

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

July 16, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 25 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

Town Planner discusses grants, ongoing projects

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At this week’s Town Council meeting, the Town Planner made a presentation on the department’s ongoing projects and pending grants.

The Monday, July 13 meeting began with Council President Barbara Barry welcoming incoming members Jan McCoy and Ryan Gauthier to the council, and congratulating Phil Hebert on his re-election. The council then appointed Jennifer Jerome to the Housing Authority, with a term to end June 30, 2029.

The meeting involved a presentation from Town Planner Heidi Mannarino and Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin on the work done by the Planning Department to oversee land use and zoning in the town. Mannarino said that the department is made up of herself, the Town Planner and Administrative Assistant Maxwell Ballou, and that it works with the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, each made up of five elected members.

Mannarino provided an overview of the work the departments have done over the previous year. The Planning Board approved 12 Subdivision Approval Not Required plans, eight Site Plan Approvals with four minor amendments to SPA, which included four earth removal permits, 11 special permits, and eight large-scale stormwater permits. The ZBA saw three variances for findings, and one administrative appeal, which Mannarino noted is more than in recent years.

Mannarino then went on to describe projects to note for the previous year, including the expansion of the Healthcare Center, which also involves collaboration from the Conserva-

tion Commission.

“They’ll have about 76 beds total with their new addition,” Mannarino said. “It lines up pretty well with some planned sewer infrastructure improvements over there.”

Other projects Mannarino mentioned included a 10-building self-service storage facility approved at Chamber Road, the redevelopment of a former bank to a retail liquor store on Park Street, the construction of a new commercial building at 1524 Park St., earth removal operations that were renewed for a three-year term, and the redevelopment of the former Thorndike Grammar School, which is being converted into 14 apartment units at 4023 Main St.

Mannarino then described zoning amendments and regulatory updates that were being discussed by the council, including the proposed updates to the Table of Use.

“The Planning Department worked closely with the Pioneer Valley Planning Council throughout 2025 to try and put all of our use tables into one large table,” Mannarino said. “This has been an issue before, because we have exclusionary zoning in Palmer, so if it’s not listed on the table, it’s not allowed.

“There were some differences in interpretation with having separate tables,” Mannarino continued. “I think having one monolithic table will be a little more user-friendly.”

Mannarino said that there will be clarifications of uses and definitions, as well as new uses included. The department is also working with PVPC on updating subdivision rules and regulations, which have not been updated since 2003.

“Some of the appendices are still even hand-drawn,” Mannarino said.

PLANNER | page 5



Matt Lemieux and Peg Matthew welcome Frances Griffin to the annual summer Artisan Market.

Chamber of Commerce puts on ANNUAL SUMMER MARKET

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – This weekend, the town celebrated an exciting afternoon of games, music, food, and community with the annual summer Artisan Market.

On Friday, July 10, food trucks, farmers, and artisans were invited to Hryniewicz Park from 3-8 p.m. for a summer market sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Between free admission, live music, 40 unique artisan vendors, and even a clown, the

event provided fun for the whole community.

“We put this on for the local community and for the families to come out and enjoy a nice night with music,” said Vicky Baldyga, Board Member and Treasurer of the Chamber. “It’s just a nice night for families to come by and walk around and hear the music, and it’s free of charge, of course.”

The Chamber has been putting on these markets for years, starting after the COVID-19 pandemic and regularly holding them in town.

“Last year we had it at

the Church of Divine Mercy because they were doing work around the Common,” Baldyga said. “We like to have it in Three Rivers, as there are a lot of families around there who like to come.”

The Chamber’s Vice President, Carol Seaver, is the Chair of the event, and was in charge of booking the band, soliciting crafters, and securing permits. One particular hurdle was finding out on short notice that the town had changed its law on the sale of beer.

“It used to be that the beer guy was able to just sell,”

Seaver explained. “Now, they wanted a Beer Garden that was specifically set up.”

A highlight of the market was a live performance from the gazebo by The Willies, who were described by organizers as “excellent.”

“They even came out into the audience,” Seaver recounted. “One of the guitarists was actually in the audience with the people, playing his guitar as he’s walking around. There was a lot of involvement in that aspect.”

Ahead of the market,

MARKET | page 14

ELECTION

The race is on for U.S. Senate

Rep. Seth Moulton challenges Sen. Ed Markey

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against

challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the 1st official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate was included panelist from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year

term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey confessed this would be his last year running for re-election.

“I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda,” Markey stated. “And then I will step down. But we need

RACE | page 8

MONSON

Select Board speaks with highway and school depts.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – During its meeting on Tuesday, July 14, the board was advised on upcoming highway construction and community events and received a request regarding the Municipal Financial Sustainability Task Force.

Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy advised the public that next Monday, the town will be putting rubberized chip seals on 4,500 feet of Bumstead Road from Route 32 and lower Mayhill Road. Murphy explained that this method had previously been used on Bogan Road and Robbins Road.

“It’s melted tires, but they take the metal out and all the carbon, so it’s actually a green way of doing things now,” Murphy said. “It will lay out about an inch of the rubber, and then you put stone onto it and it all cools down in less than 15 minutes and you can travel on it.”

Murphy provided further facts about the process. Approximately 1,400 tires are being used for the square yardage of the area, and each tire weighs approximately 10

BOARD | page 7

PALMER

Town reminisces on Bicentennial Parade during Library Watch Party



By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This weekend, the library hosted a watch party for the video of the town’s Bicentennial Parade.

After the video of the 1976 Parade was shown during the watch party on June 20, members of the community expressed to library staff that they didn’t get to see enough of it, and so the library arranged a second watch party for the video, which was held this past Saturday, July 11.

Librarian Helene O’Connor said that the three-hour parade was cut down to an hour of video highlights by the library’s intern, Matthew Fontaine.

“People loved watching

Seated left to right Mary Thompson (volunteer), Amy Golenski (librarian.) Standing left to right Matt Fontaine (intern), Helene O'Connor (librarian), Layne Holcomb (intern), volunteers: Chapel Hewes, Tanner Kirk, Trevor Smola hosted the watch party.

PARADE | page 14



sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

SOCCKER

Here for Beer shuts out Monson

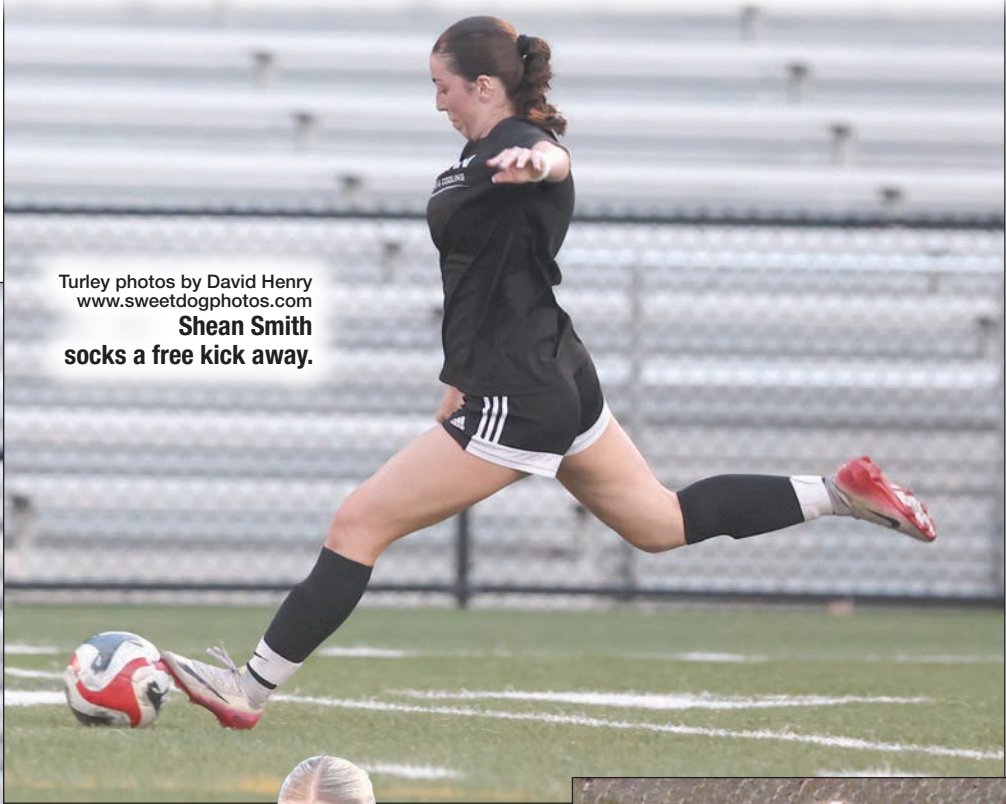
S O U T H HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women's summer soccer action. The two teams were in a

key matchup with both teams near the top of the Women's Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.

Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shean Smith
socks a free kick away.



Lilly Jeager sends a pass away for Monson.



Ciara Monaghan tries to stop a ball.



Goalie Morgan Wesson punts the ball away.



Caitlin Bonavita makes a stop

BASEBALL

Monson Post 241 wins

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD – Despite wobbling defensively in the third and fourth innings, Monson Post 241 regrouped and fought its way to a gritty victory at Bullens Field in Westfield. With the Senior Legion contest knotted at 6-6 with two outs in the sixth inning, Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka delivered an RBI single. He also scored a run during that frame, as Post 241 celebrated an 8-6 win over Westfield Post 124 last Thursday night. “Most of the games haven’t gone our way this season,” said Kaczuwka, who’s the only player from Ware High School listed on the Monson Legion baseball roster. “We’re a big family and it feels very good to get back into the win column again.” Monson had a 4-8 overall record following last Thursday’s road contest. “We did struggle defensively early in the game, but we were able to score a few runs” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “This is a very big win for us

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons. The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer. In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series. St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings. “We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and we’re trying to win the championship title.” St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark. “We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s



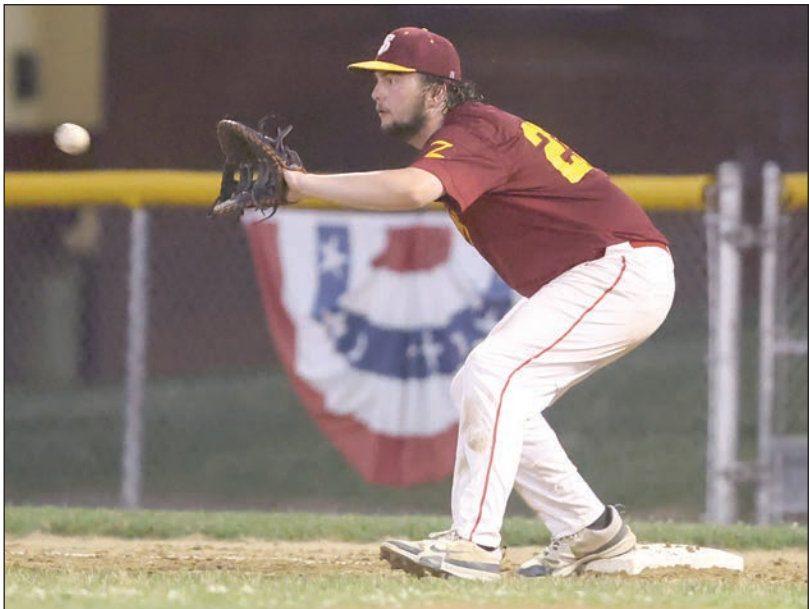
Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.



Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.



James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

Turley photos by David Henry