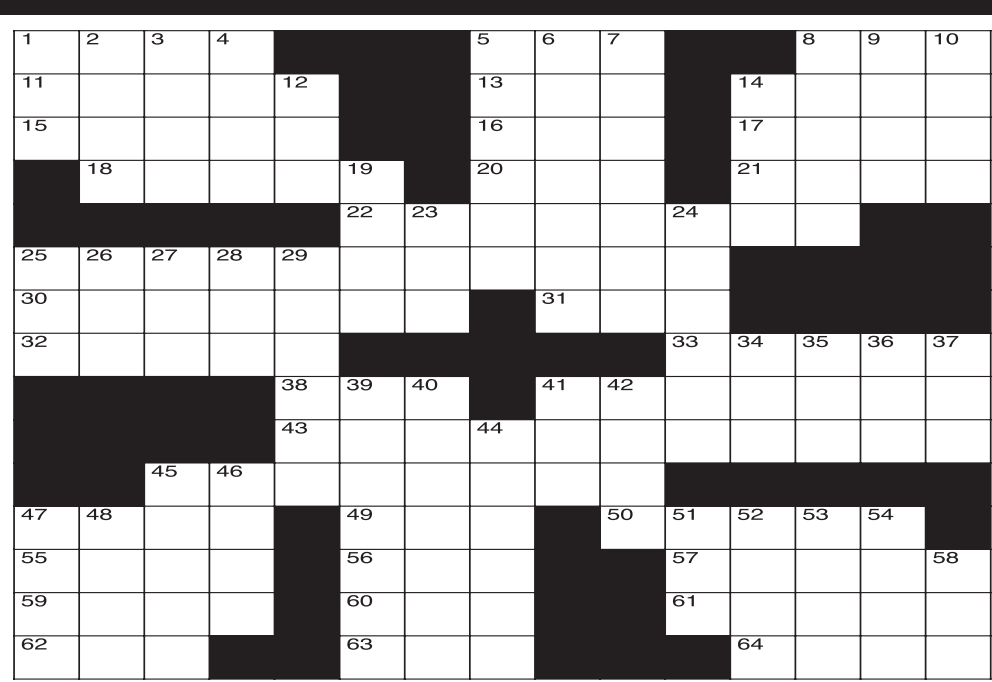
Adam Laverty shook hands with School Committee Chair Alison Morgan and Superintendent Paul Foster as he received his diploma.



President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank Daniel Moriarty offered the graduates advice based on his experiences growing up in Monson.



Mya Bridges poses for a photo as she receives her diploma.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Egyptian bull-god
 - 5. A young canine
 - 8. Cologne
 - 11. Fictional British P.I.
 - 13. Midway between northeast and east
 - 14. A place to shop
 - 15. Minneapolis suburb
 - 16. Single lens reflex
 - 17. NY Mets great
 - 18. Informal loan clubs
 - 20. Habitual twitching
 - 21. Holm oak
 - 22. Willing to consent or submit
 - 25. In an early way
 - 30. Made possible
 - 31. Language in Ghana
 - 32. Relating to one's birth
 - 33. Deep-bodied fishes
 - 38. Defunct European
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Bridge building degree
 - 41. Small American songbird
 - 43. One from L.A.
 - 45. After tenth
 - 47. Hillside
 - 49. Red deer
 - 50. Partner to "ooohed"
 - 55. Indian musical pattern
 - 56. Israeli city
 - 57. Golden peas plant
 - 59. Breezed through
 - 60. Midway between east and southeast
 - 61. Frameworks
 - 62. Danish krone
 - 63. Fall back
 - 64. Influential Korean leader
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
 - 3. Large, stocky lizard
 - 4. Turkish leader title
 - 5. Nag
 - 6. Blank
 - 7. Closely woven cotton fabric
 - 8. A nice shot in golf
 - 9. Away from wind
 - 10. Evergreen shrub genus
 - 12. Large African antelope
 - 14. Something you receive
 - 19. Satisfy
 - 23. Wet dirt
 - 24. No longer here
 - 25. Writing utensil
 - 26. Ribonucleic acid
 - 27. Consume food
 - 28. Licensed for Wall Street
 - 29. Alternative forms of a gene
 - 34. Buddy
 - 35. We all do it
 - 36. Chicken
 - 37. No seats available
 - 39. Yearned to possess
 - 40. Ineffectual
 - 41. Explosive
 - 42. Turkish title
 - 44. Worn near the foot
 - 45. Impatient
 - 46. Set an example for others
 - 47. Actor Pitt
 - 48. Instrument of torture
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Grayish white
 - 53. A way to print
 - 54. Storied college hoops program
 - 58. Midway between south and southeast

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AWARDS | from page 1

school’s Culinary Arts department. Brenda Turner, the leader of Pathfinder’s Social Emotional Learning Team, said the reception reflected the pride and excitement of the evening.

“Our Awards Recognition Evening was a tremendous success, with more than 500 parents, family members, and loved ones joining us to celebrate the achievements of over 140 students,” said Superintendent Eric Duda. “The incredible turnout reflects the strong partnership between Pathfinder Tech and the families we serve.”

Duda opened the ceremony by reflecting on the significance of the event and the strong support shown for Career & Technical Education. “When you see the gymnasium filled with students, families, faculty, and administrators celebrating together, it reinforces that student success is truly a community effort”, said Superintendent Duda. “We are thankful that our nine member towns continue to show support for Pathfinder Tech and see the value of Career and Technical Education and the opportunities it creates for the youth in our region.”

“This evening celebrated much more than awards,” Duda said. “It recognized the perseverance, achievement, teamwork, and honor demonstrated by our students every day. These core values are at the heart of Pathfinder Tech and were proudly on display throughout the event.”

The room was filled with cheers and applause for over an hour as students were called up to be recognized for their accomplishments.



Top Senior Athletes: Addison Doktor and Aiden Girard (center) with Superintendent Eric Duda and Athletic Director Kevin Aldrich.



Mia Keegan received a science award.

“Awards Night is one of the most meaningful traditions at Pathfinder,” Duda said, “because it celebrates not only achievement, but perseverance, growth, and the commitment our students demonstrate every day in both academics and technical education.”

Turner said that celebrating student success is a critical part of the culture at



Award winner Dylan Sutherland receiving an award from IT Instructor Mrs. Malanson & IT Paraprofessional Jake Brown.

Pathfinder Tech.

“It’s important and meaningful to recognize the outstanding effort and remarkable work ethic that so many of our students invest in their studies, both in academics and in the technical programs,” Turner said. “Celebrating achievement is the ultimate positive outcome when our mission, vision, and core values all come together,



Submitted Photos
Superintendent Eric Duda addressed the crowded gymnasium during Awards Night.



Mr. Charette, Mr. Dusza, Mrs. Anderson, and Ms. McCann with student Math award winners: Thomas DeWitt and Quinn Richardson.

along with strong instructional practice, to create so many successful student outcomes. Seeing our staff, students, and families beaming with pride really on Awards Night really encapsulates a relevant and meaningful high school experience.”

“One of the things that makes Pathfinder Tech special is the connection we have with our community,” Duda said. “Seeing more than 500

parents and supporters come together to recognize student accomplishments was a powerful reminder that student success is truly a shared effort.”

One of the biggest rounds of applause of the night came for Scout, the school’s beloved comfort dog, who is a true fan favorite whose presence never fails to deliver smiles and joy.

As the ceremony con-

cluded, the hallways and parking lot were filled with hugs, laughter, and photos, reflecting the pride, accomplishment, and sense of community that continues to define Pathfinder Tech’s annual tradition of recognizing student excellence.

To learn more about the events and courses offered at Pathfinder Tech, you can visit their website at Pathfinder-Tech.org.

In the classroom

CAMPUS
NOTES

Lydia Julian receives award from Nichols College

DUDLEY—Lydia Julian of Holland, MA, received the John F. Birch Memorial Award at the Nichols College annual Academic Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 21. This award is given to a student who is specializing in accounting and entering senior year with proven academic excellence.

Gombos, of Brimfield, earns degree from Clark University

WORCESTER—Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield, Mass., received a degree during Clark University’s Commencement exercises on Monday, May 18. Gombos graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

The University awarded 612 bachelor’s degrees and 636 graduate degrees and conferred two honorary degrees during two ceremonies; graduates represented 49 states and 69 countries.

Mudgett completes intensive Capstone Research Project

WORCESTER—Catalina Mudgett, Palmer, Mass. resident, and a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), recently completed a senior thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university’s distinctive project-based educational experience. Catalina’s Major Qualifying Project (MQP), a research-driven, professional-level project that challenges students to solve the kinds of problems they would typically encounter in their professional discipline, was titled “Design of a High-Volume, Low-Cost Cruise Missile”.

“It’s inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research,” says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers.”

WPI’s innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that offers students opportunities to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. These projects produce tangible results that affect the quality of people’s lives, an experience that changes both the student and their world.

MHS earns state recognition as Innovation Career Pathways School for Healthcare & Manufacturing

MONSON – Monson Public Schools is proud to announce that Monson High School has been officially recognized by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as a participating school in the state’s Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) initiative for both its Medical Assisting Pathway and Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Pathway.

The designation is part of Massachusetts’ broader Reimagining High School initiative, which aims to better connect students to college and career opportunities through hands-on, real-world learning experiences, industry partnerships, and early college access.

The recognition marks a significant milestone for Monson High School and reflects the district’s continued commitment to ensuring students in a small rural community have access to innovative, future-focused opportunities that prepare them for success in college, careers, and beyond.

“We want Monson students to know that we offer multiple innovative opportunities that will prepare them for college, careers, and life,” said Superintendent Paul Foster. “At Monson High School, we are reimagining what a comprehensive high school experience can look like by combining strong academics, early college opportunities, and hands-on, career-connected learning that empowers students to discover their strengths, explore their interests, and prepare for life after graduation.”

In addition to its state-recognized Innovation Career Pathways, Monson High School has recently expanded Early College opportunities through its partnership with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Students

now have access to 14 approved college-credit-bearing courses, allowing them to earn college credit while still in high school and potentially helping Monson and its school choice families save thousands of dollars in future higher education costs. Depending on individual student pathways and college transfer policies, students may have the opportunity to graduate with up to a year of college credit already completed. These early college courses are in-person courses taught at Monson High School by MHS teachers.

Principal Chris Fontaine said the innovation career pathways designation and early college program reflect planning, collaboration, and commitment from educators and district leaders.

“We are building pathways that help students discover their passions, gain confidence, and see a direct connection between their education and the futures they envision for themselves,” said Fontaine. “Watching students become excited about their futures through these experiences has been one of the most rewarding parts of this work.”

The Medical Assisting Pathway provides students with hands-on healthcare training and clinical experiences designed to prepare them for careers in the growing healthcare field. Through a multi-year sequence of coursework, students develop skills in patient care, medical terminology, infection control, vital signs, specimen collection, wound care, and healthcare communication while preparing for industry-recognized certifications including Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Home Health Aide (HHA), CPR/First Aid, and Registered Medical Assistant (RMA). Students may also participate in clinical placements and cooperative work experiences with regional

healthcare partners, including opportunities connected to Baystate Health.

The Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Pathway immerses students in hands-on experiences focused on engineering design, robotics, automation, manufacturing technologies, 3D modeling, and Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machining. Students apply problem-solving and technical skills through collaborative projects, engineering coursework, and internship or capstone opportunities aligned with one of the fastest-growing industries in Western Massachusetts.

District leaders say the pathways are designed not only to expand opportunities for students, but also to strengthen long-term educational, workforce, and community partnerships throughout the region while helping students graduate with valuable real-world experience and career-ready skills.

“Partnerships between schools and healthcare organizations are essential to developing the next generation of healthcare professionals,” said Karli Barrett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. “As both a health and economic pillar in our region, we are proud to support opportunities that give students early exposure to healthcare careers while helping them build valuable skills, confidence, and real-world experience. Investing in students today helps strengthen the future of healthcare and our communities for years to come.”

For students, these pathways are already helping transform curiosity and ambition into confidence about what comes next.

Yerriel Gonzalez, a freshman participating in Monson High School’s Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Pathway, said the hands-on experiences and career-con-

nected learning opportunities available through the program have already helped him think more seriously about future career possibilities.

“This is a really great program for Monson High School, and I’m excited to continue learning more through it,” said Gonzalez. “I’m interested in a future in engineering and construction, and I’m looking forward to working with the CNC machines and gaining valuable skills that can help me in the future.”

Monson Public Schools plans to celebrate the designation with a community and media event on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at Monson High School, located at 55 Margaret Street in Monson, Massachusetts. The event will be held in the Medical Assisting Innovation Career Pathways classroom and is expected to include remarks from local leaders, students, educational and workforce partners, along with opportunities for media interviews, photography, and pathway showcases highlighting student learning experiences.

“This is an exciting moment not only for Monson High School, but for our entire community,” Foster added. “The Reimagining High School initiative has challenged schools across Massachusetts to think differently about preparing students for the future, and we are proud for Monson High School to be part of that vision.”

The designation reflects what is possible when educators, families, community partners, and students work together to create meaningful opportunities for young people.

For more information about Monson High School’s Innovation Career Pathways, Early College opportunities, and student programming, visit: www.monsonschools.com/mhs.

PHS | from page 1

agement suddenly sparked phrases like that’s unrealistic, or you should be more practical. You can’t land that job, you can’t go pro, you can’t be the change you want to see in the world. We live in a society that values uniformity over uniqueness, with statistics ruling above all.”

“You should never have to shrink your dreams in order to fit someone else’s idea as possible,” Roy continued. “Standing up here today, I hope to have made my friends and family proud, but most importantly, I hope to have proved a girl in sixth grade who believed she couldn’t do a whole lot wrong with this achievement. So, to the class of 2026, whether you want to pursue your dreams in arts,

academics, or athletics, never be afraid to want more for yourself, and understand you deserve far more success and happiness than you think you do.”

The School Committee Address was then presented by Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone, who was followed by the distribution of the diplomas.

“We are confident that you will bring your strength, perseverance, and commitment into the next chapter of your lives,” Rathbone said. “This chapter may be done, but the story, your story, is not over.”

After a performance of the school song, the Class of 2026 was released from the auditorium and into the world, having entered as high school seniors, and leaving as proud high school graduates.



A proud family celebrated the graduation of Kaaden Seguin (center), Kylie Woodworth, Arthur Seguin, True Bernal, and Betsy Seguin.



The Stafford family took a picture outside the school, (from left) Grace, Colin, and Taryn.



As each student was called up, Principal North handed them their diploma and gave them a hug before sending them on their way.



Anthony Espinosa (center) celebrated his graduation with Athena and Molly Soynahang.



Class President Kelsey Coyle read the welcome address at the beginning of the ceremony.



For their Senior Class song, students belted out “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac.



Superintendent Matthew Francis applauded the graduating students who are moving on to two- or four-year colleges.



Principal Sue North emceed the event and announced each of the speakers.



School Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone



Posing around Gabby Bruttaniti (center), Sam Bruttaniti, Terri Parsons, Kylie, age 10, Bryton Coffey, Jennifer Kinney, Stephanie McCaughey, and Mary Parsons.



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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 de-

feated 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.

The image is a promotional flyer for Glenda's. At the top, there's a decorative banner with the name "Glenda's" in a white, cursive font, accented with a shamrock. The banner is set against a dark background with a pattern of stars and balloons. Below the banner, the text "Saturday, June 6th" and "7pm-11pm" is displayed. To the right, a box contains the text "Upcoming Saturday, June 20th 7pm-11pm" and "Caboodle". Below this, three columns of text describe the events: "EVERY FRIDAY Karaoke", "EVERY WEDNESDAY Wise Guys MUSICAL BINGO 7:30-9pm", and "EVERY SUNDAY DARTS LUCK OF THE DRAW 5:30pm • All Welcome". At the bottom, the address "948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491" is listed.

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7pm-11pm

The Loose Knit Whits

Upcoming
Saturday, June 20th
7pm-11pm

Caboodle

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Karaoke

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wise Guys
MUSICAL BINGO
7:30-9pm

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Valley Blue Sox ready for the 2026 season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox return for the 2026 season after finishing last season at 20-22 record. Despite narrowly missing out on the playoffs, The Blue Sox ended the season on a high note with a dominant 23-1 win against the Upper Valley Nighthawks in July. The Blue Sox will open up their season June 4 against the Newport Gulls at home.

The Gulls are coming out of the gates as Regular Season Divisional Champions, after posting a 29-15 record in 2025. The teams last met on a rainy July day in Rhode Island, where The Blue Sox pulled off a 6-5 comeback win in extra innings.

“Regardless of who we have out there ... [it’s] just creating that kind of sense of urgency from the beginning .. and you want to certainly make a good first impression,” head coach John Rialola said. “Play hard and compete, that’s really what I ask every day, no matter what ... [and] that starts on June 4.”

Raiola returns as head coach of the Blue Sox after five seasons in the front office as the team's director of baseball operations. Following the departure of former head coach Endy Morales in pursuit of the Banana Ball League, Raiola returns to a team that he coached to back-to-back NECBL championships in 2017 and 2018.

Returning to the same

coaching job he first stepped into 11 years ago, one of Raiola's top priorities is to put a team on the field that is ready to compete.

"It's not just summer ball," Raiola said. "It's an opportunity for you to put your best foot forward and show that you, in basically an all-star league, can compete against the best throughout all over the country, and show up and do it every single day."

The Blue Sox offense ranked in the top of the NEC-BL last season but the pitching staff struggled, finishing with a team ERA of 4.93, the eighth best in the league. Raiola, who served as a pitching coach at Western New England University and in the Cape Cod Baseball League with the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, seeks to heighten the threat of Valley's arms.

"One thing that's really important for us, and that I tell [the players] ... is that they leave better than they came," Raiola said. "... You should have something that you know that you need to do and that you don't do particularly well and we should be working towards solving ... so that when you leave, you leave better than we found you."

Raiola spent the 2015-2019 seasons as head coach of the Blue Sox, and has been the head coach of the Elms College baseball team since 2020, where he's posted a 94-120 record.

Raiola is no stranger to NECBL titles. Prior to his time in Holyoke, Raiola won a championship as a part of the Newport Gulls coaching staff in 2009, another with the Keene Swampbats in 2011, and made a championship appearance with the Sanford Mainers in 2014.

Raiola has exciting names to work with this summer from all over the country.

Returning for the Blue Sox is infielder Michael Elko. Elko suited up for Valley in 39 games last season, tallying 165 plate appearances. The Texas native earned 30 runs with 34 hits and finished the season off with a 0.252 batting average. A senior at the University of Richmond, Elko's college season ended with 52 starts and was named the Atlantic 10 Baseball Player of the Week back in March.

Incoming Blue Sox shortstop Anthony Grabau has made headlines in his junior season at Fordham University. In 2026, he hit for a .303 batting average across 218 at bats, posting a .911 OPS, a promising left-handed bat. Grabau finished with

nine home runs and 38 RBI and earned a spot on Baseball America's College Team of the Week on April 21 at shortstop after an 11-for-21 week where he hit for the cycle. Grabau has been a defensive anchor at shortstop, starting all 55 games in the position and posting a .946 fielding percentage.

Behind the dish, junior Jacob Dilley has had a monster year at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. In 50 games, Dilley has hit for a .325 batting average, recorded a .960 OPS, left the yard for 10 home runs and recorded 38 RBI. Dilley has spent less time behind the plate in 2026 but has moved around the field for UNCG, making appearances in the outfield and first base in addition to his catching duties.

Junior Gavin Degnan brings a solid bat to the Valley outfield from the University of Pennsylvania. Degnan drove in 41 over 42 games which led his team, and had a .306 batting average and a .898 OPS to go with it. Degnan went deep for seven home runs and at times was a threat on the basepaths, swiping 14 bags.

Raiola has also assembled a diverse bullpen with a wide range of arms. Coming from UMass Lowell, Jake Le Francois posted a 2.03 ERA on a little over 11 innings pitched for the Riverhawks, emerging with potential to be a reliable arm for the Blue Sox. Right-handed pitcher Dylan Reid brings some more experience on the mound, logging nearly 60 innings pitched with a 3.77 ERA for Brown University. Averaging 4.9 innings pitched per game for the Bears in 2026, Reid profiles as a durable arm and can compete deep into outings.

Returning to the mound for Valley is Justin Masteralexis. A Western Massachusetts native, the left-handed pitcher logged over 19 innings for UMass Amherst this past season. Masteralexis struck out 19 batters for the Minutemen and earned Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team honors back in 2024.

"It's not just about picking the best players and the stats and all that, it's about getting the right guys," Raiola said. "[Seeing] how they mesh together, pull for each other and show up every single day.

The Blue Sox will kick off their 2026 season on June 4 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

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United Methodist Church to host chicken parmesan dinner

MONSON – Chicken psarmesan dinner on Saturday, June 13, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church.

Take-out orders and dining at the church are available.

Reservations are suggested, deadline for ordering is June 11.

Call 413-267-5207 to place your order.

Meal includes Chicken Parmesan, Baked Potato, Corn, Garden Salad, Roll,

Ice Cream Brownie Sundae.

Price is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

Come enjoy some mouth-watering homemade treats.

HEALTH | from page 5

really understand the terms of their policies, which leads to insurance denials, insurance appeals or, in this case, loss of coverage.

No matter if your health coverage comes through an employer, an ACA exchange, Medicare or Medicare Advantage, you have to pay attention or risk large medical bills.

What do I mean by paying attention? Here are some tips that may keep you out of hot water.

Read and understand your policy

This means understanding what medical services are (and are not) covered, what premiums are due each month, what your deductibles and copays are, and what your annual out-of-pocket maximums are.

Insurance companies must use “clear and unambiguous” language in their policies, and any ambiguity is typically interpreted in favor of the policyholder. However, insurance policies often contain complex and ambiguous language that can be difficult for you to understand, which may lead to disputes over coverage.

If you have questions about your policy, talk to your human resources department or call the company directly. Keep notes about who you spoke to and when and what they said.

Open the mail!

Pay attention to what your insurance compa-

ny is sending you, even if you think you know what’s in the envelope. It may be an explanation of benefits (EOB), a bill or even, in the case of the Florida woman, a notice that her premiums weren’t up to date.

There’s a reason the companies print “important insurance information” on the outside of the envelope.

Use the insurance company portal

You don’t have to wait for mail. Your policy is available to read in the customer portal, and claims usually show up pretty quickly. It will tell you if your premiums are up to date, how your claim was paid (or not) and what the appeals process in. Check in with the portal regularly.

Is the doctor in your network?

Medicare Advantage plans, which are HMOs, keep a network of approved providers. If your primary doctor is referring you to a specialist, your first stop is the list of network providers on the insurance website.

If the info on the website is wrong or outdated, you’ll be on the hook for payment. Call the doctor’s office to make sure they accept your insurance.

Pay attention to prior authorizations and referrals

Some insurers require a referral from the primary provider if you have to see a specialist. Original Medicare doesn’t have this requirement. Prior authorization may also be required for certain procedures or

tests, or for certain medications. Missing a prior authorization is a major reason claims are denied and patients end up with full liability.

If a claim is denied, don’t panic

A claim may be denied because the person who submitted the claim misspelled your name, gave a wrong member ID number or used the incorrect diagnostic code. You won’t be able to review the claim submission, but if you do get a denial or the coverage isn’t what you expected, call the doctor’s office and ask them to review the claim for errors. You can also call on the services of a patient advocate.

A popular phrase since the late 1800s is “the devil is in the details.” And those details can make or break your insurance coverage.

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

Public safety

Monson Fire Logs

Monson Fire Department log for the week of May 25 through May 31, 2026. The department responded to 22 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls.

On Wednesday, May 27 at 7:04 p.m. the department responded to 19 Stafford Road for the public assist. The department returned to service at 7:22 p.m.

On Thursday, May 28 at

6:54 p.m. the department responded to 56 Waid road for the public assist. The department returned to service at 7:35 p.m.

On Friday, May 29 at 10:15 a.m. the department responded to 268 Palmer Road for the smoke detectors sounding. The department returned to service at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, May 30

at 9:47 a.m. the department responded to the area of 41 Hovey Road for the tree on wires. The department returned to service at 10:08 a.m.

On Sunday, May 31 at 3:11 a.m. the department responded to 221 Munn Road for the smoke and C.O detectors sounding. The department returned to service at 3:40 a.m.

Palmer Police Logs

Sunday, May 17
6:26 a.m. – Summons – Andrew Joseph Bucior, 38, charged with driving an uninsured motor vehicle, driving an unregistered motor vehicle, and a number plate violation.

10:15 a.m. – Burglar alarm, Park St.
10:40 a.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Main St.
2:51 p.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Thorndike St.
4:57 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Sykes St.

6:14 p.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Ware St.

Monday, May 18
1:05 a.m. – Noise complaint, Beacon Dr.

9:58 a.m. – Fire alarm, Main St.
3:11 p.m. – Breaking and entering residence, Foster St.
8:10 p.m. – Assault and battery, Main St.
9:13 p.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Ware St.

Tuesday, May 19
8:36 a.m. – Trespass complaint, Main St.
8:44 a.m. – Animal complaint, Main St.
8:50 a.m. – Drug/narcotics violation, Park St.
9:38 a.m. – Fire, Alden St.

10:21 a.m. – Animal complaint, Riverview Pkwy
11:23 a.m. – Motor vehicle accident, summons, Karen Sue Skowyra, 66, charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop or yield

12:22 p.m. – Fire alarm, Sykes St.
2:27 p.m. – Fire alarm, Palmer Rd.
4:07 p.m. – Animal complaint, Main St.
4:51 p.m. – Burglar alarm, Blanchard St.
5:44 p.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Stafford St.
9:01 p.m. – Animal complaint, Springfield St.

Wednesday, May 20
7:43 a.m. – Fire/gas leak, Pine St.
9:49 a.m. – Fraud, Church St.

10:15 a.m. – Animal complaint, Breckenridge St.
10:46 a.m. – Animal complaint, Breckenridge St.
1:36 p.m. – Illegal dumping, Jim Ash St.
5:50 p.m. – Fire alarm, Pleasant St.

Thursday, May 21
6:32 a.m. – Animal complaint, Mt. Dumplin Rd.
6:56 a.m. – Suspicious person, Shearer St.

7:31 a.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Shearer St.
8:38 a.m. – Suspicious vehicle, Caroline Cir.

9:50 a.m. – Suspicious vehicle, Main St.
11:05 a.m. – Weapons violation, Sykes St.
5:37 p.m. – Fire alarm, Shearer St.
6:37 p.m. – Trespass complaint, Vaile St.
10:06 p.m. – Noise complaint, N. Main St.
10:32 p.m. – Animal complaint, N. Main St.

Friday, May 22
6:10 a.m. – Animal complaint, High St.

7:33 a.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Wright St.
10:49 a.m. – Fire alarm, Wright St.

3:12 p.m. – Animal complaint, Boston Rd.
3:36 p.m. – Animal complaint, Main St.
6:55 p.m. – Motor vehicle accident, Central St.

Saturday, May 23
1:29 p.m. – Arrest, Aaron Davenport, 33, was arrested on a warrant.
7:18 p.m. – Suspicious vehicle, Bridge St.
8:38 p.m. – Fire/gas leak, Springfield St.

Submit news and photos to The Journal Register at journalregister@turley.com

Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?

Let’s say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn’t stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn’t your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you’ll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you’ll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It’s a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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Obituaries

Ruth P. Pikul

1925-2026

PALMER/BERRIAN SPRINGS, MI – Ruth Phylis (Ackley) Pikul, recently of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away on May 24, 2026, at the age of 101, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born of February 25, 1925, in Monson Massachusetts, to Gladys Irene (Partelo) Ackley and Willis Samuel Ackley. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Joseph Pikul (1972), her daughter Mary Ann Postema (2024), and her sisters, Alice Stockman, Helen Pikul, Lois Carrier, Shirley Laviolette and Gladys Hannum. She is survived by her daughter Jane, and her husband Jim Markle; her



daughter May, and her husband Paul Blando; her sister, Dorothy Raymond; eight grandchildren; twenty-five great grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren.

Ruth married Edward Jooseph Pikul in 1948, and together they raised their family in Palmer, Massachusetts. Ruth was a devoted Christian, attending services and teaching Sunday School at Faith Baptist Church of Palmer for two decades, and later becoming a member and regular attendee of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Faith was central to who she was, and Ruth lived out her beliefs by joyfully serving others with

love, warmth, and humility. Ruth Phylis Pikul will be remembered by her family and friends for her steadfast faith, her loving nature, and the many ways she blessed her family and community. Her life was a beautiful reflection of devotion to God, dedication to family, and kindness toward others.

Ruth was laid to rest next to her husband on June 2, 2026. A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. at the family gravesite in Oak Knoll Cemetery in Palmer, Massachusetts. A memorial service was held at Highland Hills Baptist Church in Grand Rapids Michigan on June 3, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Peter Emerson Geer

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

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

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

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

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

After retiring, Peter returned to his entrepreneurial roots, having previously founded and operated his own landscaping company. This experience led him to a new calling as the leader of the garden section at Home Depot, where he deepened his love of planting and found joy in helping others discover and cultivate their own appreciation for gardening.

Peter was a proud and devoted member of his community and found deep fulfillment in helping others-especially when it meant lending a hand to a neighbor in need. He was also a proud member of The Sons of Amvets in Three Rivers, Massachusetts. Above



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

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

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

The Journal Register 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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

DEATH NOTICES

Peter Emerson Geer

Died Dec. 14, 2025
Service June 5, 2026
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Ruth P. Pikul

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Public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 25 State Street, Monson, MA 01057

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated October 10, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 110.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2026

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIVISION OF CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Electronic Bids submitted in the format furnished by the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) and clearly identified as a bid will be received through DCAMM’s

E-Bid Room at www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home no later than the date and time specified and will forthwith be publicly opened remotely by DCAMM Bid Room personnel and read aloud over a conference call line. Persons interested in accessing the remote bid opening can do so by using the following phone number: Audio Conferencing Dial-In Number (617)-315-0704, Meeting Number 2333 916 4237#. If prompted for attendee ID, please press #.

Mass. State Project No. DCP2515

DCP – Monson Campus – Buildings 7 & 8 Demolition, Monson, MA

General Bids at 2:00 PM: June 25, 2026

Every General Bidder must be certified by DCAMM for the category of work listed below and for no less than the bid price plus all add alternates of this project, if applicable.

The Category of Work is: General Building Construction
E.C.C: **\$1,020,962**

This project is scheduled for 90 calendar days to substantial completion. Scope: DCP – Monson Campus – Buildings 7 & 8 Demolition, Monson, MA. The project work consists of a comparative case study for the deconstruction of Building 7 - Hillside Ward and the demolition of Building 8 - Hampden Ward on the campus of Monson State Hospital. Abatement of hazardous materials is required in both structures prior to deconstruction or demolition activities. Slate roofs on both structures will be addressed under (2) separate Non-Traditional Work Plans.

A Pre-Bid/Site Visit will be held on June 9, 2026 @ 10:00 AM. Meet at the Laundry Building located at the corner of Hospital Road and Macomber Road. Visitors will be escorted to Building 7 and 8 at 10:15 AM.

Minimum rates of wages to be paid on the project have been determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor Standards. These rates are incorporated into the bid documents.

Bid documents for this project may be accessed or downloaded at no cost to potential bidders exclusively through DCAMM’s E-Bid Room <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home>. A hard copy set can be made available for viewing in DCAMM’s Bid Room located at One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor, Boston, MA during normal business hours by appointment only by contacting DCAMM’s Bid Room.

In order to access bid documents and submit bids through DCAMM’s E-Bid Room potential bidders must first be verified by DCAMM’s Bid Room and then register with the E-Bid Room vendor. Instructions on the processes can be found on DCAMM’s website www.mass.gov/dcomm/bids or contact DCAMM’s Bid Room at bidroom.dcomm@mass.gov or (617) 727-4003.
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The **Palmer** Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **Laurel Manor Elderly 667-01** Development for the **Palmer** Housing Authority in **Palmer** Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc.**

The Project consists of: **Replacing Asphalt Parking Areas**
The work is estimated to cost **\$ 141,460.00**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Monday June 22, 2026** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For assistance, contact [Projectdog](http://Projectdog.com), Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **Palmer** Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Doc-

uments will be available in electronic form and without cost or charge at Projectdog.com, project code **874923**, beginning **June 3, 2026**. Persons desiring hard copies of the documents shall be solely responsible for all printing costs.

The Contractor and all sub-contractors (collectively referred to as “the Contractor”) agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 §44A(2)(G).

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. on **Thursday June 11, 2026**.

For an appointment call Matthew Blanchard at 978-394-9009..
06/04, 06/11, 06/18/2026

Legal Advertisement TOWN OF PALMER Park Avenue and Front Street Improvement Project

The Town of Palmer invites sealed Bids for the Park Avenue and Front Street Improvement Project. The project includes installation of approximately 820 linear feet of 8-inch ductile iron water main, one tapping sleeve and valve, three gate valves, four water services, 220 linear feet of HDPE drain line and six precast concrete structures, 1,900 square feet of cement concrete sidewalk, 890 linear feet of precast concrete, monolithic concrete and hot mix asphalt curb, 1,700 square yards of road reconstruction, and associated work. This project is being administered by the town of Palmer and funded by the MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, FY25 Palmer Community Development Block Grant Program. The Engineer’s opinion of probable construction costs for the Base Bid is \$530,000.

Contract Documents, including plans and specifications, may be viewed electronically beginning June 3, 2026 at www.BidDocsOnline.com and hard copies requested at Nashoba Blue, Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). There is a refundable deposit of \$50.00 per set payable to BidDocs Online, Inc. Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier’s check. Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to the BidDocs Online, Inc., to cover mailing costs.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount,

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher. The project is subject to HUD’s Section 3 policy, under which, to the greatest extent possible, affirmative steps shall be taken to ensure training and employment for lower income workers and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall also make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder. This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Park Avenue and Front Street Improvement Project, Palmer, MA.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the DHCD Block Grant program. The Town of Palmer, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its

best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

Questions regarding the bid specifications should be directed in writing to Bill Storti at Weston & Sampson, at storti@wseinc.com. Contract documents may be viewed at the Community Development Department office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069, or Weston & Sampson, 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067.

Bids must be received at the Community Development Department office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 no later than 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 25, 2026. Bids will be opened and read aloud at that time.
06/04/2026

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

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

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

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday May 26, 2026 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 AM. to 3:00 PM., Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfield.ma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked “IFB2026HWY02 – FY2027 Various Road Materials and Equipment Rentals” and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (April 2026) of \$670 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdot-current-contract-price-adjustments> and “Special Provisions” as attached.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids are subject to applicable provisions of the General Laws including Chapter 534, Chapter 30B, and Chapter 30, Section 39M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction).

All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications.

Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

Contracts will be awarded on an item-by-item basis to the responsive and responsible bidder(s) offering the lowest price for each item. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
05/28, 06/04/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1165EA Estate of: Norma P Russo Date of Death: 10/18/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Todd A Russo of Ware, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Todd A Russo of Ware, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 29, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

06/04/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1154EA Estate of: Joan M St. John Also known as: Joan St. John Date of Death: 09/05/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Douglas J Lucia of Syracuse, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Douglas J Lucia of Syracuse, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the

bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

06/04/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD26E0022PP

To Carl A. Trant, Jr., of Hampden County, and all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by James B. Howard, Jr., of Monson, representing that they hold as tenants in common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Monson, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the **twenty-seventh day of July 2026**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 26th day of May 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register

06/04, 06/11, 06/18/2026

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall, 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Rush Blankenship for Site Plan approval with Special Permit as provided by §6.7, §7.3 & §7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to construct an accessory dwelling unit with a garage on property located at 141 Thayer Road, Map 005 and Parcel 034D, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board office.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
05/28, 06/04/2026

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Public notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.** in the Police Department Meeting Room 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 171, Article XV, §171-89– Accessory Dwelling Units and Article II §5-Definitions.

A copy of the zoning amendment may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
05/28, 06/04/2026

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 6:55 p.m.** in the Police Department Meeting Room 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 171, Article XVII, Section 171-94 – Signs, to include provisions for projecting signs in the Village Center Districts.

A copy of the zoning amendment may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
05/28, 06/04/2026

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.** in the Police Department Meeting Room 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 171 Articles VII through XII. The proposed amendment includes revising use regulations for residential, commercial, industrial, and village center zones, and compiling these regulations into one table. The proposed amendment also includes changes to §171-5, Definitions, to define new uses and revise outdated definitions.

A copy of the zoning amendment may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
05/28, 06/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Brimfield Highway Department Invitation for Bids Brookfield and Monson Road Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2027

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Thursday, June 11, 2026, by 11:00 AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 11:00 AM, in the Brimfield Town Hall

Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following Road Resurfacing and Related Work for Fiscal Year 2027 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on June 15, 2026:

I. Bituminous Concrete Excavation Cold Planer – Brookfield and Monson Road

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday May 26, 2026 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 AM. to 3:00 PM., Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked **“IFB2026HWY01 – FY2027”** and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (not more than 15 miles from the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (April 2026) of \$670 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdot-current-contract-price-adjustments> and “Special Provisions” as attached.

Contractors intending to bid on Super Pave, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is “Pavement Surfacing.” The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$583,598.55. NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2027 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Road Resurfacing, are subject to the provisions to applicable provisions of the General Laws including Chapter 534, Chapter 30B, and Chapter 30, Section 39M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction).

All work/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications.

Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
05/28, 06/04/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P0265EA
Estate of:

Jean E Burnham Date of Death: 11/23/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kevin Burnham of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Kevin Burnham of Monson, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/04/2026

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Invitation for Bids

FY2027 Heating Oil, Diesel, and Boiler Maintenance
Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received by **Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 10:00AM**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday June 11, 2026 at 10:05AM. in the Brimfield Town Annex, Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items for Fiscal Year 2027 will be awarded by the Select Board on Monday, June 15, 2026 at their duly posted meeting.

1. **Fuels: *Must hold an Ultimate Vendor's License**
1. Heating Fuel 1,000-gallon capacity
2. Diesel – Ultra Low Sulphur 2,000-gallon capacity
3. Boiler Maintenance See Below*

***Boiler Maintenance:** The Town of Brimfield has a total of four (4) furnaces/boiler systems in its municipal buildings (Town Hall, Town Hall Annex Building and Library) that require annual cleaning and periodic repairs. Bids are to include the per hourly labor rate for this work. Materials will be paid for as necessary.

The Town of Brimfield will consider bids based only upon “mark up over daily rack price”

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning May 26, 2026 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. All questions/ answers and addendums will be distributed to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked “IFB2026HWYFLS01 - FY2027 Heating Oil, Diesel, and Boiler Maintenance” and include the date and time of bid opening. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid form (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Duration of bid is for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027); otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment Terms: Net term, 30 days.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of provisions of Chapter 149, M.G.L., section 26-27D. Bids submitted for heating oil and diesel are subject to the provisions of the Prevailing Wage law where applicable.

Contracts will be awarded on an item-by-item basis to the responsive and responsible bidder(s) offering the lowest price for each item. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
05/28, 06/04/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 001731 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **David P. Lamarche Jr., Samuel LaMarche and Alexander LaMarche**

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

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2021-2

claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in **Palmer**, numbered **11 Norman Street**, given by **David P. Lamarche Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.**, dated **March 12, 2007**, and recorded at **Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16602, Page 36**, as affected by a **Loan Modification Agreement dated October 14, 2020, recorded in Book 23571, Page 111**, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of 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 **July 13, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on May 27, 2026

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
06/04/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 64 Washington Road, Brimfield, MA 01010

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph E McLellan III and Renee A Vail-lancourt to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, and now held by **CitiMortgage, Inc.**, said mortgage dated July 18, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 136, as affected by a Loan Modification dated January 22, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22157, Page 559; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans to CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment dated September 21, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 20887, Page 213; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on June 23, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, being shown as Lot 2 on a “Plan of Land owned by Andrew E. Shackett, 64 Washington Road, Brimfield MA”, Jalbert Engineering Inc., recorded with the Hampden District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 359, Plan 77.

Containing 5 acres of land more or less according to said plan.

Subject to rights and easements as described in Book 17699 Page 367 if same affect locus and are in force and effect.

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

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated June 19, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 134.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for CitiMortgage, Inc.
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
05/21, 05/28, 06/04/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:45 PM, **Tuesday, June 16, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Notice of Intent** for activities associated with the proposed construction of a 24-lot Open Space Residential Subdivision. Work is proposed to occur within 100-foot Buffer Zone and 50-foot No-Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The project site is located on State Street in Palmer (Assessor’s Map/Lots 87-12, 87-13, 87-14, 89-15, 89-32). The applicant making the request is BT Commercial, LLC c/o Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. Elizabeth O’Connor, Vice-Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission.
06/04/2026

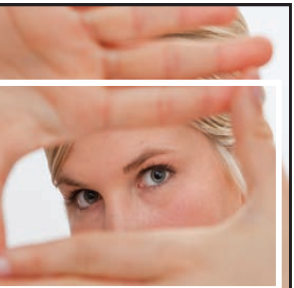
TOWN OF PALMER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at the Palmer Town Administration Building 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA on the **22nd of June, 2026 at 5:45 PM** on the request for permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Peterson Rd-National Grid to install 1 JO Pole and 2 SO Poles on Peterson Rd beginning at the point approximately 260’ feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Smith St and continuing approximately 550 feet in a southerly direction. National Grid to install (1) JO Midspan Pole (P#23-50) & (2) SO Poles (P#26 & P#27) to provide service for #255 Peterson Rd.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Brad Brothers, Town Manager
06/04/2026



think
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of the
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- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

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24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
pouimette@turley.com



Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee
at 12:30 p.m.
with drinks and popcorn
June 5 - “Pretty Woman” – 1990 romantic comedy about a wealthy businessman who hires a street-smart prostitute to accompany him to social events, leading to an unexpected romance.
June 12 - “Bindspotting” – follows Collin, an Oakland man with just three days left on probation, whose plans for a fresh start are assessed by a volatile best friend, a shifting neighborhood, and a shocking inci-

Monday Evening Programs
4:30 p.m.
June 8 - Fourth of July Wreath cost \$20.00
June 15 - Movie “Barbie” popcorn, drinks, and candy
June 22 - Kick off to summer - Beach Boys and Jimmy Buffet music, slider, hot dog, mac salad, and ice cream. Cost \$5
June 29 - Pizza and Family Feud. Cost \$5
Activities
June 5 - Lunch and

dent that forces him to confront race, class, and identity.
Learn “Knowing your discharge plan.”
June 10 - Lunch & Learn Fallon Health Navicare
June 11 - Quabbin Presentation “Eagles, Loons, Bears” Rescheduled from 5/18
June 12 - Mother’s/ Father’s Day Party - Entertainment by Musically Married. Entertainment was made possible by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council.
June 17 - Hampden County Registry of Deeds Presentation. Everyone who attends will receive a free copy of their deed.

June 23 - Shopping Trip to Aldi, Target, Trader Joe’s, and a lunch stop. This is a self-pay event.
Upcoming Events
Aug. 1 (Saturday) - Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is \$40.00 prepaid, no refunds.
Sept. 11 - Annual Picnic at Pulaski Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Entertainment by The Gemstones, meal by Tony and Penny Catering. Enjoy tasty food, good friends, and good entertainment.
Please Sign up for all Programs by calling 413-283-2670 Ext. 3

Patriotic music program on June 7

PALMER – The Fanfare Brass presents a Patriotic music program celebrating the 250th founding of our country on Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Church located at 1060 Central Street in Palmer, Mass.
The program starts 1768 to current songs and we speak a little about the history of each song. A program/song sheet will be passed out for those who would like to sing along.
Program songs include: The Liberty Song, God Save Good Washington, The Girl I Left Behind, My Country Tis of Thee, British Grenadiers, Chester, Yankee Doodle, Shenandoah, The Star Spangles Banner, Columbia, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Battle Cry of Freedom, Dixie, Cruel War in Over, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, Eternal Father, America the Beautiful, Stars and Stripes, You’re A Grand Old Flag, God Bless America, It’s A Long Way to Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles, Armes Forces Themes, Hail to the Chief, God Bless the USA.
For more information contact David Neill at 413-686-5027 or email tbn8@aol.com.

PET

PAGE

PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Mckinley!



She is a 10-year-old rescue miniature Schnauzer/ Chinese Crested mix owned by David Maiga and Elizabeth Tavares. She loves long rides in the car, outdoor time by the pool and cuddling on the couch with human family and pet siblings.

ATTENTION READERS!
Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a **FREE weekend get-away or spa package** for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.
Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet’s name.



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Expires 6/30/26



PACK WALKS
– Every Saturday in Post Office Park Wilbraham at Noon.
– Every Sunday in Bechertown behind the Police Dept. at 10 a.m.
All Ages And Breeds Welcome
\$20 Each - Weather Permitting

Every Wednesday Night at 5:30 p.m.
Non-Committal Obedience Socialization Group.
Find us at Belchertown State School in front of Christopher Heights and Belchertown Day School.

NEW CLASSES!

- JUNE - SIGN UP NOW!**
- **Basics Obedience & Socialization**
 - **Life Skills**
- All at the Belchertown Recreation Department
- COMING IN JULY!**
- **Beginners Tracking Class**
- *Sign Up Online for these classes at the Belchertown Rec Dept.*

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We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

Your Dog’s Barks, Whines and Growls and What They Mean

Dogs make a lot of sounds. From howling and growling to whining and crying. Some dogs tend to be more talkative than others. Some breeds also tend to have certain distinctive sounds, Rottweilers “purr,” Siberian Huskies “talk,” Shiba Inus “scream” and Basenjis “yodel” instead of barking. But in general, there are a handful of sounds most dogs make to communicate with other dogs and with people.
Barking - Dogs have different barks depending on the circumstances. Your dog could be alerting you

to danger or just showing you how happy he is that you’re home. A bark can indicate joy or fear, anger or awareness, frustration or need. The key to understanding the bark is context and knowing your dog. A dog with separation anxiety might have a high-pitched, repetitive bark that gets higher as the dog gets more anxious and upset. Boredom barking is more monotone and repetitive. An alert bark is usually sharp and staccato, while an alarm bark is similar but with more intensity. When your dog wants something from you, her

barks are sharp and continuous. Suspicious barking is typically slow and low. Fearful barking is also low, but it’s usually faster. And playful barking just sounds playful.
Growling - Growling is usually a warning sign. It’s telling another dog or a person to back off, that if you don’t stop touching the dog’s food, toys, body, or get out of his space, then he might become aggressive. Take a growl seriously and make your dog comfortable. And remember, never punish a dog for growling. If you do, you’re punishing him for

giving a warning. The next time he won’t warn you first. If the growl is more of a low grumble and you are playing tug of war at the time, then it’s a play growl and things are fine.
Howling - Not all dogs howl. Often triggered by high-pitched noises, howling seems to be contagious among dogs. When an ambulance races through an area, listen to the sounds of the neighborhood dogs. Some researchers believe howling is a way that dogs communicate among pack members. A dog that howls when left alone may be try-

ing to talk to their owners who left them behind.
Whining - Dogs often whine when they want something. Your dog might whine when she needs to go outside, wants a treat, wants to go for a walk, or just wants your attention. But whining can also be a sign of fear or anxiety. A dog that’s afraid of going to the vet may whine when you get there. A dog with separation anxiety may whine when he’s left alone.
Yelping and whimpering - When your dog cries, whimpers or yelps, it’s typically a sign that he’s in pain.

A dog might yelp when playing if another dog bites too hard. These sounds are how dogs communicate distress to the rest of the pack or to their humans.
Sighing & Groaning - When your dog lets out a hearty groan or a deep sigh, is he showing either extreme contentment or severe disappointment. If you’ve just had a great walk or a fun romp in the yard, a sigh is likely a sign of happy satisfaction. However, if your pup has brought you the ball five times and you won’t throw it, the sigh is likely one of bummed-out frustration.