

The Journal Register

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MONSON

FinCom reviews year-end transfers, hints at changes ahead

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – At its June 23 meeting, the Monson Finance Committee moved efficiently through a series of fiscal year-end budget transfers, ensuring all departmental accounts were balanced before the close of FY25. Led by Finance Director Sherri Robinson, the committee unanimously approved eight transfers totaling approximately \$10,001, each aimed at resolving modest shortfalls across various departments.

The meeting, which opened with a swift approval of minutes from the May 23 session, quickly pivoted to the financial housekeeping required to close the books on the current fiscal year. No new bills or external meeting reports were discussed, allowing the committee to focus fully on the transfer requests.

FINCOM | page 16

PALMER



Gabriella Gasbarino getting glitter on her face from the glitter face paint person they hired for the event.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Summer Reading kickoff launches reading campaign

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer Public Library recently hosted its lively Summer Reading Kickoff Party, designed to encourage residents of all ages to dive into the joy of reading throughout the summer months. The event offered fun, prizes, and a community-focused atmosphere to motivate readers, children especially, to keep their minds active during the school break.

The event was organized and run by Olivia Chartrand, Youth Advisory Board Director, who wel-

comed families and kids to sign up for the summer reading program. Attendees who signed up were treated to free ice cream from Rondeau's Dairy Bar, one of the event's popular attractions serving chocolate and vanilla ice cream with the choice of rainbow or chocolate sprinkles.

Beyond tasty treats, families and kids were able to enjoy face painting, glitter art, and other creative activities. In addition, the library provided an opportunity for community members to write letters to their representatives, sharing why the library holds an import-

ant place in their lives. This letter-writing station was staffed by some of the library's board of trustees, who were on hand to help participants express their thoughts and support for the local library.

"We also have a chill area where people can relax, talk, and enjoy their ice cream," said Chartrand, "along with flyers about upcoming programs and ways to get involved."

The summer reading program is designed not only to promote reading but also to prevent the so-called

READING | page 7

BOY SCOUTS

Troop 164 keeps it clean with fundraiser



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Various members from Troop 164 and volunteers are sud-sing up the car while others scrub down the body of the car and the tires.

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – Scouts BSA Troop 164 returned to Main Street on Saturday, June 28, for their annual "Keepin' it Clean" car wash fundraiser, held outside Capitol Cleaners in downtown Palmer. Despite the overcast skies, the Scouts and their supporters were out in full force from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., washing cars, raising funds, and showcasing the spirit of community service and leadership that defines their year-round program.

"This is an annual event for us," said Jennifer Traugh, the Troop's committee chair. "Last year we were rained out, so we were determined

to make it happen this year, gray skies or not." The event drew a steady stream of cars and donors throughout the morning and early afternoon, with volunteers of all ages on hand with sponges, soap, and smiles.

Funds raised from the car wash and additional donations will help offset the cost of upcoming outdoor adventures for the Scouts, including camping, hiking, and boating trips, as well as a week-long summer camp experience. "Summer camp is one of our biggest events of the year," Traugh said. "It's not only a lot of fun, but a huge part of our program's growth and learning."

TROOP 164 | page 12

PALMER

Select Board welcomes new officer, prepares for summer

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Select Board met on Tuesday, June 24, to cover a wide range of municipal business, including budgetary planning, infrastructure developments, summer programs, and new appointments.

Board of Health and Swap Shack Updates

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the Board of Health announced that a fall farmers market is being planned for September and will take place at Memorial Hall and the gazebo. The idea of reopening the long-closed Swap Shack also resurfaced, with the

board calling for community input and volunteers to help support the effort. The board structure itself is also undergoing a change: a vote at Town Meeting reduced the number of Board of Health members from five to three. The board is now accepting applications from residents interested in serving. "If anyone would like to submit an

application," a board member stated, "we'll be looking at them as we receive them."

Town Administrator's Report: Budget, Assessments, and Senior Services

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz presented updates spanning multiple departments and concerns. She noted that the Assessors Of-

fice has been actively working on permit inspections, with Bishop and Associates completing the latest round. Cyclical inspections and personal property assessments are in progress for fiscal year 2026. Preliminary tax bills will be mailed starting July 1 and will be based on half of the FY25 billing amounts. Wolowicz extended a thank

you to Drew Pachowiak for his work in the department.

She also warned department heads to delay any non-essential spending until the fall, citing uncertainty in the state's fiscal picture and potential 9C budget cuts. In the area of senior services, Wolowicz reported that fed-

SELECT BOARD | page 12

COMMUNITY

Exotic animal encounters bring education, excitement to Holland Community Center

By Abigail McCoy
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HOLLAND – A room full of excited children and curious adults gathered last Thursday, June 26, at the Holland Community Center for a rare and interactive opportunity: to meet, and even touch, a selection of rescued exotic animals from around the globe. The free event, hosted by the Holland Public Library in partnership with Animal Adventures, marked a high point in the library's Summer Reading Program, which kicked off June 16 and runs through August 9.

With no registration required and no cost to attend, the program welcomed community members of all ages



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Children feel the thick scutes on the back of Gatorade as the gator glares unable to do anything due to the electrical tape and the sturdy grip Audrey Zimmerman has.

to experience a hands-on educational session led by expert animal presenters. The animals were brought by Animal Adventures, a rescue and education center based in Bolton and Hubbardston, Massachusetts, which takes

in surrenders and rescues from overpopulated facilities, often transforming former pets into "animal ambassadors."

"We want people to see these animals up close and understand their biology, be-

havior, and what it takes to care for them," said presenter Audrey Zimmerman and her assistant Paige Blanchette, who guided the crowd through an engaging and humorous afternoon filled with fur, feathers, scales, and facts.

Zimmerman introduced each animal with care and context, inviting questions from the audience throughout. Most animals were available for gentle petting, with clear boundaries set for safety. "No pulling tails, no fingers near mouths, and please follow our instructions," Zimmerman emphasized. Blanchette would walk through the rows of the audience carefully holding the animals so people can pet the back of the creatures without the undue stress of them being passed around. One animal, an elderly fennec

HOLLAND | page 8

HEALTH



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Thea Smith, Stanley Jones, Library Directory Stephanie Maher, and DV Specialist Deb Shepard sit in the Three Rivers Community Room eating pizza and homemade cookies that Smith brought.

Wellness Initiative launched to bridge service gaps

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer Public Library has taken an innovative step to address pressing community needs through its newly launched Community Strong Wellness Initiative. Spearheaded by Library Director Stephanie Maher, the program aims to connect local

residents with essential social services and create a welcoming space for support and wellness.

Maher explains that the inspiration for the initiative arose from the library staff's observation that many patrons came seeking help with serious issues, but the library's tradi-

WELLNESS | page 12



Story time 'rescued' by fire department

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – Monson's beloved Storytime-on-the-Go series began its summer run with a powerful message of inspiration and community connection. Held at Memorial Hall in downtown Monson, currently serving as the temporary home of the Monson Fire Department during station renovations, the kickoff event featured local firefighter Lisa Hamill reading Headstrong Halley, the story of the first female Fireguard.

Hamill, who works with the Monson Fire Department, chose the book herself after seeing it mentioned by the Department of Fire Services and the U.S. Forest Service on social media. "I actually saw it on a Facebook post... they had mentioned it," she said. "So I went on Amazon

firefighters," she said. "And to know that firefighting's not just one kind. There are people who fight forest fires too."

While beloved fire safety icon Smokey Bear didn't make a physical appearance due to the heat, representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) brought themed materials and stories to share in his place.

The event was part of the Monson Free Library's Storytime-on-the-Go series, a summer tradition that brings story hours directly into the community by hosting them at different town departments and local landmarks. Although the program is coordinated by the library, the events are held on-site at participating departments and businesses, giving families an inside look at the people and places that make Monson work.



Denise Newland, Youth Services Librarian at the Monson Free Library, introduces Lisa Hamill, the female firefighter who will be reading to the kids.

been running for many years prior to her involvement.

Each week features a different local organization. This summer's lineup includes the Monson Fire Department, Keep Homestead Museum, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, the Monson Police Department, and the Monson Highway Department. In past years, the program has also partnered with the Senior Center, Post Office, local farms, and Westview Farms Creamery, offering a rotating cast of readers and community hosts.

"The way it works depends on the host," Newland said. "Sometimes I'll bring the book and read it myself, especially if it's at a farm or nature setting. Other times, like today, the host chooses and reads the story."

The next Storytime-on-the-Go will be held Wednesday, July 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Keep Homestead Museum on Ely Road. The event will take place in the museum's barn area, which provides shelter in case of strong sun or rain. Families will also be invited to explore the museum after the story.

Following that, the pro-

gram heads to Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, where guests will gather in the learning center for the reading, followed by an optional nature walk. Strollers are welcome on the trails, and attendees are encouraged to wear appropriate shoes for walking.

Newland also reminded families that the library's summer reading program is now underway. "We had our kickoff party on June 24 and started handing out our summer reading logs," she said. "We have reading logs available for all ages, from birth through adults, to help keep everyone motivated throughout the summer."

All Storytime-on-the-Go events are free and open to the public with no registration required. "Just try to be on time," Newland added, "so we can be mindful of our hosts' schedules."

With heartfelt storytelling, behind-the-scenes access to local organizations, and the support of the Monson Free Library, this year's Storytime-on-the-Go is already shaping up to be a memorable part of the summer for children and parents alike.

Pet of the Week



LOKI AND MOXIE

Loki, 12 yrs and Moxie 11 months, from Monson, are ready for treats after a walk.

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



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Firefighter Lisa Hamill reading the first pages of Headstrong Halley to a group of engaged and excited kids.

and they had it. We do this every year, so I told Miss Denise that I've already got a book and I'm ready to go."

The reading, which took place on a hot summer morning, drew families and young children, many of them girls, who Hamill hoped would be encouraged by the story's message. "I think it's good for them to see a girl in the fire service, to know girls can be

"This is a wonderful tradition and a way to keep the community involved and get to know your neighborhood...whether you're new to town or one of our youngest citizens learning how things work," said Denise Newland, Youth Services Librarian at the Monson Free Library. Now in her third summer organizing the program, Newland noted that the series has

Ice Cream Social at Keep on July 6

MONSON—Plan to visit to the Keep Homestead Museum on July 6 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. for the Ice Cream Social. Come and enjoy making a sundae with Rondeau's ice cream and various toppings.

While enjoying your sundae creation, enjoy the musical entertainment featuring FROZEN RED – Rose Higgins, Fred Higgins, Finlay Higgins (guitar) and Camille Collins Lovell (fiddle). 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. A fun way to end your Independence Day celebration.

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DEADLINE

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



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

Lemonade Day returns to with surge in youth entrepreneurs



Raven Paydos and Renee Forgues work on their floral and stitch themed lemonade stand.

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Lemonade stands popped up all across Palmer’s villages on Saturday, June 28, as young entrepreneurs took part in the town’s second annual Lemonade Day. The local event, part of a national initiative, teaches children business and financial literacy skills through the planning, setup, and operation of their very own lemonade stands.

What began last year with just five stands has more than doubled, with 10 stands officially participating in 2025. Hosted at local fire and police stations, restaurants, and area businesses, the event was a vibrant display of youth creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit.

The expansion is the result of dedicated work from organizer Julia Taylor, who brought Lemonade Day to Palmer in 2023 after helping facilitate the program in her hometown of Nome, Alaska. “When I moved here and found out no one was running Lemonade Day, I reached out to the town. They were immediately supportive,” said Taylor. “It’s grown faster than I expected, and that’s a good thing.”

In the weeks leading up to the big day, participating youth attended financial literacy workshops hosted at the Palmer Public Library, spearheaded by Youth Librarian Olivia Chartrand and supported by community partners.

Christina Hazzard, a representative from Country Bank, taught the “Save,



Youth Advisory Board Members Tristan Ganieany, Director Olivia Chartrand, and Lily Petier work on their lemonade stand.

Spend, Share” method of money management. “We talked about how to divide the money they earn...some for savings, some for immediate spending, and some to donate to a cause they care about,” said Hazzard. Each child received a three-slot money box to help apply the model in real time after the event.

Will from J. Stolar Insurance led a session on the business side: budgeting for expenses like cups, lemonade mix, ice, and decorations; setting realistic prices; and promoting their stands. The children also learned how to find business partners and choose their stand locations.

“I think it’s so important for kids to learn that they won’t just walk away with a profit,” Taylor noted. “They have to understand the costs that go into running a business.”

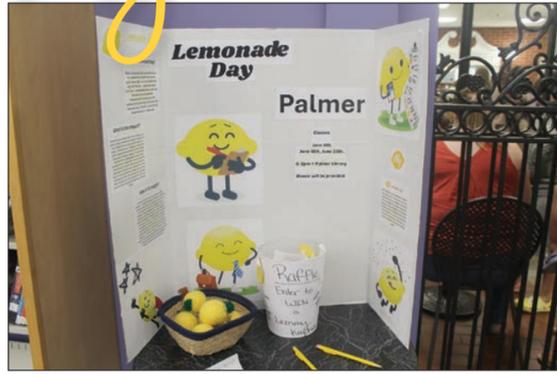
Crystal Rondeau, coordinator of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force, joined the team again this year, helping supervise the final stages of stand decoration and preparation. Volunteers,

including building coordinator Pam Prouty, worked tirelessly to assemble the wooden booths, many of which had to be rebuilt after severe weather disrupted early efforts.

At a final prep night at the library, kids gathered to paint and personalize their stands. “We laid down tarps, organized paint stations, and reminded everyone to walk carefully,” said Olivia Chartrand. “It was a little chaotic, but it was fun.”

Firefighters delivered the completed booths to their locations throughout Palmer, and various departments, including the Palmer Police Department, hosted lemonade stands at their buildings. Even Lemmy the Lemonade Day mascot and Country Bank’s mascot Buck the Dog made appearances, greeting participants and posing for photos between 12 and 3 p.m.

Taylor emphasized that Lemonade Day is more than just a one-time event. “We’re working on a blueprint,” she said. “Something we can hand off so this program is sustainable long-term, even if



A poster board filled with information on Lemonade Day and a place to join a raffle in order to get a crocheted Lemmy Keychain.



Each child participating in Lemonade Day received one of these bags, it was filled with the list of where the lemonade stands will be, a three-part savings box and some various goodies from Country Bank.

leadership changes.”

As one of just two Lemonade Day programs in the

Northeast this year, Palmer is quickly becoming a model for other towns looking to

launch similar efforts. Taylor hopes the curriculum being developed locally can be used throughout Massachusetts.

“It’s about more than money,” she said. “This program builds community, strengthens family bonds, and gives kids something to be proud of. Watching a child light up when a fire truck stops by their stand...that’s everything.”

Plans are already in motion for more youth programming. Taylor confirmed that the first-ever Palmer Youth Business Fair is set to debut this coming winter, expanding the opportunity for young people to explore entrepreneurship in new ways.

As Taylor put it in a statement following the event: “We are all hopeful this Lemonade Day will come to a successful fruition after all of the youth and their families’ hard work. And for everyone on the volunteering side that has worked so hard together for this event too, it’s just beautiful.”

Whether sipping lemonade or watching the next generation learn how to run a business, one thing was clear in Palmer this weekend: community spirit is alive and thriving.

Look for more on this great event in next week’s edition.



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Viewpoints

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

Eureka! Monson is scheduled to receive a slice of the Commonwealth's updated Surtax, also known as the Millionaires' tax, if it survives the Governor's pen. Monson's allocation is \$75,000, and it appears on line #581 of the "corrected" version of the 59-page legislative document. Legislatively linked East Longmeadow's award is \$150,000 for bleachers, while in a clear indication of its need, Monson will utilize its funds for general educational expenses.

A message of appreciation is extended to our Legislative delegation for their critical lobbying on behalf of communities desperate for additional revenue. Now, we just need to keep the gravy train rolling. Investigating new external funding sources and options would be a good place to start.

The same state legislation that advanced access to Surtax discretionary funds includes other opportunities worth pursuing. One subsec-

tion references \$35 million for school systems to expand career education. Priority awards will be granted to communities who "are taking meaningful steps to produce new housing." Given Monson's membership in the progressive Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical District and the town's plan to convert portions of the abandoned Monson Developmental Center into new housing, the town is well-positioned to investigate the feasibility of such funding.

Fully aware that Monson is not the only rural community chasing dollars, failing to pursue new avenues assures little relief. Strengthening the career education curriculum might also expand any "school choice" marketing strategies. To share a non-traditional analogy, consider Suzanne Collins's "Hunger Games," where in order to survive, competitors must outmaneuver others.

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Monson



What are biennials exactly?

Right now, many of our favorite "cottage-garden" flowers are beginning to put on a summer show.

Most of these fall into the category of plants known as biennials. From the towering pastel spikes of the beloved hollyhock, to the tattered, clove-scented sweet William and the mysterious and dangerous foxglove, each share the same life cycle.

Unfortunately, however, here is where lots of gardeners get confused. So then, what exactly are biennials? Do they bloom every other year or just during the second growing season? Is a "short-lived perennial" the same as a biennial?

Let's take a closer look. Merriam-Webster defines biennial as "continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second." In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of green growth this season.

Next spring (year two) the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant.

Usually, the mother plant will not return for a third season. If all goes as Nature intended though, a percentage of her seeds will germinate the following spring, starting the two year process to flower all over again.

I encourage gardeners to

have fresh green plants growing alongside blooming biennials – that way they will end up with flowers every year, at least hypothetically. Keep in

mind that self-sown seedlings are not without work. Oftentimes they come up too close to one another and must be thinned. Or they germinate in an inappropriate spot and likewise need to be moved. You can try to manipulate the outcome of your "volunteers" somewhat.

For notorious self-sowing biennials like rampion, rose campion, and foxglove, deadhead all but a few seed pods. You will reduce the population and there won't be as many to thin out. You can also watch the seed pods carefully, and when they are ripe sprinkle them where you want them to come up- this works especially well for hollyhock and sweet William – both of which I'd call reluctant self-sowers. Work I know, but still far easier than setting up the grow lights and heat cables and starting your seedlings indoors!

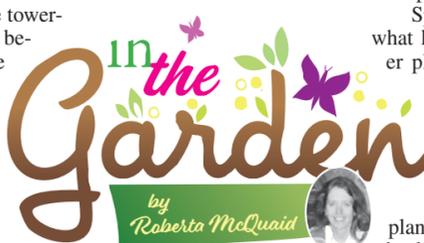
Remember to give your little volunteers lots of TLC in the way of food (a top

dressings of compost and a sprinkling of organic fertilizer) and water (a drink during droughty periods) if you want them to compare to their parents. Speaking of parents, what happens when the older plant survives into year three? This happens to me periodically, especially with hollyhock, foxglove and sweet William. Certainly not every plant in the clump comes back, but perhaps one out of three do.

Sometimes they look okay, while other times the crown is woody or the flowers aren't quite as tall. Oftentimes diseases can take their toll. Be your own judge here- if you want to gamble, leave the plants in place.

Presently I am doing just that with an amazing stand of hollyhocks that bloomed ever so beautifully near my lamppost last summer. So far, so good. But, to be on the safe side, I do have a couple of self sowers waiting in the wings for next year, since a third year of blooming is highly unlikely.

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



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will funds stolen from Social Security be replaced?

Dear Rusty:

When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced?

They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills.

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration despite the persistent myth. All money received by SS from payroll taxes, interest on investments and income tax on SS benefits is – and always has been - immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments), which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds and which pay interest at the current federal bond rate.

Those bond investments held in reserve have been and are used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only U.S. citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits. Illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits.

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can

be paid to all SS recipients, who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing due to being redeemed to pay full benefits. As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal. AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Last week on a trip to Rhode Island with my brother and cousin, we saw two osprey when we stopped by Point Judith Lighthouse.

We watched them as they flew over the ocean and hovered as they looked for fish. One got ready to dive as it tucked in its wings, but then stopped and flew to another spot to hover.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, eats a diet of live fish, has the ability to hover and dives into the water to catch them. They are often seen soaring over shorelines.

Ospreys are brown birds with a white head and a brown stripe through its eye. Underparts are grayish. They are over 24 inches long and have a wingspan of 71 inches. They are the only raptor whose outer toe is reversible, allowing it to grasp its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least one out of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.



By Ellenor Downer

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident, who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds

In addition, to the osprey we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new bench-

es installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sutton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown, a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sightings were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher

The Journal Register

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Please send opinions to:

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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
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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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.turley.com



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Climateologists are telling us that the central and eastern U.S. states are in for a long, hot and smoky summer because of raging wildfires in Canada, mainly in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario provinces.

“We can anticipate that these major smoke-emitting fires will continue to burn for an extended period,” says Jeff Masters of Yale Climate Connections. “Furthermore, the long-range fire forecast calls for above-average fire risk over much of the forested areas of western Canada and the Western U.S. this summer, and we should anticipate frequent bouts of poor air quality from wildfire smoke across much of North America.”

It’s become a rite of spring. Massachusetts had already seen some smoky skies owing to wildfires in New Jersey. Now, forecasters are saying that the air quality index is likely to be quite unhealthy as smoke wafts in from up north.

In its 2025 State of the Air report, the American Lung Association estimates that 156 million Americans – nearly half of us – live where there are unhealthy levels of particle pollution (which includes smoke) and ozone.

According to the report, “Extreme heat, drought and wildfires are contributing to worsening levels of air pollution across much of the U.S., exposing a growing proportion of the population to ozone and particle pollution that put their health at risk.”

Here are four things to know about summer smoke and how to protect yourself.

Wildfire smoke is dangerous to our health.

Wildfire smoke contains a menacing stew of gases and fine particles, some of which are so small they can penetrate the respiratory system, worsening symptoms of asthma, heart disease and various lung ailments.

It’s the fine particulate matter (known as PM2.5) that is most concerning because these particles are so tiny, about 1/20th the width of a human hair, they can enter the bloodstream and lungs. A study in 2024 by a group of university researchers found that exposure to PM2.5 was associated with increases in deaths from heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and other conditions.

Pay attention to AQI.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) tells you how clean or polluted your air is and what the associated health effects may be. It ranges from green (0 to 50), safe for everyone, to dark red (301 to 500), which is unsafe for everyone.

An AQI over 150 is considered unhealthy for the gen-

eral population. AQI over 101 can be unhealthy for sensitive groups and some with asthma and other conditions may feel unhealthy when the AQI is below 150. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality due to their developing lungs and high activity levels.

The AQI in Western Massachusetts ranges from good to moderate, but it has been steadily increasing. Always check the AQI before heading outdoors, especially if there’s smoke in the air.

Masks help.

The masks we wear to stave off the COVID virus also work against the fine particulates in wildfire smoke. An N95 mask blocks 95% of PM2.5, and an N90 blocks 90%. Other common masks, like KN95 and FFP2, are equivalent to the N95 standard. Even a disposable surgical mask is better than nothing.

A mask should seal around your nose and mouth, while still leaving room for breathing. With another summer spike in COVID expected, make sure you have masks on hand in adult and kid sizes.

Don’t let your indoor environment make it worse.

While you’re staying indoors as much as possible during periods of high smoke concentration, make your indoor environment safe, too. Close doors and windows. Use your air conditioning and make sure it’s set to recirculate indoor air, not draw from outside.

You can also get inexpensive portable air cleaners with HEPA filters, or upgrade the filter in your HVAC system to MERV 13, which filters allergens and mold in addition to particles. There are higher MERV ratings, but they’re generally not recommended for residential use.

Avoid activities that worsen indoor air quality, such as smoking, using wood-burning stoves or burning candles.

Last year, Canadian wildfires persisted until November, so we have a long way to go. Keep yourself and your loved ones out of harm’s way by keeping an eye on the AQI, staying inside when it’s unhealthy, and keeping masks in your home and car.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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.

eventbrite.com/

JULY 19

10 to 4 p.m. PAWS 4 BLUE K-9 3rd ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & CRAFT FAIR

July 26

4 p.m. - St. Christopher’s Chicken BBQ at Old Home Day- Brimfield Winery 35 Main St Brimfield. Ticket info at St.Christopher’s 413-245-7274 or online brimfieldwinery.com/events

JULY 31

Southern Rain plays at Western Brim, Brimfield Winery 35, main street, Brimfield

UPCOMING

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILLIARY SHOP
40 Wright St., Palmer

JULY VENDOR SALES
July 8 K and H Jewelry
July 14

Generations of Cookies
July 15 Wicked Good Treats
July 16 How Charming

AUGUST VENDOR SALES

August 5 K and H Jewelry
August 7 Sweets and Treats
August 12
Wicked Good Treats
August 18

Generations of Cookies
August 19
Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 20 How Charming

JULY 27

11 a.m. to 12, Barre class at Brimfield Winery by Rebecca Lehman - reserve on facebook- brimfieldwinery.com/events.

JULY 17

Guided Wine & French Macaron Pairing Experience at Brimfield Winery 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets online:<https://brimfieldwineandmacaron.com>.

ONGOING

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. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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

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

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116,

at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range’s special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

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

THURSDAYS - WESTERN BRIM LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 - 7:30 & 7:30 -8:30; \$10 for one lesson or both! location: Brimfield Winery 35 Main Street. Brimfield, MA Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations. (no classes July 10)

FRIDAY NIGHT CAR CRUISES with Bruce Marshall 4:00 pm - 9 PM, come check out the amazing car collection. Brimfield Winery 35 main st. Brimfield, MA

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

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BACKYARD | from page 4

at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the summit of Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County highlights were a Brewster’s warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst, three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common goldeneye on the

Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notables were two upland sandpipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian flycatcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Royalston.

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

CAMPUS NOTES

Peritz named to Salve Regina Univ. Spring 2025 Dean's List

NEWPORT, RI—Morgan Peritz of Bondsville was named to the Dean's List during the spring 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Messier named to The Univ. of Scranton Spring 2025 Dean's List

SCRANTON, PA—Gabriel M. Messier of Palmer was among more than 1,725 students named to The University of Scranton's Dean's List for the 2025 spring semester. The Dean's List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean's List. The list includes students from the Jesuit university's College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and the Leahy College of Health Sciences.

Messier is a senior mechanical engineering major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

LeVasseur named to Siena College President's List

LOUDONVILLE, NY—Kendall LeVasseur was named to the Siena College President's List for the Spring 2025 Semester. Kendall is from Palmer, MA.

The President's List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

Local residents earn Dean's list honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS—The follow residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List, earning this academic honor for the Spring 2025 semester.

Kieran Talbert of Monson, who studies Medical Coding

Myanyeliz Quinones of Warren, who studies General Studies

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, and be in good standing with the College.

Saint Anselm College Dean's list

MANCHESTER, NH—Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester there were a total of 674 students from 22 states and 4 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

BRIMFIELD

Samantha McGlinchy, Politics Major
Caraline Stewart, Mathematics Major



“Heat Wave Safety” for older adults: staying safe and healthy

By Dr. Steven Angelo, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare, Medicare and Retirement of Massachusetts

Experts are forecasting that 2025, especially this summer, will be particularly hot, which may pose heightened health risks for older adults, according to a University of Southern California study.¹ Seniors may be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses like heat stroke as well as complications from chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure that are worsened by extreme heat.

How older adults can stay cool

Plan ahead – Follow local weather reports to ensure you have enough food, prescription medications and other home “staples” to get through a heat wave.

Stay hydrated – Drink plenty of water, even if you are not thirsty. Limit caffeinated and alcoholic beverages. Drinks with electrolytes are also all right.

Use cooling strategies – Take cool showers, use fans, or place damp washcloths on your neck and wrists to help lower your body temperature.

Limit physical activities outdoors (particularly between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) – If you must go out:

- Wear lightweight and light-colored clothing, sunglasses and brimmed hats;
- Apply sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher;
- Bring water; and
- Take frequent breaks in the shade or air-conditioned spaces.

Certain medications may make dehydration or sunburn more likely. So, whether you are staying inside or heading outside, check with your care provider to make sure you are taking the proper precautions.

Older adults and their caregivers can work together to summer-proof their homes. Keep shades down when the sun is most intense. Strategically place fans, particularly in doorways between rooms or in front of window air conditioning units to better circulate air. Install ceiling fans, including temporary ones that can be placed in light bulb sockets.

How caregivers can help support older adults

Check in – Be alert to signs of heat-related illness like confusion, weakness, flushed skin, dizziness, or excessive sweating. Seek medical attention if your loved one is experiencing symptoms of heat stroke, such as hot, dry skin, a rapid pulse, confusion or unconsciousness.

Help with activities so older adults can limit time

outside – Volunteer to run errands, including picking up prescriptions and food shopping.

Find out about community services

- “Cooling stations” or other public places, like libraries and community centers where older adults can go;

- Proactive check-in programs or telephonic “heat advisory” alerts;

- Local news station advisories; and

- “Summer safety” programs at local community centers, municipal halls or local hospitals for older adults and their caregivers to learn more about staying healthy and safe.

Helping older adults during the summer months, especially during heat waves, requires some planning; awareness of the health, the home and the daily needs of our loved ones; and what support is available in their local communities. With some effort, older adults may stay safe while enjoying the fun things about summer.

This information is for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for the advice of a doctor. Consult your doctor prior to making changes to your lifestyle or health care routine.

Baystate Wing selected as participant in Healthy Work Environment Academy

Baystate Wing Hospital one of ten hospitals chosen

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital (BWH) was chosen as one of ten Massachusetts hospitals to participate in a statewide Healthy Work Environment (HWE) Academy, launched by Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA). This initiative will empower nursing teams to lead sustainable improvements in workplace culture, nurse retention, and patient outcomes.

The HWE Academy is part of a broader initiative to make the commonwealth a leader in healthy and innova-

tive work environments for nurses and care teams. Every hospital has committed to adopting one evidence-based program to support frontline professionals, with the Academy serving as one opportunity for participation.

Baystate Wing Hospital will work with the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) and participate in its Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy's Nursing Workforce Solutions program. The AACN program is a nationally recognized initiative that places frontline nurses at the center of workplace problem-solving. Nursing Workforce Solutions is an intensive 18-month process led by AACN. Nursing leaders at Baystate Wing Hospital will identify a nursing team from one unit to address a specific on-the-job challenge that is hindering their ability to work at their best. The team will design, implement, and sustain projects to address that challenge. They will have access to educational sessions and expert mentoring throughout their journey, and will be offered “train the trainer” resources to help scale their projects to other units in the hospital.

“We're thrilled to have been chosen as a cohort for the Healthy Work Environment (HWE) Academy. Baystate Wing Hospital nurses are the heartbeat of our hospital. They are highly-skilled, compassionate, and deliver the highest standard of care to our patients and their families. Being part of this initiative will strengthen our commitment to a healthy and innovative workplace,” said Karli Barrett, MS, RN, NEBC, president & Chief Operating Officer, Baystate Wing Hospital.

Country Bank set to receive pair of awards

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

Country Bank received

First Place – Gold in the Website Design category for its newly launched website, which was thoughtfully developed to meet the evolving needs of today's digital banking customers. The site features a mobile-responsive design, robust financial education tools, dynamic calls to action, and personalized user experiences that reflect the Bank's mission: Made to Make a Difference.

“This website is more than just a great design—it's a true extension of our banking centers into the digital space,” said Shelley Regin, Chief

Marketing and Community Relations Officer at Country Bank. “We're extremely proud of the cross-functional collaboration that brought our vision to life.”

Country Bank also received Second Place – Silver in the Fan Favorite category for its Community Support partnership with the Worcester Red Sox (WooSox). This recognition highlights a series of impactful initiatives, including the Most Valuable Teacher program, WooStar recognitions, and the Police vs. Fire charity game—all designed to honor and support

individuals making a positive difference in their communities.

“Our partnership with WooSox enables us to connect with our communities in heartfelt and impactful ways,” added Regin. “We're honored to be recognized for initiatives that bring people together and celebrate local heroes.”

These honors reflect the dedication and collaborative spirit of Country Bank's marketing, community relations, and leadership teams and reinforce its ongoing efforts to serve as a trusted, community-focused financial partner.

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WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$749.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1099.99
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READING | from page 1

“summer slide,” a phenomenon where children’s reading abilities can regress during the months without school. Chartrand explained, “The summer reading program incentivizes reading for kids and families in particular, but all ages are welcome to join. It encourages kids to use their brains when school is out of session, preventing literacy slide.”

The program’s core mission is to keep young minds sharp by motivating them to read regularly. Participants who sign up get access to a variety of library programs and experiences throughout the summer, reinforcing the habit of reading and critical thinking.

To further encourage participation, the library offers prizes based on reading achievements. “Every summer, everybody who signs up for the program earns a summer reading t-shirt,” Chartrand said. “We also give out book prizes at the end of the summer, along with a collection of donated prizes.”

This year’s donated prizes include a small fish tank, gift certificates, and tickets to a Springfield Thunderbirds hockey game, among other items. The assortment aims to reward readers of all ages and add excitement to the challenge.

Even those who missed the kickoff party can still join the program. “People can sign up any time all summer long, except during the very last week, because that would be a little sad,” Chartrand joked. Signing up is easy and flexible; participants can visit the library in person, call, or download the Beanstack app, which allows them to track their reading digitally.

Chartrand emphasized that reading counts in many



novels, audiobooks, newspapers...as long as you are reading and activating your brain, it counts.”

With enthusiasm, Chartrand expressed her excitement for the summer ahead: “I’m just looking forward to the summer. We hope to see lots of new readers and families taking advantage of everything the library offers.”

The Palmer Public Library’s summer reading program continues to be a valuable community resource, combining education, fun, and incentives to nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Kids running around the party area or sitting around colorful tables eating ice creams with their family.



Zoe Lapierre from Rondeau's Ice Cream served chocolate and vanilla ice cream to all the patrons who wanted some.

forms: “It doesn’t have to just be novels. It can be graphic



The Summer Reading Whisper Room, a place where kids can go and confess anonymously their favorite parts of the library.

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A lot of people showed up to sign up for the summer reading program and get a free scoop of ice cream.

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Paige Blanchette brings Sandy the Bearded Dragon through the rows of people so they can feel her scales.



Tyson the Eastern Box Turtle is brought around the room so people can feel the scutes that make up his shell.



Paige Blanchette and Audrey Zimmerman stretching out Artemis the Carpet Python, showing how long a snake like that could potentially get.



A young baby petting Wanda the Ferret with very gentle hands.



Paige Blanchette carries around Swirl the Bunny so people in the audience can carefully stroke her back.

HOLLAND | from page 1

fox, was designated strictly as “no touch,” due to its temperament and medical needs.

The first animal to take center stage was Swirl, a domestic rabbit named for her chocolate-and-vanilla coat. Swirl was surrendered by an owner who could no longer care for her, a common story that echoed throughout the event.

“Bunnies are incredible creatures,” Zimmerman explained. “They can hop up to 30 miles per hour, and while they look like cuddly pets, they’re prey animals with complex needs.” Attendees learned that rabbits are herbivores who should only eat carrots sparingly, and they even have a unique digestive process that involves re-eating a special kind of poop to extract nutrients.

Next came Tyson, an Eastern box turtle native to local New England woods. Despite his tough exterior, Tyson was sensitive to touch and a clear favorite among the children. Zimmerman discussed the box turtle’s unique hinged shell, which allows it to fully close up for defense, and his omnivorous diet that changes with age. “Turtles are tougher than they look,” Zimmerman said, “but they’re also slow growers who can live for decades.”

While the audience was not allowed to pet Timone, an 8-year-old fennec fox from the deserts of North Africa, Zimmerman captivated listeners with her descriptions of the animal’s adaptations: oversized ears to cool off, sand-resistant foot pads, and vocal screams when picked up.

“Timone’s a bit of a diva,” Zimmerman joked, noting that he’s also on special medica-

tion and requires careful handling. “But he’s also a perfect example of how animals adapt to extreme environments.”

Sandy, a calm and friendly bearded dragon, was introduced next. The lizard, native to Australia, showed off her spiny “beard” and relaxed demeanor. “She’s what we call a ‘gateway reptile’, they make good pets for beginners,” Zimmerman noted, while stressing the importance of proper heat and diet.

Attendees learned about the bearded dragon’s third eye, a sensory organ on the top of the head, and the difference between lizards and snakes (lizards have ear holes; snakes do not).

Zimmerman then introduced a crowd favorite, Wanda the Ferret. Described as “super bendy and kind of sneaky,” Wanda entertained children with a game of “Ferret Says.” Ferrets, Zimmerman explained, were historically used to control rat populations and are known for their love of hiding objects like keys.

“Ferrets are not rodents, they’re in the weasel family,” she said, as children gently pet Wanda as Blanchette carried her around. “And yes, they do smell, but that’s part of how they communicate.”

Before the next animal was brought out Zimmerman gave a warning to the audience to remain calm and quiet so they don’t scare the animal and cause it to become defensive.

With a calm demeanor and impressive size, Artemis, the nine-foot long carpet python, slithered into the spotlight next. The non-venomous python uses constriction to subdue prey and has flexible jaws that can open wide enough to swallow animals several times the size of its head.

“Snakes use their tongues to smell, not to breathe,” Zimmerman clarified, debunking a common myth. Artemis remained relaxed as children took turns petting her under close supervision.

The showstopper of the day was undoubtedly Gatorade, a three-year-old American alligator weighing around 30 pounds. His snout was secured with electrical tape for safety, which Zimmerman assured would be removed after the presentation.

“Alligators are ancient predators,” she said, explaining their ambush tactics, powerful tails, and armored backs. “They can grow up to 15 feet and live more than 70 years.”

Children lined up to touch the reptile, marveling at his tough, bony skin known as osteoderms.

Throughout the event, Zimmerman emphasized the importance of treating animals with respect and understanding their needs before considering them as pets. She also stressed that many of the animals at Animal Adventures were surrendered because owners were unprepared for the level of care required.

“The more you know, the better you care,” Zimmerman said. “These animals aren’t just cool, they’re complex.”

Brochures, hand sanitizer, and friendly guidance were offered throughout the afternoon, creating a fun and informative experience for the Holland community.

The Animal Adventures event was one of several programs planned as part of the Holland Public Library’s Summer Reading Program, which invites participants to register and pick up reading logs or bingo sheets anytime before the program ends on August 9.

The library’s ongoing mission to combine literacy, fun, and learning is evident in events like this one. For more information on future programs, visit the Holland Public Library or follow their social media for updates.

For more about Animal Adventures and their mission, visit animaladventures.net or attend one of their upcoming live shows across Massachusetts.



Audrey Zimmerman holds one of their no-touch animals, an elderly Fennec Fox named Timone.



Animal Adventure employees Audrey Zimmerman and Paige Blanchette prepare to talk about animals to a large group of excited kids and curious adults.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

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SOCCER



Harper Hawk battles with a Ludlow defender.



Chelsea Varallis tries to emerge with the ball.



Molly Walker fights for possession.

SOCCER

Registration open for 3v3 soccer jamboree

BELCHERTOWN – The Third Annual Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16th, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia’s classmates.

The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which also featured food trucks,

raffle and dunk tank.

Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle. Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree>

Panthers girls summer soccer in action

LUDLOW – Last week, Ludlow High School girls summer soccer hosted Palmer in B Division action. Due to a website issue, the final score was not reported. Ludlow was off this week for vacation and Fourth of July. They return to action next week.



Emily Nadeau sends a pass away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aria Nompleggi passes ahead of pressure.

SOCCER

Mutiny drills Fuel to clinch playoff spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Back on June 8, the New England Mutiny scored a season-high six goals during a road victory against the New Jersey Alliance. The Alliance were scheduled to make their first ever visit to Lusitano Stadium last Sunday afternoon, but they didn’t have enough players to fill out their roster.

Instead of taking the weekend off like the Western Mass. Pioneers were forced to do 24 hours earlier, the Mutiny were able to find another opponent on short notice. The Worcester Fuel made the 45-minute trek west on the Mass. Pike to Ludlow.

It wasn’t a very competitive match, as the Mutiny posted a 12-0 shutout victory in what was most likely their final home game of the season.

The Mutiny and Fuel were originally scheduled to face each other at Millbury High School on July 6.

“New Jersey indicated to us that they were having roster issues for this weekend, so we decided to switch our game with Worcester,” said Joe Ferrara, who’s the Owner/Managing Director of the Mutiny. “We’ll try to reschedule the game with New Jersey or find another opponent to fill out our regular season schedule.”

Because Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was unavailable to coach last Sunday’s home match, Ferrara took over the coaching duties.

The Worcester team used to be in the same Division as the Mutiny, but they were moved down to the second Division this year. They’ve played a couple of other games against First Division clubs this season.

The victory improved the Mutiny’s record to a perfect 7-0

Racing Power, who are from Baltimore, lost to the Mutiny, 3-0, at Lusitano Stadium on June 14, but they’ll most likely be hosting the playoff game on July 13 because of the goal differential. The margin is capped at five

goals for each match.

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Mutiny, who lost in last year’s championship match, clinched a berth in the United Women’s Soccer League playoffs for the fifth time since they moved to Lusitano in 2019.

“We’ve had a lot of success since we began playing our home matches here at Lusitano Stadium,” Ferrara said. “We’ve had a dynamic group of players during the past couple of years. We are losing a couple of key players for the rest of the season.”

Chioma Okafor was called up to play for the Nigerian Women’s National Team in the African Nations Women’s Cup. Cat Perez, who’s a goalie, is playing for the Colombian National Team.

Kendall Bodak, who’s from Monson, returned to Clemson University to start preparing for the college soccer season. Avery Galante also went back to the University of South Carolina.

While the Mutiny were missing a couple of players, Hope Santaniello played in her first match of the season against Worcester. She returned home to Agawam after playing for a professional soccer team in Iceland. She has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019.

“Playing soccer with this team is something that’s very special to me,” Santaniello said. “It was great to be back and see all the girls again. I’ve also really enjoyed playing for the professional soccer team in Iceland. I’m learning a lot of different things.”

Santaniello scored the Mutiny’s fifth goal of the first half and added three more during the final 20 minutes of the match.

“Hope just looks fantastic,” Ferrara said. “She’s been on our roster the whole season and is one of our all-time best players.”

Hope’s younger sister, Bella, was also scheduled to play for the Mutiny in last

MUTINY | page 10

Bankers take second straight over Saints

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – After People’s Bank fell behind against the St. Joseph’s Baseball Club in the top of the first inning, player/manager Joe Ferry knew that his team could make a comeback in the Tri-County League contest

The score was tied 3-3, entering the bottom of the sixth inning when People’s Bank scored a pair of runs leading to a 5-3 victory on a hot night at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke, last Tuesday.

“We fell behind in the first inning, but we kept battling back the entire game,” Ferry said. “This is a very good team win for us.”

The home victory improved People’s Bank overall record to a perfect 5-0.

St. Joe’s (6-3) lost to People’s for the third time in a span of less than two weeks.

“It’s another frustrating loss,” said St. Joe’s player/manager Brian Hayes. “I would like to play them in a playoff series. I think we have a little more pitching depth than they do.”

After allowing the two runs in the first inning, People’s Bank righthander Giovanni Merced only gave up an unearned run during the final six innings. He allowed six hits with a walk and six strikeouts.

“Jovanni hadn’t pitched in two weeks, and he got off to a slow start in tonight’s game,” Ferry said. “He settled down after the first inning.”

People’s Bank sixth inning rally began with third baseman Cam McDonald hitting a double to right field against righty Jack Feltovic. He advanced to third following a bunt hit by shortstop Sam Allen that rolled up the third base line. Allen then stole second base putting two runners in scoring position. Both runners crossed the plate

when centerfielder Seth Allen (2-for-4) blasted a triple to right field.

It was People’s tenth and final base hit of the ballgame.

With one-out in the top of the seventh inning, pinch hitter Colby Harrington hit a single into center field before Merced retired the next two batters on flyballs.

Things started out very well for St. Joe’s.

Shortstop Devin Slattery leadoff the top of the first inning with a line-drive single up the middle to center field.

BANKERS | page 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dave Clark slings a throw to first.

Sports clinics return this summer

LUDLOW – The Lions Pride Sports Clinics return this summer with a dynamic lineup of programs designed to support youth athletic development, foster sportsmanship, and prepare athletes for competitive success. Hosted at Ludlow High School, the clinics will run from late June through August and include offerings in basketball, soccer, volleyball, beach volleyball, athlete preparation, and track & field.

With a strong roster of experienced coaches and a focus on skill-building, these clinics provide athletes from kindergarten through

12th grade with opportunities to grow in a fun, supportive environment. Registration is now open.

Summer 2025 Clinics Include:
Basketball Clinic
Grades: 1st–9th

Coach: Tim Brillo
 Dates: July 7–11 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Fee: \$100

Soccer Clinics – Session 1 & 2
Ages: 5–12

Coach: Greg Kolodziej
Session 1: June 23–27
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Session 2: July 21–25
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fee: \$100 per session
High School Volleyball
Grades: 10–12
 Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 6 to 8 p.m.
 Fee: \$200

Volleyball Basics

Grades: 7–9
 Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: July 8–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 4 and 6 p.m.
 Fee: \$200

Beach Volleyball

Grades: 10–12
 Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays (6 to 8 p.m.), Sundays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)
 Fee: \$350

Athlete Prep

Grades: 8–12
 Coach: Brian Walsh
 Dates: June 23–August 7
 Sessions: Monday and Thursday at 8 a.m., Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. Schedule subject to change
 Fee: \$130

Youth Track and Field

Grades: K–8
 Coaches: Brian Walsh
 Dates: June 30–August 11
 Mondays | 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$100
 All sessions will be held at Ludlow High School, featuring high-quality facilities and a supportive environment for young athletes to learn and grow.

Contact the sports editor at sports@turley.com

First inning surge leads Blue Sox past Sharks

HOLYOKE – A four-run first inning was the catalyst for a dominant Blue Sox win on Saturday, as they handily defeated the visiting Martha's Vineyard Sharks by a final score of 6-2.

After an error by Vineyard's Harley Goodner opened the scoring, Valley piled on three more runs. The runs scored on a Gavin Schrader single, a Mike Lucarelli double and a Cade Carr sacrifice fly.

"It allowed us to be confident," said Head Coach Endy Morales of the early surge. "We had lost to them already this week, they're a really good team, so to come out and punch them first, it just set the tone for the rest of the game."

Michael O'Connor added the other two Valley scores on a home run that soared into the Blue Sox bullpen. Sebastian Mexico contributed a two hit performance, and Michael Elko came across home plate twice as a base runner.

Valley threw eight pitchers in the contest, striking out 11 Vineyard batters. Max McCrary earned the win. Andrew Wertz came in for the ninth inning, when he struck out two batters to close out the game and earn the save.

Gio Colasante started the game for Vineyard, allowing four hits and four runs across two innings of work. He was credited with the loss.

The Blue Sox improve to an overall record of 10-8 on the season, while the Sharks fall to 12-7. The win snaps a two game losing skid for Valley.

"I thought that was a good one to get. It could have very easily been three losses in a row," said Morales. "Now we get to go into the off day with a win, and a really tough stretch coming up next week. I

thought that was a great way to approach the off day and beat a team that's super competitive."

The Valley Blue Sox suffered defeat on Friday despite a rally in the sixth inning that saw them score four runs and take the lead.

Down 3-0 to the visiting Mountaineers, Valley went on a run that featured a Rees Kozar two run double, a Clay Burdette sacrifice fly and an additional run on a throwing error.

Vermont responded in the top of the seventh with a Jaylen Hernandez two run home run, securing the 5-4 victory at MacKenzie Stadium.

"Overall, our defense needs to be cleaned up. We're making key mistakes later in the game ... I would like for us to be a little more efficient on the mound, and then defensively just clean up in those big moments," said Head Coach Endy Morales.

Beau Ellson started the game on the mound for Valley, allowing six hits and three runs across four innings of work. Riley Williams was credited with the loss in relief for Valley.

For the Mountaineers, Jack Rollo earned the win. Oliver Ellison got the save.

The loss drops Valley's record on the season to 9-8. Morales will look to build on this record today, when they host the Martha's Vineyard Sharks.

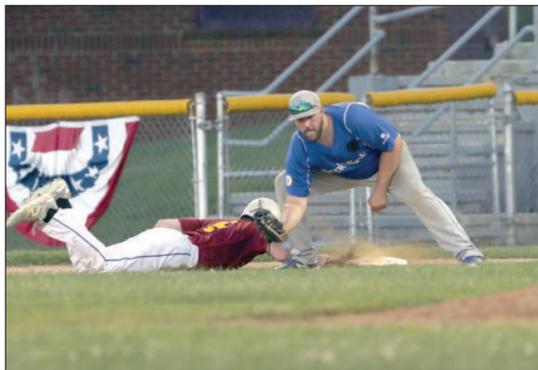
"In the grand scheme of things, we're still above .500, I would love to stay above .500 [today] ... This is the time where you want to make that separation. You don't want it to be the last week of the season and you're chasing four wins to try and get into the playoffs. You want to do that now so you have a bit more buffer," Morales said.



Cam MacDonald gets an out.



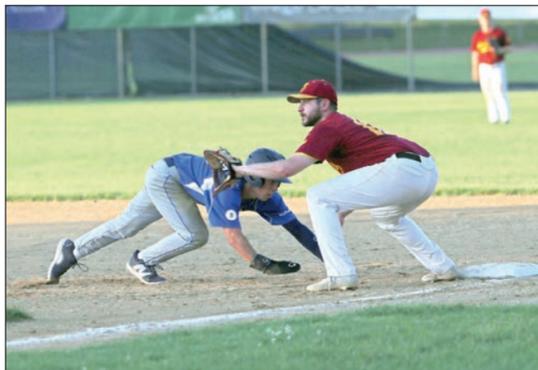
Jovanni Merced sends a pitch home for PeoplesBank.



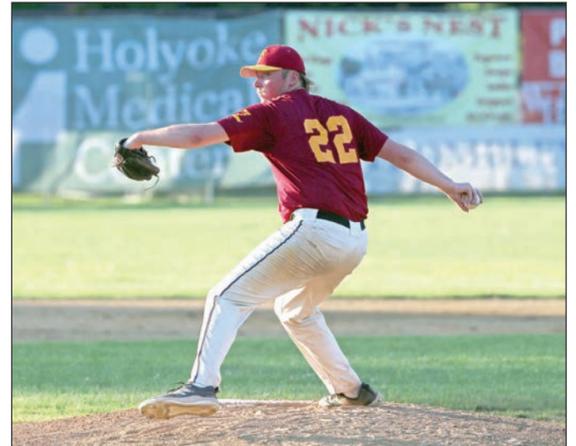
Kyle Platner goes for a tag.



Devin Slattery, of Ware, sends a throw to first.



Brandon Magni attempts to catch a pickoff throw.



Jack Feltovic fires a pitch home for St. Joe's.

BANKERS | from page 9

Then left fielder Jacob Petrin drew a walk on a 3-and-2 pitch. The visitors loaded the bases when a ground ball hit by right fielder Pat Fitzgibbons wasn't handled cleanly by the third baseman.

St. Joe's took a 2-0 lead when third baseman Joey DeMichele hit another ground ball into left field for a single.

It was the only runs Merced allowed in that inning, as he got out of the jam with the help of a 6-4-3 double play and a strikeout.

Following back-to-back singles in the bottom half of the opening frame by second

baseman Dave Clark and first baseman Kyle Platner, Feltovic escaped further trouble with a 6-3 inning ending double play.

The home team took a 3-2 lead against Feltovic, who pitched the entire game, two innings later.

A ground ball single by left fielder Brady Balint, a bunt hit from Seth Allen, and a walk by catcher Pete Hogan loaded the bases. Clark drove home People's first run with a line-drive single into left field. Then Platner hit into a double play scoring the tying run. Hogan scored on a wild pitch, which gave People's the lead for the first time at 3-2.

St Joe's tied the score in

the top of the fourth following a throwing error before People's Bank retook the lead again two innings later.

The fourth and final

meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place at St. Joe's Park on July 11.

MUTINY | from page 9

Sunday's match. However, because Worcester didn't have enough players show up for the match, she played for the visitors.

"My sister definitely has a lot of potential," Hope said.

"I'm very glad that she's following in my footsteps. It was a lot of fun playing against her today."

Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School, recorded a hat-trick during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

Bella Meadows scored

the other first half goal for the Mutiny. She also scored the first goal of the second half.

Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belcher-town High School, chipped in offensively with a pair of second half goals.

Mila Dillard, who's from Chicopee, also scored a goal

during the second half.

It was the Mutiny's fourth shutout of the regular season. The defense was anchored by Aida Name, who's from Chicopee, Kylie Ray, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional, Rachel Marchini, and Anna Carson.



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Athlete of the Week

Aria Nompleggi
Palmer

Nompleggi is part of a Panthers girls summer soccer team that has reached near the midpoint of the season. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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Thunderbirds recognized for multiple honors

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Springfield Thunderbirds were recognized among their peers across multiple business areas during the American Hockey League’s Team Business Meetings presented by Victory Live in Indianapolis. The team captured the following honors:

AHL Marketing Department of the Year

AHL’s Most Unique Social Media Content

Matthew McRobbie: 3rd in Eastern Conference in corporate sales revenue generated

Ticket Sales Department Benchmark Award for 600 New Full Season Equivalents

Corporate Sales Department Benchmark Award for 90% Renewal in Corporate Cash

The highlight of this year’s award recognition was the team’s Marketing Department capturing top marks in the 32-team league with the title of AHL Marketing Department of the Year. The department has excelled with a fully in-house strategy blending creativity, consistency, and a strong brand identity. Each of the team’s 36 home games features a unique campaign built around a cohesive season-long look, incorporating bold visuals and local imagery. Their efforts span digital, print, radio, billboards, and social media—reinforced by a revamped website and new mobile app—all designed to engage fans and drive recognition across every platform.

The Thunderbirds’ Social Media Departments also earned leaguewide recognition during the 2024–25 season, most noticeably by winning the award for Most Unique Social Media Content. The honor stemmed from the team’s inventive response to a shipping mishap that sent their Teddy Bear Toss jerseys to Germany by mistake. Turning an unfortunate situation into an opportunity, the social media team showcased that agility and creativity are sometimes the most powerful tools in a successful strategy. “As we look back on the 2024–25 season, we couldn’t be prouder of our team’s tireless effort and passion in delivering a first-class experience for our fans—both in the arena and through our marketing and social media content,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “To see those efforts recognized at the league level is incredibly rewarding and reinforces the strong year-round engagement we strive for. When you pair that with another record-setting year at the Thunderdome—including new highs in attendance, season ticket membership, and corporate revenue—it’s a testament to our entire organization. We’re excited to raise the bar even higher in 2025–26.” In addition to teamwide awards, the Thunderbirds also saw Director of Business Development Matthew McRobbie recognized for finishing third among all Eastern Conference representatives in corporate sales revenue. This

marks the second consecutive season that McRobbie finished in the top-3 in the conference in this category. Continuing a trend established over the previous three seasons, the 2024–25 Thunderbirds once again set new Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,369), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The ticket sales team also earned benchmark recognition with 600 new Full Season Equivalents (FSEs), the industry standard for measuring full- and partial-season ticket sales. In another milestone year for the club’s corporate sales team, the department was honored for achieving a renewal rate exceeding 90 percent in corporate cash accounts, helping drive a new single-season record in corporate revenue for the second straight year. The Thunderbirds enjoyed another impactful season in the Springfield community, making over 400 appearances with mascot Boomer and players alike. Their presence spanned everything from youth hockey practices to major charitable events, including the Rays of Hope Walk, annual Teddy Bear Toss deliveries, the Community Caravan (with support from MassMutual), and a variety of corporate-sponsored initiatives. Altogether, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$100,000 in support of charitable causes across Western Massachusetts during the 2024–25 season.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer

league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the

league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added

to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year’s fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields

are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming

soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

The Importance of setting strong financial goals

There’s a quote about the importance of setting goals: “If you don’t know where you’re going, any path will take you there.”

This holds true for things that are important to you financially as well. To set your financial goals, think about your priorities. Outline them as either “must-haves” — such as a comfortable retirement — or “wish list” — perhaps a vacation or entertainment.

You’ll want your goals to be specific. Assign estimated dates and costs to each one so you can plan how much to save and how much time you have before you need the money.

Next, hold yourself accountable to stay on track. That involves actively tracking your progress, maintaining your focus and using these three time-tested strategies — diversify, own quality investments and keep a realistic perspective. A financial advisor can help with this.

Finally, enjoy that sense of accomplishment when you reach your goals, seeing your efforts literally pay off.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Hunter Boody, your Edward Jones financial advisor at 413-289-1875.



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Play pickleball and support the Wales Community Pantry

WALES – What does the Wales Community Pantry and Pickleball-U have in common? Both are interested in finding pickleball players who wish to support the Community Pantry.

The Pantry has more than doubled the number of people served in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and the surrounding communities providing thousands of pounds of food to those in need every month. The need has grown so much that we need to move to a bigger space. In early July, the Pantry will be moving to 172 Main Street

(Route 20) Brimfield. As with any move, we have additional expenses.

Please join us on July 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. to play Pickleball at Pickleball-U fundraiser located at 178 Main Street, Sturbridge.



The cost is \$50 per person. Air Conditioned, snacks included, raffle items, free instruction and equipment to borrow. All ages and levels are welcome. A mini-tournament option is available depending on the numbers

and skill levels of attendees. Register online at <https://app.courtreserve.com/Online/Events/Details/10865/BL8CUBJ10865616>

Bring a friend, bring a team, sponsor a young person to play.

If you know of anyone in need of the Community Pantry services, visit www.walescommunitypantry.com or call 413 245-0055.

Sponsorships for our move are a vital part of our success. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor email: walescommunityfoodpantry@gmail.com

TROOP 164 | from page 1

Also on the calendar is an exciting whitewater kayaking trip scheduled for September. That outing will serve a dual purpose: an adrenaline-filled river adventure and an opportunity for participating Scouts to earn a merit badge in kayaking.

“They’ll do safety and skills training in the morning, and then go down the river in the afternoon,” said Traugh.

In addition to the car wash itself, Troop 164 had a small checkout table set up with additional fundraising efforts, including the sale of popular smoked meat snacks. The meat sticks were offered at two for \$3, and proceeds go toward general troop expenses such as



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A table was set up at the end of the car wash section where people would pay for the car wash then have the chance to purchase some smoked meat sticks or provide a donation for the troop.

propane, paper towels, and other camp essentials. “The smaller fundraisers really help with the basics when we head out on weekend trips,” said Traugh.

Troop 164 operates a

youth-led, year-round outdoor program that places a strong emphasis on citizenship, leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. “We’re working to shape the future leaders of America,”

Traugh noted. “Our Scouts are involved in planning, decision-making, and taking ownership of their experiences.”

The troop is always welcoming new members, boys and girls alike, and offers financial assistance for families who need help covering the costs of participation. “We’re here all year. 12 months a year, 365 days,” said Traugh. Anyone interested in joining or learning more can contact them at troop164bulldogs@gmail.com.

As the soap suds washed away and the final cars rolled off, Troop 164 wrapped up another successful community day; one full of camaraderie, purpose, and preparation for the next big adventure.

WELLNESS | from page 1

tional role limited their ability to provide direct assistance.

“Often, the best we could do was provide a phone number, which felt like not enough,” Maher said. “We’re not trained to navigate social service systems or handle sensitive personal information, and our commitment to privacy sometimes created barriers.”

A catalyst moment came in the fall of 2023 when a regular visitor, an unhoused man who frequented the library, passed away. An outside religious group approached the library to hold a ceremony on its lawn. At the event, Maher connected with Sergeant David Burns of the Palmer Police Department’s DART (Drug Awareness Response Team) program and the town’s social worker. Recognizing a shared desire to assist vulnerable residents more directly,

Maher proposed regular visits by social service professionals to the library.

By January 2024, the Community Strong Wellness Initiative was born. The program brought together a diverse “ragtag” team including Sergeant Burns and his DART colleagues, domestic violence advocates from Behavioral Health Network (BHN), representatives from Alcoholics Anonymous, veterans’ services, mental health and substance use helplines, and recovery coaches.

Additionally, the Baystate Health Mobile Wellness Bus regularly visits the library, providing free health screenings, COVID-19 test kits, and help with scheduling medical appointments; these services might otherwise be out of reach for many in the community.

“The goal is to cover everything,” Maher said. “Whether someone needs

housing, wants to start recovery, or just needs to talk about health insurance questions, we try to be ready.”

The library offers more than just services. It provides a stigma-free community space where people can drop in, relax, and connect with others. Free lunches are served during the program, which meets every other Thursday, helping encourage attendance in a casual and friendly atmosphere.

Maher noted the importance of these social elements: “People don’t get enough interaction in their day-to-day lives. The library is a safe, non-judgmental space... no one asks why you’re here or makes assumptions. You can even bring your own book and just sit quietly if you want.”

This approach builds trust and rapport. “We’ve made real bonds with people who come in, and the team here supports each other,” Maher said.

Feedback from partici-

pants has been overwhelmingly positive. Regular visitors often return to thank staff and volunteers, some even coming back to help others feel welcome.

The program continues to grow, with plans to hold sessions throughout the summer, including upcoming dates on July 10 and July 24, when the Baystate Wellness Bus will return.

For those hesitant to reach out, Maher offers encouraging words: “There’s no pressure at all. Come for the pizza, the company, or to talk if you want. Everyone is welcome, no assumptions made. The people here are professionals who want to help however they can.”

The Palmer Public Library’s Community Strong Wellness Initiative stands as a model for how local institutions can build bridges between vulnerable populations and critical social supports; all while fostering community and connection in a welcoming space.

SELECT BOARD

| from page 1

eral Title III-B grants, which fund transportation and outreach programs, have been eliminated. Title III-C nutrition grants remain level-funded, though final allocations won’t be confirmed until October.

Planning Concerns: Solar and Battery Storage

During the meeting, resident Jess Allen raised concerns about how the town is preparing for new commercial solar siting laws and the absence of zoning bylaws for battery energy storage systems (BESS). Members of the board acknowledged that updates to the bylaws may be necessary to maintain local control before new mandates take effect. One board member noted, “We think we need to change our zoning bylaws,” while another added, “Those batteries are a hot topic.” The board plans to discuss the issue further at its July 8 meeting.

Welcoming New Police Officer: Gabriel Marquez

Chief Kozlowski introduced Officer Gabriel “Gabe” Marquez, who recently graduated from the police academy and is now six weeks into his field training. Marquez, who grew up in Monson and currently lives in Brimfield with his wife, a fellow Monson native, spoke briefly to the board. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve in his hometown. “I’m very honored and lucky to be put into a position where I can maintain that and uphold that very mission statement,” he said, referring to the department’s commitment to community policing. The board welcomed him warmly.

Quaboag Connector Impact Report

Jen Healy of the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation presented an annual report on the Quaboag Connector, highlighting both its usage in Monson and its broader economic impact. In 2024, the service recorded 351 rides originating in Monson and 420 trips coming into town. Riders from Monson logged roughly 5,000 miles, with the average trip lasting 33 minutes and covering 13.6 miles. The service primarily supports seniors and residents with disabilities; 58 percent of riders were over 60, and 27 percent reported having a disability. Notably, 89 percent of rides in Monson were work-related. “Transportation is a social determinant of health,” Healy said. “We don’t turn anybody

away.” She also shared findings from a UMass Donahue Institute study showing that the program has generated \$7 million in wages since 2017, saved \$11 million in health-care costs by enabling timely medical appointments, and led to \$420,000 in personal vehicle cost savings. The return on investment is nearly one-to-one, with every \$1 million invested generating about \$1 million in economic return.

Grant Support and Budget Transfers

The board voted to approve a formal letter of support for a fiscal year 2026 LAND Grant application submitted by the Conservation Commission. The project, aimed at land preservation, had previously received Town Meeting approval in both October 2024 and May 2025. Several end-of-year budget transfers for FY25 were also approved, including \$3,000 from police salaries to ambulance operations, \$1,000 from the gasoline budget to treasurer bank fees, \$500 from police salaries to planning board legal ads, and a symbolic \$1 transfer from the collector printing budget to long-term debt interest.

Correspondence and Event Approvals

The board reviewed several correspondence items and approved upcoming community events. Veterans Field was cleared for use by the Palmer-Monson Family Network for its June 25 Art in the Park program. The Monson Lions Club received approval to host its Summer Concert Series at the gazebo on July 15 and August 19, with rain dates set for July 22 and August 26. A food truck will accompany each event. The board also received a complaint about a dead tree at 3 Stanton Road, which was forwarded to the Tree Warden, and an emergency road repair request for Sunnybrook and Pineview Drives, directed to the Highway Department. Notices were read concerning National Grid’s vegetation management plan and a public hearing on a proposed transmission line, scheduled for June 25 at Palmer High School. Xfinity price increases, including higher charges for Netflix, MGM+, and DVR packages, were also noted.

Community Concerts Return

Two Monson residents, Jenny and her husband Ramo, representing the newly formed concert committee for the Lions Club, spoke about the revival of the gazebo concerts, which had previously been discontinued after the Rotary Club stopped organizing them. She highlighted the enthusiastic community response and expressed a desire to expand the series into September. “It was important to get the concerts going again because they were so well received,” Jenny said. Police Chief Kozlowski also voiced support, suggesting a temporary easing of the two-hour downtown parking limit on concert nights to accommodate attendees.



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Public notices

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:50 PM, Tuesday, July 15, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Request for Determination** whether the area and/or proposed work is subject to jurisdiction of the Palmer wetlands ordinance. The Conservation Commission will also consider a Notice of Intent for activities associated with the proposed construction of an addition to an existing home. The project location is 209 Old Warren Road in Palmer (Assessors Map 26, Parcel 3-3). The work is proposed to occur within the 200-foot Riverfront Area of a mapped stream. The applicant making the request is AJS Engineering on behalf of William O'Toole, Jr. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair
Palmer Conservation Commission

07/03/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

JEEP VIN: 1J4GW48S14C299569 Trevor Russell PO Box 496 West Warren, MA; CHEVROLET VIN: 1G1JC52F357144062 Dennis Daniels 97 Water ST Palmer, MA; JEEP VIN: 1J4FY-19S9WP731775 Jacqueline O'Connor 515 Burncoat ST Worcester, MA; HONDA VIN: JHLRD68404C003381 Jonathan Adorno 18 Lower Hampden RD Monson, MA; JEEP VIN: 1J4G-B39187L102655 Yairalisse Rosario 3117 Main ST Bondsville, MA; FORD VIN: 1FTRX12W-16NA21042 Ian Shaw 10 Draper ST Brookfield, MA; HYUNDAI VIN: 5NPEC4AC0BH080063 Jonathan Paulhus 216 Munn RD Monson, MA. This auction is to take place on July 11, 2025, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069

06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by James H. Loper to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated June 21, 2006 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 16006, Page 511, subsequently assigned to CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns by Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., a Delaware Corporation its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19276, Page 432, subsequently assigned to Green Tree Servicing LLC, its successors and assigns by CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 20245, Page 449, subsequently assigned to New Residential Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns by Ditech Financial LLC F/K/A Green Tree Servicing LLC by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 23128, Page 393, subsequently assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by New Residential Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25437, Page 413 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on July 17, 2025** at 84 Stafford Holland Road, Wales, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land in said Wales, on the northerly side of Stafford Road, bounded and described in two parcels as follows:

PARCEL 1: Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at

an iron pin in the northerly line of said Stafford Road, said iron pin being 167.04 feet southwest-erly of a county bound at station 69 + 96.11 of the 1947 layout of said Stafford Road, and running thence S. 41° 52' 50" W. by the northerly line of said Stafford Road 85 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall at land now or formerly of Julius Aarons and Ida Aarons; thence N. 45° 39' 10" W. along the stone wall by land of said Aarons 210.4 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 51° 06' 10" W., partly along said wall by land of Aarons, 189.53 feet to an iron pin and thence continuing in the same course along land of said Aarons 309 feet, more or less, to the southerly line of a brook; thence Northeasterly by the southerly line of said brook 85 feet, more or less, to land formerly of Henry Bouchard; thence S. 51° 06' 10" E. by said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 309 feet, more or less, to an iron pin and thence continuing in the same course and by said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 189.53 feet to an iron pin; and thence S. 45° 39' 10" E. along said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 210.4 feet to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

PARCEL 2: Beginning at the southwest-erly corner thereof and at the southeasterly corner of land formerly of Rene H. Bouchard, at an iron pin in the northerly line of said Stafford Road, said iron pin being 167.04 feet southwest-erly of a county bound of the said 1947 layout, and running thence N. 41° 52' 50" E. by the northerly line of Stafford Road 15 feet to an iron pin at land formerly of Henry Bouchard; thence N. 45° 39' 10" W. along said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 210.4 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 51° 06' 10" W. along said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 189.53 feet to a point and thence continuing in the same course along said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 309 feet, more or less, to the south-erly line of a brook; thence south-erly by the southerly line of said brook 15 feet, more or less, to land of said Rene H. Bouchard; thence S. 51° 06' 10" E. by said land of Rene H. Bouchard 309 feet, more or less, to an iron pin and thence continuing in the same course along said land of Rene H. Bouchard 189.53 feet to an iron pin; and thence S. 45° 39' 10" E. by said land of Rene H. Bouchard 210.4 feet to the iron pin at the point of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to James H. Loper by Deed of Kenneth S. Longtin, Sr. and Cheryl L. Longtin dated Sep-tember 29, 1999 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10951, Page 360.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions,

encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

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

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

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 24-004738 06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 14, 2025**, at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St. (Thorndike), Palmer MA at **6:40 PM**. Amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Map for a change of zoning districts from the Rural Residential District to the Neighborhood Business District. Two parcels are affected by this zoning amendment, specifically 3090-3092 Palmer Street (Map 29 Lot 1) and 3098 Palmer Street (Map 24 Lot 1). Anyone interested in being heard should appear at the time and place so designated.

Palmer Town Council 07/03/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 14, 2025**, at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St. (Thorndike), Palmer MA at **6:45 PM**. Amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Map for a change of zoning districts from the Town Residential District to the Highway Business District. Two parcels on Park St. are affected by this zoning amendment, specifically Map 55 Lot 143 and Map 55 Lot 145.

Palmer Town Council 07/03/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Matthew A. Tulloch to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns, dated September 16, 2019 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22854, Page 351, subsequently assigned to CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24701, Page 352, subsequently assigned to AL-LIED FIRST BANK, SB DBA SERVBANK by CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25135, Page 168 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on July 10, 2025** at 3039 Pleasant Street, Palmer, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

TWO CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IN BONDSVILLE, PALMER, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS AS FOLLOWS:

PARCEL I: A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATE ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF HIGH STREET IN BONDSVILLE IN SAID PALMER, CONTAINING 24 SQUARE RODS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE AND STONES ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID STREET, BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE LOT CONVEYED; THENCE EAST-ERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES

WITH SAID STREET, SIX (6) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE NORTH-ERLY ON A LINE PARALLEL WITH SAID STREET, FOUR (4) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES, THENCE WEST-ERLY IN LINE PARALLEL WITH SAID FIRST LINE, SIX (6) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES ON LINE OF SAID STREET; THENCE SOUTH-ERLY ON LINE OF SAID STREET, FOUR (4) RODS TO FIRST MENTIONED BOUND. BEING THE SAME PREMISES DESCRIBED IN A DEED FROM LUTHER COLLIS TO JOHN BROWN DATED APRIL 1, 1887 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 433, PAGE 171.

PARCEL II: A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE VIL-LAGE OF BONDSVILLE IN SAID PALMER AND BOUND-ED AND DESCRIBE AS FOL-LOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE AND STONES ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF PLEAS-ANT STREET AT CORNER OF LAND OF SAID PATRICK J. BROWN; THENCE A.P.N #86-57 EASTERLY SIX (6) RODS ON LAND OF SAID BROWN TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE S. 07° 45' W. ON LAND OF SAID BROWN AND LAND OF R. L. BOND, TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN (214) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES ON LAND OF WIL-LIAM TAYLOR; THENCE S. 74° 02' ON LAND OF SAID TAYLOR, ONE HUNDRED TEN (110) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE S. 16° 34' W. ON LAND OF SAID TAYLOR, THIRTY (30) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE S. 74° E. ON LAND OF JOHN CARMODY' S HEIRS, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) FEET TO A PINE TREE; THENCE N. 10° 05' E. ON LAND OF THOMAS CARMODY, FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT (428) FEET TO A STAKE AND STONES ONLINE OF SAID CARMODY, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY (380) FEET SOUTHWEST-ERLY FROM A STONE MONU-MENT ON THE WARE ROAD, MARKING THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN LAND OF HIRAM E. W. CLARK AND ELBRIDGE G. HASTINGS AND LAND OF SAID CAR-MODY; THENCE WESTERLY THROUGH A MAPLE TREE ON LINE OF LAND OF SAID CLARK AND HASTINGS, FIF-TEEN (15) RODS TO A STAKE AND STONES AT LAND OF PETER WOODS; THENCE S. 07° 45' W. NINE (9) RODS AND TWELVE (12) LINKS ON LAND OF SAID WOODS AND LAND OF DAVID FITZ-GERALD TO A STAKE AND STONES; THENCE WEST-ERLY ON LAND OF SAID

FITZGERALD, SIX (6) RODS TO AN IRON PIN IN THE GROUND ON THE EAST-ERLY SIDE OF SAID PLEASANT STREET; THENCE SOUTH-ERLY ON SAID PLEASANT STREET, FIFTY-TWO (52) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BE-GINNING.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE MORTGAGOR HEREIN BY DEED OF MARY C. CHRABSZCZ TO BERECD-ED IN HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HERETO.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

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

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

Servbank SB, f/k/a Allied Bank SB d/b/a Servbank Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 22-009322 06/19, 06/26, 07/03/2025

More legals on page 14

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025.

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Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
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***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

Obituary

Philip Charles Chaffee

Philip Charles Chaffee, 63, of Palmer, MA passed away June 22, 2025, at home surrounded by his family. He was born on December 18, 1961, in Palmer, MA and was raised and lived in Monson, MA for most of his life until he returned to Palmer in 2006. He was the son of Charles H. and Gloria O. (Elsworth) Chaffee.



He went on to become a trainer for the Local rising to President Business Manager. Phil retired in Oct. of 2021.

Phil loved fishing and hunting. He loved to cook and made varieties of specialties including his famous soups, kielbasas, jerkies and sausages.

Besides his parents, Philip was predeceased by his two brothers, Earl and David Chaffee. He is survived by his wife of 42 years of marriage, but together for 50 years, Jamie (LeBlanc) Chaffee, his

two sons Daniel Chaffee and Brian Chaffee (Carrie). He will be missed by his siblings Judith Hinchey (Joe), Marie Stockwell (Ray), Donald Chaffee (Joanne) and his in-laws, Michelle Slozak (Stephen), Cheryl Jacobs (Thomas), Andre LeBlanc (Tammy) Charlene Meacham (Donald) and Yvette McDonald. He will be greatly missed by Judy and Sully Sullivan. His buddy David and his hunting and fishing buddy John Lizak. He will be missed by many. At his request the burial will be private, and a celebration of life will take place at a later date. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Janina A. Pryga

THREE RIVERS—Janina A. Pryga, 85, passed away at her home June 20, 2025. Born in Tarnów, Poland on April 26, 1939, she was the daughter of Jan and Maria (Sajdak) Safianek.



Janina grew up in Poland and moved to Three Rivers in July of 1960 when she married her first husband, Joseph Dzedzic. In 1973 she received her hair dressing license and worked for many years at Tambrands in Three Rivers. Janina was a communicant of Divine Mercy Parish and devoted member

to the Rosary Sodality and Divine Mercy's Polish picnic. Her green thumb was evident with her amazing gardens and her love of travel with her second husband, Wacław Pryga, to Poland and Florida was an enjoyed pastime. Janina's social personality kept her on the phone with many dear friends. Besides her husband, Wacław of Poland, she also leaves behind her nephew, John Dzedzic and his wife Lorraine of Three Rivers along with their family; niece, Jenny Majocha of Hudson, MA,

and her family along with cousin, Janina Stachowicz of Ware and her two sons, Robert and Edward who was also Janina's Godson. Her Goddaughter, Jane (Toczek) McCarrick and dear friend, Donna Czyzewski along with the entire ladies of the Rosary Sodality will also fondly remember her. A visitation will be Saturday, July 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a Mass at Divine Mercy Parish. Burial will follow in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080.

DEATH NOTICES

Philip Charles Chaffee
Died June 22, 2025
Services are private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Janina A. Pryga
Died June 20, 2025
Services July 5, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Public notices

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joshua Labarre to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for PFN Lending Group, Inc., "Lender"; and its successors and assigns dated December 20, 2022 and registered with the Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court, in as Document No. 232,650 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 40100, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated January 5, 2024; registered in Hampden County Registry District of the Land Court, as Document No. 235,630 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 40100, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on July 24, 2025**, on the premises known as **97 Laurel Road, Palmer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:

That certain parcel of land situate in Palmer, in the County of Hampden and said Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Westerly by Laurel Road, one hundred thirteen and 12/100 (113.12) feet;

Northerly by Lot 99 as shown on a plan hereinafter mentioned one hundred eighty (180) feet;

Easterly by Lot 106 as shown on said plan one hundred sixty-one and 03/100 (161.03) feet; and

Southerly by Lot 106 and by Lot 101 both as shown on said plan, a total distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet.

Said land being shown as Lot 100 on said plan.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court to be located as shown upon plan number 30086-I the same being compiled from a plan drawn by Frank A. Meunier, Jr., Surveyor, dated February 9, 1973 and additional data on file with the Land Registration Office, all as modified and approved by the Court, which Plan is filed with Certificate of Title Number 16494.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding

the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and, to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

The purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

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

Dated: 10:40:27
Present holder of said mortgage
NewRez LLC
d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
by its Attorneys
Guaetta and Benson, LLC
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire
P.O. Box 519
Chelmsford, MA 01824
07/03, 07/10, 07/17/2025

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 7:20 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for a septic system repair within Riverfront Area for the property located at 4 King Lane, identified as Assessor's Map 116, Parcel 032. The Applicant is Pamela Lemay.

Monson Conservation Commission
07/03/2025

More legals on page 14

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High School of Commerce holding 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion.

It will take place at the Storrowton Tavern, West Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Janet at jan0826@comcast.net to learn more.

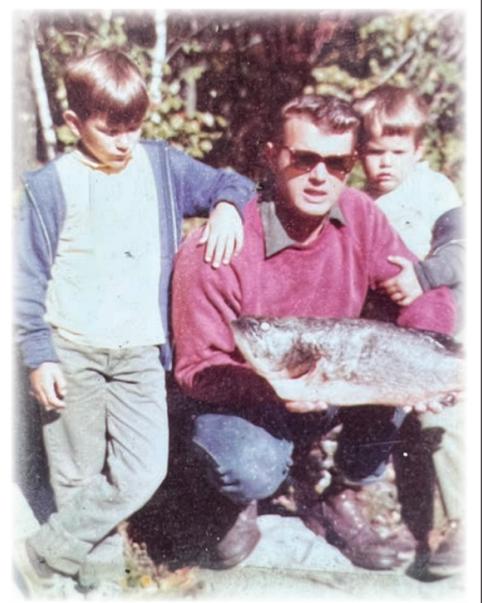
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about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

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FINCOM | from page 1

Detailed transfers reflect careful budget management

The transfers stemmed from a mix of operational surpluses and unforeseen expenses. Gasoline budget lines, in particular, proved a reliable source of surplus due to sustained lower-than-expected fuel prices. Several line items benefited from these excess funds, including legal services, clerical salaries, and even bank fees.

Among the more significant transfers was a \$3,000 shift from the Public Property gasoline account to Legal Services. Robinson explained the move was driven by high-

er-than-anticipated legal costs stemming from union negotiations and personnel issues. "This really is just making sure we have that buffer so that we're not trying to worry about prior year bills come October," she said. The transfer follows a larger \$40,000 adjustment made in May.

Another \$3,000 transfer, from Police Salaries to Ambulance Salaries, was approved to cover overtime costs resulting from forced ambulance shifts amid staffing shortages.

The Planning Board also received a \$500 boost for unanticipated legal advertisement expenses, and the Council on Aging's gasoline budget was augmented by \$1,000 to

account for a vendor change and fuel cost increases. Robinson noted, "They have a new vendor and with that, prices have changed."

A particularly technical correction involved a single-dollar transfer to the Long-Term Debt Interest line to resolve a minor calculation error. Robinson admitted with a laugh, "I looked back at our debt schedule and thought, I don't know how I did that... maybe transposed a number." Committee members responded with lighthearted remarks: "A reluctant second," and, "Banker's nightmare to write a check less than a dollar."

All eight transfers were approved unanimously.

Behind the numbers: Staffing, contracts, and future planning

Several of the transfer discussions prompted questions about staffing and contract obligations. A \$1,000 transfer to cover a clerical salary shortfall in the Building Department related to a comp time payout led to questions about union coverage and compensation policy. Robinson clarified the payout was for time accrued from July through October, which under the union agreement, must now be flexed going forward.

The committee also touched on upcoming labor negotiations. Robinson confirmed she would be repre-

senting the town in FY26 talks with the IBPO (the police union), noting that the Fire Department remains non-unionized and that other groups, including AFMH and contracted employees, are not currently in negotiation. She added that the town accountant would support the process with financial documentation.

When asked about the town's remaining excess levy capacity, Robinson admitted she didn't have the figure immediately available but promised to provide it at a later date.

Looking Ahead: Special Town Meeting Prep in the Fall

The Finance Committee's next meeting was scheduled for Monday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m., where members will elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, review general financial updates, and begin preparations for the fall Special Town Meeting expected in October or November.

Robinson noted she would be out of state from September 15-19, and the selected meeting date avoids conflicts. In her words: "The money's not going anywhere."

The meeting adjourned with a unanimous vote and light-hearted thanks for everyone's patience during a particularly warm evening.

PET PAGE

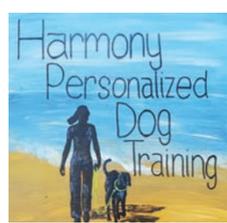


PET OF THE MONTH Meet Ziggy!



He was the Williams' best Christmas present ever. He loves to visit his mom's work friends at Ludlow Family Dentistry, digs holes on the beach and have the zoomies. He's a great vehicle traveler, enjoys stealing socks and swimming. All around love bug too!
Crystal & Dave Williams

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



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Advice To Dog Owners: Beware of Grass Awns!

(Adapted from Dr. Marty Goldstein)

Many dog parents don't realize it but certain grass awns are SUPER dangerous to your dog. And there's a good chance some of these dangerous awns are growing in your neighborhood right now. When you and your dog are out on your next walk keep a close eye out for grass awns. I'm sharing a handy grass identification guide so you can know what to look for and can keep your dog safe from these hazardous plants. Awns are little seeds which grow on certain grasses and they're very common during spring

and summer. In fact, you've probably seen them out and about before and not realized what they are! Grass awns can look like pokey bristles, spikes, barbs or delicate, fuzzy wisps. And even though they might look harmless they are a MAJOR health hazard for your dog. If your dog brushes against them, grass awns can get stuck in their fur or ear which can lead to serious skin irritation or an infection. And if your dog inhales grass awns or accidentally munches on them they can actually embed themselves in your dog's mouth and throat. In some cases, these tiny grass

awns can even travel down to your dog's tummy and other organs which can lead to a major medical emergency. Try to avoid these entirely, but accidents can happen. So, if your dog does come in contact with any of these dangerous grasses or shows signs of a grass-awn injury like gnawing on one specific area, shaking their ears, limping, or having tummy troubles... visit your veterinarian ASAP so they can give your pup the care they need. To be extra safe give your dog a full body check after being outside to make sure grass awns aren't hiding in their coats, ears, or paws.



Cheatgrass has a tall, bushy appearance with reddish-brown, bristle-like seeds.



Foxtail looks like bushy, fluffy clusters — which are actually dangerous, spiky seed pods.



Wild rye grass has long, slender leaves with needle-like seed husks on the top.