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MONSON

Crowds flock to town for America's 250th Anniversary parade



By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Last Saturday, July 4, the town held a massive parade to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the nation’s independence. Despite threats of rainstorms around the weekend, this Independence

Day was a bright and sunny one in town, which was perfect for the procession that made its way down Main Street. Residents from the community and its surrounding towns flocked to the town to sit and stand on the sidewalks and cheer and wave as the parade passed them.

“We are so thankful for all the support we get from the fabulous businesses in our town,” Summerfest said in a social media post. “This type of community involvement is what makes our small non-profit committee willing to put together the an-

PARADE | page 6

Residents of all ages waved to the crowd and flew the American flag on this patriotic holiday.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Uncle Sam wants YOU to enjoy your Fourth of July celebrations.

PALMER

Town Council shares positive evaluation for town manager

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – At the recent Town Council meeting, the council provided an evaluation for the work of the Town Manager. “Each year, we evaluate our Town Manager,” said Council President Barbara Barry, who explained the 1-5 scoring rubric. “We have 11

categories that we rate on. I will give the score of each counselor and then I’ll give the average of everything at the end.” Barry started with the category of Budgetary and Financial Administration, where Brothers scored an average of 3.83. In Personnel Administration, Brothers achieved an average score of 4.17. For Supervision and Leadership, Brothers scored

an average of 3.67, and in Staff Development he scored an average of 3.5. For Public Relations, Brothers was rated 4 by all the counselors, and in Employee and Labor Relations, Brothers achieved an average of 3.67. In Policy Execution, Brothers achieved an average of four, and for Interaction with the Town Council, he achieved an average of 4.5.

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MONSON

Select Board holds regular dept. meeting with police chief

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – The Select Board has started an initiative to meet regularly with department heads, starting with the Police Department. Select Board Chair Pat Oney said, “I would like to start a policy of asking a department head to come into each meeting on a rotating basis and give them an oppor-

tunity to speak to the board and for them to provide updates to our residents.” At the June 23 meeting, Chief of Police Nicholas Gasperini was the first department head to be called in to provide his updates. He asked if he had been selected based on seniority, and Town Manager Jennifer Wolowicz joked that he had been chosen based on “backwards seniority.” “(Oney) had drafted an

email and asked me to send it to the department heads,” Wolowicz said, and then read the email into the record. “I would like department heads to attend Select Board meetings on a rotating basis. This would serve several important purposes, including providing the public with a better understanding of the services each department provides, how those services are delivered, and how cur-

CHIEF | page 13

MONSON

Quaboag Connector reports successful town usage

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – The Quaboag Connector is a transportation service that the town has participated in for some time now, to great success. “I am always thrilled to come to this meeting because Monson is such a wonderful supporter of the Quaboag Connector and has been for many years,” said Jen Healy, Rural Transit Program Manager at Quaboag Valley CDC. At the June 23 meeting, the Select Board met with Healy, who provided a use report for how the program she runs, the Quaboag Connector, has been used in town.

“For anyone who doesn’t know, it’s a community transportation service that operates in 10 towns, including Monson, here in the Quaboag Valley,” Healy explained. “We are a curb-to-curb service, and anybody can ride with us, it is \$2 each way at the most. We have lots of programs if that is a financial barrier.” Healy also added that all veterans ride for free, and there is a ramp or a lift for wheelchair access. To discuss the town’s use of the program, Healy provided data ranging from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026, during which time there were

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MONSON

ZBA approves permit for motorcycle parts shop

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At the June 25 meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a new business was approved to take over a building in town. Application of Nathan Plum, contract purchaser, for special permit pursuant to continue a pre-existing, non-conforming use for the operation of a light manufacturing motorcycle business at Bethany Road. The property is currently owned by Buck Ridge Real Estate, LLC. Plum was represented by John Drost of Fitzgerald Law Offices, who said Plum and his family are hoping to purchase the property with a plan to continue Plum’s current business, a motorcycle parts

manufacturing company. “(Plum) is a resident of Monson,” Drost said. “It’s a very low-impact site, he’s the only employee right now. All his deliveries are done by himself through the post office, he does not have constant trucks coming in and out of the location. The plan is to keep it that way.” Drost said Plum has operated his business for several years and has an interest in expanding, and right now is interested in bringing his business to the town. The property was described as a former cable company until the current owners, under a special permit, operated an electrical contracting business there. “This site, I believe,

ZBA | page 16

LUDLOW

Palmer to share veterans services with Ludlow

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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LUDLOW – The Town of Ludlow is set to enter into an agreement as of July 1 with the Town of Palmer to consolidate veterans services. According to the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting held earlier this week after press time, the Town of Ludlow, through the Board of Selectmen, was asked to approve a contract between Palmer and Ludlow to share a veterans services agent. Palmer and Ludlow are not the first two communities to have a shared veterans services agent, as

Agawam shares its veterans services with multiple communities, including Southwick. The Town of Ludlow will be the primary provider of the Veterans Services for both towns. According to the agreement proposal, services could include: Processing all Chapter 115 benefits for eligible veterans, VA claims and advocacy support, referrals to federal, state, and local resources for veterans, food pantry and

SERVICES | page 10



Christmas in July returns to Silver Bell Farm July 11-12

MONSON—Silver Bell Farm is bringing back Christmas in July on July 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Silver Bell Farm, 305 Silver Street, Monson, Mass. inviting families to celebrate the magic of Christmas in the middle of summer with Santa, wagon rides, holiday treats, food trucks, and festive activities for all ages.

After taking a year off, the popular event returns with two days of festive fun featuring visits and Story Time with Santa, Santa wagon rides, an Elf Scavenger Hunt, cookie decorating, goat meet-and-greets, face painting, barrel

train rides, bounce houses, pedal tractors, indoor and outdoor play areas, and more. With activities for all ages, families can spend the day enjoying Christmas magic in the middle of summer.

Families looking to cool off can visit the North Pole Fire Station water feature, enjoy a Grinch Slushie or Frozen Hot Chocolate, or stop by the farm's ice cream window for a sweet summer treat.

More Information & Santa Wagon Ride Reservations please visit www.silverbellfarm.com/christmas-in-july

Paul Revere & Friends bring Revolutionary Fun to Oak Haven Campground

WALES — Laughter, music, and plenty of audience participation filled Oak Haven Campground on July 3 as families gathered to celebrate America's 250th birthday with a performance by Boston's National Award-Winning Musical Ventriloquist Kevin Driscoll, appearing as Paul Revere & Friends™.

Campers of all ages quickly became part of the show, transforming the morning into an interactive celebration of American history, comedy, and music.

Among the morning's biggest crowd-pleasers were adult campers David and

Paula, who volunteered to become Driscoll's famous HUMAN DUMMIES. Wearing Driscoll's male and female ventriloquist face masks, they joined Driscoll in performing his original song, "No Bully Zone," inspired by the idea that British General Gage was a bully to the Boston colonists.

Driscoll had the audience laughing when he assured everyone that David and Paula did not sing at the same time, joking, "We're not that good."

The celebration took a heartfelt turn when one of Driscoll's puppet characters performed a brief rendition of "Happy, Happy Birthday." The audience then joined together to sing the traditional "Happy Birthday" to young camper T.J., creating one of the morning's most memorable moments.

Children eagerly volunteered throughout the performance, taking turns on stage with tambourines, maracas, and drumsticks while helping provide the musical accompaniment. Many also discovered what it takes to become a ventriloquist by selecting a puppet from Driscoll's well-known big drum case.

Each young volunteer stepped up to the microphone, learned to move the puppet's mouth, and proudly counted, "One, Two, Three," using a brand-new puppet voice. Their enthusiasm earned loud applause from family members and fellow campers alike.

Adding to the Revolutionary spirit, Driscoll reminded the audience that while there is no historical evidence that Paul Revere ever owned a talking dog, "if he did, it probably would have looked and sounded like Doug the Talking Dog."

Driscoll also thanked Oak Haven Campground staff members Becky, Dave, and Sue for their hospitality and for helping create a welcoming atmosphere for the holiday celebration.

As communities across the country commemorate the nation's Semi quicentennial, the July 3 performance at Oak Haven Campground offered a lighthearted reminder that history can be educational, interactive, and fun—especially when the audience becomes part of the show.



Palmer Senior Center

Friday, Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m. with drinks and popcorn

July 10 - "The Wild Bot" – Roz a bot that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island must adapt to the harsh surroundings.

July 17 - "One Life" – The incredible true story of Nickolas "Nicky" Winton, a young London broker who helps rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before Nazi occupation closes the borders on the verge of World War II. Fifty years later Nicky is haunted by the fate of those

he wasn't able to bring to safety

July 24 - "Song Sung Blue" tells the true story of Milwaukee couple Mike and Claire Sardina, who find love, purpose, and second chances by forming Neil Diamond tribute act Lightning & Thunder.

July 31 - "Between the Temples" – A grief-stricken cantor in crisis of faith finds his world turned upside down when his grade school music teacher re-enters his life as his new adult Bat Mitzvah student. The two for-lorn souls develop a special connection in this unorthodox comedy from Nathan Silver.

Monday Evening Programs

4:30 p.m.

July 13 - Rock Painting w/Kim

July 20 - Pour Painting

July 27 - Sunflower Bucket w/Kim cost is \$5

Activities

July 15 - Seashell frames w/Kim cost is Single frame \$3, Double frame \$5. Samples at center

July 20 - *New program Chair Volleyball. Come join the fun! Mondays at 10 a.m.

July 20 - QVCDC/Bay-state Connect Informational - Come learn transportation options for doctor appts. and getting around locally.

July 29 - Fairy Lantern w/lights w/Kim. Cost \$5.

Sample at center.

Upcoming Events

August 1 (Saturday) - Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is \$40 prepaid, no refunds. Includes transportation.

September 11 - Annual Picnic at Pulaski Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Entertainment by The Gemstones, meal by Tony and Penny Catering. Enjoy tasty food, good friends, and great entertainment. Cost \$15 due when you sign up.

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

The classes of '76 fall reunion set for Oct. 17

PALMER—The Palmer High School Reunion Committee invites the 1976 graduates of PHS AND the 1976 graduates of Pathfinder Regional High School to a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 from 5 to 10 p.m. Faculty is also welcome.

Graduates and guests are invited to eat, drink and be reunited in the outdoor venue at Vanished Valley Brewing Co., 782 Center Street, Ludlow. The cost is \$35 per person, includes entertainment – Kingdom of Jones Band – and a BBQ style buffet with cornbread, salad, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n' cheese, rice and beans and coleslaw.

SAVE THE DATE. SPREAD THE WORD. R.S.V.P. and methods of payment information to be provided soon.

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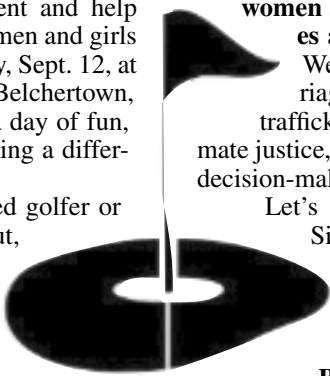
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BELCHERTOWN—Join us for the 32nd Annual Zonta Golf Tournament and help create a brighter future for women and girls in our community. On Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown, we'll tee off at 8:30 a.m. for a day of fun, friendly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

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

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Sign up today at zontaqv.org/golf or contact Mary Knight at 413-323-4806. We also welcome sponsorships from local businesses.

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

QUABOAG | from page 1

737 rides that originated in town, and 559 rides that ended here. Healy focused her analysis of the statistics on the rides originating in town, because those are more likely to be residents.

"Monson is unique in our 10 towns," Healy said. "The typical split of ride purpose for the Quaboag Connector overall is about 50% of rides take people to work, about 20-30% take them to healthcare, and then it trickles down from there, grocery shopping, court, the bank, that kind of thing."

Healy compared this to Monson, where 48% of rides are to take people to work, but the next most popular category is what Healy referred to as "transit connections," which connect passengers to another transit system.

"We might take them to a PVTA stop in Belchertown, or a WRTA stop in the Brookfields on the margins of our service area," Healy said. "For Monson, that's the second most popular category of rides, and then it's healthcare, which is interesting."

The other way Healy said that the town stands out from towns in the Connector's service area is that there's a higher population of rides for people with disabilities than for people over 60.

"Normally, about 40% of our rides are for folks over 60, and about 30% are for folks with disabilities," Healy said. "In Monson, 59% of our rides are for folks with disabilities – and they actually most frequently use the service for that transit connection

purpose, connecting to other transit systems – and then I think about 37% are for folks over 60."

Rides from town were also described as a bit longer and further in distance than average for the Connector, which Healy attributed to the town's location. The most popular destinations for riders from town have been Palmer, Ware, and locations within town.

Select Board Chair Pat Oney said that the program is "some of the best money that we spend."

"To allow our residents to get these very reasonably-priced trips means a lot to them," Oney said.

Select Board Member John Morrell asked how residents arrange a ride.

"We're all appointment-based," Healy said. "Folks will call our dispatch and scheduling staff and set up the appointment. For folks who are going to work, they have a pretty regular schedule, and you can book to and from in one go."

"For healthcare and shopping it's a little bit trickier, but our staff is very much experienced with this," Healy continued. "For normal medical appointments, we usually schedule about an hour. For something that is, maybe it was same day, maybe folks weren't expecting to urgent care, something like that, we usually schedule about an hour and a half, but we hold some timeslots and some sort of leeway in our schedule to make sure we can get that person in a timely manner."

Select Board Member R. Keith Valley asked about the time limit for someone to

book a ride, and Healy said that though the program is flexible, they ask for as much advance notice as possible.

"Sometimes when we have been really at capacity – because the demand ebbs and flows throughout the year – we've asked for 48 hours in advance," Healy said. "That said, if folks call same day or they call 24 hours in advance, we do our best to get them scheduled."

Though slots fill up quickly, Healy described her dispatch staff as "wonderful community members" who go above and beyond to get folks access to what they need.

Healy said that part of why the Connector was created was so that people don't have to stand outside a hospital after having received care.

"You're already vulnerable, you don't want to be waiting around for a ride that's going to take hours to show up," Healy said.

Healy told an anecdote about someone in the community trying to call an Uber home from the hospital in 2017, before the Connector had gotten started, and was told that it would cost \$400 and take 24 hours.

"That's the situation that the Connector is trying to solve," Healy said.

Town Manager Jennifer Wolowicz recommended that Interim Senior Center Director Joanne Castonguay, who was present for the meeting, connect with Healy to help participants who rely on transportation from the Senior Center that have been affected by the new fiscal year's cut to the Senior Center by 10 hours.

Hitchcock's Summer Concert Series rocks the Brimfield Town Common

B R I M F I E L D — The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. July 1 through August 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

After a weeklong hiatus for July's Brimfield Flea Market, The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra returns on July 22. Conducted by Sam Falcetti, the nation's first digital accordion orchestra features about 20 musicians from across New England. Using state-of-the-art Roland digital accordions, the group replicates the sounds of various instruments like flutes, trumpets, and a rhythm section to showcase an impressive range of genres including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country, and Rock. BT's Smokehouse will return on this evening.

July 29 is all about polka with the return of The Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known as "E.F.O.", is a western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audiences since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school, and has

been creating and recreating music ever since, garnering one of the largest polka followings in the New England area. Off The Hook will be the evening's featured food truck.

August 5th brings the Brimfield debut of The Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin' the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStone Road of Connecticut returns on August 12 with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on August 19th with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and «forgotten classics» setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making

them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT's Smokehouse will return to bookend this year's food truck lineup.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

- **July 8:** The Island Castaways; Tropical Rock | Flippin' the Bird BBQ
- **July 15 No concert (Flea Market Parking Fundraiser)**
- **July 22:** NE Digital Accordion Orchestra Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country & Rock | BT's
- **July 29:** Eddie Forman Orchestra Polka Band | Off the Hook
- **Aug. 5:** The Willies 50s, 60s, 70s & more! | Flippin' the Bird BBQ
- **Aug. 12:** CobbleStone Road Country ~ Smashing Patties
- **Aug. 19:** Hard Knox Classic sounds of the 70s, 80s, & 90s | BT's

For more information, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Annual water quality report available

MONSON—The 2025 annual water quality consumer confidence report for Monson are available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

Hard copies are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free Library located at 2 High Street, and

Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street in Monson, Mass.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Why doesn't my Social Security record show all my military earnings?

Dear Rusty:
When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork, which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958.
My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957 and 1958 but doesn't show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn't I have received Social Security credit for all my service years?
Signed: An Older Veteran

Dear Older Veteran:
First, I want to thank you for your military service. Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here's why:
Your monthly Social Security benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime with earlier years adjusted for inflation.
From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, your lifetime "AIME," which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won't affect your Social Security benefit.
FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn't show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn't contribute to SS from your military pay during those years.
The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.
SS does provide older

veterans with "special extra credits for military service," but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served.
It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years.
But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956 and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.
But that doesn't mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.
The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Bad news and good news in this week's garden

My annual flower gardens were just starting to come into their own when I noticed some damage on the leaves.

They looked chomped on from the outer edge going in. Some leaves also had a watery brown residue on them.

Going by date, I knew the culprit already, even before digging around the base of the plant. The Asiatic Garden beetle is hard at work wrecking my plants.

Read on to learn more about this pest.

I've also got some good news. Blueberries and peas are ready for harvest. Yip-pee!

The Asiatic Garden beetle is a bit smaller than the Japanese beetle and is chestnut brown in color. It feeds during the night, so look for chewed foliage in gardens or planter boxes under lampposts, street lights or other outside lights.

Cultivate directly underneath the affected plant during the day and you will likely see the culprits scurry back into the soil. Usually they snuggle up very close to the stems an inch or so below the soil surface.

Sometimes watering at the base of the plant will bring them to the top of the soil where they can be easily collected or squished. This is one pest you don't want to have around - send them swimming in a soapy bath or you may not have any plants left!

In my experience, two plants they particularly love are coleus and calibrachoa. This year they are decimating my blue salvia.
It's pretty amazing that



ing that I really know how to have fun, but to me, this is what summer is made of! I plant my peas the end of April, so typically they ripen almost on cue each year!

I plant three seeds deep a couple of inches apart up against the interior of my garden fence where they naturally climb up with their tendrils attaching to one another and the fence. I loosen up the soil prior to planting, but I never add any fertilizer - maybe just a sprinkling of compost if I am feeling generous.

Since peas are legumes, they "fix" their own nitrogen from the air.

I do soak the seeds in an inoculant prior to planting them, however, to make the fixation happen easily and to reportedly increase yield.

If you are going to try your hand at freezing your "shell" peas, as opposed to sugar snap or snow peas, be sure to pick, shuck and freeze in the same sitting, since peas begin to lose their sweetness within hours of being off the plant.

Like anything else, we take the good with the bad. As long as there is enough good, we won't throw in the towel just yet.

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

I've found dozens a day in an 18-inch planter. If digging around in the soil isn't your style, go out near dusk with a headlamp or flashlight and pick them right off the plant.

Hand picking can significantly cut down on the damage.

One note of good news is that my blueberries are bearing great this year, really it's the first year that I've had a significant harvest since the bushes were given to me over a decade ago. I am pretty certain I owe it all to Organic Grower Supply through Fedco Seeds, (fedcoseeds.com), where I purchased "Blueberry Booster."

I ordered the fertilizer last year and applied 3 pounds per bush in the springtime. Lo and behold it worked.

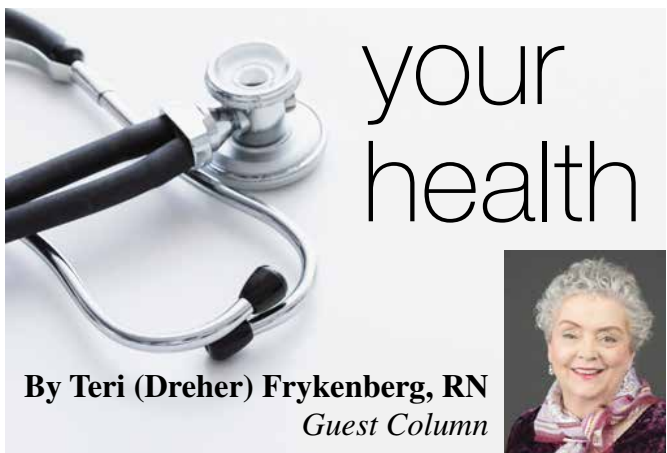
I have enough to do it again this fall since I missed the opportunity this past spring. A blend of Granite Meal, sulfur, Tennessee brown rock phosphate, compost, and Azomite, the mix reduces the soil pH and provides the nutrients necessary for healthy blueberry plants and good fruit.

Fourth of July weekends over the last several years have been spent picking, shucking and freezing peas, and this year is no exception. It's technically a tradition around my house.

Now you may be think-

What is the AQI and why should you care?

July 2025 made history as one of the Earth's five hottest months on record. This July? More of the same.
The stubborn "heat dome" that blanketed a good chunk of the U.S. in June held on to make July 4th miserable for a lot of people. Dealing with the heat is tough enough, especially for children and those over 65, but with the heat come warnings about the AQI, or air quality index.
The AQI was implemented in 1968 by the then-National Air Pollution Control Administration, whose responsibilities are now under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It tracks five major pollutants: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.
In short, it tell us how safe our air is to breathe. And it's an important num-



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN Guest Column

ber to know in your locality. Fortunately, you can look up real-time AQI information for over 500 U.S. cities on airnow.gov, a partnership among the EPA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the National Park Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NASA and others.
You can also find world-

wide data on AQI.in, an open-source AQI tracker developed by a New Delhi-based entrepreneur.
So, it's easy to find the information. The question becomes how you can use it to protect yourself and loved ones from pollution.
First, let's break down the five pollutants and why they can be dangerous, espe-

cially to those with pre-existing health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, bronchitis and heart disease.

- **Ground-level ozone:** The ozone layer up in the atmosphere protects us from most of the sun's radiation. On Earth, though, it's damaging to our lungs. As ozone concentrates and mixes with other pollutants, it becomes known as smog. It is currently one of the least well-controlled pollutants in the U.S. - and also one of the most dangerous, according to the American Lung Association.
- **Particulate matter:** Known as PM, this pollutant refers to microscopic solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, which can include dust, soot and smoke - a

- particular concern during wildfire season. These particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, leading to various health issues.
- **Carbon monoxide:** Known as CO, it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels such as gasoline and coal. It's extremely dangerous because it binds to hemoglobin more readily than oxygen, potentially bringing on oxygen deprivation, which can be fatal. It's especially dangerous to those with heart conditions.
 - **Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide:** These pollutants come primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, particularly in ve-

The Journal Register

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

Please send opinions to: The Journal Register Letter to the Editor 24 Water St. Palmer MA 01069 or by e-mail to: journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.
For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE.

July Vendors

July 15 - How Charming
July 21 - Wicked Good Treats

August Vendors

August 3 - In The AM Floral
August 5 - Heart Arts Crafts
August 6 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 11 - Wicked Good Treats
August 12 - How Charming

September Vendors

September 1 - In The AM Floral
September 8 - Heart Arts Crafts
September 9 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
September 15 - Wicked Good Treats
September 16 - How Charming
September 21 - Geriations & Sew On
September 23 - Crystal Clear Emotions

October Vendors

October 5 - In The AM Floral
October 8 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
October 13 - Heart Arts Crafts
October 14 - How Charming
October 20 - Wicked Good Treats
October 22 - Jewelry For Diane
October 27 - Geriations & Sew On

Wales Public Library Activities

Friday, July 10

Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 13

Trustee Meeting – 11 a.m.

Tuesday, July 14

Caregiver Connection - 10:30 a.m.
Graphic Novel Book Club – 3 p.m.
Friends of the Library - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

Wales Tales Story Time - 12:15 p.m.
Move with Fun and Games- 1:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

Kids Healthy Snack Class – 10 a.m.
Police Officer Story Time – 2 p.m.

Friday, July 17

Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 21

Tween & Teen Terrariums – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

Plushie Sleepover
Wales Tales Story Time - 12:15 p.m.
Move with Fun and Games - 1:15 p.m.

Friday, July 24

Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 27

Rock Painting – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29

Wales Tales Story Time - 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 30

Wildlife on Wheels by Forest Park Zoo – 1 p.m.

Friday, July 31

Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

ONGOING

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

2025-2026 DRAMA & DANCE PROGRAM *Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC.*

Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome! (Drama students must be able to read.)

Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes!

Students must be available for show date in May!

Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time.

Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register!

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

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Mary Farm picnic Aug. 2

PALMER—The Apostolate of the Suffering invites the community to its Annual Mary Farm Picnic on Sunday, August 2, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at Mary Farm, 1915 Ware Street, Palmer.

Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and homemade desserts. Admission is just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, with tickets available at the door.

Be sure to visit Memorial Hall, the beautifully renovated barn, where you'll find raffle baskets and the Mary Farm Gift Shop. Memorial Hall is accessible, and restrooms are available for your convenience.

Proceeds benefit the mission and ministries of the Apostolate of the Suffering at Mary Farm.

Mary Farm looks forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of good food and fellowship.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

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PARADE | from page 1

nual July 4th Celebration and the fireworks each year.”

A pancake breakfast started the morning off at 6:30 a.m., before the parade participants lined up at Chestnut Street between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Then, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Main Street was closed to all traffic during the parade, which began promptly at 10 a.m.

The Parade Grand Marshals were the Historical Society, with the National Anthem performed by Haley Strom immediately after the parade. Craft and food booths were then open until 5 p.m.

Summerfest awarded Ira’s Auto Repair as the Supporting Business of the Year, and the town’s Citizen of the Year, Stephen Slozak, rode in the parade as well.

At Dave Grieve Park, there were three musical performances, by Mack Truck Mary from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Magic Soul Drum Line from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., and then Wonderland Mafia from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

People from all over and of all walks of life came together to celebrate the nation’s anniversary with the town’s parade. It was a great event for residents, seniors, town officials, families with kids, teens with their friends, and all kinds of groups and organizations who wanted to attend the patriotic celebration.



Caitlin Joyce and Elsie, 3, wore matching dresses as they walked past the First Church to get to the parade.



Dan Rittlinger announced the parade from a podium.



Sunny returns as a beloved mascot for Monson SummerFest.



With Melody, age two, on his shoulders, Derek and Kate Allen were looking forward to the hot dogs.



Matt and Matt Doyle, Bobby Flynn, and Charlie, age four, enjoyed the town’s celebrations on Saturday.



Fire Engine #4 broke its long retirement to participate in the historic parade.



A float with people in Revolutionary era costumes waved to the crowd as it passed.



A member of the fire department gave a thumbs up to the camera as he rode in the parade.



For information on the Cultural Picnic on Sept. 5, go to Afrikque.com.



The Girl Scouts carried a flag and threw candy to the crowd on their way down the street.



Citizen of the Year Stephen Slozak waved from the back of a hot red convertible.



The Connecticut Valley Field Music drum and fife band marched down the hill.



Live music was played from one of the floats that participated in the parade.



Residents rode along in bikes and quads as part of the celebratory parade.



Palmer Cowboys Youth Football and Cheer Association marched past Adams Market.



The United Church of Christ carried a banner urging people to love their neighbor with no exceptions.



A classic truck rolled past town hall at the back of the parade.



Cub Scout Pack #168 rode in a truck with a decorated loader.



An antique truck impressed the crowd as it passed Dunkin' Donuts.

MANAGER | from page 1

For Intergovernmental, all the counselors rated him four, and for Effectiveness and Productivity, Brothers averaged 3.83.

Another category was Goal Performance Attainment, where Brothers was awarded an average of 3.83.

Barry read the counselors' respective averages for Brothers's performance. Her average score for him was 3.82, while Council Vice President Jessica Ferry and Matthew Lemieux each rat-

ed him an average of 3.55. Phil Hebert and Pelletier gave Brothers an average of four, and Karl Williams gave him an average of five.

The council's rating of Brothers's performance for the last year averaged out to 3.83.

Barry then read Brothers's average score by counselor, which brought up slightly different numbers. Barry rated him 3.82, Ferry and Lemieux rated him 3.55, Hebert and Pelletier rated him four, and Williams rated him 4.55. This brings his average to 3.91.

"This is a very good review," Barry told Brothers in the meeting. "I think you're doing an excellent job for the town, you have moved forward so many things in your short time here."

"You've picked up where things were dropped in the past," Lemieux added.

Barry expressed hope that in the next fiscal year, Brothers will be able to move forward some of his goals, as opposed to picking up the pieces from previous years.

"I think it's important to know and acknowledge the fact that you are doing an ex-

cellent job," Barry said.

Hebert had criticisms of the way that Town Manager evaluations are done.

"Years ago, I remember saying that we were going to change it," Hebert said. "Like, the goals, how to tie them to that is impossible to do."

Lemieux added that it's difficult to supply scores because every counselor could be responding based on different interpretations of the scoring.

"(A score of) three is 'you're doing your job,' for me," Lemieux said. "If you're doing good at your job,

you're doing your job, then it should be a three, and then if you go above and beyond, it should be more than that, but not everybody might think that way."

Barry agreed that the scoring system is subjective based on the expectations of the counselors, but added that "there's nothing wrong with a three."

"As far as the evaluation in general, we have talked about that, (Hebert) is correct, for years," Barry said. "It's easier said than done. There are so many different tools out there, but a lot of them

are numbers-based, usually, which does skew things."

Barry said that it's important for each counselor to sit with the Town Manager and discuss each of the different categories in detail.

"If anyone wants to volunteer to head up a Performance Evaluation Committee to get a new tool, we've got a year to do it," Barry said.

Following the council accepting the evaluation, Barry made a motion for a merit increase of up to 2% for Brothers's contract, which passed unanimously.



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Golfers encouraged to register soon for Second Chance Golf Tournament

Online auction open, offering everyone a chance to support pets in need

EAST BROOK-FIELD—With just weeks remaining before the 14th Annual Second Chance Charity Golf Tournament, Second Chance Animal Services is encouraging golfers to reserve their spots for the July 13 event at Cold Spring Country Club in Belcher-town.

The annual event brings together golfers, businesses, and animal lovers to support Second Chance Animal Services' Community Veterinary Hospitals, which provide affordable veterinary care to pets and families throughout the region.

"We're looking forward to another great day on the course while raising funds to help pets get the care they need," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer at Second Chance Animal Services. "Whether you join

us as a golfer, sponsor, auction bidder, or donor, every participant helps make veterinary care more accessible for families and their pets."

The tournament features a scramble format with contests, prizes, tastings, raffles, lunch, dinner, and more. Golfers will also have the opportunity to compete in a hole-in-one challenge sponsored by Teddy Bear Pools & Spas.

Those who don't golf can still be part of the event through the tournament's on-line auction. Bidding opens July 2 and continues through the close of the tournament on July 13. Supporters can preview auction items now, with new items being added daily. The auction will feature a variety of experiences, gift packages, and unique items donated by local businesses and supporters.

Second Chance is also seeking additional sponsors and raffle or auction donations. Sponsorship opportunities provide businesses with valuable visibility while supporting programs that help pets remain healthy and in their homes.

The event is presented with support from Tito's Handmade Vodka, Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, the Springfield Republican, and Herlihy Insurance Group.

Individual golfers and foursomes are welcome, but space is limited. Register soon to secure your spot on the course.

To register, become a sponsor, donate an auction or raffle item, or preview the online auction, visit: www.secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/.

HEALTH from page 4

hicles, power plants and industrial facilities. They pose serious health risks, including respiratory problems, and contribute to environmental issues like acid rain.

All of these are factored into the AQI, which can tell you when it's safest to be outdoors, and when it's not. The AQI is a numerical scale that is color coded. An AQI 50 or under is considered good (green); 51-100 (yellow) is moderate; 101-150 (orange) is unhealthy, especially for sensitive groups; and anything from 151 to 300 or more (red) is extremely hazardous to the general population.

Summer is typically when the AQI is more concerning. Air pollution is often made worse by intense heat and stagnant air, especially in populated areas. Drought conditions can bring on wildfires. If you

recall, smoke from last summer's wildfires in Canada had a huge impact on U.S. states.

Here are a few tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safer this summer from the pollutants measured by the AQI.

Check the AQI before venturing out: It's front and center on most weather apps.

Go outdoors for yard-work or exercise in the morning: The AQI generally gets worse as the day heats up, and it's also unfavorable in the evening due to accumulated pollutants and reduced wind speeds.

Be prepared: If you or someone in the family has asthma, carry a rescue inhaler. N95 masks, which we learned to wear during the pandemic, can also help limit the amount of particulate matter you may inhale.

Pay attention to indoor air quality: Use air purifi-

ers with HEPA filters, for example. Dust and vacuum to control particulate matter. Frequently change filters in furnaces and air handlers. Control moisture to avoid mold.

The AQI is more than a number. It's a guide to a healthier summer.

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

Public safety

Monson Police Logs

During the week of June 29- July 5, the Monson Police Department responded to 11 miscellaneous calls, 41 administrative calls, 13 property checks, 11 traffic assignments, five traffic violations, two disturbances, two motor vehicle accidents, five safety hazards, nine investigations, three assist other agencies, 30 police vehicle checks, 10 animal calls, 17 motor vehicle stops, 10 directed patrols, 21 details/overtimes, 46 phone calls and two general info calls.		3:14 p.m. Animal/Injured/Hunted	7:32 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted
		4:07 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted	
		4:30 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up	
			Saturday, July 4
			7:59 a.m. Animal Complaint
			10:11 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
			1:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash - No Injuries
			1:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
			2:12 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary
			3:36 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance
			3:57 p.m. Missing/Run-away/Found Person
			4:32 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
			4:40 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
			5:00 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
			5:32 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up
			Sunday, July 5
			12:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
			Arrest: John M Thibault, 61, Vernon, Connecticut
			Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; OUI-Liquor or .08%, 8 th Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Number Plate Violation; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of; Drug, Possess Class E
			6:25 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
			8:22 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted
			10:37 a.m. Medical Emergency
			12:19 p.m. Medical Emergency
			6:50 p.m. Animal Complaint
			7:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
			</

Monson Fire Logs

MONSON—The Fire Department for the week of June 29, 2026 through July 5, 2026. The department responded to 30 EMS calls and 6 Fire calls.

On Monday, June 29 at 5:46 p.m. the department responded to the area of Moulton Hill Road Extension for the lost hiker. The department returned to service at 6:32 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 30 at 8:20 a.m. the department responded to 207 Moulton Hill Road for the missing person. The department returned to service at 11:00pm.

On Wednesday, July 1 at 7 a.m. the department responded to 207 Moulton Hill Road for the missing person. The department returned to service at 2:00pm.

On Thursday, July 2 at 11:51 a.m. the department responded to 9 Green Street for the utility pole on the house. The department returned to service at 12:09 p.m.

On Sunday, July 5 at 11:22 a.m. the department responded to 3 McCray Circle for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 11:38 a.m.

On Sunday, July 5 at 12:21 p.m. the department responded to 11 Fountain Street for the lift assist. The department returned to service at 12:40 p.m.



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BASEBALL

Post 241 walks off against Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Had Monson Post 241 shortstop Matt Santos come up with the game-winning hit against Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 at historic Legion Field, it probably wouldn't have meant as much to him as doing it a couple miles away at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two Senior Legion teams was still scoreless, entering the bottom of the seventh. With two outs and the bases loaded, Santos turned on a fastball and ripped it past the third baseman into left field, giving Monson a thrilling 1-0 walk-off victory last Wednesday night.

"The pitcher threw me a fastball. I knew I needed to get a base hit and win the game," Santos said. "It's just a great feeling. This is also the first time that I've ever won a game on this field."

Santos, who recently received his high school diploma, was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Palmer High School. He was the 2026 recipient of the Karl Oliveira Memorial Tri-County Baseball Scholarship Award.

Oliveira, who passed away in 2021, spent many summers playing baseball at St. Joe's Ballpark for the St. Joseph's Saints in the prestigious Tri-County Baseball League.

"Matt is a great kid and he's the perfect candidate to receive this year's scholarship award," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "Karl and I were teammates on the varsity baseball team at Palmer High School. This field was his shrine. Karl probably played 1,000 games here and this is a very memorable night."

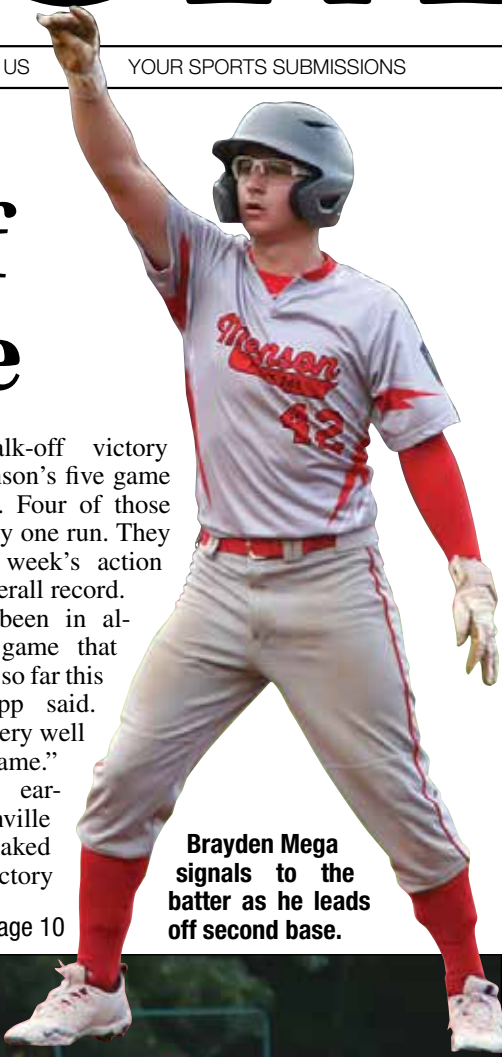
The Monson Legion baseball team normally plays their home games at Legion Field, but they were forced to move last Wednesday game to St. Joe's Park due to a scheduling conflict.

The walk-off victory snapped Monson's five game losing streak. Four of those losses were by one run. They entered this week's action with a 3-7 overall record.

"We've been in almost every game that we've played so far this season," Tripp said. "We played very well in tonight's game."

A week earlier, Aldenville (2-8-1) squeaked out a 1-0 victory

POST 241 | page 10



Brayden Mega signals to the batter as he leads off second base.



Josiel Ortiz pitches for Post 241.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

SOCCER

Pioneers, Black Rock battle to 1-1 draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just when it appeared that the Western Mass. Pioneers were set to close out a 1-0 shutout victory against Black Rock FC, a late lapse gave the visitors from Nashua, New Hampshire an opportunity to score the tying goal.

Black Rock FC converted a corner kick goal during the seventh minute of stoppage time and last Friday night's USL League 2 match-up held at Lusitano Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

The result all but ended the Pioneers' postseason hopes, eliminating them from the USL League Two playoffs for the

PIONEERS | page 10



Riley Priddy dribbles up the field.



Santiago Blasco Gomez tries to keep the ball from going out.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Bankers in control following Fourth of July holiday



Brian Hungerford tries to keep a throw from getting to the outfield.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank is in control of the Tri-County Baseball League once again, as the longtime playoff champions and multi-time regular season champions stand at an impressive 11-1-1 so far this season. The Bankers have 23 points for the league lead with their main rivals, St. Joseph's, tugging behind with 22 points. Teddy Bear Pools holds third place at 17 points, while Turners Falls, the Spartans, and BankESB round out the standings, all with less than 10 points. Last Monday, PeoplesBank played their only tie of the season as they battled to a 2-2 draw with the Spartans. The game was called due to darkness at South Hadley High School. Action resumed earlier this week with games scheduled on Wednesday, July 8.

MORE BANKERS PHOTOS | page 11



Jackson LaValley winds and fires for PeoplesBank.

Relics host tournament to honor John DaSilva



The four teams involved in the Silva Memorial Tournament.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LUDLOW – On Saturday, June 20, the Western Mass Relics, a longtime softball league for senior citizens, held their John DaSilva Tournament.

DaSilva, recently passed away, and was a huge member of the league. Members of the league had a lot of positive things to say about DaSilva.

DaSilva joined the Relics after retiring from the U.S. Air Force having served 33 years, with 29 years of active duty. The day he signed up, they were in need of coaches, and he was talked into coaching. DaSilva was a coach every year he played in the league. He coached and played on the

Diamond Dawgs.

For the league, he served as the registrar, treasurer, and chairman of the Silver Division and also was responsible for field maintenance. When he wasn't at home he could be found at the field.

DaSilva was, by nature, a fixer and a problem solver

with many members. He settled many disputes. He ran the draft for picking teams in both divisions and created maintained many databases.

He, along with Pat Lombardo brought back the league's yearly picnic and the annual Christmas party. There were many donations made

for the picnic, which was a huge success with attendance and financially profitable to the Relics.

The tournament consisted of four teams looking to honor DaSilva's contributions to the league.

MORE RELICS PHOTOS | page 11



Joe Perla sends a pitch away.

T-Birds bring in Tynan for 2026-27 season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that the club has signed forward T.J. Tynan to a one-year AHL contract for the 2026-27 season.

Tynan, 34, skated in 67 games last season with the Colorado Eagles, posting 50 points (3g, 47a). He added an-

other 14 points (2g, 12a) in 17 Calder Cup Playoff games as the Eagles advanced to Game 7 of the Western Conference Finals.

A veteran of 760 regular-season AHL games, Tynan ranks seventh in league history with 579 career assists to go along with 113 goals.

The Orland Park, Ill. native and Notre Dame alumnus has eclipsed the 40-point mark 11 times in his standout career. He has also recorded 51 points (9g, 42a) in 85 career Calder Cup Playoff games, including trips to the Calder Cup Finals in 2016 and 2019.

A two-time recipient of

the Les Cunningham Award as AHL MVP, Tynan posted a career-high 98 points in 2021-22 with the Ontario Reign, highlighted by 84 assists, tied for the third-most in a single season in AHL history. He has led the AHL in assists four times during his career and enters the 2026-27

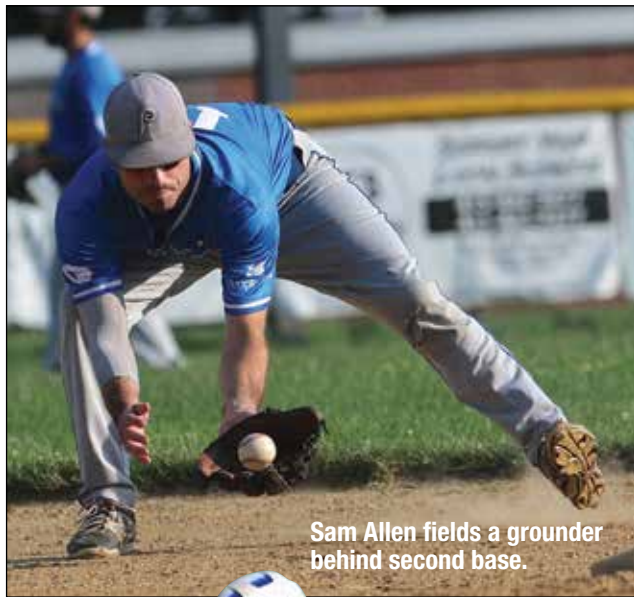
season just eight points shy of 700 for his career, a milestone reached by only 26 players in league history.

Tynan's professional journey began in Springfield with the Falcons organization in 2014. A third-round pick by the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2011, Tynan appeared

in the first 78 AHL games of his career in the City of Firsts, recording 13 goals and 35 assists during the 2014-15 season. He later captured a Calder Cup championship with the Lake Erie Monsters in 2015-16.

BANKERS | from page 9

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pete Hogan fires down to second to try and catch a base stealer.



Sam Allen fields a grounder behind second base.



Rey Rivera fakes a throw after making a play.



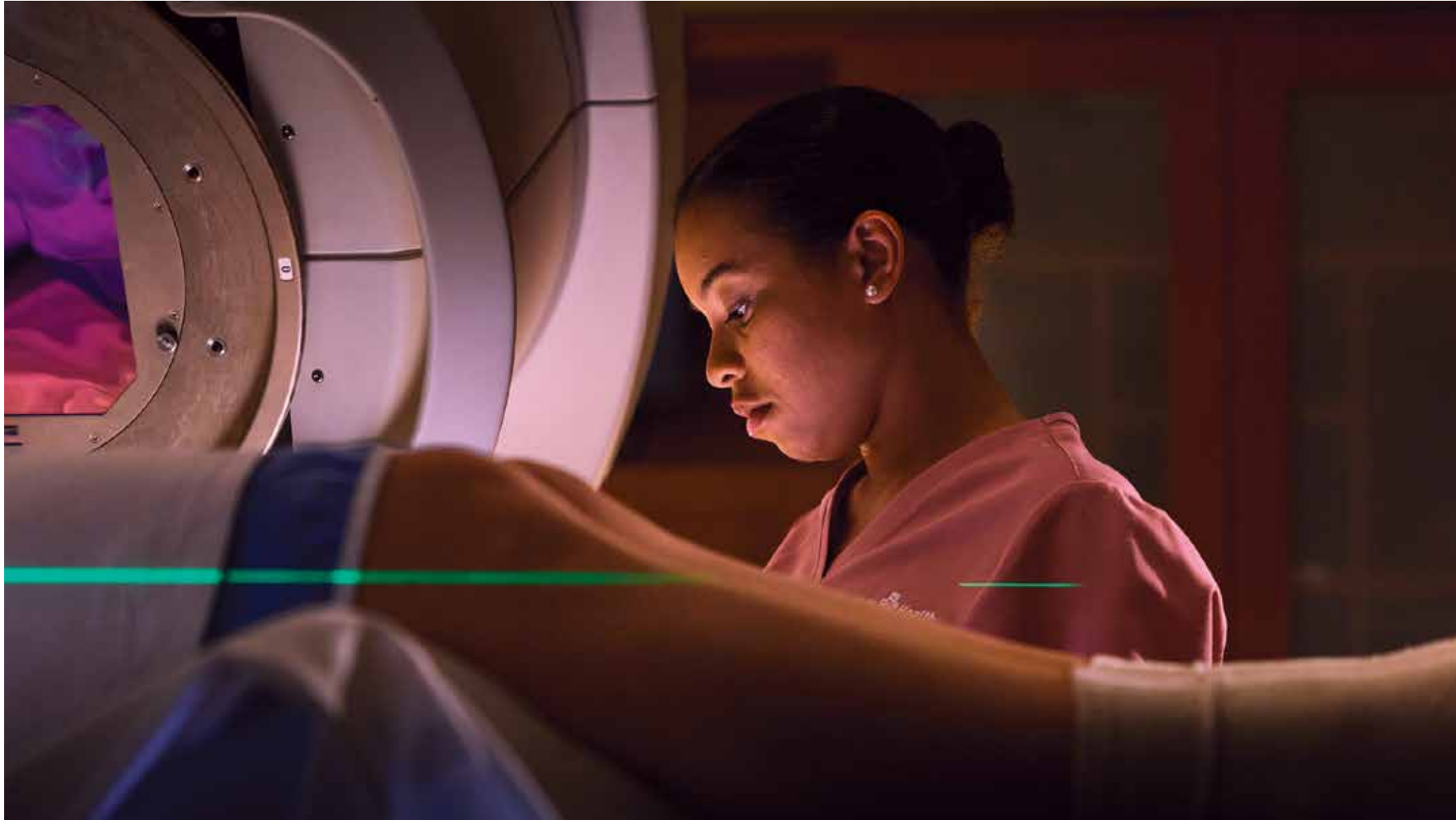
**Cam Rivest,
of Agawam,
swings and
connects.**

RELICS | from page 9

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Former players of the Western Mass. Relics softball league Don Holcumb and Ralph Becker.



The field house near the Relics softball fields.



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Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the weeks of June 21-July 4, the Palmer Police Department responded to 131 building checks, 85 motor vehicle stops, nine motor vehicle violations, 157 informational calls, five motor vehicle releases, 29 assists to other agencies, 54 medical emergencies, 29 well being checks, 27 animal complaints, 55 calls for officers wanted, 18 calls for general services, 33 alarms, nine tests. 21 silent/accidental/hang-up 911 calls, eight transports and eight out of jurisdiction calls.

Sunday, June 21
12:55 a.m. Medical Emergency, Central Street
3:04 a.m. Medical Emergency, Chestnut Street
7:43 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Boston Road
8:18 a.m. Animal Complaint, St. John Street
8:43 a.m. Fire Mutual Aid, Stony Hill Road
9:46 a.m. Medical Emergency, Emery Street
12:21 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Sykes Street
2:00 p.m. Animal Complaint, Upper Palmer Road
3:26 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Allen Street
4:15 p.m. 911 Silent, Main Street
7:47 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street

Monday, June 22
2:13 a.m. Medical Emergency, Geraldine Street
7:47 a.m. Medical Emergency, Ware Street
7:55 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Wilbraham Street
9:26 a.m. Investigation, North Main Street
9:57 a.m. Medical Alarm, Gates Street
10:12 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Palmer Road
10:44 a.m. Investigation, North Main Street
10:49 a.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
1:36 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Wright Street
2:33 p.m. Investigation, Beacon Drive
2:40 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Sykes Street
2:44 p.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
2:50 p.m. Suspicious Person, Shearer Street
3:59 p.m. Animal Complaint, Vicardav Ave
4:19 p.m. Suspicious Person, High Street
4:28 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
8:45 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Springfield Street

Tuesday, June 23
1:48 a.m. Medical Emergency, Squier Street
9:26 a.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
9:52 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Boston Road
10:48 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Sykes Street
11:36 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Pine Street
12:25 p.m. Missing/Run-away, High Street
12:35 p.m. Investigation, Grove
1:06 p.m. Theft, South Main Street
2:30 p.m. 911 Silent, Park Street
2:47 p.m. Investigation, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
4:21 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street
4:38 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street
5:00 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Park Street
5:03 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street
6:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hillside Drive
6:39 p.m. 911 Accidental, Breckenridge Street
6:55 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Thorndike Street
7:08 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street
8:21 p.m. Alarm Burglar/

Hold-Up/Panic, Springfield Street
10:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Gay Street

Wednesday, June 24
3:13 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Four Corners
7:57 a.m. Medical Emergency, Fenton Street
8:40 a.m. Animal Complaint, High Street
9:22 a.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
9:24 a.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
9:26 a.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
10:32 a.m. Animal Complaint, Bennett Street
11:06 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street
11:43 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Wright Street
12:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shearer Street and Thorndike Street
12:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street
1:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
1:25 p.m. Disturbance, Wright Street
2:15 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Lariviere Street
2:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
4:07 p.m. Medical Emergency, Fenton Street
4:54 p.m. Fraud, Main Street
5:24 p.m. Hazard, Thorndike Street and Ware Street
5:42 p.m. 911 Silent, Palmer Recycling Corp, Fenton Street
7:05 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Spring Street
7:10 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Ford Street
7:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
10:00 p.m. Medical Emergency, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
10:34 p.m. Investigation, Knox Street
11:12 p.m. Animal Complaint, North Main Street

Thursday, June 25
1:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Main Street and Roosevelt Street
Arrest: Dakota Q. Herbert, 29, Ludlow
OUI- Liquor or .08%; Drug, Possess Class B; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle
6:52 a.m. Disturbance, South Main Street
6:57 a.m. Missing/Run-away, Wright Street and North Main Street
Arrest: Quinn A. Smith, 20, Ludlow
Trespass Railroad; Disorderly Conduct; Resist Arrest
7:46 a.m. Animal Complaint, High Street
8:56 a.m. Investigation, Wright Street
8:58 a.m. Noise Complaint, Main Sstreet
9:26 a.m. Suspicious Person, Mt. Dumplin Road
9:38 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
11:18 a.m., 911 Accidental, Sykes Street
11:56 a.m. Hazard Road Condition, Main Street and Sykes Street
12:28 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Off Bourne Street
1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, High Street and Ware
2:06 p.m. Disturbance, North Main Street and Wilbraham Street
2:11 p.m. 911 Accidental, Wright Street
2:15 p.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, Main Street
3:44 p.m. Illegal Dumping, High Street
3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, West Ware Street
4:56 p.m. Animal Complaint, Bondsville
7:24 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Oakland Street
8:15 p.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
8:39 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
8:41 p.m. Alarm Medical, Squier Street

9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Knox Street and Foster Street
Arrest: Michael J. Lawson, 50, Bondsville
Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B; Drug, Distribute Class A: Resist Arrest: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
9:56 p.m. Medical Emergency, Palmer Road
11:30 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street

Friday, June 26
12:50 a.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
1:18 a.m. Investigation, Temple Street
11:29 a.m. Medical Emergency, State Street
1:19 p.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
1:36 p.m. 911 Misuse, Skura Lane
1:57 p.m. Medical Emergency, Church Street
3:23 p.m. Fraud, North Main Street
3:26 p.m. 911 Hang Up, North Main Street
5:35 p.m. Hazard Road Condition, Wilbraham Street
7:07 p.m. Unwanted Person, Orchard Street
8:01 p.m. Suspicious Person, Thorndike Street
8:45 p.m. Medical Emergency, Rockview Street
8:46 p.m. Assault and Battery, North Main Street
8:54 p.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
9:00 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street

Saturday, June 27
12:44 a.m. Suspicious Person, North Main Street
1:13 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, North Main Street
3:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Ware Street
4:10 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, French Drive
5:35 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Springfield Street
8:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Ware Street
10:50 a.m. Assault and Battery, Sykes Street
12:01 p.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
12:46 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
1:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, State Street
1:27 p.m. Vandalism, Main Street
3:29 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Wright Street
3:45 p.m. Medical Emergency, Cabot Street
3:51 p.m. 911 Silent, Bacon Road
4:29 p.m. Illegal Dumping, High Street
5:11 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street
6:47 p.m. Medical Emergency, Ware Street
7:08 p.m. Medical Emergency, Lawrence Street
7:21 p.m. 911 Silent, Commercial Street

Sunday, June 28
1:46 a.m. 911 Misuse, Park Street
3:55 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Squier Street
3:55 a.m. Vandalism, Squier Street
4:09 a.m. Disturbance, Main Street
8:04 a.m. Civil Complaint, Belchertown Street
8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Emery Street
9:40 a.m. Animal Complaint, Temple Street
10:23 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
10:48 a.m. Hazard Road Condition, Park Street and Thorndike Street
11:04 a.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Main Street
11:30 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Emery Street
11:34 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Katie Lane
11:37 a.m. Vandalism, High Street
1:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, South Street
1:08 p.m. 911 Accidental, West Ware Street
1:21 p.m. Investigation,

Main Street
1:45 p.m. Animal Complaint, Stimson Street
1:47 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
2:03 p.m. Investigation, Palmer Road
2:27 p.m. Suspicious, Breckenridge Street
2:49 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
2:52 p.m. Investigation, Temple Street
2:52 p.m. Fire Mutual Aid, Sunnydale Circle
3:44 p.m. 911 Silent, Boston Road
4:48 p.m. Animal Complaint, Temple Street
5:53 p.m. Fire/Smoke, Geraldine Street

Monday, June 29
4:17 a.m. Medical Emergency, Breckenridge Street
5:31 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Third Street
8:21 a.m. Civil Complaint, Cabot Street
11:08 a.m. 911 Hang Up, Wright Street
11:18 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lawrence Street
Arrest: Scott D. Majka, 40, Thorndike
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Inspection/Sticker, No; Drug, Possess Class B
11:48 a.m. Hazard Other, Mt. Dumplin Road
1:06 p.m. Hazard Road Condition, High Street
1:19 p.m. Civil Complaint, Beacon Drive
1:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Central Street
2:49 p.m. 911 Accidental, Sykes Street
3:19 p.m. 911 Hang Up, Bennett Street
3:31 p.m. Hazard Other, Wilbraham Street
3:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, Vicardav Avenue
4:33 p.m. Animal Complaint, Thorndike Street
6:15 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
7:03 p.m. Theft, Ware Street
7:14 p.m. Animal Complaint, Main Street
10:31 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Ware Street

Tuesday, June 30
12:53 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, South Main Street
6:10 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Mt. Dumplin Road
6:53 a.m. Investigation, Geraldine Street
6:56 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street
7:05 a.m. Investigation, Breckenridge Street
8:07 a.m. Animal Complaint, Boston Road
8:23 a.m. Animal Complaint, Ruggles Street
8:29 a.m. Medical Emergency, Mass Turnpike Westbound Mile Marker 60
8:57 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street
9:28 a.m. Medical Alarm, State Street
9:51 a.m. Hazard Road Condition, Thorndike Street
10:30 a.m. Hazard Other, Jim Ash Street
11:15 a.m. Missing/Run-away, Gates Street
11:31 a.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
11:54 a.m. Medical Emergency, Lathorp Street
12:07 p.m. Unwanted Person, Belchertown Street
1:07 p.m. Fraud, Main Street
2:06 p.m. Animal Complaint, Monsoon
2:07 p.m. 911 Accidental, Cleveland Street

2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
3:01 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
3:22 p.m. Brush Fire, Mass Turnpike Westbound Mile Marker 67
2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Fire, Mass Turnpike Westbound Mile Marker 64.6
4:34 p.m. Civil Complaint, State Street
4:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Springfield Street
4:51 p.m. Medical Emergency, Park Street
5:05 p.m. Missing/Run-away, Stimson Street
5:45 p.m. Vandalism, Pine Street
7:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
7:39 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Thorndike Street
8:35 p.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
9:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, Fenton Street

Wednesday, July 1
2:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Street
Arrest: Juan DeJesus-Bido, 52, Ware
Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; OUI Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Speeding Rate of Speed Greater Than was Reasonable and Proper
4:08 a.m. Medical Emergency, South Street
8:46 a.m. 911 Accidental, Depot Street
8:52 a.m. Animal Complaint, Wales Road
10:05 a.m. Animal Complaint, High Street
10:28 a.m. Hazard Other, Thorndike Street
12:01 p.m. Animal Complaint, Stafford Hollow Road
12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Beacon Drive
Arrest: Randy R. Sheldon, 65, Palmer
Drug, Possess Class B; OUI Drugs; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Leave Scene of Personal Injury
12:58 p.m. Medical Emergency, Wright Street
1:15 p.m. Investigation, Wright Street
1:30 p.m. Animal Complaint, Stafford Hollow Road
1:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Springfield Street
1:50 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street
1:53 p.m. Missing/Run-away, North Main Street
2:03 p.m. Fire – Gas Leak/Odor, Springfield Street
3:02 p.m. Investigation, Wright Street
4:13 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Main Street
4:23 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer Road
6:41 p.m. 911 Silent, Bennett Street
7:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, Old Warren Road
11:31 p.m. Suspicious Person, Fairview Street

Thursday, July 2
12:20 a.m. Medical Alarm, Anderson Street
12:23 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Boston Road
1:14 a.m. 911 Silent, High Street
4:12 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Robinson Street and Boston Road
5:27 a.m. Animal Complaint, Robinson Street
7:21 a.m. 911 Hang Up, Wright Street
7:42 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Springfield Street
7:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street
8:28 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Davis Auto, Wilbraham Street
9:11 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Ware Street
10:24 a.m. 911 Accidental, Wright Street

10:56 a.m. Theft, Wilbraham Street
1:33 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Wright Street
1:34 p.m. 911 Accidental, Cabot Street
2:18 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer Road
3:04 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer Road
5:12 p.m. Hazard Road Condition, River Street
5:30 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Main Street
6:23 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street
7:36 p.m. 911 Silent, Thorndike Street
8:07 p.m. Trespass Complaint, Main Street
9:15 p.m. Fraud, Thorndike Street
10:27 p.m. Medical Emergency, Ware Street
10:56 p.m. Medical Emergency, Strong Street

Friday, July 3
1:11 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, North Main Street
1:48 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
1:58 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Thorndike Street
4:28 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Beauregard Drive
5:25 a.m. Animal Complaint, Flynt Street
5:23 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Blanchard Street
9:17 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Central Street
10:13 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Park Street
10:14 a.m. Investigation, Breckenridge Street
10:29 a.m. Noise Complaint, West Ware Street
10:43 a.m. 911 Accidental, Sykes Street
10:52 a.m. Theft, Sykes Street
11:18 a.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street
11:29 a.m. Animal Complaint, Main Street
1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street
2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
2:13 p.m. Hazard Road Condition, Thorndike Street
2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, River Street
2:20 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street
3:32 p.m. Medical Alarm, Spring Street
4:40 p.m. Medical Emergency, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
4:59 p.m. Theft, Breckenridge Street
7:05 p.m. Assault, Thorndike Street
7:39 p.m. 911 Silent, Main Street
10:50 p.m. Animal Complaint, Thorndike Street

Saturday, July 4
6:50 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Beacon Drive
2:24 p.m. Medical Emergency, Overlook Drive
4:07 p.m. Medical Emergency, Park Street
5:07 p.m. Medical Emergency, Fenton Street
5:13 p.m. 911 Abandoned, River Street
5:54 p.m. Medical Emergency, Dublin Street
6:58 p.m. Fire Mutual Aid, Boston Road
7:17 p.m. Animal Complaint, North Main Street
7:44 p.m. 911 Accidental, Wright Street
8:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
8:34 p.m. Firework Complaint, Ford Street and Central Street
9:20 p.m. Disturbance, Church Street
9:43 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street
11:07 p.m. Firework Complaint, North Main Street



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Obituaries

Addison Dwight “Whitey” Kenyon, Jr.

Addison Dwight “Whitey” Kenyon, Jr. of Monson passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 28, 2026. Dwight was the only child of the late Addison D. and Helen M. (Crean) Kenyon of Monson. He was 68 years old.

Dwight worked as a cable runner and most recently as a plow truck driver for the Town of Monson before retiring. Dwight went to school in Monson.

He leaves his aunt Laura Rollet and uncle Richard Rollet of Three Rivers, his



aunt Janice Lovell of Palmer, many, many cousins and good friends.

Whitey was a kind and gentle man and often referred to as a teddy bear by some close friends. He loved riding his motorcycle and having a good time. Later, he enjoyed fishing and collecting shiners with his friend Fran.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Robert T. Margerison 1940-2026



MONSON—Robert T. Margerison, affectionately known as Bob, passed away on June 30, 2026, in Agawam, after a period of declining health. Born on April 1, 1940, in Lawrence, MA, Bob lived a life defined by service, commitment to community, and devotion to his family.

Bob was a graduate of high school, setting the stage for a lifetime of achievement and contributions. He honorably served his country as a member of the United States Air Force, a chapter in his life for which he re-

mained immensely proud.

Following his military service, Bob embarked on a long career in law enforcement as a Police Officer for the Monson Police Department. His years in uniform were characterized by integrity, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of his community. After leaving the Monson Police Department, Bob found joy in working at Forest Park, where he especially loved driving the train, bringing smiles to countless families and children.

Bob believed in giving back and was involved in civic life. For many years, he dedicated his time to the

Monson Finance Committee and was active with the Republican Town Committee, demonstrating unwavering commitment to local government and community betterment.

Known for his helpful nature, Bob was someone friends and neighbors could always count on. His generosity, warmth, and willingness to lend a hand left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

He is remembered by his wife, Carol (Brunelle) Margerison, and their children: son Brian Margerison and his wife Lorraine, daughter Leigh Brower and her husband Mark, and daughter Lynda Margerison Feely and her husband Jonathan. Bob's legacy shines through his grandchildren, who brought him great pride and joy. He is also survived

by his sisters, Sharon Walsh and Diane Phillips, who shared many memories and years of camaraderie with him.

Bob now joins his parents, Thomas Margerison and Eva (Broome) Margerison, and brothers Richard and James Margerison who predeceased him.

Robert T. Margerison's life was one of service, kindness, and unwavering integrity. His memory will be treasured by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege to know him.

All services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in memory of Robert T. Margerison to the TJ O Foundation for Animals 66 Industry Ave, Suite 3 Springfield, MA 01104.

Stella H. (Holda) Zerdecki, 91

Stella H. Zerdecki passed away peacefully on July 1, 2026 at her home with the love of her family surrounding her. Born on September 23, 1934, in Monson, MA, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Victoria (Kapakoka) Holda.

Stella was raised in Monson and then made her home in Three Rivers for the past 68 years. For many years, she worked as the cafeteria manager at Old Mill Pond School. Stella found joy in life's simple pleasures like reading books on her porch, spending time at Pulaski Park, polka dancing, boating with her family and people watching. One of her greatest joys was waving to her great-grand-

children as they passed by on their school bus each day.

In addition to her parents, Stella was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Edward J. Zerdecki; her siblings, Mitchell Holda, Walter Holda, Mary Moriarty, Chester Holda, and Edward Holda; and her cherished cat, Tippy.

She leaves behind her four loving daughters: Debra Geoffrion; Susan Mitchell and her husband, Robert; Cynthia Zerdecki and her partner, Rich Comptois; and Lynn Corsetti and her husband, Robert. She also leaves her cherished grandchildren, Christopher, Brian, Stephanie, Emily, Jennifer, Rebecca, Rachel, Victoria, and Matthew, who lovingly called

her Baboo; and her treasured great-grandchildren, Elias and Asher, who brought her endless pride and happiness. Loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends will also cherish her memory.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish. Burial was at St. Peter & Paul Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to either the American Cancer Society or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

CHIEF | from page 1

rent budget constraints are affecting operations.”

The email also posited that this policy would create an opportunity for regular scheduled interaction between department heads and the Select Board while sitting as a board.

“I anticipate that these discussions would generally take no more than 15 minutes and would focus on informing both the board and the public about departmental activities, challenges, and priorities,” Wolowicz continued.

The email included a list of potential discussion topics to assist department heads in preparing for these presentations. Suggestions included budget updates, the impact of reductions, planned, pending, and ongoing projects, collaboration with relevant committees, commissions, and boards, public safety concerns or initiatives, upcoming community events with departmental involvement, infrastructure improvements and capital projects, departmental reports and reporting requirements, policy updates or proposed changes, upcoming initiatives and strategic priorities, citizens’ concerns, feedback, and service trends, inter-departmental coordination and collaboration efforts, and goals and objectives for the current year.

“Department heads should also feel free to discuss any emerging issues, operational concerns, or significant developments that they believe the Select Board and

the public should be aware of,” Wolowicz read. “These presentations would help increase transparency, strengthen accountability, improve communication between departments and elected officials, and provide residents with a clearer understanding of municipal operations, service demands, and the challenges and opportunities facing the town.”

Gasperini said he could talk for hours on the cited topics, and asked if the board had anything in particular they wanted to discuss. Oney asked that Gasperini tell the board what he thinks is important to the department.

“Everything we do is important,” Gasperini said. “I think everything that we do is pretty important as far as the speed of motor vehicle enforcement, to enforcing the laws, to being proactive to our community outreach. It’s all important to me.”

Gasperini added that the budget cuts to the department will affect how it operates, and Oney asked him to elaborate on how the cuts are affecting the department and what it might need from the town in the fall.

“The criminal justice reform in 2019 going into 2020 did some great things for law enforcement in Massachusetts,” Gasperini said, “but it also had, I would say, some unintended consequences of how smaller departments like us operated.”

Gasperini said that departments have had to move away from the part-time model that they used to operate on, going from a high of

15 part-time employees that would supplement full-time staff during vacations or sick days.

“With that criminal justice reform, we had, originally, I think, nine part-time officers when that came around,” Gasperini said. “Two of them were over 55, and some of the requirements that they had were 40 hours of defensive tactics.”

Gasperini said that, because of these requirements, the officers decided to leave the department rather than get injured for part-time pay. He said that the department lost three other part-time officers due to requirements for 2,400 hours of patrol time that they were not able to meet.

Gasperini said that the department retained five part-time officers, and was able to add three positions over the last six years. After three of those part-time officers became full-time, Gasperini said the department has only one part-time officer left.

Board Member R. Keith Valley asked, “What is one goal that you set for yourself and the department?”

Gasperini said that he and his lieutenant will be going through the department’s policies and updating them.

“My understanding, the rules and regulations have to be approved by the Select Board, but the policies are going to be on our end,” Gasperini said.

Wolowicz said that Gasperini set a high bar for future department head meetings.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Addison Dwight “Whitey” Kenyon, Jr.

Died June 28, 2026
Service at later date
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Robert T. Margerison

Died June 30, 2026
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

Stella H. (Holda) Zerdecki, 91

Died July 1, 2026
Service July 7, 2026
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 9, 2026**.
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Responsibilities include scheduling, developing and implementing town projects, assisting with the preparation of budgets, coordinating with various town boards and committees, supervising and coordinating overall operations of Town government and managing day-to-day affairs under the general direction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator will support the Select Board, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, interface with government agencies and the public and manage municipal operations for the Town. Attendance at certain evening meetings is required.

Candidates should have knowledge and competence in municipal finance and budgeting, project management, human resource/personnel administration, Massachusetts municipal law, and intergovernmental and community relations.

The successful candidate should possess five (5) years of municipal management and leadership experience, or similar responsibilities in a public or government agency. A degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities may also be considered. This is a full-time position with benefits. Starting salary range of \$70,000 – \$85,000 commensurate with qualifications and experience.

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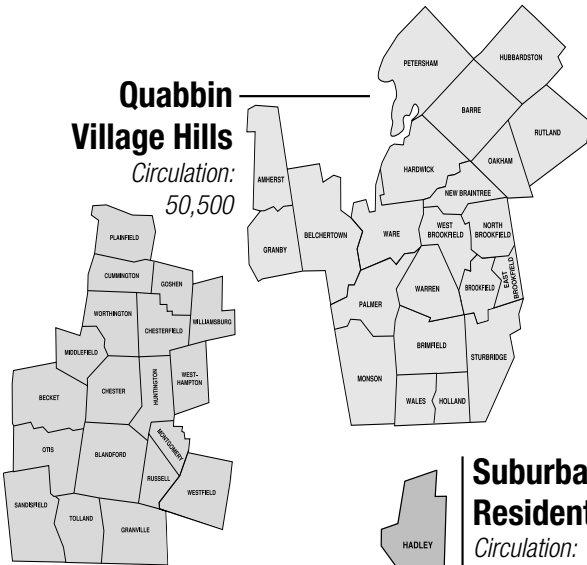
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Public notices

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 **7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 21, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Notice of Intent** for activities associated with the proposed construction of 7 multi-family buildings, top course of pavement on Ains Manor Road and Phillip Street, and maintenance of vegetation in the retention basin, stone swale, recreation area, and mitigation area. Work is proposed to occur within the following jurisdictional areas: 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, 100-foot Buffer Zone to Isolated Vegetated Wetland, 100-foot Buffer Zone to Crystal Lake, Bank, and 200-foot Riverfront Area. The project site is located on Ains Manor Road in Palmer (Assessor's Map 28 and Lot 10). The applicant making the request is Frank Gallagher Engineering c/o CTA Development LLC. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Elizabeth O'Connor, Vice-Chair
Palmer Conservation Commission

07/09/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robin L. Fell to World Savings Bank, FSB, dated May 25, 2007 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16736, Page 514, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., s/b/m Wells Fargo Bank SouthWest, N.A., f/k/a Wachovia Mortgage, FSB, f/k/a World Savings Bank, FSB to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, as owner Trustee on behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL8 Trust, recorded on December 20, 2018, in Book No. 22492, at Page 463 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, as owner Trustee on behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL8 Trust to Wilmington Savings

Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-RPL1 Trust, recorded on June 30, 2025, in Book No. 25924, at Page 324 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-RPL1 Trust to Rocket Mortgage, LLC successor by merger to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on March 13, 2026, in Book No. 26250, at Page 453 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on **August 3, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 2055 High Street a/k/a 2053 High Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated on the southerly side of High Street in Three Rivers, said Palmer, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a rod on the southerly side of said High Street, said rod being sixty-nine and 80/100 (69.80) feet easterly from a stone bound at the intersection of the southerly line of High Street with the easterly line of Kelly Street;

thence South 21° 47' E. one hundred sixty-four and 65/100 (164.65) feet along land now or formerly of Otis Company to a bolt in stone;

thence North 66° 30' E. one hundred twenty-one and 95/100 (121.95) feet along land now or formerly of said Otis Company and of the union Evangelical Church to a bolt in stone;

thence North 24° 30' W. eleven and 55/100 (11.55) feet along land of said Union Evangelical Church to a drill hole in bolder;

thence North 66° 30' E. sixty and 92/100 (60.92) feet along land of said Union Evangelical Church to a bolt in stone;

thence North 24° 30' W. one hundred fifty-one and 60/100 (151.60) feet along land now or formerly of one Geer through a stone bound distant eight (8) feet more or less from the Southerly side of High Street to said High Street;

thence South 66° 30' W. along the southerly line of said High Street one hundred seventy-five and 7/100 (175.07) feet to the place of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see

deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10584, Page 588. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
S/B/M
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC

Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26765

07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1284EA
Estate of:
Salvatore Florida
Also known as:**

Sam Florida Date of Death: 02/18/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that **Joanne Emanuel of Woodbury, CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/17/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 06, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

07/09/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 26 SM 002007 Date Filed: 6/22/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE

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

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shell-point Mortgage Servicing

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers, 4143 North Street, given by Christine Girouard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for New Penn Financial, LLC, dated August 17, 2018, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22319, Page 10, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **8/3/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/22/2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
07/09/2026

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 23, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. in the Auditorium of Granite Valley School, 21 Thompson Street, Monson, MA 01057**. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of Vertex Tower Assets, LLC for relief from the requirements of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to construct

a 150-foot monopole wireless communications tower (154 feet to the top of the lightning rod) on property located on Woodhill Road, identified as Map 032, Parcel 010. The applicant seeks relief to allow construction that will encroach upon the required setback as outlined in §6.14.2.7 of the Zoning Bylaws and exceed the maximum height as outlined in §6.14.2.9 of the Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations. The parcel, consisting of approximately 94.5 acres, is owned by Springfield Sportsman's Club, Inc. and is located within the Rural Residential District. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Clerk's Office and is available for review during regular office hours. The application is also available on the Town's website.

David Beaudoin,
Zoning Board of Appeals,
Chairperson
07/09, 07/16/2026

Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Monson Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. in the Auditorium of Granite Valley School, 21 Thompson Street, Monson, MA 01057**. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of Vertex Tower Assets, LLC for Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit under Section 6.14, Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to construct a 150-foot monopole wireless communications tower (154 feet to the top of the lightning rod) on property located on Woodhill Road, identified as Map 032, Parcel 010. The parcel, approximately 94.5 acres, is owned by Springfield Sportsman's Club, Inc. and lies within the Rural Residential District. Copies of the application are on file with the Planning Board and the Town Clerk's Office and are available for review during regular during regular office hours. The application is also available on the Town's website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairperson
Monson Planning Board
07/02, 07/09/2026

Ware Grange gardening workshop July 13

WARE—The Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Composting," will be held on Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware.

Our presenter will be Rubén Parrilla, Education Director for the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

In this workshop, partici-

pants will learn how to transform yard waste and some kitchen scraps into nutrients to keep garden soil healthy, how to manage a compost pile, how to compost if you have limited space, and when to use the compost in your garden.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Crafters wanted

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

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft table,

which will be provided by the church.

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

Light refreshments will be available.

Rock into Summer

HAMPDEN – Rock into Summer featuring Acoustica will be taking place on July 11 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Thornton Burgess Middle School—the town hall—at 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.

The event is in partnership with Hampden Parks & Rec and East Village Tavern.

Sponsors include Cloud 9 Marketing Group, Charlie Arment Trucking, Deer Park Recycling, Scags Enterprise, SAFCO Foam Insulation, Affordable Waste Solutions and more.

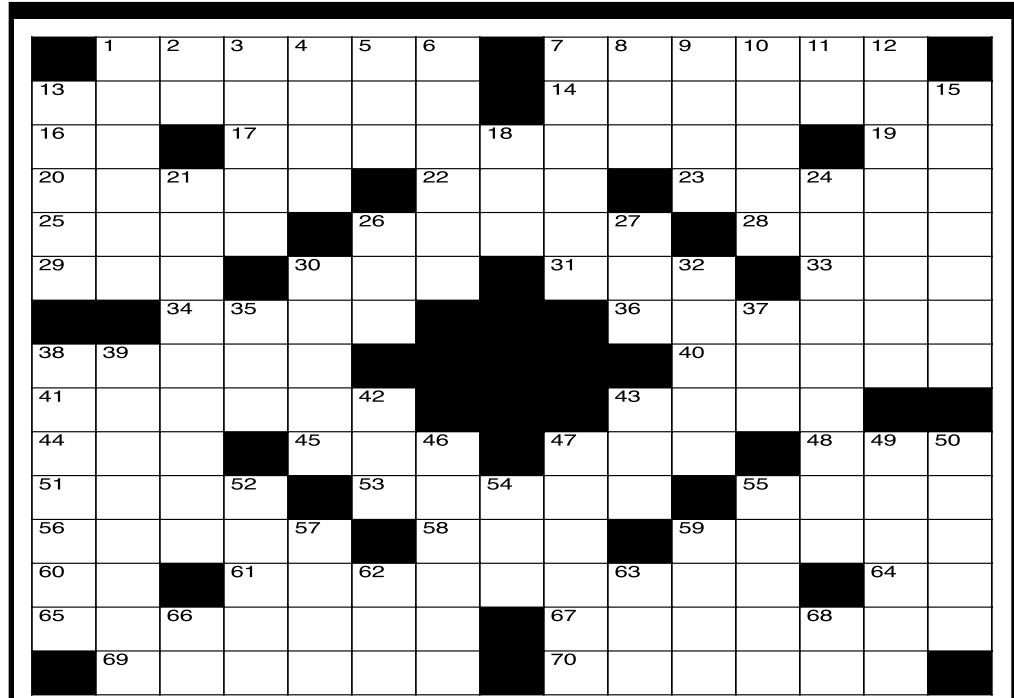
Looking for vendors

LUDLOW—St. Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow, is now accepting applications for vendors for the St Nick's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 to 3 p.m. The 8' table is provided and the charge is \$40.

Please call Pat at (413) 531-6997 for an application or additional questions. Thank you.

NOTICE

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



CLUES ACROSS

- Mended
- Hymns
- Commercial transport of goods
- Poked holes in the ground
- They precede C
- Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Injured
- Popular type of dance
- Moon crater
- American state
- Places to lock valuables
- Stalk that supports the capsule
- Keyboard key
- '__ death do us part
- A type of cage
- A place to sleep
- Annual music awards show
- Made over
- Hard, stony substance
- Incantations
- Long-legged, wading bird
- Breathe noisily
- Congressman
- Rip off
- Golf score
- Popular pickup truck
- Where infants sleep
- Music term
- Small opening in a surface
- Musical term meaning "very"
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Treats with powder
- Email subject line feature
- A British lawyer
- Expression of laughter
- Farmer's calendar
- Seeds used as food
- Eurasian shrubs
- Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

- Hard things to kick
- Collective of countries
- Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- One-time Alabama running back
- Eddie
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Of the teeth
- Treat with care
- Type of whale
- Curved structure
- Emits coherent radiation (abbr.)
- One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- Smallest interval in western music
- Netherlands seat of government
- Gives to charitably
- Lout
- Pastas
- Release from restrictions
- Female sibling
- Title of respect
- Silver coins
- Region in India
- Partner to cheese
- Dark or dusky
- Pacific Northwest tree
- Exaggerate
- Toddler
- Touch lightly
- Fundamentals
- Jeopardies
- Curved structures
- Isolated, flat-topped hills
- Forming the bottom layer
- Reciprocal of sine
- Genus of Old World birds
- New York college
- Cloak
- Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- Vietnamese offensive
- "The Great Lakes State"
- "__, myself and I"

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Palmer High School Class of '76 plans August reunion

PALMER – Do you have the Spirit of '76? With the 50th anniversary of Palmer High School's Class of 1976 this year, a reunion of classmates and faculty at the end of the summer has been planned for Aug. 28 at Salem Cross Inn, 260 W. Main St., West Brookfield. It will be a summer option for those unavailable in the fall, when a separate Class of '76 group is planning a reunion on Oct. 17.

The event at Salem Cross will begin with cocktails at 5 p.m., and dinner will start at 6 p.m., offering a menu of cheese and crackers, garden salad, and entrees of Rustic Chicken, Honey Dijon Salmon or Vegetarian Option. Tickets for the summer event will be \$50, which will include a tip.

For the Aug. 28 registration link, which includes payment options online and by post, contact Suzanne Strempek Shea at sess7@comcast.net. RSVP and payment are due no later than Aug. 10.

ZBA | from page 1

since 1984, has been a manufacturing facility," Drost said. "Our plan is to proceed with a special permit because it's in a residential zone, but we're going for it under a pre-existing non-conforming use."

Drost said that the planned use will not expand and may even reduce the non-conformity to zoning bylaws beyond what the previous special permit allowed. A resident asked about customers who want to test-drive a bike that was just repaired at his facility.

"I'm not going to be doing their bikes, I just make the parts," Plum explained. "Rarely will I have a customer pick up their parts, I usually do all my stuff through the post office or USPS, and I bring all the stuff myself."

Clerk Sean Crookes asked Plum about environmental waste that his business might produce that might not be addressed by the previous special permit.

"I think we went through inspections and all that got taken care of through that," Plum said, adding that his use won't create hazardous waste. "I don't do service as far as oil changes or anything like that."

Chair David Beaudoin read the conditions applied to the previous special permit, which included hours of operation, noise requirements, vegetation buffers for the abutters, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals, and required permits. Any unauthorized use of the property may result in the special permit being revoked.

"As long as you don't make a lot of noise, I don't think any of the neighbors are going to complain," Beaudoin said. "You start making noise, we're going to get complaints. We get complaints,

you get them."

At Plum's request, the hours of operation were changed from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Beaudoin thanked Plum for the work he's done to take care of the property, saying that the building looks beautiful. Vice Chair Teresa Sobanska-Hrynkiw asked if there were any plans to expand to motorcycle repair, but Plum said there are no such plans in the foreseeable future. She then asked about testing the parts.

"I have a bunch of fixtures made that I can bolt stuff up to, where I don't actually need the bike," Plum said. "Holes and stuff that need to line up correctly, the fixture helps me with that, so I don't have to have the entire motorcycle there."

Plum said all the work will be done indoors, and that there would be no concern of noise. He primarily works on 1936-84 Harley Davidsons.

"In essence, I really don't see any difference in what they get," Beaudoin said. "I knew Mr. O'Connor before he bought the building, and he used to manufacture the rollers for ski lifts, so he was there welding and manufacturing and fixing, and doing all of that. To me, it's the same thing when they were going in there; I think (the previous owners) were probably noisier."

The board discussed the limit of employees for a home occupancy business, but decided not to impose a limit. Sobanska-Hrynkiw also praised the attorney's paperwork, which she said answered any other concerns she had.

The board closed the hearing and voted unanimously to approve the special permit with the stated conditions.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Relish and Pickles!

These sisters are both 11 years old and were adopted through Dakin in 2015. They live a very happy and contented life with Penny LeBel of Ludlow.



ATTENTION READERS!

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



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PACK WALKS

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

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

NEW CLASSES!

JULY!

- **Beginners Tracking Class**

*Sign Up Online for these classes at the Belchertown Rec Dept.

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- **Obedience Classes**

Check our FaceBook page or Belchertown Rec Dept. for more info.

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We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

Protect Your Pets From the Heat

The warmer days have arrived, and with it, scorching temperatures. It's not just us humans who need to take precautions to stay safe and cool during the summer; our pets also need a little TLC to keep the dangers of high temperatures at bay.

Believe it or not, our furry friends can also experience heat-related illnesses, including heat strokes and dehydration, as well as paw pad burns. As pet parents, there are steps we can take to protect them from potential heat hazards to ensure they have a happy and healthy summer.

Pet heat-related illnesses

Rising temperatures can pose significant risks to our pets. Understanding common heat-related illnesses' signs and symptoms is crucial to prevent complications.

Heat stroke in pets

It's important to note that animals can't cool down by sweating like we (humans) do. Although they

do have their own ways of cooling themselves, like panting, it can be harder for them to regulate their body temperature in high heat. A heat stroke occurs when our pet's body temperature rises to a dangerous level, and they can't cool down. This can cause organ damage or even be life-threatening.

- Heat stroke in pet symptoms:
- Drooling
- Excessive panting
- Red gums
- Increased heart rate
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Seizures (in severe cases)

What to do if your pet has a heat stroke:

- Take your pet to a cool, shaded area
- Give them cold water to drink
- Help them cool down with a fan or put a cool, wet towel over them

- Call your vet to advise on the next steps

Paw pad burns

Hot sidewalks, pavement and sand, can cause burns on your pet's paw pads. If you want to check if the ground is too hot for your pet, you can follow the seven-second rule by pressing your hand against the pavement or asphalt for seven seconds. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your pet.

According to Dr. Sara Ochoa, a veterinarian in Whitehouse, Texas, "Asphalt can become significantly hotter than the surrounding air temperature. On a sunny day, asphalt can reach temperatures up to 104 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit." She recommends avoiding walking on asphalt when the ambient temperature is above 86 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you must take your pet outside when it's hot, walking in grassy

areas or using protective booties is best.

Paw pad burn symptoms:

- Blisters on their paws
- Missing skin on their paw pads
- Redness
- Limping
- Refusing to walk
- Discolored pads
- Excessive licking of paws

How to treat your pet's paw pad burn:

- Disinfect your pet's paw pads with water and antibacterial soap
- Soak paws in clean, cool water
- Bandage your pet's paws to prevent licking and infections
- Call your vet to assess the seriousness of the burns

Dehydration in pets

Like us, pets can become dehydrated in hot weather if they don't drink enough water while engaging

in activities. Dehydration occurs when your pet loses more water and electrolytes than it takes in. Drinking plenty of water ensures your pet can cool down when their body temperature rises. If you plan to take your pet out for the day, bring an extra water bottle and a drinking bowl. If you plan to leave your pet at home while you're out, be sure they have enough water until you return.

Dehydration symptoms in pets:

- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle tremors
- Excessive panting
- Lethargy
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Dry nose
- Sunken eyes (in severe dehydration)
- Collapse or shock (in severe dehydration)

What to do if your pet is dehydrated

If your pet presents symptoms of severe dehydration, call your vet immediately.

Offer small amounts of water with ice. Drinking too much water can cause them to vomit, worsening dehydration.

Tips to keep your pet safe in the heat

Keeping our furry friends safe during the warmer months is crucial for their health. Here are a few expert tips for pet owners to keep their pets cool and comfortable all summer.

Never leave your pet alone inside a parked car

Not only is leaving your pet alone in your car illegal in some states but doing so can result in permanent organ damage or even death. I know what you're thinking, "I'll just leave the air conditioning on." Not so fast. It's not just the heat from outside that can affect your pet. Your pet's body temperature can also rise due to stress, and excessive panting can worsen rising body temperatures.