

# The Journal Register

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2025



The girl's side of the graduation popping the confetti devices they were given after diplomas were given out. Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy



The MHS Class of 2025 throw their caps in the air in celebration. Turley photo by Amanda Munson

### Palmer High School celebrates commencement

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – Under blue skies at Legion Field on June 1, Palmer High School's 146th Commencement Ceremony marked a joyful and emotional milestone for the Class of 2025. Family, friends, educators, and town leaders gathered to celebrate the achievements and growth of 78 graduates whose stories of perseverance and promise were the focus of a heartfelt program of speeches, music,

and recognition. The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Class President Donovan Rayleonard, who also served as Student Council President and a two-year delegate to the Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils. In his speech, Rayleonard used the board game "The Game of Life" as a metaphor for the unpredictability of the high school experience. From hallway crushes to AP exams, from triumphs to stumbles, Rayleonard said the class had navigated

"twists and turns" with humor, grit, and heart. "It's okay not to have everything figured out," Rayleonard reminded his peers. "Life has no single path or perfect timeline." A future psychology major who plans to earn a PhD and become a clinical psychologist, Rayleonard closed by urging his classmates to "grab onto their dreams and never let go."

Superintendent Mr. Matthew Francis praised the Class of 2025 for its academ-

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### MHS graduates 24 seniors

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

MONSON – On May 30, 24 students from the Monson High School Class of 2025 graduated at Granite Valley Middle School in the auditorium and were surrounded by families, friends, and MHS staff. The order of graduation exercises began following the processional of "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar, flag salute by Class President Olivia Chrzan and then the principal address by Principal Christopher Fontaine.

"Today, we stand on

this stage not just as students who completed assignments, passed exams, and survived group projects - but as individuals who overcame, who endured, who rose to every occasion. After six years, yes, six years for many of our students, we are now together for one final time. After years of late-night cramming for our tests, figuring out how to look awake during 1st period, figuring out how to do school via Zoom calls. We are finally here! Wearing these caps and gowns is symbolic that through all that you have endured, all the struggles, ups and downs, you have made it! Let's be honest

- this class has had to endure adversity unlike many before them. Some would say that for this class, change was the only consistent thing for them. This class has met adversity head on and has conquered it. Things such as coming to Monson High School as a seventh grader and being the first to ever do that. Leaving seventh grade in March of 2020 and not returning to in-person learning until the near end of eighth grade added to the challenges that this group of students faced. Adversity included the consistent turnover in prin-

MHS | page 14

MONSON

### Resident: Certification needed for Veterans Services officer

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – On May 27, the Monson Select Board held a wide-ranging meeting that addressed pressing community concerns, including improving veterans' services, preparing for major local events, resolving service issues, and advancing green infrastructure initiatives. The session, attended by veterans, town officials, and concerned residents, reflected the board's commitment to enhancing both support for veterans and quality of life across Monson.

Veterans Services certification and expanded support takes center stage

The meeting opened with a compelling plea from veteran Robert Kaddy, who spotlighted challenges faced by Monson's Veterans Services Officer (VSO), Hailee Fullen, in navigating federal certification requirements. Kaddy emphasized that while Fullen admirably supports approximately six veterans under Massachusetts' Chapter 115 benefits, state-level assistance, she currently lacks the federal certification required to directly assist the remaining 619 veterans residing in Monson with their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims.

"I want to clarify that Hailee is a very capable

OFFICER | page 12

PALMER

### Paint and Sip event held for girls scouts

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – Girl Scouts from Troop 11383 are wrapping up the school year with creativity, community, and a call for new members. The troop recently hosted its first-ever Paint and Sip night, a fun and artistic gathering where younger scouts

enjoyed painting while sipping juice and laughing with friends.

"This is the first time we've done a Paint and Sip," said Donna Lanzillo, one of the troop leaders of Troop 11383 and unit manager for the Swift River Service Unit 170. "It was an idea from one of our girls. It's a girl-led program, so when they express an interest, we try to make it

happen."

The Paint and Sip event was open to Daisies, the youngest Girl Scouts in the troop, and was just one part of a busy spring calendar filled with activities designed to promote leadership, friendship, and fun.

Upcoming events include a She and Me outing at Claymates, where girls will participate in a creative activ-

ity with a special female figure in their life; whether it's a mom, aunt, older sister, or grandmother. The troop will also hold its annual bridging ceremony on June 9, a tradition where girls move up to the next level of scouting, symbolizing their growth and achievements.

"We have 27 girls right now, and each age group is busy in their own way," said Lanzillo. "The Daisies meet one week, the Brownies the next, and everyone's working on different badges and skills. It's an active troop."

The year will end with a field trip to the Southwick Zoo, where scouts will earn eco patches and enjoy time outdoors before the summer break.

SCOUTS | page 12



The young girl scouts showing off their paintings. Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

**BRING BACK THE ART OF RESPECTFUL DEBATE!**  
**PLEASE VOTE FOR**  
**Laurent R. McDonald – Moderator**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025**

PAID FOR BY LAURENT MCDONALD



- Integrity
- Experience
- Education

Town Meeting is considered to be the cornerstone of democracy. Samuel Adams referred to them as "the cradle of liberty!"

# Candidates for upcoming election deliver statements

**PALMER/MONSON** – Next week, both Palmer and Monson will hold their annual town elections. Multiple candidates have submitted their statements for election to the Journal Register. Palmer's election is Tuesday, June 9 while Monson's is Wednesday, June 10.

## John Morrell

*Monson Select Board  
(candidate for re-election)*

"My name is John Morrell and I live at 15 East Hill Road. I've lived in Monson for 70 years. This upcoming election on June 10th for Selectboard is not about whether you're a Democrat or Republican but it's about keeping our residents safe, educating our children and maintaining our small town's character. My platform is experience, honesty and trust. During the time I've lived in Monson I've served our town for 54 years in different elected positions. As your Highway Surveyor for 39 years during which I obtained over 22 million dollars in road improvement grants that the town would not have otherwise been entitled to. I also served on the Monson Water and Sewer Commission for 6 years during which time I found over 100 thousand dollars in The Conant Dam Brook Account of Federal Funds I used to build a new facility for that department adjacent to the highway garage and got that department out of the crowded and antiquated town annex basement. I also have served 9 years on the Selectboard. Our current board's persistence has paid off as the state has hired a contractor to demolish and remove several old buildings at the Monson Developmental Center. The state has also hired a developer to put the property out for future use which will bring new tax dollars to Monson. This process will start very soon. With all my years of experience with town government I have established good working relationships with both Federal and State officials, and other agencies such as Mass Dot. They listen to me and return my calls. This is huge as these connections take time and are critical to the town. I would appreciate your consideration for voting for me and allowing me to continue to serve on the Selectboard. Thank you!"

## Laurent McDonald

*Monson Town Moderator  
Dear Monson Voters,*

I had the pleasure of serving as your fire chief from 2012-2019; and now I would like to serve as your next Moderator.

When we come together at Town Meeting, we fulfill an important role as the Town's legislative body, a co-equal branch of local government that among other things, makes the final decision on salaries, budget, and bylaws.

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

The Moderator's job is to be a neutral party presiding over the debate, giving the legislators (you the voter) an opportunity to speak, addressing points of order and motions, and making final declarations of votes.

I have nearly 45 years of experience working in all three levels of government, federal, state, and local. I am a 21-year retired veteran of the United States Air Force. I have presided over several organizations throughout my career in public, private, and non-profit service, including the Air Force Sergeants Association, Southern Worcester County Community Development Corporation, Southbridge Charter Review Committee, Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, Hampden County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Southbridge Redevelopment Authority, and Southbridge Town Council.

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

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

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

## Roxanne Gunther

*Monson Select Board*

My name is Roxanne Gunther and I am running for the Monson Select Board and I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I'm a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. I have lived in Monson since 2003. I previously worked for the City of Springfield in two different departments and am familiar with how municipalities work. I'm also President of the Quaboag Riders Women's Auxiliary and have enjoyed participating for the last fifteen years in the Doll Carriage and Bike Parade during Summerfest each year. I, along with others, work the concessions during the Hill Climb events and feed lots of people. I was also involved in gathering information to help Save the Hill (Monson Hill Climbs) when it was threatened with closure a few years back, and we prevailed along with the support of members of our community and beyond. I have been attending Board and Committee meetings for years, gaining knowledge for better understanding of how our government works

and sharing that information with others when needed. If I had questions, I would do research, whether by asking someone, using my computer, calls to Boston and even other towns to clarify. People know I do my homework and I am more than willing to help anyone with any issue they may have. Three years ago, I was appointed to the General Bylaw Committee and we were tasked with updating our General Bylaws to bring them more in line with the present. We met every two weeks and at times, every week, for two hours at a time. The fruits of our labor were voted on and approved at the last annual town meeting and I am very proud of our work. It upsets me to see citizens being treated unfairly and I think that as a town, we can do better. It's time for someone that pays attention to detail and knows what is happening. The time for change is now and I believe I am that change and that I will make a difference. It's time for someone who is willing to question the status quo to make our town a better place. Things need to change and the first change is a vote for me. I will do my best to make sure that things are done correctly and people treated fairly. Vote Roxanne Gunther, June 10, 2025 and Thank You!

## Jessica Ferry

*Councilor-At-Large*

My name is Jessica Ferry and I'm running for reelection for Town Council At-Large because I believe in Palmer and in the crucial role local government has in our everyday lives.

Public service has always had a profound presence in my life. I'm the proud daughter of a combat veteran and a longtime member of the Palmer Fire Department. From a young age, I saw directly what it meant to serve our community.

That same spirit empowers my full-time work. My entire career has been in state and local government, specializing in municipal finance and administration. I understand how to balance budgets, manage services, and navigate complex challenges while keeping the needs of residents prioritized.

I'm a proud graduate of Palmer Public Schools and I hold a bachelor's degree and a master's in public policy from UMass Amherst, an opportunity made possible by strong public education and support systems that I will always be an advocate for.

My journey in town government began when I served as an intern in the Town Manager's office. The experience of connecting with residents and working alongside dedicated town employees inspired me to run for Town Council. I wanted to help shape our future, and I'm honored to have had that

opportunity over the past six years.

During my time on the Town Council, I've been proud to take part in shaping Palmer's long-term vision. I served on the Master Plan Steering Committee, helping develop a comprehensive guide for our town's growth and development. Now, as a member of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, I'm working to see those goals turned into action, ensuring we are working towards our future with intention.

Additionally, I've served on the hiring committees for both our Town Manager and Superintendent of Palmer Public Schools. These are two critical leadership positions in our community, and I took seriously the responsibility to help select individuals who share Palmer's values and excellence in public service.

One project I will continue to follow through with is West-East Rail. As an avid rail traveler visiting family and friends in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., I know the value of public transit. I've advocated to state leaders to help position Palmer as a stop when service expands in 2029, and I'm committed to seeing that through. As much as we all advocated to have the rail station in our downtown area, we need to be unified in accepting the location determined by Mass DOT and recognizing the benefit passenger rail will bring to Palmer's economy as well as offering greater access to jobs in eastern Massachusetts.

Through responsible budgeting, we've been able to preserve and expand services, including keeping our Senior Center open five days a week and investing in a full-time recreation department. We will continue efforts to improve parks, athletic fields, and trails, as well as cultivate programs that support art and culture for residents in all stages of life. I'm committed to making Palmer a place where residents can connect while staying physically and mentally active. The Council is also prioritizing increased access and transparency by organizing monthly meetings at the Senior Center and larger public forums at the police station this summer with a commitment to creating more opportunities for residents to ask questions, share ideas, and stay informed about the decisions that affect them.

I also support exploring the consolidation of Palmer's three fire and four water districts into a single fire and water district. There is a reason why most communities in Massachusetts have one fire department and one water department. It is a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and allows for broader organization and comprehensive planning that all taxpayers financially support the same level of ser-

vice. This will require a commitment from the prudential committees in each of the districts as well as a desire for change from voters.

As we look ahead, we must do so with hope and pragmatism. We are entering a period of economic uncertainty. Rising costs, uncertain state revenues, and long-term infrastructure needs requires prudent leadership to manage. I am committed to responsibly managing the growth of our tax levy while being mindful of what residents can afford. Balancing fiscal responsibility with community needs is key to making Palmer a place where people want to live and invest in. I believe we can meet these challenges as long as we stay focused, work together, and hold onto the values that make Palmer resilient.

Serving on the Town Council has been a great honor. I've proudly represented the next generation of civic leadership in Palmer. With your support, I'll continue to bring energy, experience, and optimism to the work ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for believing in Palmer's potential.

## Sandra Noonan

*Palmer School Committee  
(candidate for re-election)*

My name is Sandra Noonan and I am running for my third term on the Palmer School Committee. My reason for running in 2019, and again in 2025, is simple and remains the same. I want the best possible education we can offer to all of the children of Palmer. I am a retired teacher spending my entire career in the Palmer Public School district. My five children, and three of my grandchildren, attend/have attended the Palmer Schools. Public school education is my passion; that has never wavered.

Palmer has incredible kids; I have been privileged to teach them and currently observe them in action in sports, school plays, concerts, and academic pursuits. They deserve all of our best efforts so they can continue to thrive and become the best they can be - successful, productive, caring individuals, who will hopefully give back to their communities.

In 2019, the Palmer School Committee chose Mr. Matt Francis as Superintendent. Since his hire, he has restored confidence in the school system and worked tirelessly at building relationships with the school and town communities. He has

initiated several important programs such as free universal preschool and a Business Pathway track at PHS. Mr. Francis has exercised fiscal responsibility under the constraints of tight budgets and has made information and accountability systems much more efficient, to better serve our school population. Staff professional development has greatly improved, and collaboration among staff has been strongly supported. Under his leadership, the Palmer High School track was finally completed, and PHS continues to provide a wide variety of sports at no cost to students. Some school-choice students have returned to the system, and he persists in his efforts to bring more of them back. Mr. Francis is totally dedicated to the mission that all students, families and staff feel a sense of belonging in the Palmer Schools.

I am proud to have been a part of this process as a member of the School Committee and would like to continue with these important endeavors. With the support of the voters in Palmer, I will continue to serve. Thank you.

## Emily Malcovsky

*Palmer Planning Board*

I have a few reasons that drove me to run for the Planning Board in Palmer. I feel like we should be looking forward to our future here, and trying to keep it a place our kids want to live and enjoy. I want to help guide new development in Town in a manner that is satisfactory to the residents and beneficial to any new businesses wanting to set up shop. Development can sometimes be scary but if managed correctly, it can bring many amenities to the Town. We should strive towards a vibrant downtown area, which is welcoming to residents while providing a space that people want to spend time in, this would also be beneficial for everyone. My top priority is to help create an affordable, safe, walkable community that allows for a distinct downtown feel in our village centers while preserving our open space and trails. Our zoning code needs reform and modernization in order to make these ideas the standard. I have worked in the Building Department since 2015 and I think I've learned a lot about the local area, including not only our planning regulations, but the residents of the area and how they feel about the Town they live in.

Thank you,  
Emily Malcovsky

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

Dear friends,

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

I would appreciate your support at the polls in June.

John

VOTE  
John "Hub"  
**MORRELL**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
SELECT BOARD



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

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PLEASE JOIN US AND  
RE-ELECT JOHN MORRELL  
TO OUR SELECT BOARD ON TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2025.

PAID FOR BY JOHN MORRELL

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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I'm a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I'm a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67.

I currently pay for TriCare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

**Signed: Retired Navy Vet**

Dear Retired Navy Vet:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the "For Veterans" section of our Foundation website interesting – visit [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two "parts" to Medicare - Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services – doctors, medical tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).

Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in

Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: [www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay](http://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay).

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

### Pothole cheerleaders...



### The peony takes the stage in June

As I look out my living room window, I can see the chubby round buds of one of my favorite June-bloomers, the peony. No doubt, the plant will be in full flower just in time for my birthday, as it has for a number of decades.

Read on to learn all you need to know, straight from the archives!

Who doesn't love the peony? Its frilly flowers, fine fragrance and fit form make it a favorite in the June perennial border.

And although it only blooms for a short while, the plant itself is reliably hardy and notably long lived in our climate. In fact, the peony that grows in my garden is one my great grandmother grew in the 1930s!

Here are a few tips to keep your peonies thriving for the next seventy years.

#### Planting

Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area. This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day. Don't skimp on the size of the planting hole; one that measures a foot and a half deep by two and a half feet wide will sustain the plant for many years.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to

planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure. Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime. Mail order plants usually arrive bareroot. These can be soaked in a bucket of water overnight to rehydrate prior to planting. When it comes time to plant, remember this: eyes point up, roots point down! Eyes should end up no more than two inches below the soil surface; any deeper than that and flowers may be sacrificed. Get your plants off to a good start by watering occasionally until the ground freezes. Once it does, a light mulch can be applied over the peonies to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during periods of freeze and thaw.

#### Fertilizing and Watering

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. For that reason choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitro-

gen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

#### Staking

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go.

If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural. I have been using a three rung, large tomato cage with success for the last several years. The key is to get the cage in place early!

#### Diseases

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading

JUMP | page ?



By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported a yellow bellied sapsucker pair in his yard.

He said in an email, "I began seeing a male yellow-bellied sapsucker at a dogwood tree in front of the house. The bird was there every day last week. On Saturday, I saw a female on the same tree. I'll try to find a nest, I did find a sapsucker nest in the Brimfield State Forest a few years ago." He also has a mountain ash in his yard with lots of sapsucker holes.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers lap up the leaking sap and any trapped insects with its specialized, brush-tipped tongue from holes they makes in a variety of trees especially birch and maples

Like many of the woodpecker family, it has barred black and white feathers with a red cap. The male also has a red throat. They sit still on tree trunks for long intervals

while feeding. To find one, listen for their loud mewing calls or stuttered drumming.

Sapsuckers inhabit young deciduous forests. To find a sapsucker's territory, people should keep an eye out for their distinctive, neatly organized rows of sap wells. They cling motionless to trees while calling, birders should look closely at the trees around the for their sharply contrasting black-and-white face stripes and the bright-red patches on their heads.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker makes two kinds of holes in trees to harvest sap. Round holes extend deep in the tree and are not enlarged. The sapsucker inserts its bill into the hole to probe for sap. Rectangular holes are shallower and must be maintained continually for the sap to flow. The sapsucker licks the sap from these holes, and eats the cambium of the tree

#### Yellow bellied sapsucker

too. New holes usually are made in a line with old holes, or in a new line above the old.

The sap wells made by yellow-bellied sapsuckers attract hummingbirds, which also feed off the sap flowing from the tree. Other birds as well as bats and porcupines also visit sapsucker sap wells. Although a few individuals remain throughout much of the winter in the southern part of the breeding range, most head farther south, going as far south as Panama. Females tend to migrate farther south than do males.

#### Other birds

The Brimfield resident reports the return of the rose-breasted grosbeak, catbird and great crested flycatcher. His wife saw two great crested flycatcher near the nest box a pair used last year.

BACKYARD | page 5

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### 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](mailto: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.

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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.

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# PFD budget approved as dept. takes on full-time EMS role

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – In a continuation of the Annual Fire and Water District One Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, held at the Palmer Public Library, residents voted to approve an amended fiscal year 2026 budget for the Palmer Fire Department. The meeting marked a critical turning point in the department's history, as officials detailed their transition from a traditional fire service to a full-service emergency response agency following the abrupt closure of Palmer Ambulance in late 2024.

After nearly three hours of debate and public comment, voters approved Article 4, the Fire Department's operating budget, by a vote of 61 in favor and 43 opposed. The final approved amount of \$1,426,129.36 reflected a reduction of more than \$103,000 from the original proposal, which had asked for \$1,529,736.42. The budget includes funding for nine full-time firefighter EMTs and 24/7 in-station coverage, both fire and EMS services, and various line-item adjustments aimed at minimizing the tax burden.

"This is the most significant transformation in the history of this department," said Fire Chief William Bernat, who presented alongside firefighter and EMS Coordinator John Castro, Commissioner Dan Belanger, and Lieutenants Anthony Garos and John Fitzgerald.

Decline in on-call responders spurs shift to full-time staffing

During the presentation, department officials outlined the evolution of their staffing model over the past decade, driven by a decline in available on-call volunteers and an increasing volume of calls.

In 2016, the department averaged nearly four on-call responders per incident. By 2024, that number had dropped to just 2.5 responders on average. Officials cited a range of factors behind the decline, including stricter



PalmerFire1: Moderator Stephen L. Marhelewicz presides over the meeting, introducing the articles and keeping discussions mostly on track.

training requirements (NFPA, OSHA), the increasing number of residents working multiple jobs or living out of town, and the general unavailability of part-time responders for overnight and weekend calls.

"You can't just page people out and hope they show up anymore," said Castro. "The system doesn't work like it used to."

To adapt, the department moved from having just two full-time firefighters in early 2016 to eight full-time personnel by 2024, with a ninth planned in the newly approved budget. Full 24/7 in-house staffing was implemented after the collapse of Palmer Ambulance in November 2024.

Emergency Medical Services: From backup to primary provider

Palmer Fire's EMS involvement began as early as 2018 when the department started responding to medical emergencies to support the then-private Palmer Ambulance. Over time, their role expanded to cover overlapping calls and provide mutual aid. In 2023-2024, firefighters completed full EMT training, and the department retrofitted a donated 2007 ambulance into a fully licensed vehicle, designated

Ambulance 161.

"We were planning for 30 calls a month. Then in one month, we did 183," said Castro, referring to the spike in EMS call volume following Palmer Ambulance's sudden closure.

With no other licensed EMS provider in town, Palmer Fire became the default service. The October 2024 numbers show 42 EMS calls with 40 resulting in patient transports. In November, that jumped to 183 calls, prompting concerns over staff burnout and operational sustainability. In response, the department pivoted to permanent, in-station coverage at all hours.

"This wasn't something we planned for overnight," said Chief Bernat. "But when Palmer Ambulance shut down, we had no choice. It fell into our lap."

Budget adjustments and cost-saving measures

To reduce the proposed increase to taxpayers, the department and Finance Committee worked together to amend the budget. Key reductions and adjustments included:

- Salary increases scaled back from 3% to 2%
- Elimination of a proposed Deputy Chief position
- Converting a full-time

administrative role to part-time

- Replacing two captains with a more cost-effective shift supervisor structure

- Reclassifying EMS stipends and moving them from the fire budget to the receipts-funded ambulance budget

- Reassigning one firefighter salary to be funded by EMS revenue rather than taxes

According to Bonnie Rathbone, the Finance Committee president, "We did everything we could to pull things off taxation."

The final taxpayer impact of the budget is estimated at \$127.28 per year, based on a home assessed at \$296,000, which is about \$0.35 per day.

Administrative Budget and Clerical Corrections

Article 5, the administrative budget, also passed after being amended upward to reflect corrections in clerical errors and recalculations. The final total was \$240,605.50, up from an original \$226,034. Increases were tied to updated retirement contributions, payroll taxes (Medicare and FICA), and rising operational costs such as paper supplies.

Multiple residents voiced frustration over the

timing of the budget corrections, which were introduced the day of the vote.

"Whoever does your math needs to go back to school," one resident shouted during the public comment period.

Officials acknowledged the errors but stressed they were promptly corrected and did not reflect any mismanagement.

Public Commentary: Divided Yet Engaged

Community members expressed a mix of concern, support, and caution throughout the evening.

Supportive voices included:

"They were handed five days' notice. You can't blame the fire department for that," said a resident from Oakland Street.

"You may not like the cost, but I dare you to put a price on saving your neighbor's life," added Chris Smith, another resident.

Critics raised broader issues:

"Every year it's another tax hike, and no clear end in sight," said one voter.

"This whole process is disorganized and confusing. We need better transparency," another noted, pointing to a lack of early communication about budget changes and inconsistent document formatting that combined fire and EMS expenses.

Long-Term Goals and ISO Rating

Looking to the future, Chief Bernat said the department is aiming to improve Palmer's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating from 6-6.5 to 5, which could reduce homeowner insurance premiums.

"Adding 24/7 coverage gives us a real shot at lowering that ISO rating," he said.

Roy also mentioned ongoing discussions about the potential consolidation of the fire and water districts into a single, more efficient public safety entity. The department is also pursuing the acquisition of equipment and assets from the defunct Palmer Ambulance service.

Article 6 and Beyond:

EMS Receipts, Equipment, and Capital Spending

Voters approved Article 6, which authorizes the department to use \$955,810.38 in EMS receipts (reduced from an original \$1,025,161.81) for ambulance-related operations. The receipts-based ambulance budget is not funded through taxes.

A series of other articles also passed, including:

- Article 10: \$25,000 for the Fire Department Reserve Fund

- Article 11: \$30,000 for the Water Department Reserve Fund

- Article 12: \$25,000 for the Stabilization Fund

- Article 14: \$22,000 for brush fire turnout gear

- Article 18: \$61,700 from EMS receipts for an ALS defibrillator and cardiac monitor

- Article 19: \$2,000 for medication storage equipment

However, Article 17, which sought \$375,588 to purchase a new ambulance, failed to gain approval. Residents expressed concern over the cost and questioned whether refurbished units already owned by Palmer Ambulance, some manufactured between 2017 and 2019, might suffice.

Final Notes: Cautious Approval, Persistent Questions

While the meeting went on past 10 p.m. to finish the remaining articles, most everyone had left after the most contentious articles were discussed; with the department securing key funds and approval to move forward, tensions around transparency, cost, and rapid change remain unresolved. Residents and officials alike acknowledged the growing complexity of running a modern fire and EMS department, especially in the wake of sudden service transitions.

"There's no doubt we're doing more than ever," said Chief Bernat. "Now we need to make sure we continue to do it right... and that the community understands what it takes to get there."

## BACKYARD | from page 4

### Eagle nests

The Brimfield resident also reported a tree with a bald eagle nest at the Stebins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow fell down and the fire department rescued

two chicks. They have been placed in the care of a local raptor rehabilitator. The chicks look to be fully grown, but unable to fly. He will care for the birds until they are old enough to release.

In Ludlow there is another eagle nest and there are two

chicks in that nest also but they are still very young, their heads are just visible above the rim of the nest.

### Solitary sandpiper

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a solitary sandpiper at one of the ponds

### Black bear

Saturday, May 24 I saw a black bear walking down the

side of my road about 4:30 p.m. I slowly followed him in my car. He left the road and went up a steep path leading into some woods. At the top of the hill, he turned and looked toward the road. He had a healthy, dark black coat of fur.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005

## GARDEN | from page 4

your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost.

If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

By next weekend, I am

sure there will be peonies in a vase, perfuming the entire room, just like they have for a number of decades each June...

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

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# Western United Pioneers celebrate graduating seniors



Thomas Wadas and Western United Pioneers Soccer Club President Carlos Chaves.



Mia Carvalho and Western United Pioneers Soccer Club President Carlos Chaves.



Norah Walsh and Western United Pioneers Soccer Club President Carlos Chaves.



Avery D'Amour and Western United Pioneers Soccer Club President Carlos Chaves.



Brianna Ribeiro and Western United Pioneers Soccer Club President Carlos Chaves.

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

LUDLOW – The evening of May 31 was filled with pride, emotion, and celebration as the Western United Pioneers Football Club honored 37 graduating seniors during a special halftime ceremony at historic Lusitano Stadium. Held under the lights and light rain, the event brought together families, coaches, alumni, and soccer fans to recognize the achievements of student-athletes who have helped shape the club's legacy.

"These individuals have been more than just players on the field," said Western United Pioneers FC President Carlos Chaves in his opening remarks.

"They have been ambassadors of the club and pillars of our community. Their dedication, passion, and sportsmanship have left an indelible mark on our organization."

The evening's recognition ceremony honored graduating players from the club's junior academy, many of whom are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Chaves emphasized that the event was more than a send-off, it was a celebration of personal growth, commitment, and the role these players have played in the club's success.

Among the honorees were standout players such as Chloe Laizer, Abigail Toomey, and Hudson Manzolini. One graduate, Chloe Laizer, was even the starting goalkeeper

for the night's match with the New England Mutiny, the region's senior women's professional team that shares a deep connection with the youth academy.

"Most of the women on the Mutiny roster are NCAA Division I collegiate athletes," Chaves explained. "And Chloe, a high school senior, started in goal tonight. That tells you what kind of talent and commitment we're celebrating."

Founded with the mission of developing young talent, the Western United Pioneers program today serves around 800 athletes, half boys and half girls, from ages 4 through high school. The program has grown into a vital part of the regional soccer landscape, nurturing talent and fostering community spirit.

"Tonight is about all 37 of our graduating seniors," said Chaves. "Whether they're going on to play in college or moving forward in life in other ways, we're proud of them. We want to recognize the dedication and passion they've shown not just to the sport, but to our community."

Names of all the graduates were read aloud during the halftime ceremony, receiving enthusiastic applause from the packed stands. The full list includes:

Katelyn Gilhooly, Calleigh Foley, Avery D'Amour, Allison Morris, Mia Carvalho, Evan Costa, Sophia Scyocurka, Brianna Ribeiro, Robert Bustamante, Ethan Sousa, Eleanor Leland, Colette Thayer, Taylor Colberg, Taryn Cariveau, Madeline Hockman, Parker Tunley, Gabriella Filalho, Lillian Barkyoub, Derke Lonczak, Ryan Bau-

blitz, Madison Rathbone, Norah Walsh, Nicholas Byrnes, Matthew Ryan, Loretta Petraszewicz, Carlos David, Thomas Wadas, Otis Chuan, Pasquale D'Ascoli, Helen Vissas, Casimir Pierre, Chloe Laizer, Joey Borelli, Abigail Toomey, Ryleigh Remillard, Fallon Clancy, and Hudson Manzolini.

The evening also marked a confluence of tradition and celebration. Lusitano Stadium, one of the nation's oldest soccer-specific stadiums, served as a fitting venue for such an occasion. Built in the 1920s, the walled stadium is home to both the Western Mass Pioneers (USL League Two) and the New England Mutiny (United Women's Soccer), both of which maintain strong ties to the junior academy.

"What makes this place special is the culture," said Chaves. "It's intimate, it's family-driven. You've got volunteers in the kitchen and at the bar. You've got local beer and Portuguese sandwiches being served. It feels like home."

Despite dreary weather earlier in the day, spirits remained high following the club's spring picnic held before the match. Over 450 players, families, and supporters turned out for the event, which blended the grassroots spirit of the club with the professionalism of a matchday experience.

"Our kids had their picnic in the rain, and then they stayed for the game," Chaves said. "That's what community looks like."

As the Pioneers look to the future, leadership remains committed to fostering talent through experienced coaching and mentorship. The junior program's Director of Coaching, Federico Molinari, brings professional playing experience from Argentina and Italy and also serves as head coach for both the Mutiny and the men's pro team.

"We're a nonprofit, and what sets us apart is the soccer-specific culture and family atmosphere," Chaves said. "We're not just building players...we're building people."

As the night concluded, seniors posed for photos, hugged their teammates, and soaked in the applause one final time as youth players of the Western United Pioneers FC. The send-off was not only a tribute to past accomplishments but a call to future greatness.

"You will always be part of our family," said Chaves. "And we look forward to seeing the amazing things you'll accomplish next."



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy Some of the seniors who were recognized were at that night's game. Chloe Laizer, Norah Walsh, Brianna Ribeiro, Mia Carvalho, Avery D'Amour, Calleigh Foley, Coach Federico Molinari, and Thomas Wadas.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy



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# Wine Barre class blends fitness and fun at Brimfield Winery

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – A windy morning on May 25 didn't deter a group of determined women from rolling out their mats and lifting weights in the field behind Brimfield Winery. With upbeat music pulsing from a speaker and the winery and the vast fields as the backdrop, Rebecca Lehman led her first ever Wine Barre class; a blend of fitness, music, and community in a truly scenic setting.

"This is my first class here," Lehman said, smiling after the session concluded. "But I've been teaching group fitness for about six years, and I've been offering classes in this area since I moved here from California three years ago."

Lehman, who now lives in Holland, teaches several styles of group fitness across multiple local venues, including Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, Inspired Fitness Studio in Charlton, and Oakham Brewery. She also teaches some fitness classes at Brimfield Elementary School as well.

Her Wine Barre class at Brimfield Winery is part of a nationwide fitness format called UpBeat Barre. The program is a choreographed fusion of traditional barre movements, yoga, Pilates, calisthenics, and strength training, all set to music. The choreography and playlists are standardized, allowing participants to experience consistency no matter where they take the class.

"The idea is that if you hear a song at an UpBeat Barre class anywhere, you'll know exactly what moves go with it," Lehman explained. "It's great because people can come in with any level of fitness background and still get a full-body workout. A lot of my students have even said the moves are similar to ones they've done in physical therapy."

The cost of the class is \$20, which includes a one-hour guided barre session followed by a complimentary drink at the winery; a perfect reward after an invigorating workout.

While Sunday's class was her first at the winery, Lehman confirmed it won't be her last. "They've given me dates for the rest of the summer. We'll be doing this monthly," she said. "Hopefully it'll be a little warmer next time."

Despite the brisk temperatures and the Memorial Day holiday weekend, a small but enthusiastic group showed up for the inaugural session. Many were regulars from Lehman's other classes, creating a sense of camaraderie that was palpable even before the workout began.

"There were only three new faces today," she said. "The rest are people I see multiple times a week. We really build a community through these classes."

Lehman's schedule is packed with fitness offerings. In addition to UpBeat Barre, she also teaches High Fitness, a high-energy aerobics format, and Surge Fitness, a weightlifting-based workout. Each of these programs follows a similar format: music-driven, choreographed routines designed to hit all the major muscle groups, with an emphasis on accessibility and enjoyment.

Though her passion lies in fitness, Lehman balances her teaching with a day job in a completely different industry. She works for Kozyra Construction, a Brimfield-based modular home builder, helping out in sales and administrative roles.

"It's very different from fitness," she said with a laugh. "But I enjoy it. It keeps things interesting."

For those interested in joining a future Wine Barre class, Lehman suggests bringing a yoga mat and light hand weights. However, she always brings extras for new-



A group photo of all the ladies who attended the Wine Barre Class.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



The ladies using blowout balls as props during their exercises.



The barre ladies doing core exercises.



Rebecca Lehman showing the group how to use their small weights and body movement to get a full workout.



Rebecca Lehman leads the class in stretching before the music begins and they start working out.

comers. "Just show up and be ready to move," she said. "And don't worry, you don't have to be a dancer. It's all about moving to music and having fun."

Whether you're a seasoned fitness enthusiast or

a complete beginner, Lehman insists the class is for everyone. "I've had teenagers, seniors, and everyone in between. It's low-impact but still a great workout. And the setting? You really can't beat it."

Brimfield Winery's com-

ination of scenic serenity and Lehman's infectious energy made for a memorable start to a new local tradition, one that promises to grow stronger with every class.

Upcoming Wine Barre Classes:

Classes will continue

monthly at Brimfield Winery throughout the summer. Admission is \$20 and includes a one-hour barre class and a post-workout drink. For more details or to register, follow Brimfield Winery on Facebook or search for UpBeat Barre classes in the area.

## Is your retirement at risk?

It's important to save for retirement, but only half of Americans have calculated how much money they'll need, according to the 2024 Retirement Confidence Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Yet without knowing how much you'll need, it's hard to know if you're on track to reach your goals for retirement.

Here are a few considerations to help shape your retirement savings strategy.

**Calculate how much you'll need.** You may dream of retiring "comfortably," but how do you define "comfortable" in terms of actual money? Take the time to outline how much you spend now, and how much you think you'll spend in retirement. That will help you understand how much you need to save now to afford the retirement lifestyle you want later. A financial advisor can help with resources and knowledge for building and managing your retirement strategy.

**Start saving now.** It's easy to procrastinate, especially if you are younger and further away from retirement. But the earlier you start, the less you may need to save from each paycheck to build your funds over time. If you're closer to retirement, you can take advantage of catch-up contributions to most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan. If you're 50 or older, you can save pretax an extra \$7,500 to your retirement account beyond the standard total limit of \$23,500 allowed in 2025. Those 60-63 years old can contribute to these plans an extra \$11,250 above the standard total limit. That's an annual total of \$31,000 for people ages 50 and older; or \$34,750 for those 60-63 years old in pretax retirement plan contributions.

**Take the right amount of risk.** You may think it's risky to put money away for retirement instead of keeping it handy for discretionary spending. But the biggest risk of all is not reaching your retirement goal. For example, a portfolio that's all in cash will have little increasing value over time and won't provide any growth potential even to keep up with inflation. It's as if you're losing money every year. Then again, if your investments are only keeping up with inflation, your money is not growing. Consider growth investments to help build the funds you'll need in retirement. The key is ensuring you have the appropriate amount of risk — not too much, but not too little — to achieve your growth goals.

**Save separately for emergencies.** To protect your hard-earned retirement savings, build an emergency fund separate from your long-term investments. It can help ensure you have what you need to cover surprises like a large auto repair, unexpected medical bills, temporary loss of income from changing jobs or early retirement caused by health issues. For most people, three to six months' worth of total expenses is an appropriate amount for an emergency fund. And you'll want to keep it in an accessible, low-risk account that holds cash and equivalents. Above all, try to avoid taking money from your long-term retirement investments. Doing so could result in taxes, penalties and reductions to your overall principal investment, all of which could affect your retirement savings.

**Retirement should be an exciting time to enjoy what you've worked so hard to earn.** Planning for what you'll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future.

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# Monson water quality reports available

MONSON – The 2024 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Reports are available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>. Hard copies of the report are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free

Library located at 2 High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street Monson, MA. Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# Country Bank set to receive awards

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is proud to announce that it has received two awards at the 2025 NEFFIES Awards Show, hosted by the New England Financial Marketing Association (NEFMA). The Bank earned Gold in Website Design and Silver in Community Support, underscoring its ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional digital experiences and fostering meaningful community partnerships. Country Bank received

First Place – Gold in the Website Design category for its newly launched website, which was thoughtfully developed to meet the evolving needs of today’s digital banking customers. The site features a mobile-responsive design, robust financial education tools, dynamic calls to action, and personalized user experiences that reflect the Bank’s mission: Made to Make a Difference. “This website is more than just a great design—it’s a true extension of our banking centers into the digital space,” said Shelley Regin, Chief Marketing and

Community Relations Officer at Country Bank. “We’re extremely proud of the cross-functional collaboration that brought our vision to life.” Country Bank also received Second Place – Silver in the Fan Favorite category for its Community Support partnership with the Worcester Red Sox (WooSox). This recognition highlights a series of impactful initiatives, including the Most Valuable Teacher program, WooStar recognitions, and the Police vs. Fire charity game—all designed to honor and support individuals making a

positive difference in their communities. “Our partnership with WooSox enables us to connect with our communities in heartfelt and impactful ways,” added Regin. “We’re honored to be recognized for initiatives that bring people together and celebrate local heroes.” These honors reflect the dedication and collaborative spirit of Country Bank’s marketing, community relations, and leadership teams and reinforce its ongoing efforts to serve as a trusted, community-focused financial partner.

# Brimfield awarded grant to restore historic Civil War Memorial

BRIMFIELD – The Town of Brimfield has been awarded a \$10,000 Veterans’ Heritage Grant from the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) to fund the restoration of the town’s historic Civil War Memorial fence and cannons, located in the center of town. The Civil War memorial

in Brimfield holds significant historical importance, having been unveiled on July 4, 1866. This early dedication makes Brimfield one of the first towns in Massachusetts to formally honor its soldiers who served in the Civil War. The memorial’s creation was spearheaded by Captain Francis D. Lincoln, a respected local farmer, edu-

cation advocate, and staunch abolitionist. Captain Lincoln also led a contingent of soldiers from Brimfield who bravely served in the 46th Massachusetts Infantry. His powerful speech at the unveiling ceremony eloquently articulated the principles and sacrifices of the war. Local business Traf-

ford’s Painting, a company with expertise in historic restoration, has been selected to undertake the crucial restoration work on the memorial’s fence and cannons. Their specialized skills will ensure the preservation of this important landmark for future generations. The Brimfield Historic Commission and the Town of Brimfield extend their sin-

cere gratitude to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for their invaluable assistance in securing this vital grant funding. This award will enable the town to preserve a tangible piece of its history and continue to honor the brave individuals who defended the Union during the Civil War. About the Brimfield

Civil War Memorial: Unveiled on July 4, 1866, the Civil War Memorial in Brimfield stands as an early testament to the town’s commitment to remembering the sacrifices of its citizens during the Civil War. The campaign to erect the memorial was led by Captain Francis D. Lincoln, a prominent figure in the community.

# PET PAGE



## PET OF THE MONTH Meet Stanley!



He’s around 8 years old and a Lab mix. He was a rescue from Arkansas and was adopted by the Gibbs family in 2021. He is very friendly and loves all people. He is a lazy dude who likes to snooze all day and loves to lay in the sun. He has a great sense of smell and enjoys tracking all sorts of animals that cross through the yard. He has two human sisters who are 2.5 years and 6 months old who love to snuggle with him!

## 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](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet’s name.

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## Take A Road Trip With Your Dog!

Summer is here and that means vacations and road trips. We hate leaving our furry friends behind though...so don't! For the past 5 years we have brought our dog Samson with us on all our driving trips throughout New England. From hotels to vacation rentals, to glamping. Mountains, lakes, and beaches. Restaurants, activities, and special events. Hiking, water sports, sight-seeing or just lounging by the ocean or the pool, Samson has done it all with us! What we have found is that there is a huge

industry behind making it oh so easy to bring your best buddy along and enjoy your vacation with him! Here are some tips to help you have a successful road trip with your dog: **Plan Ahead:** Research pet-friendly accommodations and destinations. Websites like GoPetFriendly.com, BringFido.com and FluentWoof.com can help you find great places to visit. When looking for a pet-friendly place to stay check out Booking.com, Vrbo.com and AirBnB.com. If there is

a specific place or event you are interested in call ahead and ask if they are pet friendly. You'll be surprised how many are! **Pack Essentials:** Make sure to bring all his comforts of home. Bring food, water, bowls, leashes, waste bags, and any necessary health documents. Also, his own bed, favorite toys etc. Try to keep to his regular feeding schedule. **Keep Him Safe:** If your dog doesn't mind a crate, this is a great option to keep him safe and comfortable. Another alternative to

look into is a special car bed or back seat hammock with a safety harness. **Take Breaks:** Schedule regular stops for bathroom breaks and exercise to keep your dog comfortable and happy. **Explore Together:** Look for dog-friendly activities and parks along your route to make the trip enjoyable for both you and your dog. Planning is key to a successful trip and these tips will help ensure a fun and safe road trip experience for you and your furry friend!

# SPORTS

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**SOFTBALL**

## Pioneers make quick work of first tourney opponent

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Just like they did a year ago, the Pathfinder Tech softball team didn't have very much trouble defeating a charter school from Boston in a Division 5 state tournament home game.

The 25th-seeded Lady Pioneers exploded for 13 runs in the second inning enroute

to a 22-0 victory over the 40th-seeded Neighborhood House Charter School in a preliminary round game, last Friday afternoon.

The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to 12-run mercy rule.

"The girls have worked very hard all season long and they deserve to celebrate a postseason victory," said Pathfinder Tech first-year head coach Phil Gallo. "We didn't know very much about our opponent, and they probably didn't know anything about us either."

The victory improved the Lady Pioneers overall record to 13-5. They beat Boston Collegiate Charter School, 19-4, in last year's preliminary round home game.

During the regular season, the Lady Pioneers scored ten or more runs in nine games. The 22 runs is a new season high. They posted a 21-0 home win against the Renaissance School in the middle of May.

The Neighborhood House Charter School, which is in Dorchester, opened its doors seven years ago. The school is nicknamed the Legends and the softball team qualified for the Division 5 state tournament for the first time. The Legends (11-8) didn't appear like they were ready to compete at the state level yet. The MIAA should think about having the charter schools play in their own state tournament in the fu-



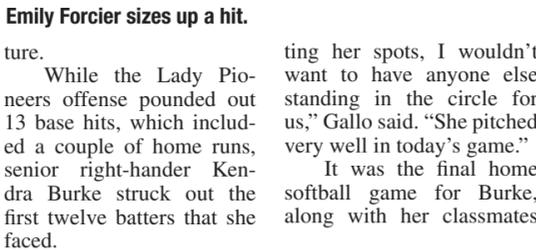
Kendra Burke sends a pitch to the plate  
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Taylor Thorton hustles for first base.



Claire Maschi fouls off a pitch.



Emily Forcier sizes up a hit.

ture. While the Lady Pioneers offense pounded out 13 base hits, which included a couple of home runs, senior right-hander Kendra Burke struck out the first twelve batters that she faced.

"When Kendra is hit-

ting her spots, I wouldn't want to have anyone else standing in the circle for us," Gallo said. "She pitched very well in today's game."

It was the final home softball game for Burke, along with her classmates

PIONEERS | page 9

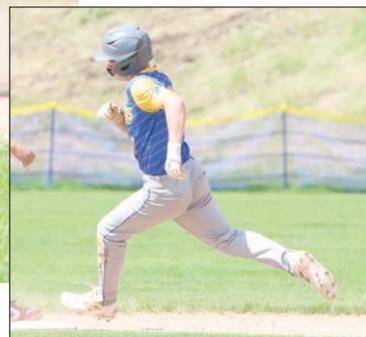
**BASEBALL**

## Pioneers shut out SICS in finale

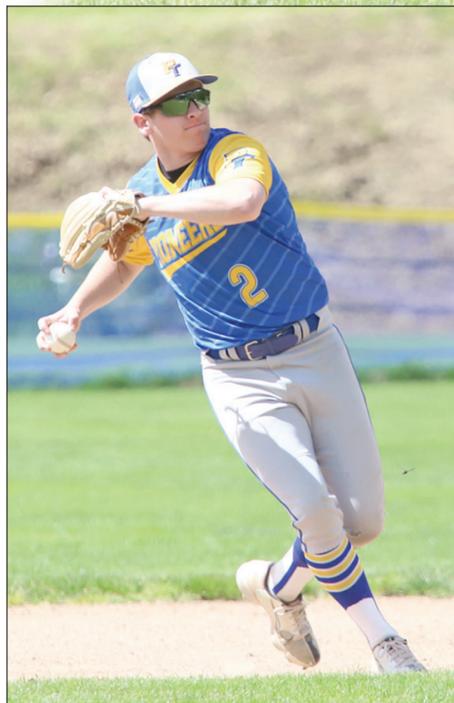
PALMER – Last Monday afternoon at Legion Field, Pathfinder baseball picked up a big win in its regular season finale 10-0 over SICS. The game ended after five innings due to the mercy rule. The Pioneers scored its final three runs in the bottom of the fifth to "walk-off" with the mercy-rule win. Brayden Mega had two hits, two runs scored, and an RBI. He also pitched five scoreless innings for the win. Pathfinder was scheduled to enter the state tournament later in the week.



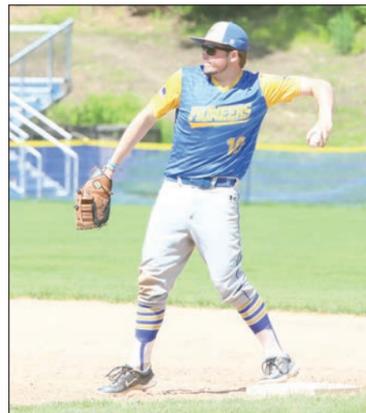
Derek Rivera throws to first.



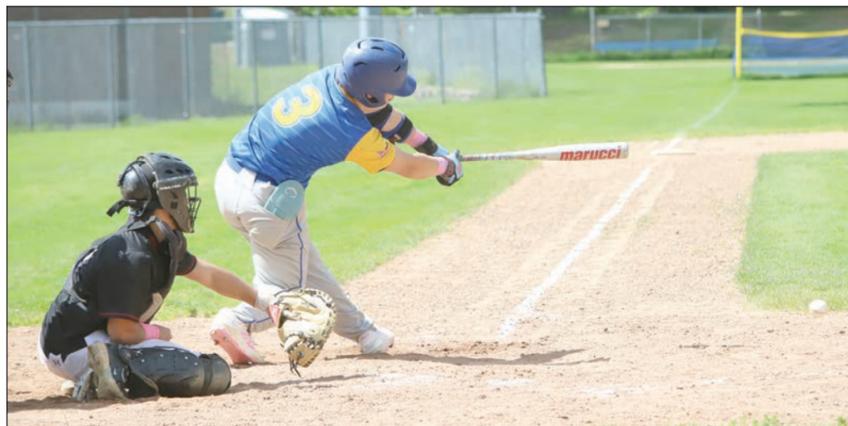
Brayden Mega rounds second and heads for third on a gap shot.



Zander Auffrey makes a throw on the run.



Tim Russell winds up for a throw across the diamond.



Grayson Griswold reaches out to attempt a base hit.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

**SOFTBALL**

## Tantasqua Warriors grab 14th win over Auburn, head into tournament

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN – Kaydie O'Neil is one of the three seniors on the Tantasqua girls' varsity lacrosse roster.

O'Neil, who recently broke the team's record for career goals, began playing lacrosse nine years ago as a third grader. The Lady Warriors also won 14 matches during the 2016 season.

For the first time since 2016, the Lady Warriors won their 14th match of the season following a 14-7 victory against the Auburn Rockets at Memorial Field in Auburn on May 19.

"We haven't won 14 games in several years and it feels great," said Tantasqua head coach Heather Egan. "All of the players on this year's team have been working very hard and I'm very happy for them."

The road victory improved Tantasqua's overall record 14-4.

Tantasqua also defeated Auburn, 14-10, in a home match at the beginning of the regular season.

The second meeting of the regular season was played on a cool and windy evening.

"I thought the wind was a factor in today's game," Egan said. "The wind made

it very difficult for the players to communicate on the field."

Jessica Farland, who graduated from Tantasqua in 2012, previously held the team record for career goals with 206. O'Neil tied the record on a free position goal during the Lady Warriors 11-10 senior night victory against Shepherd Hill Regional on May 12. The other two seniors listed on the Tantasqua girls' lacrosse roster are Anna Hendrikes and Stella Buday.

O'Neil then broke the record two days later with an unassisted goal in a 16-11 win at Northbridge High School.

"I couldn't have broken the record without the help of my teammates," O'Neil said. "(Junior) Tess Alexander has assisted many of my goals this season. The defense also causes a lot of turnovers, which makes things a lot easier for the offense. We do have a very strong all around team this year."

The members of the Lady Warriors defensive unit are sophomore Bryn Carey, sophomore Tessa Sheldon, sophomore Kat Robbins, junior Elle Kearns, and Buday. The Lady Warriors starting goalie is junior Fiona Knott.

Egan first informed O'Neil that she was ap-

proaching the record at the beginning of May.

"I didn't know what the goal record was before Coach Egan told me," O'Neil said. "I never expected to break a team record, but it was a cool feeling when I did do it."

O'Neil grew up playing lacrosse with Ally Orquiola, who's a senior on the Wilbraham & Monson girls' lax team.

Egan also coached Farland, who played both soccer and lacrosse at Union College in Schenectady, New York.

"I really enjoyed coaching Jess Farland when she played for the lacrosse team. She held the goal record for a

long time," Egan said. "Kaydie is another outstanding lacrosse player and is also a great kid."

O'Neil, who was also a starting defender on the Lady Warriors soccer team, will be joining the Wheaton College women's soccer team in the fall. She's also thinking about playing lacrosse at the collegiate level.

The two main reasons why O'Neil decided to attend Wheaton College, which is in Norton Mass, is because of the coaching staff and it's not very far away from Sturbridge.

WARRIORS | page 9

# Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Summer edition

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – It is the third week of the summer league on Thursday nights at Bogey Lanes.

After the third week, there is a tie for first place between Team Five and The Furs; each team is 20-4. In week three, Team Five bowled against Glen Echo Rollers.

In game one, Team Five won 430-403. Aaron Halbedel of Team Five bowled 123 for the victory. In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 438-417. The

final game was won by Team Five for a three-game sweep over Glen Echo Rollers, 452-423.

Halbedel bowled a 120 in the final game for a series of 338. The final score was 1320-1243 in favor of Team Five.

The Furs bowled against the Kolb Krew in week three. In game one, The Furs defeated Kolb Krew by a score of 443-423. In game two, Furs won again by a score of 468-421.

In game three, The Furs managed to win the final game by just five points, 457-452. Drew Kolb of Kolb Krew finished the match with a 127 in a losing effort. The final score was

1368-1296 in favor of Furs.

Team Seven bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Seven were victorious by a score of 470-408. The Fontaine brothers (Nathan & Aaron) of Team Seven put up scores of 119 and 126 to start the match.

In game two, Team Seven dominated again over Team Three by a score of 500-429. Aaron Fontaine bested his first score (126) by bowling a 163 in game two.

In game three, Team Seven swept Team Three by winning the last game by a score of 461-422. Fontaine finished a 134 and a series of 423. The final score was 1431-1259.

## PIONEERS | from page 8

Greenly Lagimoniere, Liana Carrasquillo, and Isabella Nompleggi.

Carrasquillo, who started at third base, knocked home the game's first run with a fly-ball single to right field with no outs in the bottom of the first inning. Junior left fielder Addison Doktor capped off the opening frame with a 3-run homer to left. Doktor also had an RBI single in the third.

"This was Addison's best game of the season," Gallo said. "We just kept hitting the ball hard from start to finish, which was good to see."

Junior right fielder Emily

Prouty led the way offensively with three base hits.

Lagimoniere (2-for-3), who started in centerfield, hit a two run home run in the second inning. It was her second home run of the season.

The Lady Pioneers sent 18 batters to the plate during that frame. Nompleggi (short-stop) contributed with a pair of singles. Pathfinder also drew five walks in the second.

Junior catcher Emily McNeaney had a two run double in the third inning, as the Lady Pioneers scored four more runs.

Burke's perfect game bid came to an end after allowing a leadoff groundball single in the fifth inning. The base runner was thrown out trying

to steal second base by McNeaney. Burke struck out the final two batters of the game.

During the regular season, Burke, who's from Ware, hurled a perfect game and three no-hitters. She also struck out 21 batters in another game.

"It feels amazing winning my final home game," Burke said. "I loved being a member of this softball team. I'm looking forward to coming back and watching them play next year."

Burke is planning to play college softball at Worcester State University next year.

The Lady Pioneers played eighth-seeded Hopkins Academy in a round of 32 game two days later.

## WARRIORS | from page 8

"When I visited the school, I had a very good meeting with Mary-Frances Monroe, who's the women soccer coach," O'Neil said. "I also liked the campus and it's a perfect distance away from home."

If another member of the Lady Warriors lacrosse team does break the goal record during the next couple of years, O'Neil is hoping her younger sister, Maeve, who's a freshman, will be able to accomplish the milestone.

"It has been a lot of fun

playing on the same lacrosse team with my younger sister this year," Kaydie O'Neil said. "She's also a very good goal scorer. If anyone is going to break the record, I would be very happy if she did it."

While Kaydie O'Neil led the way offensively with four goals and three assists against the Rockets (9-7), Maeve O'Neil scored two goals. She also had a pair of assists.

Alexander and junior Abbie Wotton each scored two goals.

Alexander was credited with a team-high four assists. "Tess is one of the most unselfish players that I've

ever coached," Egan said. "She's had nine or ten assists in a couple of games this season."

Rounding out the scoring column for the Lady Warriors were Carey, Hendrikes, and sophomore Tayvia Reissner.

The Rockets, who celebrated their senior night, held a 4-2 lead at the end of the opening period.

The Lady Warriors took the lead for the first time at 5-4 following a goal by Kaydie O'Neil with 6:47 remaining in the first half.

She scored another goal less than twenty seconds later and the visiting team never

looked back.

Goals by Carey and Alexander gave Tantasqua an 8-4 halftime advantage.

"Our defense stepped up and the offense calmed down in the second period," Egan said. "For some unknown reason, we've started several games slowly this season. We buckled down in the second period."

The Lady Warriors, who outscored the Rockets, 9-3, during the second half, celebrated their 14th win of the 2025 campaign. They'll be looking to celebrate a couple of more wins in the Division 2 state tournament.

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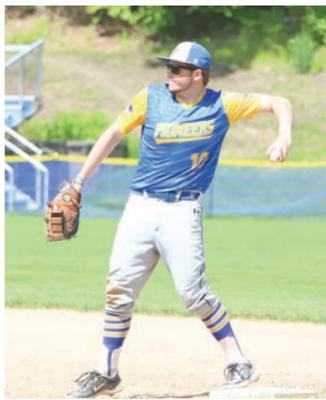
# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week

**Tim Russell**  
Pathfinder High School

Russell had a pair of runs scored and big hit in Pathfinder's shutout win over SICS to end the regular season.

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



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# Gulluni shares recent narcotics investigations

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni today announced the results of three major drug trafficking investigations that have dismantled significant narcotics distribution networks operating in and around Springfield.

“These operations reflect the power of collaboration between my office and our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners,” said District Attorney Gulluni. “Together, we’ve made a significant impact on the availability of dangerous drugs in our region and brought dozens of traffickers to justice.”

DA Gulluni was joined by Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant Colonel Marc Lavoie of the Division of Homeland Security and Preparedness; Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Tucker of the Division of Investigative Services; Springfield Police Superintendent Lawrence Akers, among other representatives.

The investigations were led through DA Gulluni’s office and the Hampden County Narcotics Task Force (HCNTF), the Strategic Action & Focused Enforcement Task Force (SAFE), and the Massachusetts State Police’s Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team Western Region (CINRET West). The operations were supported by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New York and Springfield, the Massachu-

setts State Police Gang Unit, and the Springfield Police Department Firearms Investigation Unit.

Operation One: Garcia Market Drug Trafficking Organization

Since October 2022, investigators with the DA’s HCNTF and SAFE units have been investigating drug trafficking activity centered around Garcia Market (344 Orange St.) and Angel’s Used Appliances (167 White St.), which served as fronts for an extensive trafficking network. The area has long been plagued by gun violence, with over 80 firearm-related calls to police during the investigation period.

On May 15, investigators executed arrests and seizures, resulting in:

- 12,138 grams of cocaine
- 530 grams of fentanyl
- 15 firearms
- 19 individuals arrested

The defendants face a range of charges including drug trafficking, firearm possession, child endangerment, and stolen property offenses.

Operation Two: Springfield-Bronx Drug Pipeline

In the summer of 2024, CINRET West began investigating Anthony Perez of Springfield for heroin/fentanyl distribution. Surveillance revealed that Perez was supplied by a large-scale drug trafficking organization operating in both Hampden County and the Bronx.

In collaboration with HSI and DEA agents in New York



Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni addresses the media at the Hampden District Attorney's Office's May 27 press conference sharing details of three major operations that disrupted dangerous supply lines of drugs in our region. To his left are Springfield Police Department Deputy Chief Steven Kent and Springfield Police Superintendent Lawrence Akers. To his right are Massachusetts State Police members Lt. Colonel Marc Lavoie, Lt. Colonel Daniel Tucker, and Detective Lt. Liam Jones.



The three operations represent a collaboration between the District Attorney's office, state, local, and federal law enforcement organizations, to get dangerous drugs and weapons off the street. Submitted photos

and Massachusetts, investigators conducted a months-long investigation, leading to:

- 2,061 grams of heroin/fentanyl
  - 3,060 grams of cocaine
  - 29 firearms
  - 30 individuals arrested
- The defendants face traf-

ficking, firearm, and conspiracy charges. The most recent arrests occurred on May 14.

Operation Three: Luna Drug Trafficking Organization

In a recent investigation, the Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit and Spring-

field Police Department uncovered a cocaine trafficking network run by Ruben Luna and associates.

Search warrants executed on May 22 at three Springfield locations uncovered:

- Approximately 20 kilograms of cocaine

- 437 grams of cocaine
- 570 grams of cocaine
- 78 grams of heroin
- Additional narcotics and pills
- Three individuals arrested

The defendants are facing trafficking and conspiracy offenses.

All defendants are presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty.

Use of Advanced Detection Technology

Gulluni also highlighted the role of new technology, including the MX908 Drug Analyzer and the TruNarc Analyzer, provided through a partnership with the Massachusetts National Guard. These devices enabled investigators to detect substances such as fentanyl, cocaine HCL, xylazine, eutylone, tramadol, and several cutting agents, enhancing field-level narcotics identification.

“These three operations have disrupted dangerous supply lines and removed dozens of high-level traffickers from our streets,” said DA Gulluni. “Our priority remains saving lives, preventing overdoses, and holding accountable those who profit from addiction and violence.”

As the region heads into the summer months - when drug trafficking and violence historically rise - Gulluni emphasized that these proactive operations send a strong message and are intended to protect public safety in Springfield, Hampden County, and beyond.

## The Cows Are Coming Home!

Old Sturbridge Village teams up with World-Renowned CowParade and regional artists to design an Udderly Moo-ving Experience

STURBRIDGE – This summer, Old Sturbridge Village, New England’s premier living history museum, is partnering with CowParade, the world’s largest public art event, to bring history and imagination to life with more than two dozen, artistically decorated cows grazing the Village grounds.

The world-renowned cows, made of fiberglass and weighing 100-pounds, are being transformed by local artists into creative works of art that represent early New England life, America 250 and more. The exhibit will be unveiled to the public the weekend of June 21-22 and will run into September, culminating with a cattle auction to support the Museum’s non-profit educa-

tional programs.

In March, more than 130 New England artists responded to the Village’s call to create one-of-a-kind cow designs with over 261 submissions. Those chosen to go “on parade” range from revolutionary-inspired cows such as the “Bull of Rights” to more contemporary masterpieces like, “Salted,” which represents a giant stick of butter. The selected artists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and are now hard at work - painting, staining, and even knitting their imaginative creations to life.

“By welcoming the internationally known CowParade to Massachusetts, we hope to bring history to life in a creative and unexpected way,” said James Donahue,

President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. “It is a wonderful opportunity to use Old Sturbridge Village as an open-air gallery to celebrate New England artists while offering visitors a truly unique experience.”

In addition to seeing the one-of-a-kind cows, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of cattle in early 19th-century New England, meet the Village’s heritage breed cows and oxen (including Devons, Shorthorns, and Randall Linebacks), and learn about the dairying process of the past.

## Flea Market Mecca to host Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock Academy will host Brimfield’s annual Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with some sales also running Sunday. The antiques mecca is a great place to hunt for oddities and treasures that may have been claimed over the years at the town’s thrice annual flea market, or items otherwise accumulated for your perusing pleasure.

Over 50 sites are anticipated to participate.

Maps are sold at Hitchcock for \$2 each. They include a full list of participating addresses, and detailed listings of what will be sold at

each as well as a physical map marked with sale locations to help you plan your route. The map will also indicate which sales will run on Sunday.

Bargain hunters are encouraged to kick off their day with the vendors set up on Hitchcock’s lawn as they purchase their map. The Brimfield Farmers’ Market will also be running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hitchcock parking lot offering local staples such as eggs, veggies, and beef as well as some grab-and-go options for tag sale refueling such as baked goods, kombucha, and homemade ice cream.

From there, head to the sales all over town, promising

antiques and vintage items, designer clothing, outdoor furniture, books, household items, kids games and toys, baby goods, antique and refinished furniture, Americana, knick-knacks, bicycle accessories, farm equipment, a canoe, car parts, dog gear, vinyl records, cameras, Christmas items, and so much more – even an estate sale nestled among them.

For more information, visit [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://www.hitchcockacademy.org). Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

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### Dr. Williamson

Dr. Williamson, a New England native, has always dreamed of practicing veterinary medicine in the area where she grew up and raised her family. Initially a mixed-animal practitioner for two years, she soon discovered her passion for small-animal medicine, which she has practiced full-time for the past 19 years.

Throughout her career, Dr. Williamson has gained experience in various aspects of veterinary care, but her true calling lies in fostering the human-animal bond and extending the lives of her patients. She has a particular expertise in geriatric medicine and is deeply committed to educating pet owners on the importance of preventative care and addressing the special needs of senior pets. Dr. Williamson’s approach emphasizes compassionate care with a strong focus on improving the quality of life for aging animals.

At home she lives with her husband Seth, daughters Zoe and Grace, two dogs, two cats, and two cute guinea pigs. Outside of work she routinely goes horseback riding with her daughters and loves the outdoors.



Young Esme shows off her painting.



Donna Lanzillo leading the girls in the pledge of allegiance the girl scout honor code pledge. Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy



A parent volunteer helps one of the girls get paint colors for their palettes.



Young Lily (left) and Young Willow (right) show off their paintings before starting on another.



One of the young girls was painting while sipping on a capri sun.

**SCOUTS** | from page 1

Troop 11383 is currently open to new members, and families in the Palmer area are encouraged to reach out if their daughters are interested in joining. The troop currently includes 12 Daisies and 17 Brownies, and while space is dependent on volunteer availability, leaders are eager to welcome more girls.

"If we get more girls, we bring on more parent volunteers to keep the adult-to-child ratios in line with national safety guidelines," Lanzillo explained. "We're always happy to have new faces, whether it's scouts or

adult helpers."

The troop's Facebook page, Girl Scouts Swift River Valley Service Unit - Palmer/Ware, is regularly updated with events and photos. Interested families can also email [swiftriver170unit@gmail.com](mailto:swiftriver170unit@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

Beyond the badges and field trips, Lanzillo says the program gives girls lasting skills, and the confidence to lead.

"Even at the Daisy level, we start guiding them. As they grow, they get to decide what patches to work on, what projects to pursue. It builds leadership from the start," she said.

It's a message echoed by Lanzillo's daughter Julia, who has been a Girl Scout for 15 years and now helps younger scouts as a lifelong member.

"Being a Girl Scout is more than just having fun or selling cookies," Julia wrote in a recent social media post. "It's about personal growth, helping your community, building leadership and life skills, and leading by example."

With a strong sense of community, a focus on youth leadership, and a full calendar of events, Troop 11383 is looking forward to welcoming the next generation of Girl Scouts.

**OFFICER** | from page 1

and dedicated officer for the state program," Kaddy noted. "However, under federal regulations, she cannot manage VA claims because she does not meet the federal employment threshold for certification." He expressed frustration that his prior requests to discuss this issue on the Select Board agenda were denied, with the chairman instead limiting his remarks to the two-minute public comment period.

Kaddy introduced Sergeant Gumersindo Gomez, Executive Director of the Bilingual Outreach Center and President of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) State Council of Massachusetts, who also serves on the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee for Western Massachusetts. Sgt. Gomez offered a solution to this gap

in service: free remote training and certification for Fullen, enabling her to file and manage federal VA claims on behalf of Monson's veterans. The training, spanning roughly 4 to 6 months, would be supervised by a certified service officer and connected Fullen to a statewide network of 19 nationally certified VSOs.

The outreach center, according to Sgt. Gomez, maintains inclusive veteran services regardless of race or background, including transitional housing for homeless veterans and satellite centers such as the one in Pittsfield. He stressed that enabling local federal certification would save veterans from burdensome travel to Boston or other towns for assistance, significantly improving access and timeliness.

Board members expressed strong support for veterans and appreciation for the comprehensive presen-

tation. They acknowledged that delays in addressing the matter previously were due in part to health issues within the board and showed willingness to visit the outreach center or host follow-up meetings to explore practical next steps.

Public Comments highlight community engagement and upcoming civic responsibilities

During public comment, Vietnam-era veteran Russell Versette shared a personal story illustrating the importance of veteran outreach. He recalled that informal coffee hours organized by the former VSO had facilitated the discovery of a hearing aid benefit for a fellow veteran, enabling him to hear birdsong for the first time in years. Versette's testimony underscored the value of direct engagement and the human impact of accessible veteran services.

Town Clerk Mary Watson provided essential reminders about the annual town election scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Early voting will begin May 31 at the Town Office. Watson emphasized that voters must register by May 31 and that mail-in ballot applications for 2024 are no longer valid—new applications are available through the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. She provided contact information for residents with questions.

Karen Davis thanked the community for attending a recent emotionally significant gathering and promoted the upcoming Wreaths Across America Golf Tournament on June 14, featuring a pig roast and benefiting veterans' causes. Tickets are available through the Monson Together organization.

Trash Collection Issue on Valley View Heights Successfully Resolved

Select Board member Peter Warren provided a report on recent complaints from residents on Valley View Heights regarding trash collection difficulties due to the steep terrain. Initially, residents were asked to bring trash carts to the street's end, which Peter and his wife found unreasonable and potentially unsafe.

After contacting the Board of Health and the trash service provider, Republic Services, it was discovered that the company had based service changes on Google Maps data without an on-site inspection. The town administrator facilitated a meeting between Republic, the Health Department, and

Highway Department. As a result, the service change was rescinded, and residents were assured that trash collection would continue as usual.

Community events take shape with Summerfest and Monson Memorial Classic Updates

Steve Slozak, chairman of the Summerfest Committee, provided an enthusiastic update on this year's festival planned for Main Street, replicating last year's popular format. The event will culminate with fireworks on Friday, June 21, with a rain date on June 22. While most entertainment acts are booked, Slozak confirmed that the band Aquanet will not be performing this year.

Slozak requested a formal letter from the Select Board defining event boundaries and acknowledged coordination efforts with department heads, including police and public health. Thanks were expressed for the town's continued support, including police detail costs funded through the "Gifts to the Town" account. The Board of Health recommended involving the Medical Reserve Corps to manage minor medical incidents during Summerfest, a suggestion Slozak welcomed.

Meanwhile, organizers of the 29th Annual Monson Memorial Classic Road Race, Lee Williams and Mr. Perry, requested and received unanimous approval for a \$4,000 funding allocation from the Gifts to the Town account, consistent with last year's support. The race date has shifted from its traditional second Sunday in November to Sunday, October 26, to avoid conflicts with Daylight Savings Time.

Race organizers secured a waiver of town hall use fees for race preparation starting the Friday prior to the event. The board encouraged efforts to source food locally, highlighting the potential benefit to Monson businesses. Last year's caterer, local resident Terry Skinner, may return, and organizers promised to consider expanded options including vegan and gluten-free meals.

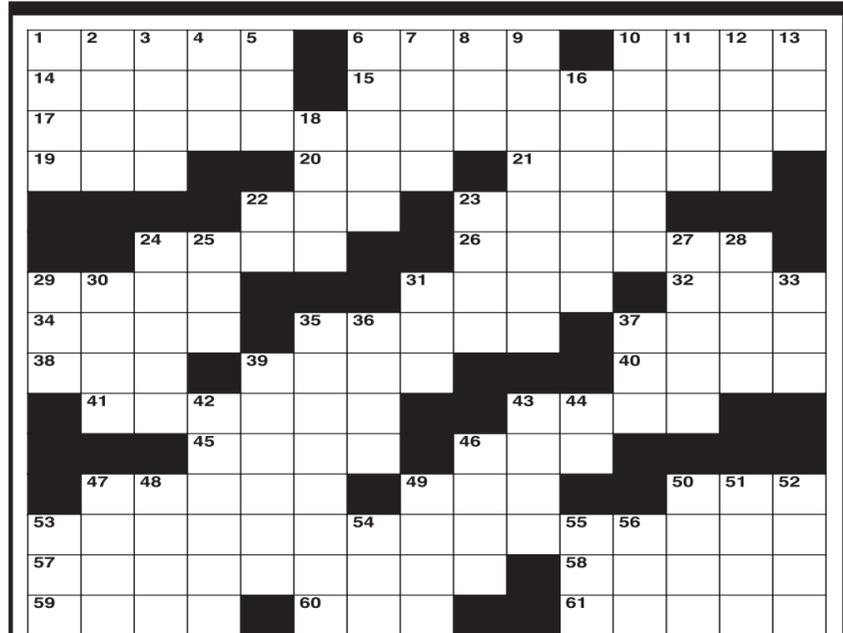
Major Step Forward for EV Infrastructure with Grant-Funded Chargers

John Schiavone presented a grant proposal under the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MasseVIP) to install new EV charging stations at four town-owned sites: Veterans Field, Town Hall, Flint Park, and the Fire Station.

The grant offers up to \$50,000 per site, with no cost to Monson, aiming to replace a defunct Town Hall charger and meet new fire station building code requirements. The new Level 2 chargers will enable payment collection via automated software, allowing the town to generate revenue while supporting the growing adoption of electric vehicles.

The board unanimously approved the proposal, recognizing some downtown parking limitations but endorsing the chosen sites to minimize disruption. Additionally, the plan includes installing one EV charger per local school, an initiative supported by the school superintendent.

Schiavone highlighted maintenance guarantees and the opportunity to use local electricians or preferred contractors, noting that the town can charge fees to recoup electricity costs and generate modest income.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Marsh plant
  - 6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
  - 10. Fogginess
  - 14. Home to Fools' Day
  - 15. Absence of the sense of pain
  - 17. Popular November holiday
  - 19. Consume food
  - 20. Buddy
  - 21. Long-haired goat-antelope
  - 22. Japanese honorific
  - 23. Actor Malek
  - 24. One point south of southeast
  - 26. Illegal acts
  - 29. As fast as can be done
  - 31. Prevents harm to young
  - 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
  - 34. African nation
  - 35. Slow-moving animal
  - 37. Oh, goodness!
  - 38. A team's best pitcher
  - 39. Cleanser
  - 40. Radioactivity units
  - 41. Expectorated matter
  - 1. Satisfy
  - 2. European health advocate
  - 3. Expression of annoyance
  - 4. Strong liquor
  - 5. Large red deer
  - 6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
  - 7. West Indian shrub
  - 8. Family of proteins
  - 9. Wealthy, influential business leader
  - 10. Low spirits
  - 11. Approves food
  - 12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
  - 13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics
  - 16. Expressed in pithy maxims
  - 18. Relaxing spaces
  - 22. The NFL's big game
  - 23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
  - 24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
  - 25. Indicates near
  - 27. Minneapolis suburb
  - 28. Herring-like fish
  - 29. Doctors' group
  - 30. Pouches
  - 31. Bread dipping in sauce
  - 33. Commercials
  - 35. A reminder of past events
  - 36. Affected by injury
  - 37. Geological time
  - 39. Stationary part of a motor
  - 42. Brings together
  - 43. Of sound mind
  - 44. Personal computer
  - 46. Without (French)
  - 47. A bank might give you one
  - 48. Agricultural testing organization
  - 49. A small island
  - 50. Type of gene
  - 51. Murres
  - 52. Card game
  - 53. A measure of human health
  - 54. Australian airline (abbr.)
  - 55. One point south of due west
  - 56. Affirmative

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# In the classroom

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Burke named to East Stroudsburg University Spring 2025 Dean's List

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA – A total of 1,741 students, including Robert Burke, have been named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University for the Spring 2025 semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, as announced by Margaret Ball D.M.A., the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs. Burke is a Business Management major from Palmer, Mass.

Students eligible for the Dean's List must have achieved a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or higher and be enrolled full-time. For reference, the grade "B" equates to 3 quality points per credit, while an "A" earns 4 quality points per credit.

Dr. Ball expressed her pride in the achievement, saying, "It is quite rewarding to see so many students on the list this semester. Congratulations to each of them on their dedication and fine work."

### Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for Spring 2025

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Spring Semester.

Springfield College has named Caiden Bodak from Monson, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Bodak has a primary major of Finance.

Springfield College has named Maegan Boucher from Monson, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Boucher has a primary major of English.

Springfield College has named Cameron Daniels from Monson, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Daniels has a primary major of Sport Management.

Springfield College has named Logan Fontaine from Palmer, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Fontaine has a primary major of History.

Springfield College has named Hannah Harris from Monson, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Harris has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Hanna Hurtado from Three Rivers, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Hurtado has a primary major of Social Work.

Springfield College has named Connor McCarthy from Monson, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. McCarthy has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Amelia Murray from Palmer, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Murray has a primary major of Pre-Prof Athletic Training.

Springfield College has named Jaimie Talbot from Palmer, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 spring semester. Talbot has a primary major of Sports Biology.

### Holcomb named to the Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, VT – Layne Holcomb of Wales, MA was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Holcomb is majoring in Writing and Publishing.

Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

### Assumption students named to Spring 2025 University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Mason Dumas of Monson  
Ethan Beauchemin of Palmer

### Malone completes intensive capstone research project

WORCESTER – Ryan Malone, a member of the class of 2025 majoring in Mechanical 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. Ryan'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 "Wings of Gomei: RC Aircraft Design, Assembly, and Test".

"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.

### Catalina Mudgett completes intensive research project

WORCESTER – Catalina Mudgett, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "Sustainable Energy Microgrid Alternative for Gateway Park."

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

### HCC celebrates Class of 2025 nursing graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 53 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 22.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin, and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

Local graduates include:

- Brimfield:*
- Christina Howe**
- Monson:*
- Samantha Sevigne**
- Palmer:*
- Dana Russo**
- Three Rivers:*
- Suzanne Larro**

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<p><b>School Choice openings for the 2025-2026 school year:</b></p> <p>Kindergarten.....2                  Grade 2.....3                  Grade 3.....5                  Grade 4.....5                  Grade 7.....5                  Grade 8.....15                  Grade 9.....25                  Grade 10.....25                  Grade 11.....25                  Grade 12.....15</p>	<p><b>The School Choice application can be downloaded at <a href="http://www.wareps.org">www.wareps.org</a> or picked up at Central Office</b>                  239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082  <b>Deadline to submit applications is June 16, 2025</b></p> <p><b>The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing, when the number of requests exceed the number of available spaces.</b>  <b>The drawing, if needed, will take place on June 17, 2025.</b></p>
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Graduates prepare to move their tassels.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson



Emily Provost smiles before heading to the stage with the rest of the class.



Olivia Chrzan outside of Granite Valley Middle School reconnecting with friends and families.



Nicholas DeCasse smiles with Principal Fontaine.



Harris Racheal proudly stands with her diploma.



The MHS Marshalls leading the 2025 graduating class.



Valedictorian Address by Molly Szado.



Director of Baseball Operations of the New York Yankees Matthew Ferry.



The presentation of honored guests was met with many hugs and tears.



Salutatorian Address by Olivia Chrzan, a National Honor Society ember.

MHS | from page 1

principals or changing of schedules or when the Wi-Fi went out when that essay was due. This class has shown that with perseverance, any obstacle can be conquered. Before us today, we have a class of students who have accomplished so much at Monson High School. Olivia has scored over 2,000 points in her High School Basketball career. Nevaeh scored her 200th point in lacrosse and Tyler has represented our school not only at state golf tournaments, but in the New England Regionals as well. Isabella, a state champion in swimming, not just once, but twice. To our seniors, thank you for rising to the challenge that you have met with. Thank you for representing Monson with pride and sharing the wonderful things that you have accomplished with us. We are a small community, a small school and a small town, however we must say that even though we are small, we are mighty. We know that you will go on to do great things in your life."

Interim Superintendent Roland Joyal spoke at the event and this year's guest speaker was Director of Baseball Operations of the New York Yankees Matthew Ferry. Growing up in Monson and graduating from MHS in 2007,

"Monson is the town I grew up in and it's all I've ever known," Ferry said. "I know that I might be biased, but it has a special place in my heart. This town has taught me everything that I know, it's shaped me for who I am, and it prepared me for everything life has thrown at me. In fact, this school - Monson High School - allowed me to become the person that I am today. And for that, I am forever grateful and honored to come back and speak to you all on graduation day. And hopefully - I can impart some wisdom on you all that I've gathered since leaving this hometown of mine. To the parents, loved ones, advocates, guardians

and anyone else that helped shape these graduates - congratulations. You've successfully navigated these 18 years to see your baby boy or baby girl reach this milestone today. Parents, you did it...just remember, that graduation party this weekend is just as much for them as it is for them. You helped guide your graduates through the good times, the bad times, the hard times, the ups and downs, and everything in-between. I'm the definition of a small-town kid with big city dreams."

The Valedictorian address by Molly Szado and Salutatorian address by Olivia Chrzan was delivered, with both graduates receiving respective medallions summarizing all of the outstanding accomplishments, Szado with the Valedictorian medallion and Chrzan with the Salutatorian medallion.

Szado began by addressing the small graduating class size and thanking the MHS staff, friends, and families.

"Many high schools have hundreds of students in a graduating class, for us, well we could probably all fit in a minivan," she said. "What we may lack in numbers we make up in personalities. If there's one thing I can confidently say we've learned over the past four years, it's how to adapt to change. Having a new principal each year of high school has made us experts at introducing ourselves, adjusting to new rules, and relearning expectations. But, instead of letting this affect us, we proved that no matter who was in charge, we controlled our own success. We learned flexibility, how to lead ourselves, and how to constantly thrive in an ever-changing environment. Our class stayed together through it all. We built friendships and made memories that no new administration could take away. And if we can handle all of that, we can handle whatever comes next. Our class may not be the biggest or the most traditional, but I couldn't have imagined going through this with anyone else."

Chrzan reflected on her time at Monson, saying the moment is not just theirs.

"I am honored to be able to speak to you all tonight and reflect on the past 13 years," she said. "I want to recognize that this moment doesn't just belong to me alone. It belongs to everyone on this stage that has put countless hours into the past 13 years to get to this very moment. To every parent that encouraged us, supported us and helped us along the way. To every teacher and staff member that has prepared us and believed in us over the years even when we didn't quite believe in ourselves. As the class of 2025, we have faced more change than any class should in four years, so we are no strangers to the idea of adjustments and perseverance. So, as we look back and reminisce, I hope you are all extremely proud of who you've become because: I know I would be. Through hardships and unpredictability, we've never feared the unknown and the growth we've shown is remarkable. 2,340 days were spent inside the walls of Monson Public Schools just to get here, to this one moment, that we will share in our memories forever."

Subsequent was the presentation to honored guests, where graduates went up to the microphone and announced someone special in their lives who made the high school experience a bit easier, with most honoring their parents, grandparents, and friends. Each honored guest was presented a flower and were able to hug their graduate before the ceremony ended.

The closing remarks made by Dean of Students Maria Barnes and "All Summer Long" was played during the recessional. C

Class Advisors for the graduates are: Wendy Pisciotto and Bryan Griffing, MHS Ushers were: Brady Ronaldson, Julia Royce, Adam Laverty, Olivia Davis, Gabriella Almeida, and Sophia Galarneau.



Nevaeh Chiacchia smiles with Principal Fontaine after receiving her diploma.



Mausam Darjee has the rose in his mouth where in the presentation of honored guests, he chose himself.



Tyler Labonte is pictured graduating with Principal Fontaine.



Molly Szado smiles with her family, friends, and guests for a photo.



The girl's bleachers.



The boy's bleachers.



Principal North posing with graduate Gianna Perry.



Loretta Petraszewicz (right) gets surprised by her sister, Stephanie Kozlik (left), an E3 Naval Equipment Operator who came back from deployment to surprise her sister at graduation.



Valedictorian Sophia Braskie giving her speech on how learning is a lifetime commitment.



Class President Donovan Rayleonard gives his remarks to his classmates, alternating between funny anecdotes and heartfelt statements.



Principal North posing with graduate Keegan Jez.



The Palmer High Concert Band, who performed Pomp & Circumstance by Elgar for the opening walk in of the graduates.



School Committee Chairperson Bonnie Rathbone poses with granddaughter Madison Rathbone after giving her her diploma.



Superintendent Matthew Francis gives his speech proclaiming how proud he is of this class before playing Justin Moore's "Love Your Hometown" over the loudspeakers.



School Committee Chairperson Bonnie Rathbone addressed the audience and graduates.



The boy's side of the graduation popping the confetti devices they were given after diplomas were given out.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

**PHS** | from page 1

ic strength and post-graduation ambition. Over half the class maintained a B average or higher, with nearly two dozen holding A averages. Students are heading to a range of destinations; from UMass Amherst and Northeastern University to trade programs in welding and cosmetology, and some directly into the workforce.

Highlighting this year's theme, "Right Where I Belong", Francis emphasized the power of small-town roots. "You damn sure make us proud," he said, evoking the spirit of Justin Moore's Love Your Hometown and referencing Palmer's historic

charm; from its brick buildings to the ever-present railroad tracks. He encouraged students to carry their community values of hard work and perseverance into the wider world.

Valedictorian Sophia Braskie, recipient of the prestigious Rensselaer Medal and an AP Scholar with Distinction, spoke about the value of curiosity, connection, and learning beyond textbooks. A future biology major at Northeastern University, Braskie balanced her academic accolades with leadership roles as NHS vice president, swim and tennis team captain, and community volunteering.

Her speech moved from the chaos of high school hallways and late-night study

sessions to reflections on empathy, humility, and resilience. "The world doesn't need more people who know everything...it needs more people still willing to learn," she said, quoting Bill Nye's reminder: "Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't."

Braskie closed with a challenge to her peers: "You are now your own teacher."

School Committee Chairperson Bonnie Rathbone offered heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the committee, calling the Class of 2025 "a source of strength, perseverance, and support." She commended the students for their example to underclassmen and reminded them to celebrate small joys, thank

their mentors, and pursue their own definitions of success.

Quoting Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken", and Dr. Seuss: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened", Rathbone encouraged graduates to shape the world with authenticity and gratitude.

She also recognized the crucial role of families and caregivers, thanking them for years of volunteerism and emotional support during this transformative time.

A special moment in the ceremony was reserved for the recognition of retiring staff members who have shaped the lives of generations of Palmer students. Retiring paraprofessionals

included Paula Corcan and Carmen Baldwin. Honored teachers included Gail Marriott, Catherine Denine, Sheila Brown, John Gaffron, Mark Miller, Eva Robbins-Davies, Christina Tatlock, and Sandra Will.

Their dedication, described as going "above and beyond," was met with deep appreciation and applause.

The evening featured a spirited performance of Green Day's "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" by the graduating class, drawing enthusiastic participation from both students and audience members.

Following diploma distribution, the ceremony closed with Principal Susan North inviting the class to

sing the Palmer High School song. A humorous moment ensued as many students groaned in unison, revealing they didn't quite remember the lyrics.

In her final reflections, Rathbone quoted Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." She reminded students that they leave Palmer not only with knowledge, but with critical thinking skills, compassion, and leadership.

Whether heading to college, entering trades, or starting careers, members of the Class of 2025 were celebrated for their accomplishments and reminded they will always have a home at Palmer High School.

# Public notices

## Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Containing about 22,800 square feet.

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

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other

public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONSON SAVINGS BANK, Present Holder of said Mortgage  
By:  
David A. Lavenburg, Its Attorney  
BACON WILSON, P.C.

33 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-781-0560  
05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Scott R. Cable and Kathleen M. Cable to First NLC Financial Services, LLC, dated May 13, 2003 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 13203, Page 581, subsequently assigned to JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT, DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2004, AMONG CREDIT-BASED ASSET SERVICING AND SECURITIZATION LLC, MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., LITTON LOAN SERVICING LP AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CB2, WITHOUT RECOURSE by FIRST NLC FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC AND/OR ITS ASSIGNS by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 14277, Page 70, subsequently assigned to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT, DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2004, AMONG CREDIT-BASED ASSET SERVICING AND SECURITIZATION LLC, MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., LITTON LOAN SERVICING LP AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CB2 by JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT, DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2004, AMONG CREDIT-BASED ASSET SERVICING AND SECURITIZATION LLC, MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., LITTON LOAN SERVICING LP AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CB2 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19194, Page 64, subsequently assigned to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CB2 by the BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2004, AMONG CREDIT-BASED ASSET SERVICING AND SECURITIZATION LLC, MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., LITTON LOAN SERVICING LP AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CB2 by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of

Deeds at Book 21911, Page 305 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 AM on June 26, 2025** at 10 Kimball Hill Road, Holland, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known and designated as Lot #6 (six) as shown on a plan recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 99, Page 82, bounded and described as follows:

EASTERLY: by Kimball Hill Road, shown on said plan as Private Road, one hundred (100) feet;

NORTHERLY: by Lot #5 (five) as shown on said plan, one hundred fifty and 80/100 (157.80) feet;

WESTERLY: by Lots #64 (sixty four) and #63 (sixty three) as shown on the plan of Forest Park recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 40, Page 76, one hundred nine and 50/100 (109.50) feet;

and SOUTHERLY: by land now or formerly of Albert H. Daigle, one hundred three and 05/100 (103.50) feet.

SUBJECT to flowage rights and other rights as in instrument dated March 30, 1866, recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 246, Page 106, if applicable.

SUBJECT to easement rights granted New England Telephone and Telegraph Company and Worcester County Electric Company in instruments dated September 3, 1947, and recorded in said Registry of Deeds, Book 1897, Pages 516, and 517, if applicable.

TOGETHER WITH a ten (10) foot right of way as shown on plan first above mentioned.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE MORTGAGORS HEREIN BY DEED DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1993 AND RECORDED IN THE HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 8359 PAGE 197. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

## announced at the sale.

The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, as Trustee for C-BASS Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-CB2 Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
23-012981  
06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2025

## TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FY26 BUDGET

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

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

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P0776EA Estate of:

**Violet Jeanne Harris Date of Death: 2/10/24 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Judith A Harris of Monson, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Judith A Harris of Monson, MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
06/05/2025

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

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

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

## Monson Housing Authority Accepting Proposals for Property

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

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

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

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

## 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. HD25C0181CA In the matter of:

**Celia Stephanie Silvis CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Celia Stephanie Silvis of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Cindi Silvis Wood IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/25/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/05/2025

## Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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## FOR RENT

### Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list.

The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**  
413-477-6496  
TDD (800)439-2379

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

**visit www.publicnotices.turley.com**

# Public notices



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Energy Facilities Siting Board  
Notice of Adjudication  
And Public Comment Hearing  
EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190  
New England Power Company  
d/b/a National Grid  
(Palmer to Ware Transmission Project)**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>  
**Project Summary and Public Comment Hearing Overview**

New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (the "Company") filed petitions seeking approval to construct, operate, and maintain a new overhead transmission line in Palmer, West Brookfield, and Ware, Massachusetts that will replace approximately 10.

35 miles of an existing transmission line in the same right-of-way (the "Replacement Line"). The Company plans to remove the existing transmission line and existing 147 structures; the Company would then replace the existing structures with 112 steel structures and construct, re-establish, and improve utility access routes. The Replacement Line would continue operating at 69 kilovolts ("kV") although capable of operating at 115 kV in the future, if needed. This work is referred to herein as the "Palmer to Ware Transmission Project" or the "Project." The Project description and maps of the Project site are provided below.

**The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing with both in-person and remote participation options:**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Palmer High School Auditorium**

**4105 Main St  
Palmer, MA 01069**

**Remote attendees: join by clicking this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86262871350>**

For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not a toll-free number) and then enter the Webinar ID: 862 6287 1350.

To provide oral comments during the public comment hearing (in person or on Zoom), please send an email to [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address by **noon, June 24, 2025**. To sign up by telephone, please leave a voice-mail message referencing "EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190" at (617) 305-3544 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address. Pre-registered commenters will speak first, and other commenters afterwards.

**The Siting Board also invites written comments on the Project.** Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Friday, July 11, 2025**.

**Important Dates**

Public Comment Hearing **June 25, 2025**

Deadline to file written comments **July 11, 2025**

Deadline to file for intervention/limited participant status **July 11, 2025**

**Public Comment Hearing**

At the public comment hearing, the Company will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be available on the **Siting Board's YouTube channel** after the hearing, at [https://www.youtube.com/@MaDPU\\_hearing](https://www.youtube.com/@MaDPU_hearing)

**Public Review of the Company's Petition**

A detailed description of the Project, links to the Company's petitions, attachments, and analysis, and periodic updates are available via the Siting Board's webpage for the Project <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>. The Company also maintains a webpage for the Project: <https://palmartowareimprovementproject.com/>.

Hard copies of the Company's petitions, including all attachments, are available for public inspection at the following locations:

**Boston**

Energy Facilities Siting Board  
One South Station, 3rd floor  
Boston, MA 02110

**Palmer**

*Clerk's Office*  
4417 Main St. Ste 10  
Palmer, MA 01069

*Palmer Public Library*  
1455 N Main Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

**West Brookfield**

*Clerk's Office*  
2 East Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

*Merriam-Gilbert Public Library*  
3 West Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

**Ware**

*Clerk's Office*  
126 Main Street - Suite F  
Ware, MA 01082

*Young Men's Library Association*  
37 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

**Decision on the Project Proposal**

The public comment hearing marks the beginning of an official, state-level decision-making process focused on whether the Project should be approved. The Siting Board will make the decision based on the following laws:

1) Under G.L. (Massachusetts General Law) c.(chapter) 164, § (section) 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company's proposed Project to determine whether the Project will provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.

2) Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest.

**Intervention and Participation**

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding, beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments, may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must also be filed no later than July 11, 2025, and follow the instructions provided below.

**"Intervenor" or "Party" Status:** An intervenor can participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings, file a brief and present comments to the Siting Board on the Tentative Decision, and to appeal a Final Decision.

**"Limited Participant" Status:** A limited participant receives documents during the proceeding and may file a brief and present comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

A petition to intervene must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. See below for filing instructions. For more information on the Siting Board's procedural rules, please see the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-105/download>.

**Filing Instructions**

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the comments or petition must be sent to the Siting Board by email - to [dpufiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpufiling@mass.gov) AND to [Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov](mailto:Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov) no later than the close of business on July 11, 2025. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The email should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Second, the comments or petition must be sent by email to counsel for the Company, Catherine Keuthen, Esq. at [ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com).

**Accommodation Requests**

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) are available upon request. To submit a request for an accommodation, please email Melixza Esenyie - Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at, [eadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eadiversity@mass.gov), or call 617-626-1282. In your communication, please include a description of the request with as much detail as possible and provide a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow at least one week (7 days) advance notice. Last-minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill them.

Language interpretation services are available upon request. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if we need more information. Requests may be made at least one week (7 days) in advance. It may not be possible to accommodate last-minute requests. Contact the Presiding Officer for more information (contact information below).

**Non-Discrimination Notice**

The Siting Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, income, ethnicity, class, disability, religious creed or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, English language proficiency or ancestry in administration of its programs or activities. See the Siting Board's Non-Discrimination Notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-non-discrimination-notice-and-grievance-procedure>.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Siting Board's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:

Melixza Esenyie - Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Human Resources, 9th Floor, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, [eadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eadiversity@mass.gov), 617-626-1282.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a Siting Board program or activity, you may contact Melixza Esenyie (identified above) to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

**Contact**

For further information about the proceeding, please contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Connor Tarr, Presiding Officer  
Energy Facilities Siting Board  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110  
[Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov](mailto:Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov)  
(617) 305-3596

For periodic updates please visit the Siting Board's webpage for this proceeding found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>.

**Project Description**

The Company owns and operates an existing transmission line, Line O15N, that extends about ten miles, from National Grid's Palmer Substation to its Ware Substation (the "Palmer-Ware Line"). National Grid proposes to replace the Palmer-Ware Line and the transmission structures that are holding it up and then remove the old lines and structures. The Company maintains that the Project is needed because inherent design characteristics and physical deterioration of the existing Palmer-Ware Line have resulted in poor electric reliability. According to the Company, rebuilding the existing line would address the widespread damage to the existing structures, improve telecommunications between the two substations, and improve electric reliability. An interactive map of the Project is available at the following link: <https://palmartowareimprovementproject.com/index.htm#project-map>.

**Route Description**

The Palmer-Ware Line traverses the towns of Ware, West Brookfield, and Palmer. Beginning at the Palmer Substation at the southern end of the line, the Palmer-Ware Line travels in a northeasterly direction, crossing U.S. Route 20, Flynt Street, Thompson Street, the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), Smith Street, Old Warren Road, and West Ware Street for a total of 8.07 miles in Palmer. The Existing Line then crosses into Ware, continuing in a northeasterly direction across Prendville Road twice and traveling 1.18 miles, before entering West Brookfield. In West Brookfield, it continues northeast, crossing West Main Street/MA Route 9 and traveling 0.9 miles before turning westward back into Ware. In Ware, the Existing Line travels 0.2 miles and crosses Gilbertville Road/MA Route 32 just before entering the Ware Substation.

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Energy facilities siting board  
ONE SOUTH STATION  
BOSTON, MA 02110  
(617) 305-3525**

**Translation and Interpretation Services**

**English**

ATTENTION: Additional translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request at no direct cost to the individual requesting the service. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if we need more information. It may not be possible to fulfill last-minute requests. Contact Yonathan Mengesha at [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) to make a request.

**Español (Spanish)**

ATENCIÓN: Hay servicios adicionales de traducción y/o interpretación disponibles a pedido sin costo directo para la persona que solicita el servicio. Incluya en su solicitud el idioma requerido y una forma de comunicarnos con usted si necesitamos más información. Es posible que no sea posible cumplir con solicitudes de último momento. Comuníquese con Yonathan Mengesha a [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) para realizar una solicitud.

**Portugues (Standard Portuguese)**

ATENÇÃO: Serviços adicionais de tradução e/ou interpretação estão disponíveis mediante solicitação, sem custo direto para o indivíduo que solicita o serviço. Inclua em sua solicitação o idioma necessário e uma forma de contato caso precisemos de mais informações. Pode não ser possível atender a pedidos de última hora. Entre em contato com Yonathan Mengesha pelo e-mail [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) para fazer a solicitação.

**Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)**

ATANSYON: Sèvis tradiksyon ak/owsa entèpretasyon siplemantè disponib si w mande sa san yon pri dirèk pou moun k ap mande sèvis la. Nan demann ou an, mete lang ou egzijè a ak yon mwayen pou kontakte w si nou bezwen plis enfòmasyon. Li gendwa pa posib pou ranpli yon demann nan dènye lè. Kontakte Yonathan Mengesha nan [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) pou w fè yon demann

**Français (French)**

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation supplémentaires sont disponibles sur demande, sans frais directs pour le demandeur. Indiquez dans votre demande la langue requise et un moyen de vous contacter si nous avons besoin de plus d'informations. Il se peut que nous ne puissions pas répondre aux demandes de dernière minute. Merci de contacter Yonathan Mengesha à [Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) pour faire une demande.

06/05, 06/12/2025

# Job Connection

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### HELP WANTED HOUSEKEEPING / CUSTODIAL POSITIONS

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our housekeeping team.

**Essential Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Window cleaning; Vacuuming; Dusting; Trash Removal; Restroom Cleaning; Floor cleaning with commercial machines

**Required Qualifications & Skills**

- Ability to work in a team environment; Proven ability to work independently with minimal supervision; Must be flexible regarding scheduling based on business demands; Successful completions of background check; Willingness to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and/or Holidays as needed

**Physical requirements:**

- Able to lift up to 50 lbs.; Able to push/pull up to 50 lbs.; Able to bend, stretch, and twist; Able to stand for long periods of time; Able to climb multiple flights of stairs on daily basis and walk frequently; Able to work with chemicals according to directions

Eagle Hill School is located in Hardwick, MA and is a private boarding school for high school students in grades 8 through 12. If interested, call Devon Jurczyk, 413-207-7021. Phone calls only.

### HELP WANTED KITCHEN / DISHWASHING POSITIONS

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our kitchen staff.

Eagle Hill School is seeking full and part time kitchen staff for dishwasher positions as well as food preparation and serving.

- Ability to work in a team environment
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Must be flexible regarding scheduling, including nights, weekends, and/or holidays as needed
- Successful completion of background checks is required
- Physical Requirements and Work Environment
- Must be able to lift approximately 30-50 pounds
- Bend, kneel, push, pull, and other physical exertion
- Ability to stand and walk for extended periods of time
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Obituary

## Christina Lynn Poulin, 67

Palmer-Christina Lynn Poulin, 67, of the Bonds-ville section of Palmer, MA, passed away on May 31, 2025, after an illness.

Born February 8, 1958 in Stafford Springs, CT daughter of Dwight and Nancy (Hale) Poulin, she lived most of her life in Monson, MA. After graduating from Monson High in 1976 as salutatorian, she earned a B.A from Assumption College and a MBA from Western New England College. Tina worked in Mass-Mutual's Retirement services for many years, most recently



at Voya. Her favorite activities included family gatherings with the Poulins, vacations on Cape Cod with friends Sue and Scott, and steak or burgers on Saturdays at the Norths with her beloved "grandcats."

Remaining to cherish Tina's memory are son Nathan and his wife Lilly North, Tina's siblings and their spouses, Cindy and Jim Nothe, Patti and Louie Vacon, Linda Poulin, Lisa Poulin, Rich Poulin, Bob and Jane Poulin, Michael and Caroline Poulin, Melissa and Jim Duggan, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation will be held

Thursday June 5, 2025 from 5pm to 7pm at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St., Monson. A Funeral Mass will be held Friday June 6, 2025 at 10am in St. Patrick's Church 22 Green St, Monson, interment will follow at Bethany Cemetery in Monson.

Memorial donations in Tina's memory may be directed to St. Patrick's Church in Monson PO Box 473 Monson, MA. Her memory can also be honored by efforts to preserve social support programs including SNAP and Medicaid or volunteer with your favorite organization that serves others.

For online condolences or directions please visit [Lombardfuneralhome.com](http://Lombardfuneralhome.com).

## Mary Anne O'Connor

August 8, 1944 – May 7, 2025

Mary Anne O'Connor passed away on May 7, 2025 in Atlanta, Ga. due to Heart Failure. She was 80 years old.



The first child born to Daniel and Grace O'Connor on August 8, 1944, Mary Anne spent her childhood in Monson, Mass with her three brothers: Daniel (DB), Thomas and Richard. While life brought its challenges, Mary Anne remained a source of creativity, strength, and determination, always finding ways to shape beauty from difficulty, and to find love when it was otherwise lost.

Eventually, seeking new possibilities and a milder climate, Mary Anne moved her family first to Mobile, AL and then to Georgia—working first in property management, then in the retail carpet business. In Atlanta, she truly came into her own: lovingly restoring her Grant Park home, contributing to the neighborhood paper, and immersing herself in the city's cultural heartbeat—through music and arts festivals, historic home tours, and the deep joy she found in the diverse stories and traditions of the people she befriended.

In 1986, with her children off to college, Mary Anne married Ken Davis, and the couple moved to Sarasota, Florida, where she lived her greatest dream: life by the sea. For three golden years, she wandered the shores of Siesta Key, collected seashells on Lido Beach, read in the sun, and let the steady rhythm of the waves restore her spirit. The ocean was her refuge—vast, steady, and full of quiet wonder.

Mary Anne held strong convictions and lived by them. A lifelong believer in women's rights and social justice, she stood firmly against political, racial, and economic inequality—not with slogans, but through care. She opened her home—and her heart—to foster children, survivors of domestic violence, and a joyful parade of rescued dogs and cats. Her compassion showed in her instincts, her hospitality, and her everyday choices.

She also loved the hunt of a good thrift store, the comfort of a cigarette and a cup of tea, and the unspoken poetry of second chances. Her record collection and love of music spanned decades.

She is survived by her brother Thomas O'Connor, her daughter Jackilyn Pyzocha, her son Robert Pyzocha, her daughter Kristin Brown, and her beloved grandchildren, Adisa Brown and Kaelen Brown and grandson in-law Andrew Friedberg.

Mary Anne's resilience, wit, and generous spirit live on in the lives she touched. She leaves behind a legacy of courage, creativity, and care—a woman who built homes, nurtured communities, and never stopped learning or loving. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered—her spirit felt in every quiet page turned, every story shared between beloved ones, and in the salty serenity of a sun-warmed beach.

### The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

### DEATH NOTICES

**Poulin, Christina Lynn**

Died May 31, 2025  
Visitation June 5, 2025  
Lombard Funeral Home  
Funeral June 6, 2025  
St. Patrick's Church

**O'Connor, Mary Anne**

Died May 7, 2025

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### DEADLINE

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

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Read The Journal Register online at [journalregister.turley.com](http://journalregister.turley.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

### UPCOMING

#### Saturday, June 7- Sunday, June 8

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

#### June 12

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

#### June 14

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

#### June 21

Concert Butcher & The Summer of Love at Brimfield Winery 35 Main St., Brimfield. Tickets available at [Brimfield-winery.com](http://Brimfield-winery.com).

### ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

### UPCOMING

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

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### Public Auction

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> at 10:00 A.M.**  
MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
• MONSON •

**5 ROOM / 3 BEDROOM SINGLE STORY RANCH STYLE HOME**  
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"CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALL AMENITIES"  
**95 Upper Palmer Road MONSON, MA**  
To be sold on the Premises

**Features:**

- Single Story Ranch Style Home • ±½ Acre of Land •
- Total of (5) Rooms w/ (3) Bedrooms & (1) Bath •
- ±1,456 S/F of Living Area • Oil Baseboard Heat •
- Full Basement • Fireplace • Private Water • Private Septic •
- Parcel ID: 069-013 • Zoned: RR •

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee  
Attorney David A. Lavenburg  
or the firm of Bacon Wilson, P.C.  
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Attorney for Mortgagee

**Terms of Sale:** \$10,000.00 Deposit Certified or Bank Funds.  
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Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

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### Public Auction

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> at 11:00 A.M.**  
MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
• MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS •

**★ UNDER CONSTRUCTION ★**  
**7 ROOMS / 3 BEDROOMS**  
1 ½ STORY  
**CONTEMPORARY STYLE HOME**  
"LOCATED ON ROUTE 32/PALMER ROAD"  
**241 Palmer Road MONSON, MA**  
To be sold on the Premises

**Features:**

- 1½ Story Contemporary Style Home • ±2 Acres of Land •
- Total of (7) Rooms w/ (3) Bedrooms & (2) Baths •
- ±1,800 S/F of Area • Full Basement • Vinyl Siding •
- Open Porch • Public Water • Private Septic •
- Map ID: 128/013G • Zoned: Res •
- ★ One Car Attached Garage ★

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee  
Attorney Jerry B. Plumb  
or the firm of O'Connell & Plumb, P.C.  
75 Market Place, Springfield, MA  
Attorney for Mortgagee

**Terms of Sale:** \$10,000.00 Initial Deposit Cash, Bank or Certified Funds.  
Deposit to be Increased to 10% of Purchase Price Within 5 Business Days.  
5% Buyer's Premium Applies.  
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## Wine and Food Festival to be held June 7-8

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

This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Breweries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and beyond. The festival will continue its early partnership with Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR).

Featuring local vintners and craft brewers ready

to spill their secrets, plus a sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs like Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

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

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

## Learn about local wildlife at Open House



Submitted photo

WALES – Bring the whole family to enjoy a day of nature exploration and education at The Norcross Wildlife Foundation on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Simply drop by to join in on the excitement.

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

Exhibitors include:

- National Parks Ser-

- vice (Springfield, MA)
- CT Science Center (Hartford, CT)
- The Zoo in Forest Park & Education Center (Springfield, MA) – hosting a live animal program at 1 p.m.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- Fernald Entomology Club (UMASS)
- Minorities in Agriculture (UMASS)
- Opacum Land Trust

For more information, contact Caroline Cay Adams, Director of Education, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, 413-245-1264, ext. 106, [cadams@norcross-wildlife.org](mailto:cadams@norcross-wildlife.org), [www.norcross-wildlife.org](http://www.norcross-wildlife.org), 30 Peck Road, Wales, MA 01081.

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# PALMER FOR TOMORROW

## Gathering

### WHAT IS IT?

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

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

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

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

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

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

To Join Our Group!

### WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
at The Palmer Public Library

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

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

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### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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