

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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MONSON

Summerfest brings out heart of the community

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – Main Street pulsed with joy and patriotism on the morning of July 4 as Monson welcomed families, friends, and neighbors for the 2025 Summerfest Parade, a tradition that remains one of the most beloved community celebrations of the year. With the sun shining, flags flying, and the sidewalks filled with children in red, white, and blue, the parade offered more than just entertainment; it was a proud reflection of the people who make Monson a place to call home.

Emcee Dan Rittlinger once again served as the voice of the day, infusing the parade with warm humor, reverence, and neighborly charm. “This is what it’s all about,” he said. “Neighbors, families, fun... and honoring the people who work hard all year to make this

town what it is.”

As the Monson Police Cruiser rolled down the hill to lead the procession, the crowd stood with applause. The volunteer Color Guard followed with quiet dignity, setting a respectful tone that gave way to spirited cheers as Connecticut Valley Field Music marched into view. Their Civil War-era fife and drum performance stirred emotions and reminded the town of both its historical roots and its continued resilience.

A group of students and families from Monson Public Schools carried the official Summerfest banner, joined by Sunny the mascot, an Uncle Sam performer played by Gary Monty, and town leaders Peter Warren and Pat Oney. Together, they walked with the kind of pride that runs deeper than any costume or banner; pride built from participation, leadership, and belief in the town’s

future.

Community organizations were front and center, with the Monson Lions Club reminding everyone why their motto, “We Serve,” continues to resonate after nearly 70 years of unwavering commitment. The Monson Fire Department, led by Chief Brian Harris, brought out their full fleet to well-earned cheers. Their quiet presence throughout the year was met with grateful acknowledgment on this day of celebration.

Veterans and military families were honored with heartfelt appreciation. Brian Scott and the team from Homefront Strong walked with purpose, shining a light on their work in supporting the unique needs of Guard and Reserve families across New England. Heroes on the Quabbin, known for bringing veterans and wheelchair users out onto the water

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Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Dan Rittlinger emceeing the parade while Summerfest Chairman Steve Slozak stands on the platform behind him.

MONSON

Summer lunch program available for Monson children and teens

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – As summer unfolds in Monson, the town’s public school system is once again offering free, nutritious meals to children and teens through its annual Summer Lunch Program, a vital initiative aimed at promoting healthy habits and

addressing food insecurity while school is out.

The program, overseen by Tracy Blanchard, Director of the Monson Schools Nutrition Program, officially kicked off on Monday, July 7, and will run through August 15, serving children 18 and under, not only from Monson, but from surrounding towns as well. No registration, ID,

or residency requirements are necessary.

“This is my third year overseeing it here in Monson but it’s been around longer than I’ve been the director,” Blanchard said. “It’s open to all area kids. We really want families to take advantage of these free, healthy meals. It’s a great way to keep children nourished and energized

during the summer break.”

The Quarry Hill Early Childhood Center, located at 43 Margaret Street, serves as the open site for the program. Breakfast is offered from 8 to 9:30 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Meals include both hot entrée options and sandwich choices, with rotating menus available on

the Monson Public Schools website under the Food Service Department.

“There’s no need to sign up or bring anything... kids just walk into the cafeteria, get in line, and enjoy a meal,” Blanchard explained. “We try to make it welcoming, simple, and stress-free for families.”

The summer program not only provides a nutri-

tional safety net for students, but also supports the local economy by employing six food service staff members throughout the season. “We’re fortunate to have a great team in place for the summer. Everything is ready... all we need now is for families to come by,” she said.

LUNCH | page 13

THREE RIVERS

Boy Scouts keep bottles rolling to support adventures

By Abigail McCoy
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THREE RIVERS – On a warm Saturday morning, July 5, the parking lot of Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers buzzed with activity from 9 to 11 a.m., not from a service or a festival, but from the dedicated efforts of local scouts collecting bags upon bags of returnable bottles and cans.

Scouts from BSA Troop 164 and Cub Scout Pack 163 hosted one of their regular bottle and can drives, a grassroots fundraising tradition that has become a familiar and welcome sight in the community.

“We do this about six



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Members of Troop 164 and Pack 163 along with the adult volunteers after a morning of handing cans and bottles.

SCOUTS | page 12

PALMER



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Sisters Isabella Howe and Anastasia Deutsch run their lemonade stand outside the front doors of the Steaming Tender Restaurant; besides lemonade they sold beaded bracelets and small charms that doubled as erasers.

Lemonade Day brings sweet success

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – Lemonade Day returned to Palmer for its second year on Saturday, June 28, bringing with it a festive mix of sunshine, fresh-squeezed lemonade, handmade crafts, and hometown pride. From noon to 3 p.m., ten youth-run stands popped up across town, from fire stations and the public library to family homes and

local businesses, each one reflecting the personality, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of the kids behind them.

The event, part of the national Lemonade Day initiative, is designed to teach young people essential life skills, like: budgeting, goal setting, customer service, and business planning; all wrapped in the simple but powerful framework of running a lemonade stand. In

Palmer, the initiative has caught on quickly. It’s now one of only two Lemonade Day programs in the entire Northeast and the furthest one to the northeast in the United States.

This year’s event saw participation grow, both in the number of stands and in community involvement. Local fire stations, the police department, and numer-

LEMONADE | page 8

MONSON

Zoning Board approves sign permit

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) convened on June 26 at the Town Administration Building to review a slate of special permit requests and an appeal involving contentious zoning issues affecting local residents. Under the leadership of Chair Ron Fussell, the board navigated intricate legal and neighborhood concerns with a clear emphasis on due process and thorough evaluation.

Sign Permit on Boston Road West approved with conditions

The meeting opened with a special permit request from Agnoli Sign Company, represented by Gunner McCormick and Dan Strom of Strom Construction. The applicant sought approval for a commercial sign positioned closer to the road than the town’s zoning bylaws permit. While regulations require signs to be set back 15 feet from the curb, this sign sits at approximately 14.5 feet due to an unusual

PERMIT | page 13



Brimfield Library kicks off summer programs

By Abigail McCoy
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BRIMFIELD – Summer has arrived at the Brimfield Public Library, where books, crafts, and community spirit are filling the long days with creativity and discovery. This season's programs are centered around the library's annual Summer Reading initiative, led by library assistant Lauryn Goldenberg, and supported by longtime staff member Bonnie Knox, who is celebrating her 25th year with the library.

The Summer Reading Program is open to children and teens, with registration continuing until July 16. Once signed up, participants can read and engage with materials through the end of August, earning prizes and recognition for their efforts along the way. For younger readers, the library offers a stepping-stone system, where kids track their progress in 20-minute increments; whether they're reading independently, being read to, or reading to others. As they reach each of the three milestones, they receive rewards designed to keep them motivated. Early accomplishments earn certificates for mini golf or bowling, followed by a sweet treat in the form of a Wicked Licks gift certificate, and finally a chance to choose a toy from the library's "treasure chest" of prizes. Each child also receives a welcome packet filled with fun items like a bracelet, pencil, and reusable stickers.

The teen program offers a more flexible and interactive challenge in the form of a bingo sheet. Participants complete a range of reading and activity-based tasks,

earning a prize like a beach towel or LED light strip for their first completed line. Each additional line completed results in entries into a raffle for \$25 and \$20 gift certificates. While the program is geared toward teens aged 13 and up, younger readers around 12 years old are also welcome to join if they're ready for the extra challenge. Goldenberg noted that the teen program is slightly more involved but allows participants to make it their own, with room for personal reading preferences and creative interpretation of the tasks.

In addition to reading challenges, the library has been buzzing with themed events. On Wednesday, July 2, Bonnie Knox hosted a festive Fourth of July-themed story and craft session at the library's 25 Main Street location. Knox read a book about children watching fireworks and then led the group in making magnetic fireworks crafts. Children decorated star-shaped pieces with stickers and pipe cleaners, while Knox and a fellow staff member managed the hot glue gun to attach the magnets and finishing touches. As the glue dried, the kids were treated to slices of watermelon and time outside enjoying the summer sun. The magnet project wrapped up with a special light-up firework accessory, which delighted the young participants.

Knox, who has worked at the Brimfield Public Library since May 2000, said she enjoys organizing hands-on programs for children and plans to continue doing so in

the future. "We've done cookie decorating and all kinds of crafts. I think the kids really enjoy it, and it's not too messy, which is a plus," Knox said with a laugh.

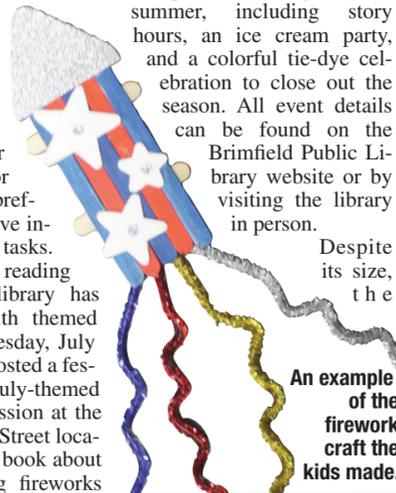
This year's Summer Reading theme is "Oceans," and the kickoff in June featured a visit from Maggie the Clown. More themed events are planned throughout the summer, including story hours, an ice cream party, and a colorful tie-dye celebration to close out the season. All event details can be found on the Brimfield Public Library website or by visiting the library in person.

Despite its size, the

Brimfield Public Library continues to offer a robust slate of programming that brings families together, encourages reading, and celebrates

the simple joys of summer. Whether it's earning a prize for finishing a book, laughing with Maggie the Clown, or crafting fireworks at a table

surrounded by friends, children in Brimfield are making memories at the library this summer; one page and one project at a time.



An example of the firework craft the kids made.



Knox helps the kids make their firework crafts.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy



The Treasure Chest kids can pick a prize out of if they get a level three prize.



Bonnie Knox reading a story about watching the fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Tent for Rent

The Palmer Lions Club is offering a 20' x 40' tent for rent, including set up and take down. Cost is \$250.

We also rent 8' tables for \$8 each.

For details and reservation call Karen at (413) 813-8445.

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Play pickleball and support the Wales Community Pantry

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

The Pantry has more than doubled the number of people served in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and the surrounding

communities providing thousands of pounds of food to those in need every month. The need has grown so much that we need to move to a bigger space. In early July, the Pantry will be moving to 172 Main Street (Route 20) Brimfield. As with any move, we have additional expenses.

Please join us on July 27

from 1 to 4 p.m. to play Pickleball at Pickleball-U fundraiser located at 178 Main Street, Sturbridge. The cost is \$50 per person. Air Conditioned, snacks included, raffle items, free instruction and equipment to borrow. All ages and levels are welcome. A mini-tournament option is available depending on the numbers and skill levels of attendees. Register online at <https://app.courtreserve.com/Online/Events/Details/10865/BL8CUBJ10865616>

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

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

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



DEADLINE

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



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Grand Jury indicts Poirier in Holland murder

Co-Defendant Arraigned in Superior Court

HOLLAND — On Wednesday, June 25, Jonathan Poirier was indicted by a Hampden County Grand Jury and was charged with (1) count of first degree murder, (1) count of armed robbery with a firearm, (2) counts of conspiracy to commit trafficking in firearms, (1) count of larceny \$1,200 or less, (1) count of larceny over \$1,200, (1) count of unlawful possession of ammunition without FID card, and (1) count of unlawful possession of a firearm. Poirier's next court date is July 14, 2025, for a pre-trial hearing.

The co-defendant in this case, Anthony Panaccione, 36, of Brimfield, Massachusetts, has turned himself in on a Superior Court arrest warrant. On Thursday June 26, Panaccione was arraigned in Hampden Superior Court and was charged with: (1) count of conspir-

acy to commit trafficking in firearms and (1) count of willful interference with a criminal investigation. Panaccione was granted bail set at \$2,000 and his next court date is July 15, 2025, for a pre-trial hearing.

On Monday, March 10, Jonathan Poirier of Holland, Massachusetts was arraigned in Palmer District Court on the charge of murder and held without the right to bail.

On Wednesday, February 26, in the afternoon hours, there was a heavy law enforcement presence in the 100-block area of Union Road in Holland. A body was later recovered in connection to a missing persons investigation being conducted by local and state police.

The victim was identified as Austin Schepper, 29, of Sturbridge. District Attorney Anthony Gulluni extended his condolences to the victim's family.

Upon further investigation, members of the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden

District Attorney's Office, the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Worcester District Attorney's Office, Sturbridge Police and Holland Police were able to identify the defendant, Jonathan Poirier, in connection with the homicide.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, "We stand with the family and community of Holland as we continue to mourn the loss of Austin Schepper. Now, our attention turns to this case and seeking justice for the victim and his loved ones. I appreciate the efforts of the investigators, with whom we will continue to collaborate through the prosecution of this case."

Poirier was held without the right to bail.

This remains an ongoing investigation by the Hampden District Attorney's Office in conjunction with the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Worcester District Attorney's Office, Sturbridge Police and Holland Police.

Morse receives scholarship

WILBRAHAM — Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine awards The George F. Vitek Scholarship to a deserving high school senior with excellent academic achievement, dedication to their community and a plan to study in the field of science or medicine. This year we were able to award the scholarship to five deserving students.

Dr. Malik presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Rachelle Morse from Monson, who will be attending Western New England University.

Dr. Martins presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Ela Dias from Ludlow, who will be attending Quinnipiac University.

Dr. Lareau presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Nina Gallagher from Wilbraham, who will be attending Suffolk University.

Dr. Kasper presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Victoria Gonzalez from Wilbraham, who will



Submitted photo
Dr. Malik presents the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Rachelle Morse.

be attending Bowdoin College.

Dr. Dewey presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Schol-

arship to Lillian Knight from Ware, who will be attending the University of Rhode Island.

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138th Annual Novena to Saint Anne unites faith, tradition, and community

St. Patrick Parish Hosts Beloved Devotional Gathering

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish and Shrine invites the public to participate in its cherished tradition: the 138th annual Novena to Saint Anne. Held annually since 1887, this nine-day spiritual event offers a powerful opportunity for prayer, reflection, and connection with the patroness of mothers, grandmothers, and all those in need of comfort.

This year's Novena begins on Friday, July 18, and concludes on Saturday, July 26. Each evening offers a

time for confession, a rosary procession, and a special Novena Mass celebrated by a diverse group of priests representing various cultures and traditions.

"There is power in praying together," said Fr. Luc Martel, pastor of St. Anne — St. Patrick Parish. "Since the first healing at this holy site, people have come seeking peace and grace. We invite everyone to join us for one or more evenings during this sacred time."

- Evening Schedule:
- 5:30 p.m. — Sacrament of Penance (Confession)
 - 6:30 p.m. — Rosary Procession (starting at the Generations Statue near the gift shop)
 - 7 p.m. — Novena Mass

(held in the outdoor pavilion)

On the final day, Saturday, July 26, a special Mass for the Anointing of the Sick will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Each evening of the Novena to Saint Anne will be celebrated by a guest priest, highlighting the rich cultural and spiritual diversity of the universal Church. St. Anne — St. Patrick Parish is honored to welcome the following celebrants:

- Friday, July 18 — Rev. Donald Ouellette, representing the Diocesan Cursillo Movement
- Saturday, July 19 — Rev. Alex Castro, A.A., with the Filipino Community
- Sunday, July 20 — Rev. Peter Tam Bui, with the Vietnamese Community

Monday, July 21 — Rev. Luc Martel, A.A., serving the Parish Community

Tuesday, July 22 — Rev. Richard Polek, with the Polish Community

Wednesday, July 23 — Rev. Dario Acevedo, with the Brazilian Community

Thursday, July 24 — Rev. Enoch Kyeremateng, with the African Community

Friday, July 25 — Rev. Hugo Cano, with the Latino/Hispanic Community

Feast Day of Saint Anne — Saturday, July 26

- 11 a.m. — Rev. John Franck, A.A., with the Lay Assumptionists | Mass with Anointing of the Sick, followed by lunch
- 7 p.m. — Rev. Chi Ai Nguyen, A.A., Provincial of

the Augustinians of the Assumption, North American Province

Rooted in Scripture and tradition, the practice of a novena—nine days of prayer—echoes the time the Apostles spent in prayer between the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:12–14). It is a time to deepen faith, offer thanksgiving, and seek the intercession of the saints.

As the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus, Saint Anne is known for her compassion and spiritual strength. She is the patroness of women, expectant mothers, educators, and caregivers, offering comfort to all who call upon her. For more

information about the Novena and the parish, please visit: <https://stannestpatrick-parish.com/>

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I switch to a taxi driver job without hurting my Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I opted to draw my Social Security retirement benefit early and work part time. The company I work for has decided to pull me from field work due to my age and health. Although they are great keeping me at 20 hours per week running for parts and doing office work, I'm not sure how much longer it will last. I'm thinking of taking a taxi driving job to keep my income enough to live on. The way it would work, I would lease the cab for some amount of dollars per day, set my own hours to work and collect anywhere from \$1.40 to \$4.00 per mile, depending on what type of fare. My question is: how does Social Security look at that type of employment? Would I be held to the 15 - 45 hours a month standard? I could never come close to making the \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month I need by working so little. Any advice is greatly appreciated.

Signed: Seeking Advice

Dear Seeking:

If you go ahead with your plan to lease a taxicab instead of continuing your current employment, you would, in effect, be considered "self-employed" and would submit your income tax return to the IRS accordingly. Social Security would get your earnings information as reported to the IRS and it would be your net earnings from self-employment after deducting all your business expenses that is reported to SSA by IRS.

There is, however, a special rule which would apply to you in your first calendar year of self-employment while collecting early Social Security benefits. Since, in your first year, some of your earnings would be as a part-time employee paying SS FICA payroll taxes, Social Security would first look at your earnings as an employee to see if you exceeded the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025).

Then, upon starting your self-employment, Social Security would look at the hours you spent performing "substantial gainful activity" (e.g., driving your taxi) each month and, if you spent more than 45 hours per month in that capacity, you would not be considered "retired," and thus, not eligible for Social Security in any month you exceeded that amount of hours.

If you earned less than the annual limit in total both as an employee and while self-employed, you would get benefits for all months of the year. But if you earn more than the annual limit, you will get no benefits for

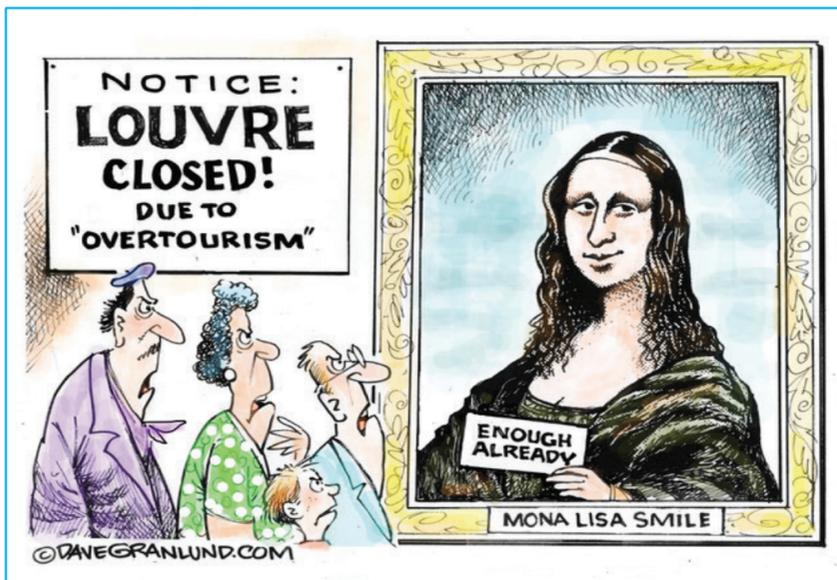
any month you exceeded 45 hours as a self-employed person. Again, this only applies during the first calendar year of self-employment - in the following year only your net earnings from self-employment would count toward the annual earnings limit.

In effect, SSA would use the hours-worked standard to see if you are truly retired or actually working. If the latter, they would withhold SS monthly benefits for any month you exceed 45 hours working while self-employed (up to and including December of your first calendar year of self-employment), and only if your total income (as an employee and while self-employed) exceeds the annual limit.

So, if your goal is to net \$1,200 - \$1,300 per month as a self-employed taxi driver, that would be well within the limits of the annual earnings test (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly). But there may, or may not, be a reduction in your Social Security benefits during your first year of self-employment, depending on when you start as self-employed. Note that SSA will ask about your work plans when you apply, and if you expect to stay under the annual limit (working part time in both capacities), you should get full SS benefits. Just be careful to stay under the annual earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits. FYI, earnings from before your SS benefits started don't count toward the earning limit.

Note, too, that your monthly Social Security benefit will be actuarially reduced according to how far in advance of your full retirement age you claim SS. Whenever SS benefits are claimed prior to one's full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

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



A self-sown surprise

I was pleased to come home from vacation and see the changes in my work gardens over 10 days time. It was astounding to witness the growth that many of the plants put on!

One other thing I enjoyed seeing was a few "volunteers" that had popped up here and there. Celosia, portulaca and my favorite, the cleome, had germinated in bare spots in the garden.

While most of these plants did not fit in to the current year's design and had to be removed, the cleome, better known as "spider flower," popped up exactly where I would have wanted it. In a month or so I will have dome gorgeous flowers in the center of a bed, providing height right where I need it.

Spider flower goes by the scientific name *Cleome hasslerana*. Older cultivars such as "Helen Campbell" and the "Queen" series top off at an airy four or five feet tall, while the newer "Sparkler" hybrids are a bit shorter and bushier. Besides white, spider flower comes in pink, cherry and lavender.

It was given such a unique name because of the flower's long, slender stamens that remind one of spider legs protruding from the plant. The stamens hold the eventual seed pods a distance away giving them even

more "popping power" once ripe.

As a child, I was drawn to the seed pods of this peculiar plant - if you waited until they were "just right" and gave them a squeeze, the seeds would fly everywhere. What fun!

This attribute gives the plant tremendous "staying power" in the garden - in other words it pops up everywhere the following season! This can be a very good thing if you enjoy having the cleome around as much as I do.

Because cleomes are flower producing powerhouses they sometimes become exhausted by mid-summer; their lower leaves yellow and flowers start to fade. I always thought that if they were dead headed like other, more common annuals were, maybe they would last longer into the season.

So, as an experiment I clipped the seed-pods close to the plant as soon as they began to form. Unfortunately, the overall form of the plant was altered - not for the better - and with little reward for my work. Then I began to search out what exactly cleomes need in order to

thrive - perhaps if I met those requirements I'd have better luck.

I had always known that cleomes prefer full sun and well-drained soil. What I didn't know was that they also like fertile soil and space away from one another. Regular doses of liquid feed are a must!

In the north, the cleome's habit of self-sowing doesn't become annoying, but in warmer areas it can become weedy. Clipping the seed-pods as mentioned above would "nip this problem in the bud." Seedlings that develop from volunteers will likely be a blend color-wise of the plants you grew last year because they are cross-pollinated by insects.

I will have to wait and see what color my self-sown cleome seedlings end up being, but lucky for me the rest of the flowers in the garden bed are in pink and lavender shades and will blend perfectly the volunteers.

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

Lady of Liberty

Near the harbour's open path have I stood
The pride of time. Saw waves upon the waves bring
Into sight those bundled travelers from abroad.
And would continue as I have welcoming
The windborne and needy until wings should
Fill no sky nor blue oceans beat. The heart says more,
To others beyond, and I would further til
The heavens the last hope sent here
Earthward. But change has not stood so still
But a force sets upon us, that more bound
Are we on a fuller shore. Not liberty
Less do I hold out. America, was found
Here before I was, and unto itself will be free
While wisdom stays and the sturdy know this ground.

- Charles Barnes



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to funding concerns

To the editor

Responding to Michael Fitzpatrick's recent letter to the editor provides an opportunity to address funding concerns that are shared by many Monson residents. The Town's finances have been extremely tight for a number of years, as evidenced by staffing realignments and attrition. It is only the expertise and determination of our finance staff and the Finance Committee, and their adherence to conservative fiscal policies, along with their collaboration with the Town Administrator and

Department Heads, that have allowed the Town to circumvent an override. While it is true that non-recurring monies, many tied to Covid, were instrumental in temporarily avoiding an override, the finance team understood the nature of those funds and did not use them for normal operating expenses, thus avoiding the unsustainable dependency which Mr. Fitzpatrick referenced. The school department did not have that same policy in place, which led in part to the financial issues that they have been experiencing.

Town officials understand that overrides and debt exclusions are not desirable, especially for so many residents who are already struggling financially; but one or both may be necessary, especially in light of the \$300,000 increase to the proposed school budget that was voted at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting, in contravention to the balanced budget proposed and presented by the finance team.

Town officials also understand that overrides and exclusions are not the long-term answer. The town needs

to increase its tax base, and we do that through new growth and expansion of commercial enterprise, all while maintaining a balance with the Town traditions and character. This objective is enduring.

I appreciate Mr. Fitzpatrick's reference to the May 2022 financial management review from the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services, although it was neither comprehensive, nor a blueprint for moving forward. As you might expect since it was from DOR, it was focused on finances. But it did

provide suggestions regarding subjects for continued conversation, including consideration of organizational structure changes.

Finally, it is incumbent on Town officials, as we acknowledge that many small towns share our funding concerns, to continue to speak to and work with the leaders from those other towns and to continue the dialogue with our legislators, in order to find statewide solutions to statewide problems.

Patricia Oney
Monson

The Journal Register

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Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No signed 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

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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40 Wright St., Palmer

JULY VENDOR SALES
July 14 Generations of Cookies
July 15 Wicked Good Treats
July 16 How Charming

AUGUST VENDOR SALES
August 5 K and H Jewelry
August 7 Sweets and Treats
August 12 Wicked Good Treats
August 18 Generations of Cookies
August 19 Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 20 How Charming

Hitchcock Summer Concert series

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield.

July 16

The Island Castaways Band, Tropical Rock | BT's Smokehouse

July 23

New England Digital Accordion Orchestra, Big Band/Broadway | Flippin' the Bird BBQ

July 30

Eddie Forman Orchestra, Polka | Thee Taco Dude

Aug 6

Pioneer Valley Flamethrowers, Bluegrass | Crust & Confections

Aug 13

CobbleStone Road Band, Country | Flippin' the Bird BBQ

Aug 20

UnionJack British Invasion Band, British Invasion | Flippin' the Bird BBQ

All concerts will take place 6-8 p.m. on the Brimfield Town Common. Rain dates are Thursdays.

July 17

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

July 19

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. PAWS 4 BLUE K-9 3rd Annual Fund-raiser and Craft Fair

July 26

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

July 27

Barre class at Brimfield Winery from 11- 12 by Rebecca Lehman - reserve on facebook- brimfieldwinery.com/events.

July 31

Southern Rain plays at Brimfield Winery 35, Main Street, Brimfield.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Viewpoints

Get the most out of your 15.7 minutes with the doctor appointment



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

A study published a few years ago by Texas A&M University found that the median face time with a doctor was 15.7 minutes, so if you're able to spend 20 or even 30 minutes with your primary care provider, consider yourself fortunate.

Add to that the time it takes to even get an appointment, and you definitely want to make the most of the opportunity.

Why do many doctors seem so harried? They're under increasing pressure from

our fractured health-care system (if you can even call it a system these days). They're expected to see more patients and complete more administrative tasks in a shorter amount of time. The health care industry still is recovering from staffing losses as a result of COVID-19, the pandemic that keeps on giving.

Many doctors, especially those in private practice, also face financial stresses due to the costs of maintaining their practices and paying off student loans.

Following a few guide-

lines will help you squeeze the most value out of even a brief appointment with a pressed-for-time practitioner.

1. Decide what you most want to discuss.

Before your appointment, pick three or four questions or concerns that you most want to talk about with the doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner. You can list them at the start of the appointment, then discuss each in turn. If you have time, you can then go on to other questions.

The National Institute on Aging (www.nih.nia.gov) actually offers a worksheet to help you prepare.

2. Bring a list of your medications.

It's likely that time will be spent reviewing your prescription and over-the-counter meds. In this age of electronic health records, these will be available for review, but very often a new medication is added by another doctor, or an old one is discontinued.

By bringing the current list, you can quickly provide the updates the doctor needs.

3. Find out in advance if bloodwork will be needed.

This is especially important if they will want to draw blood after you've fasted. Otherwise, you will need to come back another time.

Also, it's fine to drink water before a blood test, whether or not you're fasting. In fact, drinking plenty of water can help plump your veins, making it easier for the technician to draw blood. Water does not affect the results of most blood tests.

4. Don't hold back.

A doctor can't help you with a problem if they don't know about it. Don't worry – they've seen and heard it all, and nothing you can say will shock them.

This should include how you're feeling emotionally and whether you're concerned about your mental well-being. Many practices these days have behavioral health specialists right there in the office.

5. Write stuff down.

If you've been experiencing symptoms, bring a journal or notes about what you're feeling, when it tends to hap-

pen and what the aftereffects are. This kind of specificity can help with a diagnosis.

During the appointment, the health-care provider or a scribe will likely be typing notes into the electronic health record. But you should also take your own notes; that way, you can later compare what you wrote down to the doctor's notes to make sure you're both on the same page.

It usually helps to have someone with you to take notes and help you think of questions.

Speaking of...

6. Ask questions.

Don't understand something? Ask for clarification. Getting a new prescription medication? Ask what it's for (and if it's generally covered by insurance). Need more information about a medication or health condition? Ask them to recommend a reputable website or publication.

7. Stay focused.

Keep in mind why you're there by referring to your list of concerns. Unless the doctor specifically asks you, this is not the time to chat about your family, job, pets, etc.

8. Say thank you.

Keep in mind that doctors are people, too, and they like to be appreciated. Thank them for their time and their care, and thank the medical assistants, nurses and receptionist on the way out. There's no guarantee that being "nice" will lead to better health care, but research suggests that patients who are respectful, cooperative and engaging may have a better experience.

Finally, whatever your doctor recommends or prescribes, follow up. Otherwise, you've not only wasted the doctor's time, you've also wasted yours.

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

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Volunteers and employees of Camelot Kennels dress like Cruella and the 101 Dalmatians.



Camelot Kennels decorated their doggy boarding bus like a large dalmatian, they provide dog-boarding so pet-parents can leave their furry friends somewhere secure without worry.



People crowd downtown Monson as the parade finishes and the audience is encouraged to visit vendors, food trucks, and the beer garden.



Members of the Monson Highway Department went through the parade with their massive paving equipment; the MHD is on call 24 Hours a day, seven days a week, to maintain and repair all town-owned roads and bridges.



Kevin and Mindy Reddington drive a 1973 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray adorned with an American flag.



Monson Mustangs Class of 2028 members: Caleb Becker, Gemma Mareshepski, Lola Miller, and Madelyn Caron, run a duck catching game to raise donations for the Class of 2028.



Uncle Sam performer, Gary Monty, in his 41st year as an Uncle Sam performer for the Monson Summerfest, pointing out the Stafford Fire Engine.



Christmas in July: The Grinch (Jason Wemette) gives Uncle Sam (Gary Monty) a big hug.



Rora the Pomeranian enjoying the day with her owner Mike Roblinski, as she is carried through the crowds.



The Scouts of America had a tent where kids could try out their archery skills by hitting balls out of the air with blunted arrows.



Samek Trucking pulls a large float with a multitude of people throwing candy, beads, and ice pops out to the crowd.

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A dunk tank was set up where you could pay \$3 for 3 shots to sink some of Monson's favorites. Holly Crawford from the Monson Polish Club was in the dunk tank from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

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T	I	E	S			L	E	T		D	R	E	A	R			
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Members from the Bondsville Fire Department shoot water into the crowd, cooling off the audience in the sweltering July weather. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Crochet Vendor, Susan Picone, shows off her handmade crocheted goods; Picone started crocheting when she started making sweaters for her dog.

FEST | from page 1

for fishing and boating trips, were equally celebrated. Their community clean-up work and uplifting energy were unmistakable as they passed through town.

As the parade continued, the rhythm shifted from solemn gratitude to youthful exuberance. Cub Scout Pack 168, Pioneer Valley Chapter of DeMolay, and Monson Girl Scouts all marched with energy and enthusiasm. The First Church of Monson followed with their timeless invitation: "Come as you are." Whether participants waved from floats or walked in formation, each group carried with them a quiet promise that community matters.

Classics rumbled down Main Street as the Western Massachusetts Model A Ford Restorers presented a gleaming tribute to automotive history. Not far behind, Squier & Company, established in 1874, received a long round of applause in celebration of their 151 years of service. The Payne Gang Inc., recently named Business of the Year, received recognition for their community impact, and an invitation for attendees to learn more after the parade.

Rittlinger's commentary was peppered with personal insight and heartfelt appreciation, particularly when the Monson Dolphins Swim Team passed. He paused to honor Coach Liz Manley, now in her 33rd year of leading the team. "She's trained generations of swimmers," he said, "and built a legacy of teamwork and spirit that can't be measured by ribbons or records."

Following the parade, the celebration continued across town until four in the afternoon. Veterans Field and surrounding areas buzzed with activity. Local vendors, artisans, and businesses lined the green spaces offering handmade

goods, delicious food, and community connections. Live music filled the air throughout the day, drawing lawn chairs and dancing feet alike. Many gathered in the beer garden, where laughter and conversation flowed as easily as the local brews and ciders on tap. From parents relaxing in the shade to kids racing between booths, the energy remained festive and inclusive from start to finish.

Behind the scenes of this smooth and spirited event stood a dedicated team of volunteers and organizers who made the day possible. The Monson Summerfest 2025 Committee worked tirelessly for months to create a safe, fun, and meaningful celebration. Led by Chairman Steve Slozak, Vice Chair Duane Miller, and Treasurer Peter Matrow, the team represented a cross-section of the town's heart and effort. The Board of Directors, which included Mickey Lister, Cassie Strom, Jo Sauriol, Paul Zielinski, and Josh Strom, brought leadership and vision to every phase of planning.

Every detail, from sanitation to entertainment, was managed by committed committee chairs and volunteers. The advertising booklet and beer garden were spearheaded by Jo Sauriol, while booths and raffle coordination involved Peter Matrow, Cheryl Pereira, and others. The flags that lined Main Street were the result of another community effort; coordinated by Duane Miller and Steve Slozak, with help from younger volunteers like Ethan and Makenzie Wojcik, Tony and David Slozak, and Donna Slozak.

The parade itself was brought to life under the direction of Cassie Strom, who choreographed a lineup that honored tradition while showcasing Monson's vibrant diversity. Throughout the day, superstar volunteers, from Pam Buswell and Maddie Lister to Curt Jameson and Ellie Ma-

trow, ensured that every booth, sign, and stage was in place. Their work might have been behind the scenes, but its impact was visible in every smiling face.

As the parade drew to a close and the last float rolled past the waving crowd, Rittlinger took a moment to steer attention beyond the route, encouraging people to explore the many places and stories that make Monson more than a dot on a map. He spoke of

hiking at Peaked Mountain and Flynt Quarry, playing pickleball at Veterans Field, exploring the historic Keep Homestead Museum, and enjoying a cone with a view at Westview Creamery. He reminded residents of the mural painted on the wall of Adams Supermarket, a lasting tribute to Monson's past, present, and future, created by local artists Melissa Stratton-Pandina and Shara Osgood.

"This town is full of plac-

es worth seeing, stories worth telling, and people worth knowing," Rittlinger said, pausing briefly as the crowd quieted around him. "And most of it is right in your own backyard."

The National Anthem, performed by Nicole Ouimet, carried across the field as families stood together, hands over hearts, unified not just in patriotism, but in appreciation for the people around them. Before stepping away from

the mic, Rittlinger offered one final reminder that summed up the entire day with quiet elegance.

"By all means," he said, "say a prayer of thanks and appreciation."

And then, with the crowd beginning to drift toward music stages, food vendors, and shaded spots on the green, he added a final thought; not an instruction, but an invitation.

"Just be nice to each other."



The Wales Fire Department shows up with the first Fire Truck Wales bought new, it was built in Palmer and is a 1946 Dodge.



Richardson Farms came through the parade with multiple tractors but one pulled a float with a poignant sign saying "No Farmers, No Food, No Future."



"Proud of Our Hometown Heroes" sign being pulled by CR Levesque, closing out the parade.

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Jayden Riopel sells pink and regular lemonade, each cup comes with a free lemon sticker, he also sells his homemade bird and bat houses as well as the catnip pillows.



Firefighter EMT Renee Fergues and Raven Paydos run their lemonade stand at the Palmer Depot Fire Station, Paydos also had bracelets and beaded necklaces for sale.



Natalie Porter worked in conjunction with the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force to run this stand, while they had lemonade they also had other small goodies and toys, and each cup can be bedazzled with gems by Ms Porter.



Liem Foster and his mother Jesse Reyes had their stand outside of Girlie's Cakes, the money he makes will go towards his tuition for Camp Words Unspoken, a camp for those with speech disabilities or a stutter.



Siblings Maverick, Charlie, and Stella sell pink lemonade outside of the Bondsville Fire Department with their whole family.



Buck the Dog, the Country Bank Mascot, Youth Advisory Board Director Olivia Chartrand, Lily Peltier, Tristan Ganieany, and Chloe Desoncy, outside of the Palmer Public Library running their lemonade stand.



Siblings Daisy and James Jianaces sell a wild variety of goods at their lemonade stand: lemonade, eggs by the dozen, jars of honey, stickers, handmade bracelets, and even homemade wood carvings.

LEMONADE | from page 1

ous area businesses stepped up to host or support stands. Kids weren't limited to selling lemonade either; many offered homemade crafts, baked goods, and small toys. Some even donated a portion of their profits to charitable causes.

At the Palmer Public Library, Youth Advisory Board Director Olivia Chartrand teamed up with teen board members Lily Peltier and Tristan Ganieany to run a stand in front of the building on North Main Street. They were joined by Buck the Dog, the Country Bank mascot, who stopped by to greet visitors and pose for photos.

At the Steaming Tender, two young vendors, Isabella and Anastasia, welcomed customers with brightly decorated cups and an assortment of charms that doubled as erasers. The pair donated their earnings to the Second Congregational Church of Palmer.

Across town at the Palmer Depot Fire Station, firefighter EMT Renee Fergues helped run a family stand alongside Raven Paydos. They had strong support from both local families and fellow firefighters, and offered visitors the chance to check out emergency vehicles up close.

One particularly touching story came from Liem

Foster and his mother, Jesse Reyes, who set up shop outside Girlie's Cakes on Main Street. Foster, who has a stutter, used his stand to raise money to attend Camp Words Unspoken, a summer program for children who stutter to connect and grow. Reyes noted that the family often participates in Palmer Library programs and was thrilled to combine community involvement with such a meaningful fundraising goal.

Outside the Palmer Police Station, Natalie Porter served lemonade alongside other small goods, including sticky hands and bedazzled cups. Her grandmother, Julia Taylor, is the event's lead organizer and a driving force behind its success. Porter's stand was co-sponsored by the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force. Co-coordinator Crystal Rondeau explained that while a portion of the profits supported the task force, most of the proceeds rightfully went to Porter for her hard work and dedication.

At 4170 Main Street, a young entrepreneur named Jayden Riopel showcased pink and regular lemonade, handmade birdhouses, catnip pillows, and bat houses. A student at Old Mill Pond School and an active Cub Scout, Riopel explained that his participation was part of earning a Nova Award for conservation. The birdhouses



Millie's Magical Lemonade with Amelia Farris and J Lemmy the Lemonade Day Mascot, she sold lemonade, small bagged snacks, and homemade slime.

were unpainted, allowing customers to personalize them at home.

At the Bondsville Fire Station, siblings Stella, Maverick, and Charlie, offered some refreshing \$1 pink lemonade. The scene was festive and full of energy, with kids proudly serving their drinks alongside fire trucks and friendly visitors.

Another family-run stand could be found on Bourne Street, where Jake Taylor, the youngest son of organizer Julia Taylor, decided to sell his lemonade for just five

cents a cup. His stand was themed around Minecraft, complete with temporary tattoos, bracelets, fruit snacks, and spicy chips. According to Julia Taylor, the spicy chips were a particular hit with adult customers.

At the Three Rivers Fire Department, Amelia "Millie" Farris offered lemonade and slime under the banner of "Millie's Magical Lemonade." With colorful hearts and stars decorating her stand, Millie attracted a steady stream of customers and shared that she was excited to

return for her second year.

Another stand on Springfield Street, run by siblings Daisy and James Jianaces, offered a variety of handmade and farm-sourced products. In addition to lemonade, they sold honey, eggs by the dozen, wood-burned art, and bracelets. A clever promotion added extra excitement: anyone who found a sticker with a dot on the back won a free lemonade.

For organizer Julia Taylor, the second year of Lemonade Day was proof that Palmer's community is not

only invested in its youth but also capable of building something special. Volunteers once again built the stands, despite weather delays, with the help of building coordinator Pam Prouty. Local leaders like Olivia Chartrand, Christina Hazzard of Country Bank, Will from J. Stolar Insurance, and Crystal Rondeau all played vital roles in preparing the kids for their big day.

The town's official Lemonade Day mascot, Lemmy, made the rounds throughout the event, bringing cheer and fun to every stop. "It's just so great to have everyone come together for such a great cause," Taylor said. "We're still learning what works, but what we've seen so far proves that this is a sustainable program that's truly wonderful for our town."

Taylor also announced that Palmer is planning its First Annual Youth Business Fair for this winter, another step in expanding local youth entrepreneurship. She hopes that the model they're building in Palmer can one day be shared with towns across Massachusetts.

"This isn't just about lemonade," she said. "It's about helping our children learn how to manage money, run a business, and gain confidence...all while having fun and connecting with the community. In my opinion, it's truly beautiful."

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

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BASEBALL

Post 241 clinging to playoff hopes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – After a defeat earlier this week, the Monson Post 241 American Legion baseball team fell to 3-5 on the season, good for just six points. But with only five losses, Monson is holding onto eighth place for a potential spot in the district playoffs.

Monson has just a small number of games remaining in its regular season to try and improve its standing, including matchups with Westfield, North Adams, Longmeadow, Pittsfield, and West Springfield, which includes players from Agawam.

During one of their most recent matchups, a 3-2 defeat over Pittsfield-2. The Mustangs got a complete game victory from Grayson Griswold, who attends Pathfinder Tech.

Post 241's squad includes players from five different schools, Palmer, Monson, Pathfinder, Ware, and Quabog.

Griswold would held Pittsfield, a larger school compared to the five Post 241's players come from, to just three hits and one earned run. The Mustangs were able to overcome errors that led to another run and five additional baserunners through walks by Griswold.

Ware's Nate Kaczuwka had two hits in the game and Hunter Griswold turned in a hit and an RBI in the matchup. Monson got all three of its runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Monson has a matchup on Friday, July 11 at 5:45 p.m. at home at Legion Field against Longmeadow. They will follow with a road matchup on Sunday afternoon against Northampton at Joe Wolfe Field. On Monday, Post 241 will host West Springfield at 6 p.m. in Palmer.

SOCCER

Mustangs shut out Greenfield



MONSON – Prior to the holiday break, Monson girls B summer soccer shut out Greenfield 1-0. The Mustangs are an impressive 5-1 so far this summer, tied for first place with Southwick and Granby heading into the week of July 4. Teams returned to action earlier this week. Monson has four games remaining on its regular season schedule and is likely a lock to make the B Division playoffs this year.

Elle Somers sends a pass away.

Avery Beaudoin sends a free kick away. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Grace Perry goal-kicks the ball away.



Hannah Murphy makes her way up the field.



Ada Wojcik goes after the loose ball.

SOCCER

New England Mutiny closes out regular season

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny, which gathers talent from all over the region to play its home matches at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium, recently wrapped up its regular season, including an impromptu

12-0 win over the Worcester Fuel. The Mutiny's short season will lead them to the playoffs, which are likely to take place on the road this year. The Mutiny have hosted playoffs at Luistano in the past.



Maddy Theriault, a Palmer graduate, corrals the ball. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Agawam's Hope Santaniello fights for possession of the ball.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get a pass away.



Mila Dillard, of Chicopee, heads down the field.



Samantha Breton, of Chicopee, tries to fake out an opponent.



Bella Santaniello, gets in the action.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.



Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Grayson Griswold

Pathfinder

Griswold would pitch Monson Post 241 to a complete game win over Pittsfield recently in American Legion baseball action.

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



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Registration open for soccer jamboree

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

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

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

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Summer Edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Wednesday night summer league at Bogey Lanes has made it to July before Independence Day.

After nine weeks of league bowling, Sophia’s Raiders are distancing themselves from the pack in first place with a record of 60-12. Gutter Dolls are in second place with a record of 46-26. Kristen’s Squad is in third place with a record of 37-35. The Straight Shooters and No Shows are tied for fourth place with a record of 36-36.

Sophia’s Raiders won two out of three games bowling against their average in week nine. Sophia Hearnlaye bowled her best game of the summer with a 127 in game two. Her teammate, Phil Clough, bowled a 133 in game two. The team won six points to advance their record to 60-12, which puts them in a commanding lead over the rest of the teams.

Straight Shooters bowled against the Gutter Fingers in week nine. In game one, Straight Shooters won the first game by a score of 478-462. Alan Nason of Straight Shooters began the match with a 112.

In game two, Gutter Fingers won by a score of 509-496. Jean Pouliot of Gutter Fingers, who averages 87, bowled well with a 111. Nason did better than his first game by bowling a 129.

In game three, Straight Shooters were the winners by a score of 458-433. Nason finished with 104 and a series of 345. Total pinfall was in favor of the Straight Shooters by a score of 1432-1404.

The No Shows bowled against Gutter Dolls. In game one, No Shows won by a score of 458-431. Pete Swistak of No Shows had a good game to start the evening with a 125.

In game two, Gutter Dolls defeated No Shows by a score of 483-471. Swistak bowled a 128 in a losing effort as Emily Darcy of Gutter Dolls bowled a 115.

In game three, the Gutter Dolls won the last game by a

score of 458-428. After winning big in game three, the Gutter Dolls won total pinfall by a final score of 1372-1357.

The Gutter Snipes bowled against Kristen’s Squad. In game one, Kristen’s Squad won by a score of 460-398. In game two, Kristen’s Squad won again by a score of 444-437.

In game three, Kristen’s Squad won for a three-game sweep over the Gutter Snipes, 488-468. Lori Merriam of Kristen’s Squad finished the match with a 125. Marc Vinciuella of Gutter Snipes had a strong showing in game three with a 136. The final score was 1392-1303 in favor of Kristen’s Squad.

Clock Barn bowled against the Rolling Stones in week nine. In game one, Rolling Stones won by a score of 432-422. In game two, Rolling Stones won again by a score of 427-410.

In game three, Clock Barn won the last game by a score of 453-439. Rhonda Howe of Clock Barn finished the match with a 108. The final score was 1298-1285 in favor of Rolling Stones.

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year’s Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative’s mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team’s connection to local families and fans. This summer’s Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny’s Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12.

To register your team, click here.

“After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we’re thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “We’re equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome.”

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

“We’re delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community,” said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the Mass-

Mutual Foundation. “Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny’s Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds’ website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

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Western Mass. Pioneers punch playoff tickets with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After winning the USL D-3Pro League championship title in 1999, the Western Mass. Pioneers only qualified for the playoffs five times during the next 20 years.

Since joining USL League Two in 2019, the Pioneers have qualified for the playoffs each season.

The Pioneers clinched a berth in this year's playoffs following a 5-0 win over the Albany Rush before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Wednesday night.

"This is the sixth time in a row that we've made the playoffs," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who's been coaching the men's squad since 2012. "I think it's a very good accomplishment for the club. We need to win our last two regular season games to

have a chance to finish in first place."

The Pioneers (9-1-2), who have finished in second place in the league standings during the past three years, are battling Vermont Green FC (9-0-2) for the top spot in the Northeast Division table.

"We accomplished one of our goals tonight by clinching a playoff berth," said Pioneers midfielder Augustine Boadi. "We're now trying to win the league title."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play a road match against the New England FC on Monday night before closing out the regular season by hosting the boys from Vermont on Friday night.

The Vermont Green won the first meeting of this season between the two squads, 2-0, which took place in front of 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field located on the University of Vermont campus on June 17.

When Vermont made the three-hour trip south on Rte. 91 to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 win over the Pioneers in the regular season finale. It was the Pioneers, who had already locked up a playoff berth, only home loss of the 2024 campaign.

Entering last Wednesday's match, Albany (2-9-1) had never defeated the Pioneers since they joined USL League Two in 2022.

The Pioneers, who defeated the Rush, 6-0, on May 19, put the second meeting out of reach by scoring four goals in the first half.

"Building a large first half lead allowed us to relax a little bit in the second half," Molinari said. "We played very well tonight."

The Rush have gone 0-7-1 since celebrating back-to-back victories against Black Rock and Boston City FC at the end of May. Any hopes

they might've had about upsetting the Pioneers didn't last very long.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a corner kick goal in the ninth minute.

Defender Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box from the right corner. Then Boadi sent a pass to forward Jose Bustamante who tapped the ball into the net past Albany goalie James Joyce.

A little more than ten minutes later, Matt Cence, who's also a midfielder, delivered a crossing pass from the right wing into the box. Boadi finished off the play by scoring his first goal of the season.

"I've been on a goal drought for a long time," Boadi said. "I've been working very hard, and it feels very nice to finally score a couple of goals, especially in front of the home crowd. You can't ask for anything better than that."

Cence and Boadi hooked up again in the 24th minute.

This time, Boadi blasted a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

While Cence and Boadi are teammates during the summer, they'll be opposing each other at the beginning of September.

Boadi, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, is also a member of the men's soccer team at Bryant University, while Cence plays at UMass-Amherst.

Aidan Kelly, who's the Pioneers captain and defender, is also a member of the Minutemen men's soccer team.

The two college soccer teams are scheduled to meet each other in a non-conference match in Amherst on September 6.

"It's always a lot of fun playing your summer teammates during the college soccer season," said Boadi, who would like to play for a professional soccer team after graduating from college next year.

"I'm hoping that we can win our game against UMass. We talk about it all the time and I'm really looking forward to that match.

Cence is a first-year member of the Western Mass. squad.

"I'm thankful for coach Molinari allowing me to join the team this year," Cence said. "It has been a great experience and the guys on the team are awesome."

Cence also assisted on the Pioneers' fourth goal, which was scored by midfielder Robbie Lyons in the 34th minute.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances during the second half.

Bustamante netted his second goal of the match during the 82nd minute. Defender Alejandro Carrillo was credited with the assist.

Goalie Alan Horrocks only had to make a couple of save in recording the Pioneers sixth shutout of the season.

Polewarczyk grabs win at Hudson Speedway

HUDSON, N.H. – Joey Polewarczyk left no doubt Sunday night as to who holds the home track advantage at Hudson Speedway.

The Hudson, N.H., native and 2020 Granite State Pro Stock Series champion, led every lap en route to his second straight victory in the series' annual Gate City Classic 100.

Only a pre-race redraw could keep "Joey Pole" from starting on the pole, as the veteran clocked in fastest in time trials but redrew second. Two-time GSPSS champ Joey Doiron led the field to green, but Polewarczyk nosed out front before the field even reached turn one.

Polewarczyk and Doiron showed the way for the first nine laps, until Bobby Frappier nosed into the turn-three concrete to bring out the evening's first caution flag. On the restart, Polewarczyk reasserted himself out front, keeping Doiron at arm's length but setting a brisk pace around the high-banked quarter-mile.

While the two veterans held firm out front, former Hudson winner Angelo Belsito dived for third with re-

cent winner Evan Beaulieu and first-time starter Connor McDougal. Eddie MacDonald lingered in the distance, cracking the top five by half-way as he gave Belsito fits for fourth.

Polewarczyk and Doiron were well ahead of the pack when Cory Casagrande ran up on a slower car in heavy traffic, sending the car for a spin and drawing a yellow flag with 25 laps to go.

Once again, the lead duo took off from the field, but the battle for third heated up as "The Outlaw" cleared Belsito, then Beaulieu, to claw his way toward the podium. Belsito and Beaulieu quickly found their hands full with a charging Casagrande and Cole Robie, both trying to make up for lost time in the closing laps.

But not even Doiron could chase down Polewarczyk, who gapped Doiron by nearly half a second on the way to his fourth GSPSS win at his home track.

Doiron's runner-up result was his best-ever finish at Hudson, the track where he last finished a GSPSS race outside the top ten back in

2020. MacDonald brought car owner Dale Drew's No. 50 home in third, with Beaulieu close on his heels in fourth. Robie finished fifth, giving the young hard charger three top-five runs to open the season.

Casagrande was sixth after an early exit one week ago at Speedway 95, while Belsito slipped all the way to seventh in the home stretch. Frankie Eldredge had his best GSPSS performance yet with an eighth-place finish, while McDougal and Josh St. Clair rounded out the top ten.

Polewarczyk's ninth GSPSS win elevates the 36-year-old to second on the series' all-time win list behind D.J. Shaw. His home-track mastery has played a big part; only once in five GSPSS appearances at Hudson has Polewarczyk not parked in the winner's circle.

The GSPSS teams have a week off to celebrate Independence Day before returning to action on Friday, July 11 at Claremont Motorsports Park, kicking off a four-week midsummer trek through New Hampshire.



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Public notices

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. §11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 24th, 2025, at 7:05 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street. On the application of First Church of Monson, for a special permit as provided by § 7.3 and §5.3.6 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant is seeking a special permit to replace the existing sign with a new 28 sq. ft. sign. The property is zoned Central Commercial, owned by First Church of Monson and is located at 5 High Street, Map 095, Parcel 043. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.

Ronald Fussell, Chairman
07/10, 07/17/2025

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Sections 9 & 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 28th, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Lewis Colten, is seeking a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as allowed under sections 171.28, 171.29 to change the use from a gas station to a medical office. The applicant is also seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.94 to install one sign larger than permitted by the ordinance in the Village Center District I on the property located at 1411 N. Main St., Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 57, Lot 97.

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

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

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

Palmer Planning Board
07/10, 07/17/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joshua Labarre to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee

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

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

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

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

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

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

Said land being shown as Lot 100 on said plan.

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

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and, to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

The purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is

to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princetown Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

JEEP VIN: 1J4GW48S14C299569
Trevor Russell PO Box 496
West Warren, MA; CHEVROLET VIN: 1G1JC52F357144062
Dennis Daniels 97 Water ST
Palmer, MA; JEEP VIN: 1J4FY-19S9WP731775
Jacqueline Oconnor 515 Burncoat ST
Worcester, MA; HONDA VIN: JHLRD68404C003381
Jonathan Adorno 18 Lower Hampden RD
Monson, MA; JEEP VIN: 1J4G-B39187L102655
Yairalisse Rosario 3117 Main ST Bondsville, MA; FORD VIN: 1FTRX12W-16NA21042
Ian Shaw 10 Draper ST Brookfield, MA; HYUNDAI VIN: 5NPEC4AC0BH080063
Jonathan Paulhus 216 Munn RD
Monson, MA. This auction is to take place on July 11, 2025, 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069
06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by James H. Loper to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage

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

PARCEL 1: Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin in the northerly line of said Stafford Road, said iron pin being 167.04 feet southwesterly of a county bound at station 69 + 96.11 of the 1947 layout of said Stafford Road, and running thence S. 41° 52' 50" W. by the northerly line of said Stafford Road 85 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall at land now or formerly of Julius Aarons and Ida Aarons; thence N. 45° 39' 10" W. along the stone wall by land of said Aarons 210.4 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 51° 06' 10" W., partly along said wall by land of Aarons, 189.53 feet to an iron pin and thence continuing in the same course along land of said Aarons 309 feet, more or less, to the southerly line of a brook; thence Northeasterly by the southerly line of said brook 85 feet, more or less, to land formerly of Henry Bouchard; thence S. 51° 06' 10" E. by said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 309 feet, more or less, to an iron pin and thence continuing in the same course and by said land formerly of Henry Bouchard 189.53 feet to an iron pin; and thence S. 45° 39' 10" E. along said land formerly of Henry Bouchard

210.4 feet to the iron pin at the point of beginning.

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

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

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

the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
NewRez LLC d/b/a

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

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket 25 SM 001936 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: **Timothy J. Petelle; Donna M. Petelle**

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

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as trustee for Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2007-HE3 Mortgage Pass-through Certificates, Series 2007-HE3.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 12 Orchard Street, given by Timothy J. Petelle and Donna M. Petelle to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns, dated September 29, 2006, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16246, Page 570, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, 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 **August 11, 2025**, 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 June 27, 2025.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
24-015550

07/10/2025



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

SCOUTS | from page 1

times a year," explained one of the adult members, Jennifer Traugh. "Every other month, year-round, right here at Divine Mercy. It's our go-to spot."

The event isn't just about collecting recyclables. It's a vital support system for the Scouts themselves. All funds raised go directly toward scouting-related expenses, including summer camp, week-end camping trips, membership dues, uniforms, and program materials.

By mid-morning, the troop had already reached an impressive total: approximately \$550 worth of returnables counted and bagged. That number wasn't just an estimate.

"Yes, we count every bag," said Traugh. "We have a gentleman who picks them up, but we precount everything ahead of time. He takes our total...because a Scout is trustworthy."

The troop encourages the public to keep an eye out for future collection dates. While the exact timing may shift slightly, the next drive is expected sometime toward the end of September, again at Divine Mercy Parish. Updates and reminders will be posted

on Facebook in advance.

With their reliability, organization, and hard work,

Troop 164 and Pack 163 are not only making bottle deposits; they're making a lasting

investment in the future of Scouting.

To donate or learn more,

follow Troop 164 and Pack 163 on Facebook.



Troop members and volunteers fill the truck with all of the recyclable bags of cans and bottles.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Dakin Humane Society adoption event July 11-12

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, Massachusetts, is presenting a pet adoption event July 11-12 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at its shelter at 171 Union Street. Adoption fees for cats and dogs will be reduced by \$100, and there will be no fee to adopt other species at Dakin during those two days.

The adoption event is supported with grant funding from the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) as part of its National Shelter Initiative to help shelters struggling with ongoing capacity challenges, long-term staffing and veterinary care shortages, and an increasing number of animals requiring specialized care.

Summer is the busiest season in most shelters due to an increase in animals arriving in need of rehoming. When more animals enter a shelter, it often results in a longer waiting time for them to find a new family and home, and Dakin expects to see a significant increase in cats and kittens, as well as dogs from both our community and from recent transports, in the months ahead.

With schools closed for the summer, and families more likely to enjoy vacation time, the adoption event is designed to encourage pet adoption for animals in need.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to partner with the ASPCA for this special event that helps kick off a joyful season of adoptions,” said Meg Talbert, executive director at Dakin Humane Society. “Thanks to the ASPCA’s grant funding, countless lives—both human and animal—will be forever changed. This support allows our pets to find loving families quickly, and we are deeply grateful to our local adopters who open their hearts and homes. We encourage everyone to share this event with friends and family, too.”

Adoption fees for cats and dogs at Dakin include a veterinary examination, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccines, microchip and registration, as well as species-related tests and treatments. People interested in adopting a pet at Dakin during this event are encouraged to visit Dakin’s website to see which pets are available for adoption prior to visiting the shelter.

Obituaries

Victoria J. (Dojka) Kupiec

Victoria J. (Dojka) Kupiec, 92, of Three Rivers, MA, passed away in peace and comfort at East Longmeadow Nursing Home on July 2, 2025. She was born Dec. 20, 1932, and lived a long, healthy, and busy life, and will be deeply missed by family and friends. Victoria was



retired for many years from Sanderson MacLeod Co. in Palmer. She was known for all her beautiful craft creations, especially her love and attention to creating cards, Christmas ornaments, crocheting afghans, and all her other activities. Victoria is survived by her daughter, Debbie Wood-

bury, son-in-law, Wayne Woodbury, granddaughter, Vanessa Woodbury, and son, Danny Kupiec. Services were held Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from the Motyka Funeral Home, 2186 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080. Calling hour from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial in Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA at 10 a.m. Burial was in St. Anne’s Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

Kupiec, Victoria J. (Dojka)
Died July 2, 2025
Services July 9, 2025
Motyka Funeral Home

Peterson, Raymond Edward
Died June 30, 2025
Services Private
Varnum Funeral Home

Raymond Edward Peterson

Raymond Edward Peterson, 73, passed away at home. Born in Palmer on October 8, 1951, he was the son of the late Robert W. and Rose S. (Sowa) Peterson.



Raymond was a graduate of Palmer High School and served in the Army National Guard. He was employed for years as a 1st Class Fireman/Boiler Operator at the Ludlow Industrial Complex and later as security guard in

Springfield.

Ray loved music, reading, fishing, wrestling, watching westerns and spending time with family. A kind and quiet man, Ray had a witty and comical side he shared with family which were part of his everyday life, most especially at his home.

Raymond is survived by two brothers, Robert Peterson, Jr. and his wife, Susan, of Thorndike, James Peter-

son and his wife, Charlene, of Monson, and three sisters, Linda Hirsch of Brimfield, Marilyn Agostini and her husband, Joseph, of Murrieta, CA, and Darlene Bergeron-Burns and her husband, Richard, of Palmer. He was predeceased by his sister Lorraine Hunter in 2015. Ray was a loving uncle to many nieces and nephews and was especially close with his nephew, Rob Hunter, whom he spent a lot of time with and shared many common hobbies and activities.

Funeral Services will be private at the convenience of

the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society of Massachusetts, by downloading the form on their website and mailing to PO Box 1120, Framingham, MA 01701, or online at <https://donate.cancer.org>. Donations may also be made to the Baystate Hospice of Springfield at www.baystatehealth.org/foundation.

Varnum Funeral Home is honored to serve the Peterson family. An online tribute is available at www.varnumfuneralhome.com.

PERMIT | from page 1

lot line configuration.

The applicant emphasized the practical challenges of relocating the sign, noting that surrounding trees impair visibility and moving it further back would render the sign ineffective for passing motorists. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) initially expressed concerns about a projecting “shelf” feature encroaching on state property, but later withdrew their objection contingent upon removal of the shelf.

Chair Fussell highlighted the legal nuances of the request, noting that approving the special permit would not overturn prior variance denials but rather address different regulatory standards. Vice Chair David Sanborn clarified, “Granting a special permit here does not reverse a variance denial because the legal standards are different.”

After deliberation, the board unanimously approved the permit, with Fussell complimenting the applicant, saying, “You have a beautiful sign.”

Earth removal project on Stafford Road sparks neighborhood concerns

Next, the board considered a substantial earth removal project proposed by Equestrian Hills Estates, LLC. Represented by attorney Josh Levine and engineer Keith Terry, the applicants requested a special permit to remove approximately 85,000 cubic yards of earth from a 12.7-acre rural residential parcel on Stafford

Road. The project aims to level steep terrain and prepare buildable shelves for a single-family home, barn, and pasture, spaced roughly 600 feet apart.

The applicants detailed a comprehensive stormwater management plan involving infiltration basins and level spreaders to mitigate runoff issues that have affected nearby properties in the past. The timeline for earth removal was projected to be about one year.

Public comments revealed significant neighborhood concerns. Elaine Stroud expressed worries about noise, dust, and the frequency of heavy truck traffic near her home. Another resident, Roxanne, cited potential traffic congestion, referencing a nearby excavation project by Florek. Although Tony, another neighbor unable to attend, had previously reported problems with water runoff, his concerns were noted by board members.

The project’s trucking logistics estimate approximately 80 truckloads per week, averaging two trucks per hour, with white-noise backup alarms proposed to reduce noise pollution.

Chair Fussell emphasized the importance of firsthand assessment, stating, “We’re going to put our eyes on it. This is quite the project.” Both the ZBA and Conservation Commission agreed to conduct site visits before rendering a decision. The matter was continued to the next meeting for further review.

Fence height appeal at Cedar Swamp Road draws

attention

The final agenda item involved an appeal from Melissa Blackburn and William Kirkless Sr., abutters at 218 Cedar Swamp Road, challenging the zoning officer’s approval of a fence constructed at 222 Cedar Swamp Road. The appellants argued that the fence, built atop a retaining wall, reaches a total height of 9 to 10 feet, exceeding bylaw limits.

Key points of contention included the location of the fence, constructed on the north side despite a permit referencing the west side, and the classification of the underlying wall. The appellants presented evidence asserting the wall is a retaining structure, which would require a greater setback under zoning bylaws.

Chair Fussell described the fence as “well-installed” and acknowledged no apparent malicious intent, noting, “If I was on the other side of the fence with some of the activity going on over there... I’d want a fence of that height.”

Fussell requested clarification from Building Inspector Justin regarding whether the wall qualifies as a retaining wall, why a variance was not required for the fence, and discrepancies in the permit documents. The appellants provided photographic evidence and previous communications supporting their case.

The board plans to review the building inspector’s formal opinion at the next meeting and may conduct a site visit to further evaluate the situation.

LUNCH | from page 1

Blanchard also emphasized that any child or teen who might feel anxious about attending should know the environment is friendly and judgment-free. “We really encourage everyone to come. It’s about building a healthier, stronger future for our kids,” she said. “And we’re incredibly grateful to the community, our families, and our school partners for their continued support.”

In addition to the summer meal program, Blanchard shared highlights from what she described as a “truly exciting and productive” school year for the Monson Public Schools Nutrition Department.

Over the past academic year, the district served an impressive 96,147 lunches and 38,217 breakfasts, a testament to the importance of school meals in supporting student health and academic

performance.

A major milestone was the successful launch of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Granite Valley School, where younger students were introduced to a variety of produce in a fun, low-pressure setting.

“It went over great,” said Blanchard. “Encouraging kids to explore new foods at a young age is so important. It really lays the foundation for healthy habits later in life.”

Looking ahead to fall, Monson High School will roll out a Breakfast After the Bell program; a state-mandated initiative designed to ensure more students start the day with a nutritious meal, even if they arrive late or skip traditional breakfast times. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant, the school was able to purchase mobile breakfast carts and portable tablets to make breakfast available in hallways, classrooms, and other common areas.

“This is going to make

a big difference,” Blanchard said. “We’ll be able to reach more students where they are... and make sure no one starts their school day hungry.”

Blanchard expressed deep gratitude to the Monson community and emphasized that the summer meal program plays a critical role in her department’s year-round mission.

“Whether during the school year or over the summer, we’re committed to making school meals accessible, appealing, and nutritious,” she said. “We’re proud of the progress we’ve made and excited to keep improving every year.”

For more information, including meal schedules and menus, visit www.monsonschoools.com and navigate to the Food Service Department section.

The Summer Lunch Program runs July 7 through Aug. 15 at Quarry Hill ECC, and is free and open to all children 18 and under.

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The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at journalregister@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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Hitchcock Summer Concert series returns July 16

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock’s 2025 Summer Concert Series, presented by Country Bank returns to the Brimfield Town Common on Wednesdays 6 to 8 p.m. through August 20. Rain dates will be Thursday evenings.

Kicking off on July 16 is The Island Castaways Band, New England’s Favorite Tropical Rock Band in the music style made famous by Jimmy Buffett. BT’s Smokehouse will be the food vendor this evening. Picnics are also welcome throughout the series.

July 23 brings New England Digital Accordion Orchestra with Flippin’ the Bird BBQ. Conducted by Sam Falcetti of Falcetti Music, this unique 20 piece orchestra is the nation’s only Digital Accordion Orchestra and has a style all their own. Along with vocal performances, you will hear horn & wind sections, strings, guitars, and of course the accordion in beautifully orchestrated arrangements playing many genres of music including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country and Rock.

Polka is the vibe on July 30 with Eddie Forman



Hitchcock concert.

Submitted photo

Orchestra and “Thee” Taco Dude. 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. The Eddie Forman Orchestra has one of the largest followings in the New England area.

“I’m excited to be able to present such a variety of genres,” says Hitchcock Executive Director Cindy Skow-

yra, who programs the series. “There’s something for everyone, and I love seeing the mix of generations at the concerts. There’s a true feeling of community in the air, and that’s what music - and Hitchcock - are all about.”

August 6 will welcome

Pioneer Valley Flamethrowers with Crust & Confections. The Pioneer Valley Flamethrowers are a collective of New England acoustic musicians whose styles range from traditional, to not-so-traditional, to completely untraditional bluegrass, along

with new-acoustic genres and acoustic blues.

August 13 will mark the return of series favorite CobbleStone Road with Flippin’ the Bird BBQ. Comprised of talented musicians with lots of experience who’ve played with some of the best, CobbleStone Road blends modern country with rock & blues to get your toes tapping and audiences dancing.

The series will close out on August 20 with the Union-Jack British Invasion Band and Flippin’ the Bird BBQ. UnionJack features the look and sounds of the 1960’s British Invasion era - and beyond.

The series is made possible with support from presenting sponsor Country Bank as well as funding from The Brimfield Cultural Council. The Brimfield Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

In the classroom

Springfield College joins the Age-Friendly University Global Network

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has been accepted into the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network, an esteemed international community dedicated to fostering age-friendly environments. Approved for a five-year cycle through December 2030, the network brings together institutions of higher education committed to supporting learning and engagement across the lifespan.

“By joining the Age-Friendly University Global Network, Springfield College is making a significant commitment to a strategic five-year plan focused on intergenerational learning and the advancement of positive aging initiatives,” said Pamela Sangeloty Higgins, Chair

of the Department of Public Health and Health Professions. “Our participation connects us to a powerful local and global movement, amplifying our voice in promoting healthy aging, career development for older adults, and expanded educational opportunities in higher education.”

Higgins, who served as the Distinguished Professor of Humanics for the 2024-25 academic year, led the charge throughout the year, culminating in her Humanics Lecture, Ageless Humanics: Empowering Health and Human Potential Across Generations. She also reconvened and led the Affirmative Approaches to Aging Task Force, a 22-member interdisciplinary group of faculty, staff, and students fo-

cused on advancing age inclusivity and combating ageism. The task force is strengthening relationships with community-based organizations and expanding clinical services, educational programming, and creative engagement both on campus and in the surrounding community.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 3,000 students, including 1,800 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

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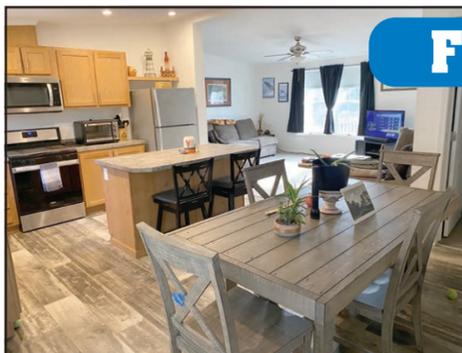
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Business

Palmer Restaurant ushers in a fresh chapter

New ownership, familiar charm under Sorina Sam and Mey Fang

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – A beloved local eatery is turning the page with new ownership, a few exciting changes, and a continued commitment to community values. As of June 9, Palmer Restaurant is officially under the stewardship of Sorina Sam and his wife Mey Fang, who reopened the restaurant to the public just a week later on June 16. But while ownership may have changed hands, the spirit of Angel's Diner remains firmly intact.

For Sam, stepping into the role of business owner is a natural evolution of a lifelong journey in the food industry.

"Everybody in my family got into the restaurant business," he said during a recent interview. "I've always been working in the kitchen. I kind of love it a lot."

That passion led him to Angel's, first as a customer.

"We came to try the food, loved it, and then it happened that the previous owner had it up for sale," Sam explained. "So we decided to get it."

Since reopening, the diner has been operating four days a week, but Sam already has expansion plans underway. By August, he hopes to



New owners Sorina Sam and Mey Fang stand in front of Angel's in downtown Palmer.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

extend service to six days a week and is also preparing to introduce credit card payments, online ordering, and delivery options.

"Definitely, we're making improvements," Sam said. "We want to give people more convenience and more ways to enjoy the food."

Menu updates are on the horizon as well. Currently, the diner offers a rotating selection of breakfast specials, but by late summer, customers can expect to see a permanent lunch menu rolled out, adding even more variety to the din-

er's offerings.

Though new ideas are coming to the table, Sam is mindful of preserving what longtime customers already love about Angel's.

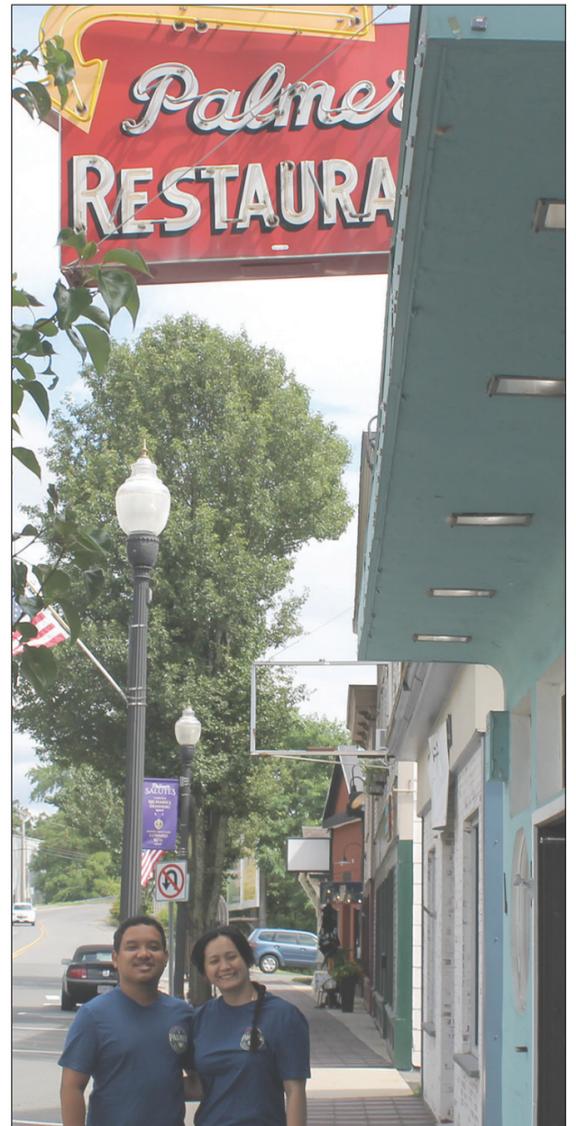
"Everybody that I work with stayed on," he said. "They're great people. We don't want to lose the touch that Angel's has always had... using local staff, local products, and making everything fresh to order. That's really important to us."

Rathis than reinventing the wheel, Sam's vision is one of thoughtful evolution;

enhancing the restaurant experience without losing the neighborhood charm that made Angel's a staple in the first place.

"We just want to make it better. Anything we can improve, we'll try to do that," Sam said.

Palmer Restaurant will continue to serve the Palmer community from its familiar location at 1376 Main St in downtown Palmer, but with new energy and expanded offerings on the way, customers both old and new have plenty to look forward to.



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Gathering

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- How to Support Those With Substance Use
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For any questions reach out to:
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