

Lions Club presents scholarships, recognizes service

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – This week, the Lions Club was honored to present several members of the community with recognitions.

The Lions Club had a busy week, recognizing members for their service, providing scholarships to graduating high schoolers, and inducting a new member.

The Lions Club is part of the Lions Club International, dedicated to strengthening communities, improving people’s health and well-being, and serving those in need. This week, it achieved these goals by recognizing several hardworking residents.

The club presented scholarships to three graduates from the high school, Gavin Smola, Chloe Weirbrick, and Hannah Roy. Smola and Weirbrick will be attending Westfield State, while Roy will be attending the University of Massachusetts.

The club also inducted a new member, Brenda Brouillette. The District Governor of the Lions Club, Judy Fair, participated in the induction, while Carol Gumbleton served as Brouillette’s sponsor.

Finally, town resident Stephanie Gloster was recognized for 10 years as a Lioness, and 30 years as a club Lion.

The Lions Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month for dinner and a meeting. If you’d like to know more about the Lions Club, you can visit their Facebook page at “Lions Club of Palmer MA,” or send an email to PalmerLionsClub@GMail.com.



Palmer High Graduates received scholarships from Palmer Lions Club, (from left) Gavin Smola, Chloe Weirbrick, and Hannah Roy.



Brenda Brouillette (left) was inducted into Palmer Lions Club last week by District Governor of the Lions Club, Judy Fair (center). Carol Gumbleton (right) was Brenda’s sponsor.



Stephanie Gloster of Palmer was recently recognized for 10 years as a Lioness and 30 years as a Lion

Photos by Joy Trombley

Golf for Good: Tee off to support women and girls tournament

BELCHERTOWN – Join us for the 32nd Annual Zonta Golf Tournament and help create a brighter future for women and girls in our community. On Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown, we’ll tee off at 8:30 a.m. for a day of fun, friendly competition, and making a difference.

Whether you’re a seasoned golfer or just looking for a fun day out, everyone is welcome. For \$120, you’ll enjoy a round of golf, a delicious box lunch, and the chance to win amazing prizes.

Your support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

We’re working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate justice, education equality and women in decision-making positions.

Let’s make a lasting impact together! Sign up today at zontaqv.org/golf or contact Mary Knight at 413-323-4806. We also welcome sponsorships from local businesses.

Be a champion for women and girls. Join us on the green.

Northeast Outdoor Railway festival begins June 19

PALMER – The Northeast Outdoor Railway Festival will take place on June 19, 20, & 21 on the grounds of the Amherst Railway Society in Palmer, Massachusetts. The festival is a new event for Amherst and celebrates the enjoyment of running model railroads in beautiful outdoor settings.

G-scale model trains - both steam and battery-powered - will be running in the Amherst garden railroad. Fun to see - even more fun to operate. And, visitors will get a change to do just that - run trains.

The festival also features trains you can ride. There are three 7 ¼ gauge model railroads in the area that will be offering train rides throughout the weekend event.

Self-guided tours of area garden railroads are on the agenda as well. Trains running through beautifully tended gardens are a unique part of the model railroad hobby, and quite amazing to see.

Amherst is also sponsoring a variety of clinics during the festival - opportunities to learn more about outdoor model railroading. And, there will be special hand-on events just for children.

The Steaming Tender is a landmark restaurant for rail enthusiasts, located in the former Palmer railroad station. Four railroads pass the station on a daily basis - Amtrak, CSX, New England Central, and Massachusetts Central. The Steaming Tender will provide a variety of food service opportunities throughout the festival weekend.

There is no charge to attend the festival, but visitors must register for the event at: outdoorrailfest.org.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. VANESSA RICCI

The family of Vanessa Ricci proudly announces her graduation from the University of Rhode Island with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Vanessa’s dedication, perseverance, and hard work throughout her academic journey had led to this outstanding achievement. Your family and friends celebrate your success and wish you a bright and rewarding future as you begin your career in pharmacy.

Love, Dad, Mom and your sister Alyssa

Palmer Senior Center

Monday Evening Programs
4:30 p.m.

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

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

Activities
June 23 - Shopping Trip to Aldi, Target, Trader Joe’s, and a lunch stop. This is a self-pay event.

Upcoming Events
Aug.1 - Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is \$40.00 prepaid, no refunds.

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

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

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Sgt. Maj. Joseph Olander

Sgt. Maj. Olander retires from U.S. Marine Corps

Joseph P. Olander, a Monson native recently retired after 25 years in the United States Marine Corps having attained the rank of Sergeant Major.

Sgt. Maj. Olander is the son of Raymond and the late

Arabella Olander of Monson. He is a 2001 honors graduate of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and is currently residing in North Carolina with his wife Maria, daughter Vivianna and son Daniel.



Submitted photo

Members of the Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild are ready to donate quilts they have made for various charities. Among the fortunate recipients are Ronald McDonald's House, Help Our Kids and local senior centers and veterans groups. Members present for this picture are: Diane Marhelewicz, Laura Bishop, Betsy Sawyer, Sue Nichols, Sue Nelson, Brenda O'Connor, Charlene Czech, Liz Bromage, Barbara Hooton, Diane Warnock-Grafer and Betty Gatesman.

History of Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild

THREE RIVERS – Three Rivers resident Jeannette Tenczar began teaching a sewing class at the Palmer Public Library many years ago. Jeannette also taught members of the class how to quilt. They decided to form a guild around 1980 and began meeting at Jeannette's home and then began to meet at St. Mary's Church.

They met there until the church closed in December of 2014 and then moved the meetings to the Palmer Historical Cultural Center in Three Rivers from January 2015 until June 2021, when COVID shut the PHCC down. The Guild has met at the AmVets in Three Rivers since June 3, 2021 and currently

still meets there.

Diane Warnock-Grafer started our online presence with a Facebook page on December 17, 2017.

The QVQG has donated to many charity projects over the years. Recently, quilts have been made to donate to Ronald McDonald's House and Help Our Kids, a program for children in foster care.

Christmas stockings have been made to send to our service people in conjunction with Monson Military Care Package Drive. Placemats were made to give to senior citizens with their Christmas meals and heart pillows have been made for breast cancer patients so that they may ride more comfort-

ably in their cars.

The guild is also involved with making Quilts of Valor for Veterans and fleece blankets for women veterans. Additionally, hundreds of little dresses have been sent to Africa.

In addition to charity donations, the guild is involved with ongoing learning. Members teach what they know to other members. They have had classes on learning to quilt using rulers, making various quilt blocks, and learning to make various items, such as tote bags and pillowcases.

Recently, the members made an exchange block quilt and swapped blocks with each other so that each person has a quilt with blocks made by

group members.

The members of the guild provide inspiration and encouragement for one another. They help one another with quilt layouts, design and finishing.

The important part of this group is the socialization for members and the many friendships that have been built over the years.

The Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild currently meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. at the AmVets Hall in Three Rivers and is always looking for new members.

The group can be contacted through Facebook at Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild.

Keep Homestead celebration July 5

MONSON – Visit the Keep Homestead Museum on Sunday, July 5, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. for an Ice Cream Social. Come and enjoy making a sundae with ice cream donated by Westview Farms Creamery. Various toppings will also be available.

While enjoying your sundae creation, listen to

the musical entertainment featuring Frozenred – Rosemary Higgins, Fred Higgins, and Finlay Higgins. They will be playing traditional folk music.

Then tour the museum

to view new exhibits. Plan to visit the gift shop where handmade note cards featuring buttons are for sale.

All are welcome to this FREE event though donations are welcome.

Rail track rehabilitation project begins

The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, will be embarking on a project to rehabilitate its main rail track, scheduled to begin on Monday, June 22.

This project has an estimated time for completion to be somewhere toward the fall of this year.

The daily train schedule will operate Monday through Friday starting at 7 p.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period)

to service rail customers from Palmer to South Barre to then return to Palmer.

The train schedule will resume back to daytime service beginning at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period) by the end of August.

Relay for Life on June 20

SOUTHBRIDGE – The 29th Annual Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is taking place Saturday, June 20 at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Avenue from 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Celebrate cancer survivors and give thanks to caregivers. Walk a lap or two, participate in plant bingo or the one pound auction. Take your chance on a raffle or two. Get a bite from ChiChiWow or something sweet from Glazed Gourmet Bakery.

For more information, visit RelayForLife.org/SW or call 1-800-227-2345.

Crafters wanted

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

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

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

Looking for vendors

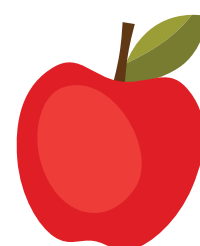
LUDLOW – St. Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow, is now accepting applications for vendors for the St Nick's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 to 3 p.m. The 8' table is provided and the charge is \$40. Please call Pat at (413) 531-6997 for an application or additional questions.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Why don't we have a minimum Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty: I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person.

When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us, who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives.

Signed: Needs More Social Security

Dear Needs More:

For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists, but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for.

The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify.

That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit.

In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime.

However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income.

Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings.

Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a

higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income.

In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement.

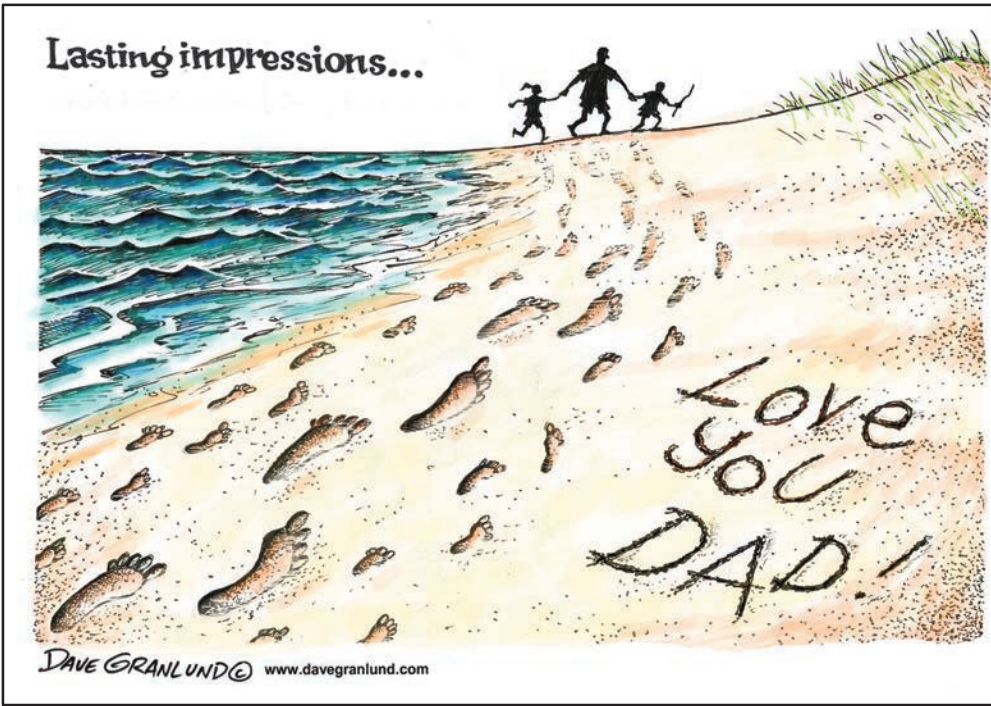
Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources).

While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program, which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging (www.benefitscheckup.org). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

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



Strawberry culture 101

Melissa, who gardens in Belcher town asked this question of the Garden Lady. "It's always so hard to install strawberry plants and pinch off the flowers the first year. Do you really have to? It would be so wonderful to enjoy some fruit."

I completely understand where you are coming from! Last year I was in the same boat. This year, the fruit is coming in and boy, am I enjoying it!

Removing the flowers redirects the plant's energy away from reproducing to forming strong roots and more shoots, so yes, it recommended practice.

I thought you might find this column, one of my very first, helpful. It contains lots of good tips for strawberry culture.

I have fond memories of strawberry picking. One of the first days of summer vacation was always spent at a local pick-your-own farm with my mom, filling boxes with luscious red berries.

Like any kid I did my share of sampling out there in the rows, and my taste buds never forgot the intense sweetness found only in fresh picked fruit. Now that I have my own space to garden I am able to go strawberry picking in my backyard.

With a lot of patience and a little labor, so can you!

My bareroot strawberry plants arrived by mail in early spring. I had prepared the sunny space intended for them ahead of time, by eradicating all weeds and tilling in two-inches of finished compost and some slow release organic fertilizer.

Lime wasn't necessary, as strawberries prefer a slightly acidic soil.

The plants looked a bit limp from their trip so the roots were soaked in water for an hour to rehydrate them prior to planting. I set the crown of the plant right at soil level with the roots spread over a small mound



of soil in the hole.

Keeping in mind that strawberries send out runners (daughter plants), I set my plants in a single row roughly two-feet apart with three feet between the rows. This wide spacing allowed for four daughters to be positioned four-five inches apart from mom and each other.

Some gardeners prefer to pinch away all runners, and nourish only the original mother plant. Initial yields may be higher, but without replacement plants the patch will expire sooner.

All blossoms, although it is tempting to leave them, must be removed the first season so that energy will be spent on building strong roots.

I set up a soaker hose among the plants to be sure that they would continue to grow with gusto during droughty spells. If you choose to do the same, be sure to position runners under the hose, otherwise removing it for winter storage may be a difficult and tangled task.

A mulch of chopped leaves conserves soil moisture and prevents weeds from sprouting. Evergreen boughs laid over the row after the ground has frozen lessens temperature extremes, preventing the plants from being heaved out of the ground during winter freeze/thaw cycles.

Anticipation begins to build in the spring of the second season. It is only a matter of time before the plants will be loaded with ripe berries.

As new growth emerges remove the protective boughs. Pull stray weeds and reapply mulch. If frost threatens during blossoming cover the plants with spun poly floating row covers or old bed sheets.

Keep up with watering. Lightweight netting works well to deter birds, while slugs can be captured in shallow containers filled with beer and buried at ground level. Remove dead slugs and top off the beer nightly.

June-bearing strawberries bear fruit for two-three weeks. Harvest when the berries are bright red; if fruit is picked unripe it may turn red, but flavor will be sacrificed.

The season can be extended a bit by growing early, mid and late season varieties, or by growing day-neutral types which bear smaller amounts of fruit over a longer period, from June-October.

Nourse Farms (noursefarms.com) of South Deerfield is an excellent local source for strawberry plants.

After fruiting is complete mow down the plants with a push mower. I had to cross reference a few advice books before I had the courage to do this, but it surely did wonders to renovate the bed.

Rake away the mowed leaves, thin runners that are too close, and remove the oldest plants. Top-dress with compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer before re-mulching.

Although labor intensive, strawberries are worth the work. Managing a strawberry patch in this manner will likely keep it productive for five years. Imagine, your own flavorful memories!

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

fields growing up to bushes, edges of woodlands and other edge habitats such as along rights-of-way for power lines or railroads.

The male indigo bunting establishes territory in the spring and defends it with song. A male may have more than one mate at a time living on his territory.

The nest site is usually one to three feet above ground, rarely up to 30 feet or more, in dense shrub or low trees.

The female lays three to four white to bluish-white eggs with brown or purple

A reader emailed she saw an indigo bunting at her feeder. The indigo bunting is sometimes called the "blue canary."

However, the indigo bunting like all blue colored birds, lack blue pigment. Their color comes instead from microscopic structures in the feathers that refract and reflect blue light, much like the airborne particles that cause the sky to look blue.

Bunting plumage contains the pigment melanin, whose dull brown-black hue is seen when holding a blue feather up so the light comes from behind it, instead of to-



Indigo bunting

ward it.

The bunting is sparrow size and about 4.7-5.5 inches long. The adult male Indigo Bunting is dark blue in the spring and summer. Females are brown, usually with fine streaks on the chest

and a blue tinge on the tail. A one-year-old male in summer may be blue with a white belly.

Males are often seen singing from a perch in a tall tree. For years, a male indigo bunting sang from a dead

limb on a tall tree. Rarely, I spotted the female usually in a brushy area.

They inhabit brushy pastures and bushy wood edges. For nesting, the indigo bunting favors roadsides, old

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



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

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

July Vendors

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

August Vendors

August 5 - Generations of Cookies
August 6 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 12 - How Charming
August 18 - Wicked Good Treats

Wales Library Activities

June 18 – 2 p.m. Reading Rebels Summer Reading Kickoff
June 22 – 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga for Strength
June 22 – 11:45 a.m. Meditation Basics
June 23 – 4 p.m. Baby Bunnies
June 24 – 12:15 p.m. Wales Tales Story Time (Pirate Theme)
June 24 – 1:15 p.m. Outdoor Exercise
June 25 – 3 p.m. Tiny Creatures, Big Worlds!
June 26 – 10-:30 a.m. Wiggles & Wonder
June 30 – 2 p.m. Rock Painting

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking,

snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

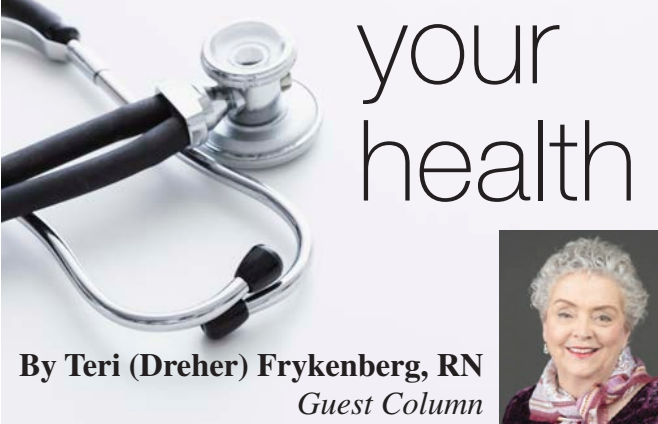
QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, follow 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 at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

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



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Patient advocates can also specialize, too

How many recognized medical specialties are there in the U.S.? Go ahead, take a guess.

Answer: More than 135, and that's just doctors, not counting nurses, technicians, paramedics and other medical professionals.

But did you know that patient advocates can also specialize? Depending on what

kind of advocacy you feel you or a loved one needs, there may be a patient advocate who offers just that.

My colleague Brad Schwartz, an attorney who founded Greater National Advocates (gnanow.org), does us all a favor by explaining the different ways in which patient advocates specialize.

Brad launched his non-

profit website to help others find private patient advocates after a harrowing medical experience – which left him a quadruple amputee because of a life-threatening infection – made him realize how easily things can go off the rails in our health-care system.

As Brad and I like to point out, when we have a complicated legal issue, we consult

lawyers. When our taxes get complex, we find a CPA to help. It's the same with medical issues we don't understand or feel "something isn't right." Then you have to ask yourself, "Do I need a patient advocate?"

Private patient advocates may specialize in one or more of these areas.

HEALTH I page 6

BIRDS I from page 4

spot. Females incubate the eggs and feed the young.

Males will help feed young when they are nearly old enough to fly. Young usually leave nest 9-12 days after hatching.

The male sometimes takes over feeding of fledged young while the female begins second nesting attempt as she has two broods per year.

Indigo buntings forage at all levels from the ground up into shrubs and trees. They take insects from leaves, seeds from the ground or stems and berries from shrubs.

They eat mostly seeds and insects. In breeding season, the indigo bunting feeds mainly on insects and spiders and also some seeds and berries.

Young in the nest are fed mostly insects at first. In winter, they eat many seeds and also some insects.

Indigo buntings migrate at night, using the stars for guidance.

The oldest recorded wild indigo bunting was a male and at least 13 years, 3 months old when he was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Ohio in 2013.

Other birds

Besides seeing an indigo bunting, the reader also has several Baltimore orioles, rose breasted grosbeaks and goldfinches.

She stated, "Around the corner at the Brook Road pond in West Warren, there was a lone swan. There was a lone swan there for a couple years about six years ago and it made me wonder if it was the same one."

Pileated woodpecker

I received another email on June 6 from a Belchertown resident.

She stated, "My hus-



band and I witnessed a beautiful pileated woodpecker mating ritual in our backyard this morning.... They jumped around the tree on opposite sides going around several times before then jumping to other trees moving farther back into the woods during the process."

She stated, "After looking them up, I realized that I have heard their calls and rapid pecking sounds in my backyard for the past two years, but never saw

them until now. What a joy to watch and video. They are beautiful birds."

She also stated her home has semi dense woods immediately behind that is a haven for several bird species, robins, yellow finch, bluebirds and blue jays. The property also borders some wetlands that attract a variety of species from time to time, including hawks, owls and ducks.

Mute swans

My brother, who lives in Sutton, has a pond bordering his property. For several years, a pair of mute swans have raised their family on the

pond. They are back this year.

Bluebirds

I often see a pair of bluebirds in my yard. After seeing them, I put out dried mealworms for them. I don't feed the birds in summer because of the black bears. Hopefully, bears are not interested in a few mealworms and the birds will eat the mealworms before the bear.

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



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VIP | from page 1

Mall to search for an appropriate job interview. Messer said the class talks about these processes in the classroom and then applies what they learned with community-based instruction.

As for last week's bake sale, Messer said that it was awesome, with a great deal of foot traffic from people going between Monson Savings Bank and the Post Office.

The students planned a menu that included brownies, banana bread, cookies, coffee cakes, and homemade dog treats, which Messer said was their favorite, because all the students are animal lovers. The class made ingredients labels and "Best By" labels, and then decided pricing as a group based on how much money was spent on materials and what made the most sense.

"Then once we got down there, we worked together to set up table and tent," Messer said. "The students were in charge of handling cash, making change, greeting customers, and set-up and take down. It was a real group effort, facilitated mostly by the students independently."

"My sister, Amber Messer, manages MSB in town, and she originally approved us to be right out front of bank," Messer said, but then they were paving the parking lot. We made a quick pivot, what can we do, and she talked to bank president, Dan



The Vocational Independence Program is designed to support the development of skills necessary for successful adult living, employment, and meaningful community participation.

Moriarty, and he gave us permission to use the front of the corporate offices instead."

Messer said that the part of the bake sale that made her the most proud was when people would ask the students to tell them about the VIP program.

"They took turns stand-

ing up and talking about the things they learned and practiced, things they look forward to doing, and things they've done in the community. It made me so proud to hear them, and it helped the community learn more about who we are," Messer said. Messer started as a long-



Submitted Photos

Community-based outings are a regular and intentional component of the VIP program, providing students with authentic opportunities to acquire, practice, and generalize skills in real-life settings.

term substitute teacher last school year, and has just finished her first full year as a transition and special education teacher.

"I totally fell in love with it," Messer said. "Transition work is my passion now, I want to know all the things. I love that real world application, and seeing students go from 'I can't do that, I could never do that,' to 'Did you see what I just did?'"

After the sale, the students put together an email to the teachers at Quarry Hill Community School and the high school offering leftovers to be delivered the next day. Messer said that "a ton" of teachers supported it, and bought up the last of the students' baked goods.

Messer thanked Superintendent Paul Foster, Special Education Director Colette Bidus, and Principal Christo-

pher Fontaine for approving and supporting the event.

"The biggest thing is, I'm so proud of how my students apply what we learned in the classroom to real life experience," Messer said, "which they can then turn into fundraising experience for classroom activities."

The program is planning for another bake sale next June, with a date to be set later in the year.

HEALTH | from page 5

Medical guidance

This is where I have spent most of my career. A medically-trained advocate works to improve communication between the medical team, patient and family members. Very often, situations can be improved just by translating medical-ese into English. And sometimes, someone who knows the medical jargon can communicate more effectively with the medical team.

Another advantage is that a medical advocate can help plan your discharge and make sure you have the support you need for a successful recovery.

Complex and senior care

Many families are far-flung these days, and often adult children aren't able to be on the scene with aging parents. Long-distance caregiving is hard.

Patient advocates can evaluate parents' daily needs, develop and implement care plans and address common safety concerns, like trip hazards. If it's time for an older adult to explore a senior living community, they can also help explore those options to make sure all medical, cultural and social needs are being considered.

Insurance and billing challenges

I find that a lot of clients, and people in general, don't really understand the terms of their policies, which leads to

insurance denials, insurance appeals or, in this case, loss of coverage.

Also, health systems are not infallible when it comes to billing. Not long ago, a little bit of investigation turned a \$4,000 bill into a \$400 one.

Some patient advocates specialize in challenging medical bills and insurance payouts. These advocates aren't necessarily medically trained, but they know their way around billing codes, copays and common pitfalls. They help with appealing denials of benefits and getting pre-authorizations, and may even help you compare insurance options.

Wellness and lifestyle support

The buzzword in health

care these days is "whole-person care." You can think of these advocates as coaches, helping you develop healthy lifestyle choices through education and encouragement. After a tough course of therapy or hospitalization, they may assist in rebuilding strength and self-esteem.

If you're interested in exploring non-traditional or alternative approaches to health and wellness, they can help you separate fact from fiction and pursue proven therapies.

Peer and survivor support

The trauma and uncertainty that come with a new and frightening diagnosis can be difficult to navigate. These advocates specialize in listening to patients and sharing first-hand experiences

about conditions, treatments and procedures. Based on their experiences, they provide realistic expectations of treatments and can connect patients and their families with support groups and counseling services.

Are all of these specialties available everywhere? Not necessarily. But if you're looking for a particular kind of advocacy, Greater National Advocates can help you find the right person. As a professional patient advocate, I am also happy to offer readers a free consultation.

Also keep in mind, however, that one medically trained advocate can help out in more than one type of situation. Best of all, the advocate you choose will work only for

you, not for a doctor, hospital, health system or insurance company.

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



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In the classroom

CAMPUS NOTES

Layne Holcomb named to the Champlain College Spring 2026 Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT – Layne Holcomb of Wales, MA was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Holcomb is currently majoring in Writing and Publishing. Making the Dean'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.

Springfield College announces Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College recognized its Dean's List students for the 2026 Spring Semester. The following local students were recognized for academic excellence: Maegan Boucher from Monson, MA. Boucher has a primary major of English. Cameron Daniels from Monson, MA. Daniels has a primary major of Sport Management. Logan Fontaine from Palmer, MA. Fontaine has a primary major of History. Hanna Hurtado from Three Rivers, MA. Hurtado has a primary major of Social Work. Amelia Murray from Palmer, MA. Murray has a primary major of Pre-Prof Athletic Training. Jaimie Talbot from Palmer, MA. Talbot has a primary major of Sports Biology. Kami Wlodyka from Three Rivers, MA. Wlodyka has a primary major of Public Health.

Uhart students named to Dean's List and President's List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,332 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2026 semester. Courtney Haire - Brimfield, MA - Dean's List and President's List Joyce Woodard - Wales, MA - Dean's List The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C. The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Grace Burke named to UNE Dean's list

BIDDEFORD AND PORTLAND, ME – Grace Burke of Palmer, MA has been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2026. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

American International College celebrates class of 2026

SPRINGFIELD – The 141st Commencement Ceremony of American International College was held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, Mass., honoring undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral recipients in the Class of 2026. Edward Wyzik of Monson graduated with a Bachelor of Science. Meaghan Jianaces of Monson graduated with a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies. Clare Jetter of Holland graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. AIC congratulates the Class of 2026 and looks forward to seeing all that its newest alumni will accomplish in the years ahead.

Brimfield resident inducted into National Scholastic Honor Society

MANCHESTER, N.H – Saint Anselm College student Caraline Stewart from Brimfield, MA, a Mathematics major in the class of 2026, has been inducted into the Tau Chapter of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society for the 2025-2026 academic year. Students are considered for membership if they have completed at least 50% of the credit requirements for their degree and are ranked in the top 20% of their class. Candidates also must have demonstrated dedication to intellectual activity and service to their community.

AIC announces Spring 2026 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 445 students have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. Mariah Thomas of Palmer, Tanner Wenzel of Palmer, Jason Angelica of Monson and Ki-ersten Harvey of Three Rivers AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students.

2026 Monson Garden Club scholarship recipients announced

MONSON – Julia Royce and Annabelle Tulloch are the recipients of the Monson Garden Club's scholarships this year. They were chosen based on academic achievements along with personal qualities of citizenship and leadership. Each received \$500 to help continue with their education. Julia will begin her studies in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Worces- ter State University. Annabelle will be studying Environmental Science at Westfield State University. Since 1991 the club has awarded \$30,450 in scholarships to 59 students.

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HEARING | from page 1

is addressed by department budgets.

“That percentage increase is looked at as being general government, as the town side of the government, where the school is the biggest employer in the town government,” Barry said. “It’s not reasonable to just look at whatever that percentage increase is, without also looking at, we got a 35% increase in health insurance this year.

“That is a major increase,” Barry continued. “Most communities do not allocate the cost of health insurance and other benefits of employees to the individual departments, and I think that’s important.”

“That is a dollar amount that’s not included in their budget,” added Phillip Hebert. “Their insurance is included with their school budget, so you’re talking about two different animals here.”

Noonan said that, in her previous conversations with Barry, she was told that, including the increases to the health insurance, the school departments’ budget was raised by 5%.

Brothers emphasized the difference in net school spending between the two schools.

schools have different services, but said that comparing net school spending is comparing “apples to apples.”

“It takes into account all of that,” Brothers said, “no matter what is vocational or regular education.”

Brothers also compared the spending to other neighboring communities, such as Monson, where it’s 7.4%, and Ware, which pays 3%.

Noonan then brought up the number of positions that have been eliminated.

“When you’re cutting half a department and we’re trying to get kids to stay and get as much as they can possibly get,” Noonan said, “this is why I opposed it, because I think when you’re making those kind of academic department cuts, there’s a problem.”

Lemieux clarified that the school department is in charge of what it cuts to meet the budget, but Noonan argued that the council told the department what its budget was, which included a deficit of close to \$600,000.

“All we did was approve the money for your spending,” Lemieux said. “You, as the School Department, put together the budget to run the schools. The town has nothing to do with running the budget.”

with the school department.

“I don’t really know what else I can do,” Barry said. “I think it is unfortunate that the cuts were not relayed to us as to what they really were until right now, not through lack of trying on my part.”

Barry recognized frustration on both sides of the conversation.

“It’s terrible that the town got a 35% health insurance increase,” Barry said, “but it’s the hand we’re dealt. From our votes tonight, you can see that we’re trying. We’re trying not to affect current retirees, we’re trying not to hurt current employees, we’re trying to do things that have the least impact.”

“They’re tough decisions that we have to make,” Barry continued. “We spent a lot of time, and I’m sure you guys did the same thing, but when there’s no money, there’s no money, and that’s the unfortunate thing.”

Brothers, Ferry, and Lemieux said that the town has had to deny budget increases to the school in order to stay afloat, financially.

“There’s no good cut across the board for anyone,” Brothers said, “but when you look around what’s happening locally with other school and town budgets, it’s only raining here; it’s not even pouring.”

“If we had the money to give, we would give it, but we don’t,” Barry said.

Ferry said that the town has been working with other departments to regionalize more of its services to offset costs, and recommended that the school look into regionalized services as well.

“Instead of everybody coming after the Council, everybody needs to go after the state,” Hebert said. “Look at all the money they spend everywhere frivolously, and not give it to the schools. That’s where we need to be arguing, not with each other.”

Noonan said that she has also made an appeal to the state government.

BOARD | from page 1

reconcile the gifts account, she had discovered there were funds that hadn’t been fully used.

“If you want to do a vote in anticipation of SummerFest sending an application in,” Wolowicz suggested, “that way we can put it officially on the June 23 meeting.”

The board accepted Wolowicz’s suggestion with a unanimous vote.

Slozak said that he had already conferred with department heads from the fire, highway, and police departments.

“I see that the gazebo is coming along really well,” Slozak said. “It was a challenge, because we weren’t sure if we were going to be able to have the bands in there, but it looks like it’s going to be.”

Slozak said there was some concern over a saw that’s going down, but this was solved by putting up snow fences around the grass area and having people go to the sidewalk or the street to listen to the band, adding that “everything is closed up, anyways.”

“The only ones that will be in the gazebo will be the band members,” Slozak said, saying that the bands will be playing at 12:30 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m., with the Drum Line, which will perform between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

“They’re the group from Hartford,” Slozak said. “They are amazing. We asked them before they even left last year, to make sure they were coming back.”

Slozak listed the bands performing as Exit 8 on the night of the fireworks, as well as Mac Marry and Wonderland Mafia.

“We’re trying to set up with the senior center,” Slozak said. “There are a lot of local bands that want to perform for maybe 45 minutes or an hour,

so we’re trying to set that up over there. We got permission from them, and I know that Cheryl Pereira, who’s taking care of the booths and stuff, she’s kind of working that. I’m waiting to hear from her, because we have a couple of young bands.”

Slozak said there were no other major changes to SummerFest from previous years, though there were attempts to coordinate with a group called The Revolutionaries for the nation’s 250th anniversary, but said that they were “all busy.”

“I discovered that there’s a bus tour going across the country, it’s called Freedom 250th. I tried to get into them back in November,” Slozak said, “they come into the town with a large bus and they set it up, and then people can walk through and see how everything happened back in 1775-76.”

Slozak said that after continued attempts, he hasn’t been able to get the group to stop in Monson, despite openings on July 4 and six buses in participation.

Slozak finished by informing the board that the parade will be big, and added that Wally from the Worcester WooSox is going to be part of it, and that the organization is looking for a vehicle to put him in, due to concerns about him walking the whole parade in costume.

Planning Board Retirement

The meeting began with the announcement that Paul Hatch will be retiring from his position on the Planning Board. The board presented him with a proclamation, read by John Morrell, thanking him for his 41 years of providing expertise to the development of the town.

“Whereas Paul is a civil engineer and longtime Monson resident, he played a pivotal role in Monson’s logical community growth with the creation of a long-term master plan for the town,” Morrell said. “His vast amount of knowledge aided future development, managed land subdivision, and reviewed development proposals as part of the board where he is responsible for site plan reviews and issuing special permits for commercial and residential developments to ensure safe, compliant development with his incredible skills, combined with a deep devotion to our community that caused him to act repeatedly and selflessly in the town’s best interest.”

The proclamation described Hatch’s years of involvement in the community and dedication to balancing economic development with environmental stewardship and community character. The board proclaimed June 30, 2026 as Paul Hatch Day, and congratulated him on a “well-earned retirement.”

“I don’t know how many people really appreciate how good you’ve really been, and what a nice gentleman you are and everything, but I know Craig Sweitzer appreciates you on the Planning Board,” Morrell said. “Everybody does. Thank you for all your service. Great job, Paul.”

“You got on the Planning Board right before I became the Town Attorney,” reminisced Pat Oney. “There was a small group of us, we each had one or two towns, and we taught each other a lot about all the different aspects of what we needed to know about municipal government.

“No one taught me more about zoning than you did,” Oney continued. “I can’t tell you how much I appreciate you helping a young attorney on their way to moving through a job that needed to be done, and I will always appreciate and respect you.”

As Hatch left the meeting, Planning Board Chair Craig Sweitzer said, “We’re going to miss you, Paul,” joking, “are you sure about this?”

“If we had the money to give, we would give it, but we don’t.”

– Council President Barbara Barry

“Pathfinder’s net school spending was, like, 8.6%,” Brothers said. “Palmer’s net school spending was over 15%, going back to fiscal year 2024.”

Noonan said that this comparison is “a whole different animal” because of the difference in services between the two schools, including special education and English as a Second Language classes. Brothers agreed that the

Lemieux added that the town has asked for a copy of the school budget and has not received one. Barry said that she had a conversation with School Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone where she received a document with the budget cuts, but found it unclear.

Barry said she also invited committee members to attend a Budget Subcommittee Meeting, and that the town has done its due diligence to collaborate



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SOFTBALL

MHS softball reaches state quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — Monson varsity softball coach Matt Hull wasn't 100 percent sure that he would have enough players to field a team about two weeks before the start of the regular season.

It turned out to be a very successful campaign for the Lady Mustangs.

After playing in the Western Mass. Class D championship game for the first time, Monson advanced to the Elite 8 game in the Division 5 state tournament.

The seventh-seeded Lady Mustangs pulled out a 14-13 walk off victory over the 10th-seeded Tahanto Regional in a round of 16 contest played at the Quarry Hill softball field, last Tuesday afternoon.

"Every game that we get to play is house money, especially not having any seniors and only one junior," Hull said. "Before the start of the season, we didn't think that we would have enough players, and we would have to co-op with another team. We were able to find several players, who are young and inexperienced."

The Lady Rams (16-8) graduated three players and two other starters from last year's squad decided not to return this spring.

"We figured that this would be a rebuilding year," Hull added. "I never thought we would be going to the Elite 8 in the state tournament. I'm so happy for these players."

The Lady Mustangs only junior is Chelsea Hull, who's the starting pitcher.

With the score tied 13-13 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, Hull, who's the daughter of the Lady Mustangs head coach, was intentionally walked leading off the frame. Sophomore shortstop Cali Zielinski also drew a walk. After the next hit, a pop-up caught by the second baseman, the game came to an end. Sophomore first baseman Maddy Caron hit a ground ball to the second baseman, and she was safe at first base following a throwing error. Hull crossed the plate with the game winning run.

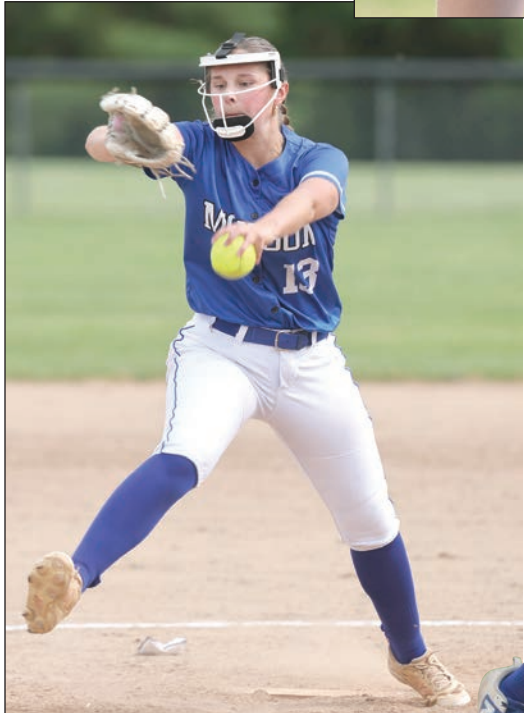
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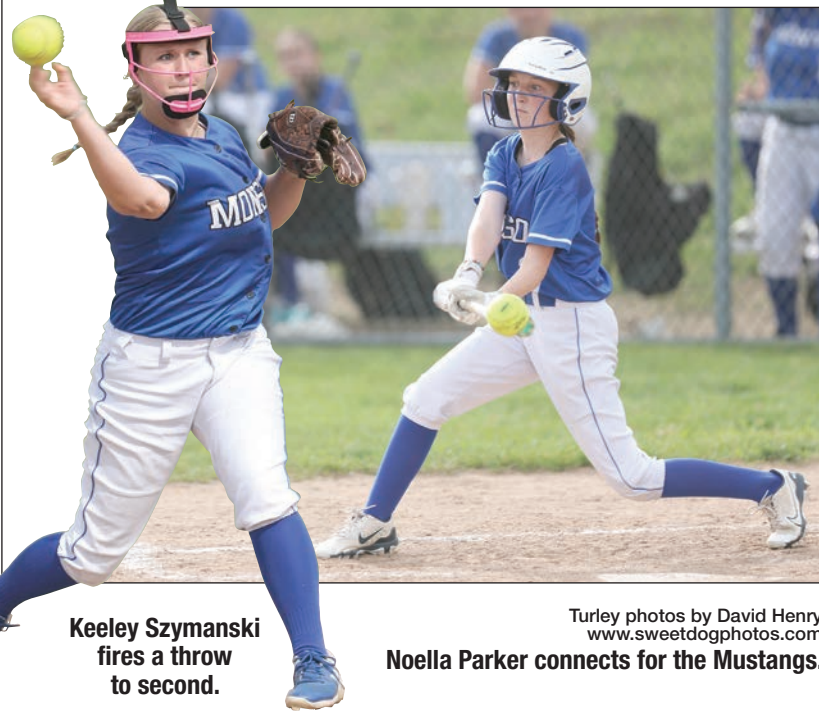
Madelynn Caron makes a catch at first.



Cali Zielinski sends a long throw to first base.



Chelsea Hull winds for a pitch.



Keeley Szymanski fires a throw to second.

Noella Parker connects for the Mustangs.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

BASEBALL

Teddy Bears Pools scores rare win over defending champs

SOUTH HADLEY — Teddy Bear Pools and Spas wasted no time last Monday evening at South Hadley High School, sending eight men to the plate in the bottom of the first and not looking back en route to a 15-0 blanking of PeoplesBank. The margin was never in question.

The first inning established the tone with swift and relentless efficiency. Bailey Griggs drew a walk that scored a run, Xavion Maldonado doubled to bring home two more, a PeoplesBank error allowed another pair to score, Sean Rosemond drew a walk to push across yet another, and Alex Gochinski grounded out with enough to score one more. Six runs — before PeoplesBank could exhale.

The scoring resumed in the second when Travis Kagan singled to plate one, and

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Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Danny Gaines pitches for the Bankers.



Tyler Evans makes a catch at first.

Left, Dave Clark picks up a grounder for PeoplesBank.



SOCCER

Mutiny defeats Maine Footy

LUDLOW — Last Sunday afternoon, June 7, Maine Footy made their annual visit to Luistano Stadium. The New England Mutiny continued their success against the Footy, defeating Maine 4-0. The UWS win was followed by a win at the Worcester Wanderers 3-0. The Mutiny did suffer a USL-W loss against Hudson Valley 2-1 last Tuesday. The Mutiny will face Hudson Valley against on Saturday, June 20 at Luistano Stadium.



Valentina Molinari looks to get around an opposing player.



Gabby Williams goes after a loose ball.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Eva Blatz sends a free kick away.



Sophia Scyocurka tries to overcome an opponent.

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Athlete of the Week

Brayden Mega

Pathfinder Tech

The Pathfinder graduate recorded a great opening outing for Monson Post 241 in a close matchup with Westfield last week.

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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high school baseball season. I asked Jeff Pardo, who's the new Director of the Parks Department, if they would keep the fence up for the Legion season. It wound up costing us in tonight's game."

With runners on second and third base, Westfield manager Don Irzyk, who's the former Athletic Director, and varsity baseball coach at Pathfinder Tech, elected to intentionally walk shortstop Matt Santos, which loaded the bases. The move worked out in Westfield's favor as Elmer retired the next batter on a pop-up which was caught by the second baseman ending the ballgame.

Monson, who had won their previous two season openers, finished the 2025 regular season with a 7-6 record and went 1-2 in the state playoffs. There are nine returning players this season.

"We do have a lot of returning players, but we're a young team," Tripp said. "We have a couple of eighth graders and a freshman on our roster. We'll be losing only four players due to their age."

McGrath, who's wrapping up his junior year, is the only member of the Quaboag Regional baseball team listed on Monson's roster. Besides being a first baseman, McGrath was the ace of the Cougars pitching staff this past spring.

Kaczuwka, who graduated from Ware High School a couple of weeks ago, is the only member of the Indians baseball team playing for the Legion team this summer.

Both McGrath and Kaczuwka are returning Legion players.

Most of the Monson Legion players either attend Palmer High School or Pathfinder Tech.

One of the players from Palmer High is Theo Haley, who suffered a season ending injury at a preseason practice.

Monson's starting pitcher in the season opener versus Westfield (1-1) was rightlander Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech a year ago. He was a member of the Monroe University baseball team this past spring.

Mega pitched the first

five innings allowing three runs (two earned) on five base hits. He walked four and recorded seven strikeouts.

"Mega had around a 1.28ERA for us last year," Tripp said. "He only allowed three runs, and I thought he pitched well in his first start of the season."

Two of Mega's walks came in the first inning, but he ended that frame with a pair of strikeouts.

The righthander, who made a throwing error in the first inning, wasn't as fortunate in the following inning.

Westfield took a 1-0 lead when leftfielder Jacob Maynard smacked an RBI single into right field. Second baseman Camden Witezak (2-for-4) knocked home two more runs with a flyball double to left field.

The visiting team managed to put the leadoff hitter on base in seven of the eight innings. They left a total of 13 runners on base, including the bases loaded twice.

"We issued too many walks and made a couple of errors," Tripp said. "We were on the edge of being blown out in tonight's game. We did get out of a couple of jams, which is good to see."

Centerfielder Dylan Holbrook and right fielder Emerson Boronski both made outstanding diving catches for the home team.

Mega got himself out of one of those bases loaded jams in the fifth inning, which kept the score 3-0.

Monson tied the score against righty starting pitcher Donovan Cummings with one out in the bottom of the fifth.

Boronski walked on a 3-and-2 pitch before scoring on a wild pitch.

Mega was hit-by-a-pitch and he also crossed the plate following a wild pitch. After the next hitter struck out, third baseman Sebastian Mayberry belted a double to left field, which scored the game tying run.

"The double by Mayberry got us back into the game," Tripp said. "It was a big hit."

At that point, Elmer replaced Cummings on the mound.

Cummings retired the first ten batters that he faced.

Mayberry, who's a righty, relieved Mega at the start of the sixth inning. He allowed

Grayson Griswold slides into second.

Liam McGrath is safe on a pickoff throw.

Kyle Kaczuwka frames up a pitch.

two base runners in both the sixth and seventh innings. None of the runners scored, which sent the contest into extra innings.

An RBI single by cen-

Blue Sox out to great start

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (6-1-1) took down the Danbury Westerners (3-5) by a score of 4-2 June 13, driven heavily by strong pitching performances from RHP Jackson Hinchliffe (Richmond) and RHP Jake LeFrancois (UMass Lowell).

It was the second night in a row where the Blue Sox's starter pitched at least five complete innings and was relieved by one pitcher who finished the rest of the game.

The ability of Valley's starters to consistently work efficiently through the fifth inning as well as head coach John Raiola's willingness to keep his starters in the game seemingly have a correlation to the team's early success. Opponents in 2026 have not left a starting pitcher in more than 3.2 innings against the Blue Sox. Valley has done so in all but one game this season.

"It's all them and their ability to throw strikes and to get off the field," Raiola said. "We talk

a lot about trying to get length in five or six innings, whatever it is. But the reality is, it's pitch count more than anything. And if we have quick, efficient innings, then they can keep going."

Hinchliffe did exactly that on Saturday night. His final line from June 13 was six innings pitched, four hits, zero earned runs, three strikeouts, and zero walks, all on 70 pitches. LeFrancois, who earned the nine out save, pitched three innings, allowing one hit, one earned run, striking out two and walking none.

"100 percent," Hinchliffe said when asked if his performance showcased the kind of pitcher he's built himself to be. "With the two-seam sinker thing, just getting weak contact early in counts allows you to get deep in games, save the bullpen and let the defense work."

As of the morning of June 14, Hinchliffe and RHP Dylan Reid (Brown) lead the NECBL in innings pitched, each

with 11.0.

Hinchliffe's second start was a nice recovery after his first start of the season where he lasted five innings, but allowed five earned runs and five hits. For LeFrancois, it was his fourth appearance of the season and his second in three days.

With the Blue Sox still waiting on select arms to join the team for the summer, the bullpen has stepped up in a major fashion with relievers recording longer outings.

"When you play every single day you can't just go 1-1-1 and not have guys available," Raiola said. "You need some length at times and you have in this case, [LeFrancois] down for a couple days. We have the off day on Tuesday, and we'll get him back on Wednesday. And so, it sets us up nicely for Sunday and Monday."

With the Blue Sox off to one of the hottest starts in the NECBL, the team mentality will not change.

T-Birds bring back head coach Ott

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the team has signed Steve Ott to a two-year contract extension as head coach of the Blues' AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds.

Ott, 43, took over as Springfield's head coach on January 19, 2026. In the club's final 34 regular-season games, he led the team to an 18-14-2 record, clinching a berth as the sixth seed in the

Atlantic Division for the 2026 Calder Cup Playoffs. Ott then guided the Thunderbirds to the Division Finals following a first-round series win over the third-seeded Charlotte Checkers and a historic victory over the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy-winning Providence Bruins (the regular-season champions) in the Division Semifinals. Springfield's win over Providence marked the single biggest upset in AHL history, as the two teams were separated by 38 points in the regular season.

Ott originally joined the Blues' coaching staff on May 25, 2017, spending seven seasons as an assistant coach before being elevated to associate coach ahead of the 2024-25 season. During his tenure, the Summerside, Prince Edward Island, native helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 regular-season record and make five postseason appearances, including 2019, when he played an instrumental role in helping the organization capture its first Stanley Cup championship.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Sebastian Mayberry catches the ball.

Obie wins rain shortened \$5k Winchester 101 Modified

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Modified superstar Brian Robie added to his legacy at the great race place Saturday, topping the \$5,000-to-win Open Modified Winchester 101 at Monadnock Speedway.

The reigning and multi-time speedway 604 Modified champion set fast time in qualifying and then outran a stout 18-car field to earn the big payday at his home track, the site of scores of feature victories by the Sunapee speedster over the last decade.

In other events Saturday on the high banks, Hillary Renaud survived a wild one to notch her first Limited Late Model victory of the season, Eric Pomasko ended a long drought by topping the Mini Stocks, and Young Guns sen-

sation Dylan Stati won for the sixth week in a row.

The start of Saturday's main event was postponed earlier for one hour, ten minute rain delay but when the night's top show went green, nobody was more ready than Kimball, except maybe Robie, who started back in row four.

In qualifying Robie set fast time with a lap of 11.713 around the high banked quarter-mile. He, Meservey, and Joey Jarvis each eclipsed the 12-second mark. With Kimball second and Meservey third in the main event, current weekly 604 Modified top points man Tyler Leary was fourth, and NASCAR Whelen Modified series regular Kyle Bonsignore was fifth.

Kimball, from row two,

took the lead from Bleau on lap one, with Robie quickly up to third on lap six and blasting into second a lap later. Kimball then held an eight-length advantage.

With reigning MRS champ Brett Meservey storming into Robie's shadow, Kimball rode all alone at the front, but his advantage vanished when a Chris Pasteryak spun that brought out the caution flag and, with it, brought Robie to the leader's door on lap 29.

Robie was quick to cash in on the opportunity, taking charge on lap 30 and holding Kimball and Meservey at his bumper until heavy rain swept in mid-race, effectively ending the show. After a meeting of track management and the racing teams, the race was de-

clared official.

Hillary Renaud was jostled backward early in the night's Twin States Truck Services Limited Late Model main event but when the chips were on the line, the Vernon, VT star was in the right place at the right time to score her first win of the summer.

Wesley Stedt powered into the early lead, with Renaud and previous winner Robert Hagar close behind. With Renaud shuffled back in the top groove, Hagar held the point, just ahead of Stedt and Daniel Petrowicz, who, like Hagar, had trophied the night before at Claremont.

Petrowicz rubbed past Hagar on lap 28, but a caution flag put Hagar back at the top. Three laps later, with the

checkered flag high in chief starter Chris Horton's hand, Petrowicz again tried to muscle his way to the front, this time sending the top three cars spinning wildly across the finish line.

Renaud, whose ride ended half way to pit road, walked away with her first victory of the summer. Hagar, who was somehow able to drive away from the carnage, was second, and Erik Smith third. Petrowicz, whose destroyed car had to be scraped from the front-stretch wall, was credited with fourth, and Michael Lashua was fifth.

Popular veteran Pat Houle led the first 15 laps of Saturday's Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock 25-lapper, with Eric Pomasko challenging

until inching ahead on lap 16 and the two crafty vets - each many moons from victory lane - went to work. When Houle's ride quickly dropped off pace, former track king Louie Maher was quickly into second.

Maher tried over and over to wrest the top spot from Pomasko but the Peterborough speedster refused to budge, holding strong to earn his first win in years. With Maher a strong second, potent Craig Chaffee impressed in third, Tim Paquette finished fourth and Houle came home fifth.

Pre-teen ace Dylan Stati won for the sixth week in a row Saturday, topping the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns 15-lapper with ease. Maeve Barry was second on the night.

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"Since I've been a member of the softball team, we've never made it this far in the state tournament, so we're very excited," Chelsea Hull said. "When Maddy hit the ground ball, I just ran as fast as I could. It was a great feeling when I touched the plate."

Hull finished the 2026 home finale with three hits and three RBIs. She was also intentionally walked twice. In the pitcher's circle, she gave up 13 runs (10 earned) on 17 base hits.

The home team was trailing 2-0 with two outs in the third inning when Hull hit a triple to right field, which scored 8th grade DP Mia Cancel. Hull, who had also tripled in her first at-bat, scored the tying run following a wild pitch.

The Tahanto Stags (10-9) retook the lead by scoring a pair of runs in the top of the fifth inning before the Lady Mustangs exploded for 11 runs in the bottom half of the frame.

Cancel began the Lady Mustangs rally with a lead-off walk. Freshman second baseman Mai Uliana singled to center and Hull was intentionally walk, which loaded the bases. Zielinski knocked home two runs with a hard groundball single past the second baseman.

Zielinski had a very memorable afternoon at the plate. She finished the game with two hits, two runs, and five RBIs.

"Cali had a couple of

very big hits," Chelsea Hull said. "I'm very happy for her."

Sophomore catcher Grace Berry (2-for-5) doubled to center scoring two more runs, which gave the Lady Mustangs the lead for the first time at 6-4.

The Lady Mustangs fifth inning rally continued with an RBI single from Caron. After the Lady Mustangs reloaded the bases, Tahanto senior righty Molly Abdella left the game with an apparent right shoulder injury. She was replaced in the pitcher's circle by sophomore Jayden Atkinson.

Cancel greeted the new hurler with a walk giving the Lady Mustangs an 8-4 advantage. Hull doubled to left field driving home two more runs. Zielinski capped off the inning by hitting a 3-run homer over the left field fence.

A 13-4 lead wasn't large enough for the Lady Mustangs.

The Stags answered right back with five runs with two outs in the sixth inning.

A two-run homer by 8th grade shortstop Catie Tremmling closed the gap to 13-9.

The visitors from Boylston would put four more runs on the right field scoreboard in the top of the seventh inning, which tied the score at 13-13.

The Lady Mustangs sent their supporters home happy in the bottom half of the inning.

Monson's outstanding season came to an end following a 5-0 loss at second-seeded Georgetown, last Friday afternoon.

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the third inning became an exercise in patience and plate coverage. Ray Toth hit a sacrifice fly, Willie Landman singled to center, Griggs singled to right, Kagan grounded into a fielder's choice, Ty Evans doubled to center, Rosemond singled down the right-field line, and Ryan Magni singled down the left-field line — each driving in a run. Seven different players contributed to that inning. Kagan finished the night with four RBI on a single hit, the most efficient line on the card.

Nate Kelleher-Mochak was untouchable on the mound. The starter worked five innings without allowing a run, giving up just two hits, striking out four, and walking one. It was the kind of outing that makes a winning pitcher's night feel almost anticlimactic — he threw strikes, got outs, and watched his offense do the rest.

Jackson Lavalley absorbed the loss for Peoples-Bank, lasting just one inning and allowing one run on one hit. The final score reflected a difficult evening for the visitors, who managed only two hits on the night — one apiece from Hogan G and Macdonald.

Teddy Bear collected 10 hits as a club, with Magni, Rosemond, and Maldonado each going 2-for-the-night.

Equally notable was the team's discipline at the plate: eight walks drawn, with Griggs and Gochinski each earning two. Teddy Bear also played a clean game in the field — no errors, with Evans handling the most chances at five. On this Monday, everything worked.

Mason Barcomb sends a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cam MacDonald makes a strong throw to first.

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Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of June 7-13, the Palmer Police Department responded to 35 building checks, 35 motor vehicle stops, 69 informational calls, five motor vehicle releases, 31 motor vehicle stops, eight motor vehicle violations, 15 assists to other agencies, eight school resource officer calls, 37 medical emergencies, five well being checks, 10 animal complaints, 28 calls for officers wanted, seven calls for general services, four maintenance calls, 15 traffic posts, nine out of jurisdiction calls, five transports, nine complaints and one fraud.

Sunday, June 7
7:01 a.m. Hazard, Wire/Pole/Tree, River Street
8 a.m. Hazard, Wire/Pole/Tree, Gates Street
8:33 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
9:06 a.m. Assist Citizen, Converse Street
9:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street
10:20 a.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street
11:03 a.m. Medical Emergency, High Street
12:06 p.m. Alarm Medical, Shearer Street
12:13 p.m. Fire/Burn Complaint, Main Street
12:40 p.m. Medical Emergency, Winthrop Street
12:44 p.m. Medical Emergency, Colonial Street
1:24 p.m. Medical Emergency, South Main Street
1:31 p.m. Theft, North Main Street
2:23 p.m. Warrant Service, Bridge Street
Arrest: Henry E. Record Sr., 56, Three Rivers
2:51 p.m. Trespass Complaint, Paul Street
4:12 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Stony Hill Road
7:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Main Street
9:52 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street

Monday, June 8
12:39 a.m. Assault and Battery, Maple Terrace
Arrest: Carrie A. LaFrancis, 47, Three Rivers
Assault and Battery; Assault and Battery; Disturbing the Peace; Harassment, Criminal; Resist Arrest
2:24 a.m. Disorderly Conduct, Maple Terrace
Arrest: Carrie A. LaFrancis, 47, Three Rivers
Assault and Battery; Assault and Battery; Disturbing the Peace; Harassment, Criminal; Resist Arrest
9:39 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Harrison Avenue
9:55 a.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Baptist Hill Street
12:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Shearer Street
3:36 p.m. Hazard, Wilbraham Street
3:59 p.m. Fire/Brush, Bridge Street
4:05 p.m. Hazard, Chestnut Street
6:38 p.m. Suspicious Person, Geraldine Street
8:32 p.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
10:13 p.m. Noise Complaint, Main Street

Tuesday, June 9
12:38 a.m. Noise Complaint, Central Street
4:43 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Main Street
5:06 a.m. Medical Emergency, South Street
7:20 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, South Main Street
8:22 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Pinney Street
9:02 a.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
9:20 a.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
9:46 a.m. Investigation, Sykes Street
10:30 a.m. 911 Misuse, Ware Street
11:12 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Shaw Street

11:38 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
2:32 p.m. Disturbance, West Ware Street
2:48 p.m. 911 Silent, Third Street
3:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Flynt Street
4:27 p.m. Medical Emergency, State Street
4:58 p.m. Investigation, Wright Street
5:46 p.m. Medical Emergency, Breckenridge Street
6:32 p.m. Medical Emergency, Rondeau Road
7:57 p.m. 911 Hang Up, Boston Road
9:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Sykes Street
9:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street

Wednesday, June 10
1:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Chestnut Street
2:26 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Park Street
6:04 a.m. Medical Emergency, Overlook Drive
7:43 a.m. Investigation, Wilbraham Street
8:25 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Old Warren Road
8:27 a.m. Investigation, Sykes Street
9:53 a.m. Trespass Complaint, Maple Street
10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street
12:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
3:21 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street
5:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Commercial Street
5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
5:59 p.m. Medical Emergency, Bourne Street
10:44 p.m. Fraud, Park Street
11:25 p.m. Medical Emergency, Calkins Road

Thursday, June 11
1:07 a.m. Medical Emergency, Squier Street

1:12 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Wilbraham Street
1:36 a.m. Medical Emergency, Brittany Drive
5:51 a.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street
6:33 a.m. Fire Search/Rescue, Beacon Drive
8:41 a.m. Medical Emergency, Off Lariviere Street
9:42 a.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Thorndike Street
Arrest: Nicole M. Watt, 41, Warren
12:16 p.m. Investigation, Wilbraham Street
1:42 p.m. Civil Complaint, School Street
1:49 p.m. 911 Accidental, Wilbraham Street
2:41 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Wright Street
3:11 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Boston Road
3:50 p.m. Trespass Complaint, Pleasant Street
4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Park Street
Arrest: Melissa J. Misischia, 45, Palmer
Warrant; Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Uninsured Motor Vehicle
4:47 p.m. Hazard Road Condition, South Main Street
5:13 p.m. Assist Citizen, Palmer
5:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Bourne Street
5:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Springfield Street
6:03 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Wilbraham
9:05 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
9:40 p.m. Medical Emergency, Juniper Drive
9:52 p.m. Medical Emergency, Shearer Street

Friday, June 12
1:24 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Thorndike Street

1:53 a.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
3:39 a.m. Medical Emergency, Squier Street
9:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Gates Street
9:23 a.m. Medical Emergency, Laurel Road
9:42 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Old Thompson Street
9:43 a.m. Disturbance, Jim Ash Street
10:05 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Ivy Circle
10:21 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Sykes Street
11:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, South Main Street
12:19 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Palmer Street
1:10 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Palmer Road
1:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Quaboag Valley Co-op
6:14 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Cross Street
6:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Stewart Street
8:19 p.m. Fire/Burn Complaint, Geraldine Street
8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Three Rivers Road

Arrest: Randy R. Sheldon, 65, Three Rivers

Saturday, June 13
3:43 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Foundry Street
6:53 a.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Belcher-town Street
7:11 a.m. Medical Emergency, Squier Street
7:22 a.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
9:11 a.m. Breaking and Entering Vehicle, Knox Street
9:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, North Main Street
10:46 a.m. Check Well Being, South Main Street
Arrest: Brandon Brown, 39, Unknown
Trespass; Railroad Track, Walk/Ride On
10:56 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Norma Street
11:35 a.m. Theft, Winthrop Street
1:16 p.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
2:20 p.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
2:41 p.m. Disturbance, North Main Street

Monson Fire Logs

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire department for the week of June 1 through June 7, 2026. The department responded to 24 Ems calls and 7 Fire calls.

On **Tuesday, June 2** at 9:10 a.m. the department responded to 33 Upper Palmer Road for the illegal burn. The department returned to service at 10:53 a.m.

On **Tuesday, June 3** at 9:12 a.m. the department responded to 168 Moulton Hill Road for the electrical hazard. The department returned to service at 9:47 p.m.

On **Wednesday, June 3** at 9:48 p.m. the department responded to 21 Main Street for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 10:12 p.m.

On **Thursday, June 4** at 2:44 a.m. the department responded to 18 Longview Drive for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 3:13 a.m.

On **Friday, June 5** at 8:18 p.m. the department responded to the area of Wilbraham Road at Reimers Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 9:26 p.m.

On **Saturday, June 6** at 10:09 p.m. the department responded to 135 Maxwell Road for the brush fire. The department returned to service at 10:56 p.m.

On **Saturday, June 6** at 11:38 p.m. the department responded to 34 Wilbraham Road for the smoke investigation. The department returned to service at 12:06 a.m.

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of June 8 through June 14, 2026. The department responded to 28 EMS calls and 3 fire calls.

On **Saturday, June 13** at 10:26 am the department responded to 19 Stafford Rd for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 10:38 a.m.

On **Saturday, June 13** at 7:23 p.m. the department responded to 195 Brimfield Rd for the CO alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 7:45 p.m.

On **Sunday, June 14** at 7:06 p.m. the department responded to 56 Margaret St for the CO alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 7:36 p.m.

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Public notices

Town of Monson
LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** at Monson Town Hall, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA, regarding the application of Nathan Plumb, contract purchaser, for a Special Permit pursuant to Section 7.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to continue a pre-existing, nonconforming use for the operation of a light manufacturing motorcycle business at 45 Bethany Road, Monson, Map 113-037. The property is currently owned by Buck Ridge Real Estate LLC. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be reviewed during regular office hours.

David Beaudoin, Chairman
06/11, 06/18/2026

Town of Brimfield
Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on behalf of Ricky J. and Sheila M. Hawk for the property located on 170 East Hill Rd. The applicants are seeking relief from the setback requirements for a proposed 21'x24' car port. The hearing will be held in the Town Clerk's office, 23 Main St on **Tuesday, July 07, 2026, at 5:00 pm.** Abutters and members of the public are welcome to attend and share feedback.
06/11, 06/18/2026

TOWN OF HOLLAND
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Invitation for Bids
Various Materials, and
Equipment Rentals
for Fiscal Year 2027

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than **Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.** Seales bids will be publicly opened and read on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Holland Selectmen's office at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2027 will be awarded by the Select Board at their duly posted meeting on July 7, 2027:

- I. Various Road Materials
 - II. Equipment Rentals
- Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday June 9, 2026 at the Holland Highway Department 5 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA and the Holland Town Hall 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA for 9 A.M to 3:00 P.M. or by emailing the chief procurement officer at Townadmin@holland ma.org or highwaydept@holland ma.org.

Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Highway Surveyor at highway dept@hollandma.org.

Envelopes must be clearly marked Bid "2027-01 FY2027 Various Road Materials and Equipment Rentals" and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate form attached.

All bids must be submitted on the Town of Holland Bid Forms (included in the bid packet) No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Super Pave bids must indicate all prices, both pick-up at plant and to be delivered to the Town of Holland Highway Department yard or to job locations in the Town of Holland. Bids shall

include the current price (April 2026) of \$670 per ton of liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply per schedule posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdot-current-contract-price-adjustments> and special provisions as attached.

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

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

Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

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

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days.

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

Brian Johnson
Highway Surveyor
Town of Holland
Holland, MA 01521
(413) 245-3276
06/11, 06/18/2026

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1249EA
Estate of:
Teresa Ann Carrigan
Date of Death: 10/30/2023
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Scott M Carrigan of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 09, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/18/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD26E0025PP

To *Jacquelyn E. Mullen, of Middlesex County, James E. McGurn, of Middlesex County, John D. McGurn, of Manatee County, FL, Ryan E. O'Callaghan, of Merrimack County, NH, and to all other persons interested*

A petition has been presented to said Court by Diane E. O'Callaghan, of Hampden County, representing that they hold as tenants in common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Monson, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand dollars (\$165,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided at private sale, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection in said Court at Springfield on or before 10:00 AM. on the return date of **July 20th, 2026.**

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of said Court, this 22nd day of May 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
06/11, 06/18, 06/25/2026

ADVERTISEMENT
The **Palmer Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **Laurel Manor Elderly 667-01** Development for the **Palmer Housing Authority** in **Palmer Massachusetts**, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, SS
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL
NO. 2679CV00100
SRV PROPERTIES, LLC and
GREENLAND
ENTERPRISES LLC,
Plaintiffs

v
THE HEIRS OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF ROBERT KAZAN AND PERSONS CLAIMING UNDER ROBERT KAZAN and NICHOLAS G. KALTSAS, Trustee of The Susan Kazan Supplemental Needs Trust Defendants/Interested Parties
ORDER OF NOTICE
(Pursuant to G.L. c. 240, § 7)

To the heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, legal representatives, and all other persons claiming by, through, or under **ROBERT KAZAN**, late of 10916 Newlands Avenue, Henrico, Virginia, deceased on or about November 23, 2025, and to all persons unknown claiming any legal or equitable right, title, or interest in the real property hereinafter described, adverse to the Plaintiffs:

WHEREAS, a Complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action by the Plaintiffs, SRV Properties, LLC and Greenland Enterprises LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 240, § 6, praying that this Court determine and quiet the Plaintiffs' title and to bar the Defendants from asserting any adverse claims of title to, or interest in, certain real property situated at 115 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts and 119 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts (collectively, the "Properties"), more particularly described in the following deeds: (a) deed dated July 25, 2023 from Grzelak, Grzelak & Associates, P. C., Trustee to Robert Kazan recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds ("Registry") in Book 25091, Page 377, (b) deed dated September 22, 2023 from Robert Kazan to SRV Properties, LLC recorded with the Registry in Book 25172, Page 150, (c) deed dated September 22, 2023 from Robert Kazan to SRV Investments, LLC recorded with the Registry in Book 25172, Page 183 and (d) deed dated December 12, 2024 from SRV Investments, LLC and SRV Properties, LLC to Greenland Enterprises

LLC recorded with the Registry in Book 25694, Page 210, and further praying that this Court determine and declare that the title of the Plaintiffs in and to the Properties be quieted and confirmed and that the Plaintiffs hold good and clear record title to the Properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that notice of said Complaint be given to the above-named Defendants and to all persons interested therein by:

1. Publishing a copy of this Order of Notice once in each of three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least fourteen (14) days before the Return Day hereinafter set, in the Journal Register, a newspaper of general circulation published for the Town of Brimfield in the County of Hampden, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

2. Mailing, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of this Order of Notice to each Defendant whose name and address is known or can be ascertained by reasonable diligence, at his or her last known address, at least fourteen (14) days before the Return Day hereinafter set.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendants, and each of them, and any other persons claiming any right, title, or interest in or to the Properties adverse to the Plaintiffs, shall file an Answer to the Complaint on or before **July 31, 2026**, the "RETURN DAY," in the office of the Clerk of the Hampden County Superior Court and serve a copy of the Answer upon counsel for the Plaintiffs. Failure to file an Answer may result in the entry of judgment by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Date: June 4, 2026
Justice of the Superior Court
Thomas H. Townsend
06/18, 06/25, 07/02/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD26E0018PP

To *Tina Natale of Wales, Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.*

A petition has been presented to said court by Ryan Early, of East Longmeadow, Hampden County, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Wales, in the county of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Four Hundred Thirteen Thousand (\$413,000) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **eighth day of July 8, 2026**, the return date of this citation.

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 8th day of May 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
06/11, 06/18, 06/25/2026

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

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

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

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

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

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
06/04, 06/11, 06/18/2026

TOWN OF MONSON

Vertex Towers, LLC (the "Applicant") has applied for a Special Permit and Site Plan Review from the Monson Planning Board and Variances from the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals to construct a Wireless Communications Facility including a 150-foot tall monopole style wireless communications tower (154' to top of lightning rod) at Wood Hill Road, Monson, MA 01057 Tax Assessors Parcel: 032-010. The Applicant will conduct a Visibility Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by means of a balloon raised at the proposed location to a height of 150 feet. Said Visibility Demonstration will be held **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm**, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on June 27, 2026, the Visibility Demonstration will be rescheduled until Sunday June 28, 2026, wind and weather conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on said Saturday and Sunday, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled until Saturday July 11, 2026 OR Sunday July 12, 2026. If you have any questions concerning said Visibility Demonstration, please contact The Town of Monson Planning Board @ 413-267-4111, Pgustafson@monson-ma.gov or Francis D. Parisi, (401) 447-8500, info@visidem.com. Please check the website www.visidem.com afternoon on the day before the scheduled date(s) to determine if the balloon will be up the following day.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairperson
Planning Board
David Beaudoin, Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
06/11, 06/18/2026

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THIS NEWSPAPER

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Obituaries

James S. Haynes



MONSON – James (Jim) S. Haynes, 81, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2026 surrounded by the love of family. Born on May 13, 1945, Jim lived a life marked by kindness, friendship, and a relentless dedication to both his professional and personal passions.

Jim earned a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from Fitchburg State College, which led to a meaningful career in education and product development. He began his teaching career at Nauset Regional Junior/Senior High School on Cape Cod and later taught at Minnechaug Regional High School for 19 years. After retiring from teaching, Jim worked with the research and development teams at Dialectric Industries and Reebok, where he played an instrumental role in the development of Reebok Pump shoes. He also worked at Zero Manufacturing in Monson. In retirement, Jim and his wife Ellen owned and operated Dandy Sales, specializing in

the sale of Copar Panzer, Panzer and Pennsylvania garden tractor parts.

Beyond his professional life, Jim was a member of several antique car clubs as well as antique gas engine clubs, where his enthusiasm for history and craftsmanship was well appreciated. He enjoyed tag sales and flea markets, always hunting for bargains. His love for the outdoors led him to regular camping, hiking, and biking excursions, pursuits that brought him closer to nature and fostered a spirit of adventure. Jim's woodworking and metalworking skills were an example of his creativity, earning him the Arthur E. Purington Award.

His heart extended generously toward church, animals and community service. He was a proud member of the Monson Fire Department for 36 years. He also contributed

countless hours and effort to Habitat for Humanity, embodying his belief in the importance of helping others and building stronger communities.

Jim was a man who truly got along with everyone. He was known for his friendliness and generous spirit. His legacy is one of warmth, commitment, and a passion for life's diverse pleasures. He will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Jim is remembered by his loving wife Ellen A. (Coolong) Haynes, whose companionship and support were a source of great joy and strength in his life. He also leaves behind a circle of nieces and nephews: Steven, Deborah, Beverly, Catherine, Andrew, Katherine, and Cynthia, who will carry forward his memory.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Frances Marie

(Blomfield) Haynes, his father, Walter Lincoln Haynes, his brother, Philip L. Haynes, his sister, Martha Wood Phfaler, and his niece Barbara.

Visiting hours will be held Thursday, June 18, 2026 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St in Monson. A funeral service will be held at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield on Friday June 19, 2026 at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery on Wilbraham Road in Monson.

In lieu of flower, memorial donations may be made in loving memory of James S. Haynes to: Habitat for Humanity 268 Cold Spring Ave West Springfield, MA 01089, Monson Fire Department Ambulance Fund PO Box 335 Monson, MA 01057 or the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield 36 North Main Street PO Box 371 West Brookfield, MA 01585. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

James S. Haynes
Died June 10, 2026
Services June 18, 2026
Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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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Upcoming Saturday, July 11th 7pm-10pm Uncle Country

DEADLINE

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

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

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Police Officer

JOB POSTING

Town of Warren FULL TIME OPENING

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior municipal policing experience may also be considered to start at a higher rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, July 3, 2026, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS **\$2.22** lb

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USDA INSP. FROZEN ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... **\$2.99** lb

GREAT ON THE GRILL

USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS **\$3.69** lb

USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS..... **\$3.35** lb

USDA INSP. DEUTSCHMACHER NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS 2 1/2 LB BOX **\$11.99** ea

PRICE BUSTERS

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPOIN CUT FREE **\$9.77** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN STEAKHOUSE TIPS **\$9.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE TOMAHAWK STEAKS **\$14.99** lb

USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX **\$17.50** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPOIN WHOLE OR HALF **\$9.77** lb

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USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA JONAH CRAB FULLY COOKED..... **\$6.99** lb

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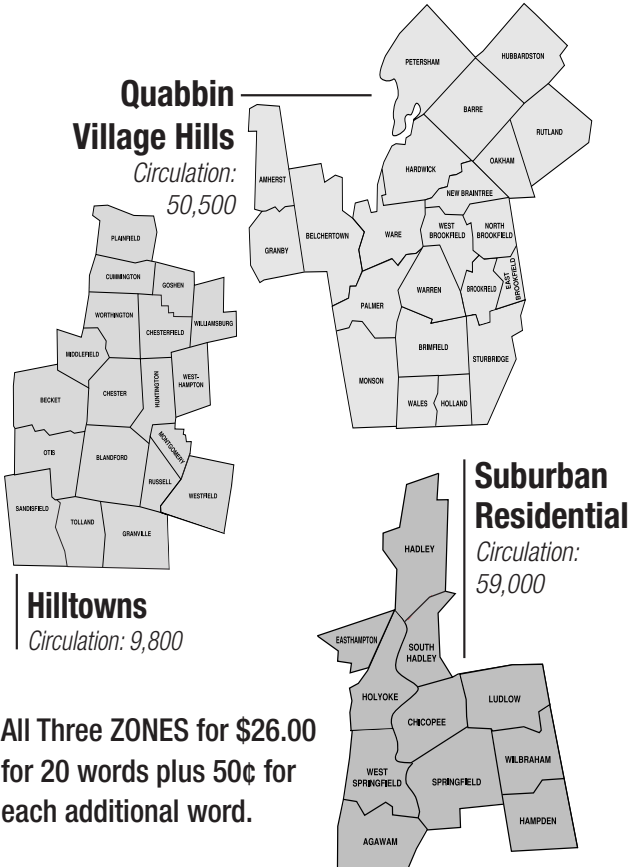
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GARDEN | from page 1

laborators associated with the center’s activities, including the Council on Aging, which helps to provide Senior Center services to the community, and a Friends organization which provides passes, bottle and can returns, and monthly raffle baskets to support the center’s programs.

Further volunteers include the Holland Helpers and Brown Bag People, who drive meals to people’s homes, providing approximately 35 meals to residents aged 55 and up in the town, as well as Wales and Brimfield.

The event was designed to acknowledge the work of all the volunteers, but did not single anyone out in particular.

“There was one person I was going to brag about,” Palmer said. “She was recognized as someone from Holland doing great work, but she said ‘I don’t want to outshine people doing wonderful work on their own.’ That triggered me to say, ‘it’s for everybody.’”

Palmer said that, because the event is to recognize volunteers, she refuses any help to set it up, though she was adamant that the event is not about her.

“What I tell them each year,” Palmer said, “is every boss should have to do an event by themselves, without volunteers. I had 10 vols asking if they could help me. I told them, it’s your day, you’re not doing a thing. It really gives you even more appreciation that they’re here, because when you’re busting trying to get all chairs set up, decoration done, make sure the food gets in, make sure speeches get done, it’s a very chaotic time.”

Though she was hesitant to single out any one volunteer, as the conversation turned to gardening, Palmer mentioned the work of Kate Frohn.

“She started doing it at Town Hall, and then migrated to the library across the

street,” Palmer said. “She was doing an amazing job, and people kept saying she should go to the Community Center.”

To keep up with the work of maintaining the three properties, Frohn recruited a team of volunteers.

“Sometimes I don’t even know they’re in the yard until they come in for water,” Palmer said.

In addition to the many volunteers, Palmer thanked Seleste Brackett, Chair of the Council on Aging, and Co-presidents Nancy Pelouquin, Cheryl Murray, for their support for the event and for the center.

“Thank you Town Administrator Stacy Stout for taking part in our lunch and also showing appreciation for our volunteers,” the center said in a Facebook post.

Secret Garden

One project that volunteers have been collaborating on is the recently unveiled Secret Garden, or Sensory Garden, which is being developed as part of an Eagle Scout project, which involved an oversized chess board set, benches, and a Monarch Way Station.

“We have a butterfly garden, those really large chessboard pieces we already had from a scout, and people had purchased pavers that they could have their family name engraved on,” Palmer said. “It’s a beautiful area beyond the walking trail that we try to get people to use a lot.”

Then prospective Eagle Scout Phineas Reith-Lowery approached the Community Center about creating a community garden.

“I came up with this idea with the help of Brenda,” Phineas said. “I went to her proposing the idea of a vegetable or flower garden, and she said that she’s been looking to put in a playground and proposed that I change my idea, and I really liked the idea of a recycled hidden area.”

The play area will be made up of a lot of recycled material, including tires and



The Secret Garden is an ongoing project that will be a great resource for seniors and children.

Submitted Photos

pallets, as well as thrifted toys from either the Reith-Lowerys’ home, or local donations, and a big, frog-themed sandbox that the center will maintain.

“My vision is that afterwards, kids will be able to enjoy the area and people can go and just appreciate the work that was put into it, and hopefully maintain the area to the best of their abilities,” Phineas said.

“For past couple years, I’ve been having gardeners put less plants in an area that I’d love to have be a Secret Garden, or a Sensory Garden is more what it’s going to be,” Palmer said. “Phineas is going to be able to create an outdoor kitchen using pallets and stuff like that so that kids can play outdoors.”

The garden is being positioned so that it makes best use of the Community Center’s patio, which the center paid to enlarge for easier handicapped accessibility.

“We made the patio bigger so walkers and wheelchairs can get around easier,” Palmer said. “We have

about six or seven concerts each year, it’s a lovely space.”

Palmer said that to the right of the patio, she noticed the shade provided by the trees, and got started removing some of the perennials to make space for the garden.

“The process so far has been fun,” Phineas said. “We cleared up the area, which was our first step; I got together with some of my fellow scouts and friends and leaders. It’s very nice working collaboratively with everyone, and I’m hoping to have a lot more happen from the end of this month into next month, to get it done by the end of the month or sooner.”

Phineas’s mother, Cat, said that he was inspired by seeing the number of grandparents who make use of the community center, and thinking of a way that they could bring their grandkids with them.

“They’re also going to make a fenced area with a



Upkeep of the Community Center is done by a team of approximately 70 volunteers. Inset, a commemorative pin was presented to the community center’s outstanding volunteers.

gate so that it will be easy to go out to the big field walking area,” Palmer said.

Palmer described the area as halfway fenced off for wheelchair access, but will block off the parking lot so if kids are playing in that area, their guardians can sit at the benches and talk to their neighbors knowing that the kids are fenced in.

“He has seen that we have a lot of families who have grandparents that are

taking care of their small-go out to the big field walking area,” Cat said. “With the Community Center mostly used by senior citizens, it gives area where they can come with five and under grandkids to have them explore.”

To learn more about the Community Center, you can visit their Facebook page under “Holland Community Center, Holland, MA,” or send an email to Activities@HollandMA.org.



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