

# The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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**BRIMFIELD**

## Community comes together for Christmas in July

By Abigail McCoy  
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BRIMFIELD – The festive spirit of the holidays arrived early this year as Monson Together hosted its fourth annual Christmas in July fundraiser at the scenic Brimfield Winery. This was the first year the event took place at the winery, offering a more spacious, flatter venue perfect for browsing, sipping, and supporting local artisans.

The event serves a heartfelt cause: proceeds go toward assembling holiday care packages for senior citizens in Monson. “It’s a fundraiser for Monson Together,” said one of the organizers, Karen Davis. “We use the funds to purchase holiday bags for senior citizens in our town.”

Over 100 vendors filled the winery grounds, offering handcrafted goods, ar-

CHRISTMAS | page 6



Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy

**Hustle and Heart - Jill Connors of Wilbraham offers an adult-humor-themed gift boutique featuring hats, cards, and more.**

**PALMER**

## Residents express concerns about e-foils

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The Palmer Conservation Commission tackled a diverse slate of topics during its July 15 meeting, including growing concerns over the use of electric hydrofoils on Forest Lake, the replacement of aging trailer homes within a riverfront area, and an emergency septic system repair. The meeting also included approvals of past minutes, financial items, and updates to local planning initiatives.

### Public Concerns Over High-Speed E-foils on Forest Lake

A substantial portion of the meeting was dedicated to a public inquiry regarding the increasingly frequent use of e-foils (electric motorized hydrofoils) on Forest Lake. Starting around the Fourth of July weekend, residents reported the arrival of these sleek, battery-powered vessels, which can reach speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. While visually impressive, residents warned that the e-foils present multiple dangers to swimmers, wildlife, and the lake’s fragile vegetation.

One speaker described witnessing e-foil riders fly into the air after hitting sub-

E-FOILS | page 13

**PALMER**



Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy

**Jaxson Belisle, age 5, painting the inside of his firefly jar first at the Palmer Public Library.**

## Firefly mania glows at DIY library event

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The Youth Services room at the Palmer Public Library glowed with creativity on Thursday evening, as children and families gathered for a hands-on craft event: making their own glow-in-the-dark firefly jars. Designed with kids of all ages in mind, the DIY activity drew about 33 participants and offered a fun,

low-pressure way for young patrons to engage with art and imagination during the library’s busy summer programming.

The event was the brainchild of Angie Sanchez, the library’s Youth Services Librarian, who has been with the Palmer Public Library since 2017. As the lead programmer for children ages 10 and under, Sanchez works year-round to design accessible and engaging events

that meet the developmental needs and interests of young learners, and their families.

“This is something that a very little one who’s just learning to hold crayons and manipulate tools can enjoy,” Sanchez explained. “At the same time, an older sibling with more fine motor skills, or even a parent, can do it right alongside them.”

Participants used both

FIREFLY | page 12

**MONSON**

## National Grid outlines plan to repair site for hub operations

By Abigail McCoy  
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MONSON – At its July 15 meeting, the Monson Planning Board unanimously approved a site plan and special permit that will allow National Grid to relocate its regional electric operations to 132 Bethany Road. The project, which involves a

significant refurbishment of an existing industrial building, was met with detailed scrutiny from the board, particularly regarding environmental protections and stormwater management. The board also introduced proposed updates to the town’s stormwater bylaw in response to a federal consent order issued by the Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA).

### National Grid to refurbish Bethany Road site

Civil engineer Tim Houle of BL Companies presented the updated plan on behalf of National Grid, outlining the company’s intention to transform the existing 90,000 to 100,000

square foot facility into a hub for electric operations. Houle explained that National Grid’s current facility on Route 32 no longer meets the company’s spatial needs, and the Bethany Road site offers the space necessary to consolidate warehousing, office functions, vehicle staging, and storage into one location. He emphasized that

the company wants to maintain a long-term presence in Monson.

The building will be refurbished and reskinned using National Grid’s corporate color scheme of blue, white, and gray, and the facade will be updated with parapets and additional windows to improve both appearance and functionality.

No expansion of the building footprint is proposed. Indoor fleet parking is a key feature of the design, allowing bucket trucks and other vehicles to be stored out of the weather to improve readiness during storm events.

“This facility gives them the room to operate and

HUB | page 13

**PALMER**

## Community shines at inaugural Small Business Saturday at School House Commons

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The School House Commons came alive with community spirit on Saturday as it hosted its inaugural Small Business Saturday, a grassroots effort to highlight local entrepreneurs, artisans, and craftspeople operating out of a revitalized former school building.

The event was the brainchild of Tammy Chalue, a business owner and organizer who saw the potential for turning the historic building into a bustling hub of small business collaboration.

“We’re all small businesses working together under one roof,” Chalue said. “We wanted to start something that would bring in other local vendors, let people know what’s happening



Turley Photo by Abigail McCoy

**Dave DeJohn and his 3D printed figurine business, showing off how large some of the products are.**

inside the building, and show that this place really is a hidden gem in Palmer.”

Vendors lined the interior and exterior of the building, offering everything from handcrafted jewelry to marshmallow guns, 3D-printed figurines, and freeze-dried candy.

Donna Wagner, owner of Perfect Crunch, drew visitors in with her vibrant display of freeze-dried saltwater taffy in flavors such as cinnamon roll, strawberry cheesecake, honey lavender, and s’mores. Wagner also offered colorful “rainbow bites” and “lemon pops,” earning praise for her whimsical take on classic sweets.

“It’s all about texture and flavor,” Wagner said. “Freeze drying changes the candy entirely. It’s crunchy, light, and full of flavor. People love the

novelty of it.”

Outside under the tents, Nicole Desilet showcased her handcrafted jewelry, specializing in bead weaving with natural stones, crystals, and glass pearls. Meanwhile, Linda Hall of HM Art Kits offered “fun art” kits for adults and kids, complete with paints, brushes, and instructions. Hall also hosts paint parties and creates craft packages for children.

“It’s not fine art, it’s fun art,” Hall said with a laugh. “I want people to enjoy creating something with their own hands.”

Another standout was Dave DeJohn, owner of

BUSINESS | page 8



# DUCKIES dive into reading at SOAP MAKING program

By Abigail McCoy  
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WALES – The scent of soap and the buzz of excited children filled the air at the Wales Public Library on a recent summer afternoon, Saturday July 19 where patrons of all ages gathered for a special Duck Soap Making program as part of the library's D.E.A.R. (Duckies Excited About Reading) summer reading series.

Inside the cozy, historic library, which was once a private home built in 1841 and transformed into a public library in 1922, families crowded into the freshly updated main room. There, bubbly creativity took center stage as soapmaker Gariné Arakelian of Kulina Folk Arts guided a hands-on, sensory-rich workshop that was equal parts chemistry lesson and crafting fun.

Arakelian, who runs an artisan workshop business with her husband, Rick Hamelin of Pied Potter Hamelin, and pottery partner of nearly 40 years, explained the science behind soapmaking with enthusiasm and humor. While the day's project used a safe, glycerin-based melt-and-pour soap suitable

for kids, Arakelian shared her journey from learning to make cold-process soap (a more advanced and potentially hazardous technique involving lye) to becoming a self-taught expert; thanks to public libraries.

"I wanted to make cold-process soap, and I thought I could just wake up one day and do it," she told the group. "But I found out it was dangerous, and I had to teach myself. So I went to my local public library, picked up every book I could, and studied for six months. That's the power of a library... it teaches you how to teach yourself."

With a microwave, a rainbow of soap-safe dyes, and essential oils like peppermint, children and adults alike crafted custom soaps, each embedded with rubber duck inside. As they melted and stirred, Arakelian offered fascinating tidbits on glycerin, explaining how it pulls moisture from the air, and even from your skin, if you're in a dry climate. "That's why glycerin soap feels like it's sweating on a humid day," she said. "It's doing its job."

Library Director Kara Jund, just weeks shy of her one-year anniversary as the director, has been revitaliz-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Above, Gariné Arakelian of Kulina Folk Arts explains the difference between cold press lye soap and the glycerin soap they used during the workshop. Right, The premade examples Arakelian brought to show off how the soaps should turn out if made correctly.



ing the Wales Public Library with a mix of traditional services and modern, engaging programs. "We've completely refreshed the inside, we've launched our first Library of Things, and we're offering more programs than this library has seen in years," Jund said.

The "Library of Things" includes a Nintendo Switch that patrons can borrow, a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot, and audiobooks, alongside classic fiction and nonfiction materials. There are dedicated kids' and tween areas, and even a

growing monthly caregiver coffee hour where adults can connect while volunteers supervise children nearby.

"We're also bringing back our summer reading program for the first time in quite a few years," Jund said, noting that it's been met with strong participation.

This summer's lineup includes not only soapmaking and pottery demonstrations by the artisan couple (they'll return on August 2 with a magical pottery wheel experience featuring dragons and pinch pots), but also whimsical

events like a plushie sleepover. Kids are invited to leave their stuffed animals overnight at the library, where the toys get into lighthearted "trouble." The next morning, children receive photo storybooks showing the adventures their plushies had; from snack raids to bedtime tales.

The Friends of the Wales Public Library, a newly formed support group, is actively fundraising to help make the library more accessible. "We're working toward getting a more user-friend-

ly book drop and improving accessibility overall," Jund explained. "This building is beautiful and historic, but it wasn't built with modern access needs in mind."

One of the anticipated fundraisers is an upcoming garden party concert, date to be determined, that will feature live mu-

sical and community camaraderie, all in support of expanding the library's offerings.

From scented soap science to stuffed-animal she-nanigans, the Wales Public Library is proving that big things can happen in small spaces. With creativity, community, and the enduring power of books and learning, this little library is carving out a big role in the lives of local families.

## All About Town

PALMER



### Get to Know Your Town Employees: Marlene Johnson

1. What is your favorite thing about the town?

The hometown feeling.

2. What do you do in your position?

I oversee the department at the Palmer Senior Center as the Director

3. Describe an average day at the office?

There is no average day at the center, the mornings are the busiest for us, especially with the exercise programs Monday-Friday, along with breakfast on Tuesday/Thursday from 9:30-10:30 followed by trivia and lunch at 11:30-12:30 Monday/Wednesday and Friday. We have added a wide variety of activities from water coloring painting, memory café/lunch, diamond dot painting, greeting card designs and our weekly market

basket for our seniors to pick up fresh vegetables during the summer months.

4. Tell me a bit about you. Are you a resident? What is your education?

I live in West Springfield, but I grew up in Bondsville, I went to Bondsville Grammar, Pathfinder and graduated from Palmer High. I have a BA from Western New England University in Business Administration. I love cats, gardening and being crafty. During September-December you can find me at local craft fairs.

5. What other departments or committees/boards do you work closely with?

I work closely with all the departments here in town, the center is a member of Mass Council on Aging, we

work closely with the Palmer Historical Commission, Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, the churches, local businesses and the center itself has an advisory Council on Aging Board, which is compiled of local seniors who our presently active with the center.

6. What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

Providing new and meaningful activities for our seniors and offering a variety of services, from assisting our seniors with Medicaid, health insurance and fuel assistance to name a few that our

Outreach, Cindy Jasak provides. I also like to see all participants in our community attending our exercise programs, and other recreational activities that we offer.

7. What inspired you to take on the position?

The staff, the services that the center provides and the welcoming atmosphere of the center.

8. Where is your office located? What are your office hours?

The center is located at 1029 Central St. and our hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

9. What is the history of your department? What makes it unique from others?

The Palmer Senior Center was established in 1976, which was initially called Palmer's Senior Citizens Drop-In Center at 388 Main St in Palmer. A special ceremony and ribbon cutting was scheduled Feb. 15, 1976. The center was only open Mon-

day's 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., and Tuesdays through Saturday's from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The uniqueness with our senior center is the home environment, and the consistency of our programs.

10. What do you want the community to know about your position?

My position is to provide services for our seniors and to let our community know that we are more than just a senior center. We have an amazing caring staff that provides an array of activities and warmth. The center has great exercise programs, meals, trips, art programs, intergenerational programs. We provide our community with monthly newsletters that let them know what is happening at the center.

### Amherst Railway to host plant-a-thon on July 26

PALMER – The Amherst Railway Society is installing a garden railroad on our property on South Main Street in Palmer. On Saturday, July 26, we are sponsoring the Palmer Plant-A-Thon, installing 200+ plants on our growing garden railroad.

The event begins at 7 a.m. and runs till everything is in the ground.

The Plant-A-Thon is open to the public. You do not have to be an Amherst member to participate.

The Amherst Railway Society is located at 1130 South Main Street in Palmer.

If you have questions about this event, contact John Sacerdote at: showdirector@amherstrail.org.

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A retired police dog that relaxed in the shade of the tents with his handler.



One of the K-9 officers held onto his toy very gently while waiting for the next demonstration.



A police dog pulling with all his might as his handler casually talks with other officers between demos.

# K-9 fundraiser unites police departments

By Abigail McCoy  
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BRIMFIELD — Dozens of law enforcement agencies, first responders, and community members gathered at Brimfield Winery on Saturday July 19 for the Third Annual Paws 4 Blue K-9 Fundraiser, a day of demonstrations, education, and gratitude; all in support of police K-9 teams in need of critical funding.

Hosted for the first time at Brimfield Winery, the July event marked a new chapter for the nonprofit Paws 4 Blue, which raises money to provide grants for police dog units across the region. The organization funds emergency medical care, essential equipment, and specialized training for working dogs and their handlers.

"This event has gone over very well," said Jan Garabedian, the founder and organizer of Paws 4 Blue. "Handlers can apply for grants through our website, and the money raised here is what allows us to support them. It's all about helping the K-9 teams that protect our communities."

Paws 4 Blue extended heartfelt thanks to the Brimfield Winery for hosting the event and to the many law enforcement agencies that participated or attended in support. Agencies present included:

- Amherst Police Department
- UMass Amherst Police Department
- Charlton Police Department
- Friends of Charlton Police Dogs

- Greenfield Police Department
- Hampden County Sheriff's Office
- Leicester Police Department
- Ludlow Police Department
- Massachusetts Environmental Police
- Oxford Police Department
- South Hadley Police Department
- Ware Police Department
- Webster Police Department
- UMass Memorial LifeFlight

A standout supporter of the fundraiser was Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, who was credited by Garabedian as a major organizing partner. "He brought in the mounted unit, his canines, and backed us 100%," she said. Though Cocchi was unable to attend the event in person due to a family wedding, his contributions were prominently acknowledged.

One of the day's most poignant moments was a live demonstration involving UMass Memorial LifeFlight, a critical care helicopter service. The team showcased a specialized canine transport crate, used for flying injured police dogs; something that was not legally allowed in Massachusetts until the passing of "Nero's Law."

The law was named in memory of Nero, a K-9 from the Yarmouth Police Department who was shot in the line of duty in 2018 alongside his handler, Sgt. Sean Gannon, who tragically died. At the

time, Nero's treatment was delayed because existing laws did not permit emergency transport of police dogs via ambulance or helicopter.

"Nero's Law changed that," said LifeFlight representative Nick North. "We are now the only helicopter in New England that can transport an injured K-9. We showed how we can quickly and safely evacuate these working dogs in an emergency."

A flight demonstration was scheduled to highlight the capabilities of the specialized canine medical equipment and protocols. While many attendees stayed to witness the takeoff and crate system firsthand, those who missed it were encouraged to follow Paws 4 Blue on social media for photos and video.

In addition to the LifeFlight demo, the event featured appearances from mounted patrol officers, police K-9s, and vendors offering dog-themed merchandise and gear. From golf towels to treats and toys, the merchandise table offered fun and functional items for canine lovers, with proceeds supporting the cause.

"This is our one big fundraiser of the year," Garabedian noted. "Every donation helps a police dog team that may not otherwise be able to afford emergency treatment or necessary tools for duty."

The fundraiser, which has previously been held at Pulaski Park and Westview Farms Creamery, continues to rotate venues throughout Western Massachusetts to ex-



The specialized crate was made to safely transport injured K-9 officers, large enough to fit any dog, and sturdy enough to be attached to any emergency vehicle.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
The UMass Memorial Life Flight Helicopter taking off after its demonstration.



Deputy Cupka and his horse Flash, named after Flash Gordon, and Deputy Camacho and her horse Autumn.



One of the demonstrations was showing how police k-9's find hidden drugs.

pand its reach and community involvement. The goal remains the same: to make sure no K-9 officer goes without the care and equipment they deserve.

Donations to Paws 4 Blue can be made through the

organization's website or by mail. The nonprofit encourages ongoing support from individuals, businesses, and police supporters year-round.

"We're deeply grateful to everyone who came out today," said Garabedian.

"These dogs serve and protect just like their handlers. They deserve our full support, and we're here to make sure they get it."

For more information or to donate, visit: [www.paws4bluek9.org](http://www.paws4bluek9.org)



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# Viewpoints



By Russell Gloor

## What is the formula for deciding when to claim?

**Dear Rusty:**

I am curious about the "formula" to decide when to take Social Security while still working.

I am past the Full Retirement Age. How do you best address such? Should we schedule a call?

**Signed: Wondering When**

**Dear Wondering:**

Well, you can always contact us by phone on 1-888-750-2622 to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors or you can send your questions to us via email at [SSAdvisor@amac-foundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amac-foundation.org). You don't need to pre-schedule a meeting, as we have multiple advisors answering the phone on most normal business days. If they all happen to be busy when you call, simply leave a voicemail and an Advisor will return your call promptly.

For starters, since you have reached your Full Retirement Age, know that your work earnings will no longer negatively affect your Social Security benefits. You can earn as much as possible and your monthly SS amount will be the same, based on your average lifetime monthly earnings for your highest 35 years and based on your age when you claim. Since you have not yet claimed SS, you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which increase your monthly SS amount by .667% for each month you continue to delay. That's 8% for each full year you delay past your FRA. You should not, however, wait longer than age 70 to claim because that is when you will get your maximum SS benefit amount. For you, that means that your age 70 amount will be 28% more than the amount you would have received at your FRA of 66 years and 6 months in October 2023 and about 15% more than if you were to claim now.

Note too, that if your more recent income is among the highest of your lifetime, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly SS retirement amount to account for that event. They will check your work earnings each year to see if you are entitled to a larger SS

amount because of your recent earnings.

Since (according to your AMAC member record) you are married, you may also wish to consider whether your wife will get a spousal benefit from you when you claim. If your wife's personal SS retirement amount at her FRA is less than the amount you were entitled to at your FRA, then she will get a spousal boost when you claim. With her spousal boost (if claimed at her FRA), her total SS benefit should be about 50% of your FRA benefit amount not half of the higher amount you will get because you waited longer to claim. But your wife cannot get a spousal boost until you are collecting your SS.

And here is something else to think about: received SS benefits will become part of your overall income taxed by the IRS when you submit your income tax return. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000 then some of your SS benefits will become taxable income. If your combined income is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Or, if your combined income from all sources exceeds \$44,000, then about 85% of your received SS benefits will become part of your income taxed by the IRS. Just something to keep in mind, especially since you are still working.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Revisit wildflower gardening

After driving by an exquisite wildflower border, I was prompted to revisit and update a column I wrote some years back on the topic of wildflowers.

If you wish to give the natural look a go, preparation is the key. Read on for more useful advice.

Wildflower or meadow gardens can be beautiful, even breathtaking, if properly cared for. Besides being pretty, they are low maintenance and environmentally friendly, and they often attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Our goal at the time of sowing is a grass-free, weed-free seed bed. Since wildflower seed is sown in winter or early spring, we have lots of time to achieve that goal.

At summer's end rototill the spot intended for your wildflowers. If the grass is especially thick you may need to go over it several times. Allow what is left of the grass to decompose.

Pull any weeds that sprout, or lightly cultivate the soil – don't go too deep or you'll expose more weed seeds to the light! You can also skip the tiller, and eradicate the grass by use of black plastic or a tarp-of course you'll have to look at it for several weeks!

If that's okay, then start now by mowing the grass as close as possible. Lay the black plastic or tarp on top and secure it in place with bricks or rocks. The heat, coupled with the absence of light will kill the grass un-

derneath. By early fall you will be able to rake away any debris that remains. Plan to sow your seeds in early spring. There are many wildflower mixes to choose from. I'd recommend selecting one that is suited to the northeast. A mix that contains both annual and perennial flowers is a good option – the annuals providing you with color the first year while the perennials are establishing themselves. Don't skimp on the seed. In fact, use up to three times more than the packet says you need to ensure you'll end up with lots of blooms. To avoid bare spots, divide your seed in half and sow the entire area with the first half, then go to the second.

Don't cover the seed at all, just firm it into the soil. A lawn roller works great!

Gently water until your seeds have sprouted and your plants are up and growing – this will usually take at least a month. Watch now, as the season unfolds in all of its beauty!

At the end of the growing season, after the plants have gone to seed, you should mow the entire field with your mower on its highest setting. This will prevent

trees and shrubs from establishing themselves in your meadow. The mower will do a fair job of chopping up spent stems and leaves – just let them fall where they will. First, they will act as winter mulch. Then, over time they will break down and add organic matter to the soil – just as leaves and twigs do in the woods. In the absence of a mower you can go the old fashioned route and cut the meadow with a scythe or hedge clippers.

In all instances care should be taken not to damage the crown of the plants, this can severely weaken or even kill perennial wildflowers. As far as fertilizers go, wildflowers generally don't need it! In fact, rich soil does more harm than good, causing weeds to thrive and compete with your flowers for sunshine and water. Speaking of water, once your meadow is established it will only require water in cases of severe drought or if you plan to re-sow annual seeds in bare spots the following spring.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



by Roberta McQuaid

## The Journal Register

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@ 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 unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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

## Other options: Should you get a virtual second opinion?

If you receive a diagnosis that will require a major intervention, such as hospitalization, chemotherapy or surgery, consider getting a second opinion. Why? Because medicine is almost as much art as science, and two heads are usually better than one.

These days, you have more options for accessing second opinions. Virtual second opinions have been growing in availability and use over the last few years, fueled partly by the pandemic and partly by shortages of medical specialists in many areas of the country. In fact, they've even got their own acronym: VSO.

### What is a virtual second opinion?

A virtual second opinion allows you to consult with a medical specialist who could be in another state or even another country. Specialists can review your records, images and test results and report whether they agree with your diagnosis and treatment plan.

You would turn to a vir-



# your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column



tual second opinion for the same reasons you'd seek a traditional one. VeryWell Health, a partner of Cleveland Clinic, offers these considerations:

If you've undergone treatment and your symptoms persist.

- If treatment will require surgery or long-term therapy, or will have a life-long impact on your quality of life.

- If you are diagnosed with cancer, which is a complicated disease with many treatment options.

- If you are diagnosed

with a rare disorder. In particular, research doctors who have treated your disorder.

- If your instinct tells you something is "off." This is particularly true when you're trying to get a diagnosis for your child.

Medicare covers second opinions, including the virtual kind, as long as your doctor has recommended surgery or another major diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. Medicare Advantage policies usually follow suit, but be sure to confirm with your particular company.

If you're unsure about

whether you need a second opinion, a medically trained patient advocate can help you review your options.

### How to find a virtual second opinion

You can start with Dr. Google, Dr. Safari, Dr. Bing or your own doctor, but be sure to select a trustworthy provider, such as a major medical center like the Mayo Clinic or accredited medical school.

For example, Mass General Brigham connects patients with physicians who generally hold tenured faculty positions at Harvard Medical School, are board-certified and often have research expertise in a particular area.

You can access a VSO from anywhere, which is a great benefit to people who don't live near major medical centers or are in underserved rural areas. While you may need an internet connection, video conferencing is usually optional.

If you have to pay out-of-pocket, a VSO typically costs between \$700 and \$2,000. Charges can be high-

er if the review is particularly complex or a pathology review is included. There are cheaper options, but I would be wary of them.

### Possible outcomes

Your second opinion may reassure you that your current diagnosis and treatment are appropriate. It's also possible that even if the current diagnosis is correct, changes in the treatment plan may be recommended.

The second opinion might also disagree with your diagnosis and treatment. This was a surprising result when doctors looked at the virtual second opinions that 657 cancer patients received from Stanford University's School of Medicine between 2018 and 2020. The VSOs recommended a treatment change in 53.8% of the cases, a much higher percentage than with traditional second opinions.

More study is needed to determine why this happened, but the researchers also noted that VSO may

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## UPCOMING

**WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILLIARY SHOP**  
40 Wright St., Palmer

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

### Hitchcock Summer Concert series

For more information, visit [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://www.hitchcockacademy.org). Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield.

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.

### Wales Public Library summer events

Summer Reading through Aug. 11

Dear Duckies Soap Making (registration required) July 19 at 2 p.m.

Paracord Bracelets (registration required) July 25 at 4 p.m.

Seashell Trinket Dishes (registration required) July 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Plushie Sleepover (registration required) July 30  
Amazing Magical Potter's Wheel (registration required) Aug. 4 at 2 p.m.

Pop-up Story Time Aug. 6 at 10 p.m.  
Seashell Votives (registration required) Aug. 7 at 4:30 p.m.

## July 27

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

## July 26

St. Christopher's Chicken BBQ at Old Home Day- Brimfield Winery 4 p.m. at 35 Main St., Brimfield. Ticket information at St. Christopher's 413-245-7274 or online [brimfield-winery.com/events](http://brimfield-winery.com/events)

## July 31

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

## ONGOING

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

**FRIDAY NIGHT CAR CRUISES** with Bruce Marshall 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., come check out the amazing car collection. Brimfield Winery 35 Main St. in Brimfield

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

**KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:** Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keep-homesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keep-homesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## Palmer High Class of 1975 to host 50th reunion

PALMER—Join us for our 50th Class Reunion on Oct. 18, 2025, 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Tony and Penny's in Ludlow -enjoy dinner, music, and great company. Tickets are \$60 per person.

Please RSVP to [ccolburn172@comcast.net](mailto:ccolburn172@comcast.net) for yourself and guest by August 9, 2025.

The payment deadline is Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

Please make checks pay-

able to "PHS 75 Reunion" and mail them to:

PHS 75 Reunion, PO Box 213, Palmer, MA 01069-0213

We would like a recent photo if possible, to add to

our slideshow. If you would like to share any other photos from high school days, it would be appreciated. Photos can be e-mailed to Cindy at: [ccolburn172@comcast.net](mailto:ccolburn172@comcast.net).

## First quarter real estate taxes due on Aug. 1

PALMER – The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers Fiscal Year 2026 1st quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by August 1, 2025.

The Tax Collector's office is accepting credit and debit card payments for property taxes either on the town website at [www.townofpalmer.com](http://www.townofpalmer.com) or at the tax office. There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer. The fee structure can be viewed on the town website.

If you are making on-

line payments through your bank (EFT's), please set it up to

have the check mailed directly to our office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Do not use the Woburn lockbox address for this type of payment as no bill that would include a scan line is included for processing.

Please call the Collector's office at (413) 283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Friday.

## HEALTH | from page 4

help address the worldwide shortage of cancer specialists.

### A big question about VSO

An important issue for doctors issuing virtual second opinions is whether they need to be licensed in the state where they are delivering their opinions. Technically, the answer is yes: They are providing diagnostic recom-

mendations that may affect the course of a patient's treatment.

### An offense like that could cost doctors their license.

There's a workaround, however: Doctors are allowed to provide virtual second opinions on a peer-to-peer basis. In other words, your doctor is allowed to consult with a doctor in another state. Because of this, I recommend

that, if you're looking for a VSO from an out-of-state provider, you should work with your doctor to obtain it.

In a 2021 study, the Mayo Clinic found that a second opinion cuts the chance of misdiagnosis in half, yet it's estimated that only 5% to 10% of patients seek them. If you have any concerns about your diagnosis or treatment, get a second opinion – in person or virtual.

*Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://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](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com).*

3

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## 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.

### Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at [journalregister@turley.com](mailto: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.

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Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Michelle Dane and Karen Davis of Monson Together.



Mother-daughter team Patty Clark and Risley Dudley of Curiously Rise have a variety of crocheted plushes and other items.



Kate Doyle from Wagon Primitives which sells handcrafted primitive decor using antique items, with a seasonal focus on Halloween and fall garlands.



Scott Blodgett from First Amendment Printing creates custom t-shirts, hoodies, tumblers, and apparel for schools and sports teams.



Terry and Cheyenne Fitzell showcase Diamond Art bookmarks, keychains, magnets, and light catchers at their first fair.



Clay Chic Design - Makayla Manuel crafts handmade polymer clay jewelry, including candy canes and gingerbread men.



Kaitlin Weidler and Cameron Spurr of Kreation by Kaitlin offer coasters, keychains, cups, and custom vinyl designs using Cricut and sublimation techniques.



Greg Coran from Crimson Lion Specialty Foods sells gourmet jams, hot sauces, popcorn, and the crowd-favorite jalapeño honey mustard.



Kimberly Spiney of Whimsigest produces gothic-style shadow boxes, poison-themed decor, and tiny coasters with a twist



Nicole Shaughnessy from Perfect Beauty donates a portion of profits from her bath and body products to animal shelters.

**CHRISTMAS** | from page 1

tisan foods, quirky gifts, and creative crafts. In a twist that perfectly matched the venue, attendees enjoyed wine tasting alongside their holiday shopping. The relaxed adult-friendly atmosphere, combined with warm weather and a strong breeze, created an ideal summer outing for families and wine lovers alike.

Many vendors were excited first-timers, while oth-

ers were seasoned participants with deep local roots. The fair also partnered with Paws 4 Blue, further emphasizing community collaboration. Guests strolled past stalls filled with polymer clay jewelry, crocheted shrimp in sweaters, spooky shadow boxes, custom embroidery, wood-craft, and more.

Handmade goods ranged from quilted flags by The Country Moose Quilting & More to handmade wooden pens at The Crazy Cat Wood-

shop. Shoppers could pick up rare minerals and botanicals at Crystal Clear Gardens or laugh over cheeky gifts at Hustle and Heart of Wilbraham.

Beyond retail, the event reflected a deep well of creativity and passion among local crafters. Vendors shared stories of pandemic hobby turnarounds, multigenerational crafting legacies, and new business beginnings. Whether it was 3D printed dragons, beaded bottle openers, or pop-

it frogs, each booth had a story, and a maker proud to tell it.

With strong attendance and vendor satisfaction, Monson Together plans to return to Brimfield Winery next summer. "It was a great day," Davis added. "Hopefully we'll work with the winery again."

As shoppers departed with early holiday finds and full hearts, it was clear that Christmas in July had once again brought the spirit of giving to life; even under a summer sun.

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Lana LaChance from Ammalu Handcrafted for You and her mother create handmade plush pop-it toys, including frogs, mushrooms, and aliens.



Patrons wander through the shade and sun to view all of the vendors at the Christmas in July Craft Fair.



Alicia Reep from Reep What You Sew offers custom embroidery on jackets, hats, and children's clothing, including giveaway raffles.



Melissa Spear and Cheryl Pigeon from Crazy Krafts collaborate on sewn crafts, fairy gardens, and floral creations.



Ted Gurski of The Crazy Cat Woodshop hand-turns wooden and acrylic pens and items using unique materials like automotive paint scraps.



Victoria Bettueli from Ammonite Tracks specializes in whimsical crochet and knit creations like shrimp in sweaters and loaf cats.



Sherry, Tom, and Diane Perron from Arts & Farts & Crafts repurpose vintage ceramic molds into quirky lamps, planters, and wine glasses.



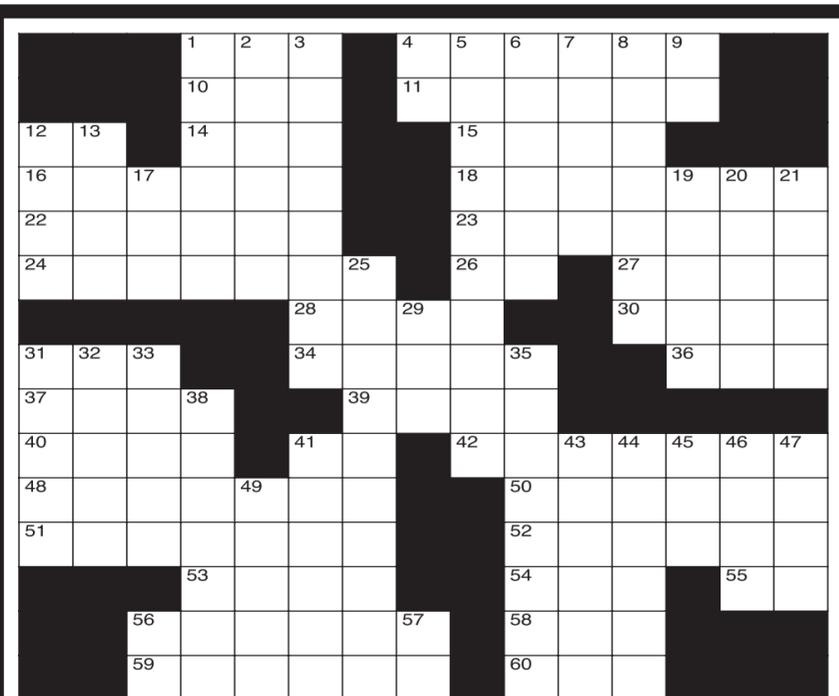
Melissa Nadreau from Crystal Clear Gardens curates rare plants, minerals, and botanical jewelry with an earth-made, artistic flair.



Attendees roam through the rows of vendors, enjoying the sunshine and the multitude of offerings.



Brandon Pigeon of Pigeon Creations and his partner offer 3D printed and sublimated crafts like dragons, tea lights, and bags.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 4. Extracts through heating and melting
- 10. Express delight
- 11. More curvy
- 12. Expression of uncertainty
- 14. Indicates before
- 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 16. Southwestern CA city
- 18. Unified
- 22. Less attractive
- 23. Base of jellies
- 24. A large and noisy party
- 26. He was traded for Luka
- 27. Wolverine genus
- 28. «Happy Days»

- actress Moran
- 30. Root of taro plant
- 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Unique power
- 37. Ray Liotta cop film
- 39. Leak slowly through
- 40. Notion
- 41. Atomic #55
- 42. Fixed in one place
- 48. About heat
- 50. Type of baseball pitch
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Large wading birds
- 53. Similar
- 54. Time zone
- 55. Atomic #34
- 56. Program
- 58. Old world, new

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Plain-woven fabric
- 2. Classed
- 3. Suppositions
- 4. Midway between south and west
- 5. Tropical American trees
- 6. Leveled
- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior's father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition
- 20. Small immature herrings
- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one
- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river



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Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy  
Perfect Crunch Freeze Dried Candy small business, owned by Donna Wagner.



Nicole Desilet with her homemade accessory business Nicole Desilet's Handcrafted Jewelry.



Paula Yelinek, owner of Frames and Things, showing off the current frame project she is working on for a customer.



Linda Hall "It's not fine art, It's Fun art" with her paint kits for kids and adults.



Bob Ryan from Ethel's Emporium, a men's hygiene and product store. They work under Apremont LLC and have a few other small businesses operating under the same umbrella.



Kathy Lloid with 2S Crafts & Gifts.



Steve Miliogo sells his customizable marshmallow guns.



Alan Hamel, owner of the new train store in the Schoolhouse Commons basement across from Hebee Pottery.

**BUSINESS** | from page 1

DJD 3D Prints, who displayed a colorful collection of hand-painted 3D-printed items ranging from superheroes to dragons and fidget toys.

"I print and paint almost everything myself," DeJohn explained. "The kids love the dragons. It's fun and interactive, and there's something for everyone."

Inside the School House Commons, permanent vendors welcomed attendees into their eclectic shops. Among them was Bob Ryan of Ethel's Emporium, (Apremont LLC), a gift store focusing on men's grooming products, soaps, and t-shirts. Ryan also partners with other second-floor vendors to showcase their homemade afghans and decorative items.

Paula Yelinek, owner of Frames and Things, offered a blend of vintage and custom framing options. Many of her frames are repurposed and

given new life; a reflection of the Commons' own spirit of renewal.

"Someone gets rid of it, and someone else comes in and loves it," said Yelinek, who's been operating her business in the building for nearly five years.

Just upstairs, Tracy Chaput, owner of L+M Creations, has carved out a niche offering mobile scrubs and medical uniforms, frequently visiting hospitals, schools, and local events to bring products directly to clients. Her family, it turns out, is deeply embedded in the Commons' entrepreneurial fabric: her husband manages a toy business, and her father runs a model train shop on the lower level.

"It's a real family affair," Chaput said. "We all pitch in to support each other."

One of the day's highlights was the grand opening of the new train store operated by Chaput's father, Alan Hamel, who has been in the model train business for 15

years but officially opened his shop at the Commons on that Saturday. The store offers everything needed to build a scenic model railroad layout: rolling stock, HO scale buildings, ballasts, grass, and more.

Meanwhile, a former first-grade classroom now houses the Library Loft, a used book shop operated by the Friends of the Palmer Public Library. According to Eleanor Szlachetka, president of the Friends group, the store is now in its 26th year, funded entirely by donations and book sales.

The event also highlighted local artistry. A watercolor painter Ron Dion, who preferred not to be photographed, shared how his journey into painting began just four years ago, inspired by a bonding moment with his great-granddaughter. Today, his art is featured in greeting cards, bookmarks, and matted prints.

Elsewhere, Kathy Lloid of 2S Crafts & Gifts shared

a collaborative booth showcasing handmade quilts, crocheted items, dog collars, jewelry, and slate art made by a group of friends and family members.

"We've been here since October," Lloid said. "We moved around a bit but found a home here. It's been wonderful."

Chalue and other vendors are optimistic about the future of Small Business Saturday at the Commons. Plans are already in motion for future events that may include tag sales, antique car shows, and themed vendor fairs.

"We want to bring in all kinds of people," Chalue said. "If someone's not into tag sales, maybe they'll come for the antiques. The idea is to support each other and grow together."

For a building once filled with classrooms and chalkboards, the School House Commons has evolved into something just as educational; a place where the community learns to support its own.

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**SOCCKER**

## Mustangs squeak by Rams in summer tilt

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Many outstanding soccer players have played for the Monson girls' varsity soccer team over the years. You can certainly add Hannah Murphy's name to that list.

During last Friday night's Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League B-Division match-up with Granby, Murphy recorded a hat-trick as the Lady Mustangs squeaked out a 3-2 victory at Larry Tas-sinari Field in Monson.

"We were very excited about playing tonight's game because we play in the same league as Granby during the regular season," Murphy said. "It gave us an opportunity to see how they'll be in the fall. We were missing a couple of key starters, but we were still able to pull off the win. We're just getting ready for the fall."

Murphy will be the only senior listed on the Monson varsity soccer roster.

"It's my last year playing for the varsity soccer team," Murphy said. "I just want to leave my team off in a good place. I really like helping the younger players on the team."

Granby and Monson are members of the Central Division.

A couple of Monson's younger key players are Avery Beaudoin, and Emma Maziarz.

MUSTANGS | page 10



Lylia Ellis approaches a loose ball.



Audriana Perkins tries to settle the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Emma Maziarz heads up the field.



Avery Beaudoin clears the ball away.

**SOCCKER**

## Strong finish to regular season for Post 241

PALMER – Last week, Monson American Legion Post 241 baseball scored a 5-1 win over West Springfield in its final home game of the regular season. Post 241 fell 7-3 against Pittsfield in its regular season finale, but Monson put together four wins in its final five games to make the Legion tournament. Monson would play three games in the tournament. Coverage from those games will be in the next two editions.



Grayson Griswold fields a grounder.



Hunter Griswold sends a fire to first.



Miguel Velazquez gets the tag out at second.  
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brayden Mega fires a pitch home.



Shane Szado fields a grounder to first.

## Western Mass. softball captures gold

DEVENS – Earlier this month, the entrant from Western Massachusetts captured the gold in this year's Bay State Summer Games for softball.

The tournament began this year with West team actually suffering a loss 3-0 in the opener playing in the Willard Field Complex in Devens. The tournament started on July 8 with two games. Following an opening loss, the West bounced back with a 4-3 win over the Northeast team.

Action continued on

Wednesday July 9 as the West scored two wins in the game. They defeated Metro 2-1 and then trounced on the Central Mass. team 10-2 to earn a spot in the gold medal game, which took place on Thursday, July 10. The West found itself in a rematch with Coastal and this time prevailed in a slugfest, winning 11-7.

Among the players on this year's team from Western Mass., Chelsea Hull of Monson High School, Agawam's Alexina Lentes, and Holyoke's Mia Bauer were on the team.

## Pioneers grab win in playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Four days after giving up a pair of stoppage time goals and having to settle for a tie against rival Vermont Green FC in the regular season finale, the Western Mass. Pioneers hosted the Long Island Rough Riders in a USL League Two play-in match.

Once again, the Pioneers held a two-goal advantage late in the second half, but this time there wouldn't be any miracle comeback

by the opposing team. The Pioneers advanced into the Eastern Conference quarterfinals with a 2-0 shutout victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Tuesday night.

"We're very happy with this result, especially after what happened on Friday night," said longtime Western Mass. Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "It was in the back of my mind during tonight's game. You just hope it doesn't happen again."

PIONEERS | page 10



Juan Hermoso heads up the field.



Israel Neto makes a quick pass during recent action.  
Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Tommy Catalano scores win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – For Tommy Catalano, watching his brother Trevor earn his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory at Monadnock Speedway last year was emotional for several reasons.

Trevor's triumph came in only his eighth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour appearance. Entering Saturday's Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway, Tommy had 96 career starts on his resume, none of which had resulted in a win despite several close calls.

Years of patience and

hard work brought a second Catalano to Monadnock's Victory Lane in thrilling fashion.

Tommy was tasked with fending off Patrick Emerling during an overtime restart while on older tires. Emerling briefly took the lead from Tommy, but a nudge to Emerling's back bumper knocked him out of the groove just enough for Tommy to earn an emotional breakthrough victory by the slimmest of margins – .007 seconds.

"I didn't really want to get [Emerling] like that into [turn three]," Tommy said. "I

was hoping to kind of move him up the hill a little bit. Everyone was kind of tight right there. Justin [Bonsignore] was right on my bumper. It's unbelievable.

"Hopefully this isn't the last one."

After starting 12th, Tommy cycled to the second position after electing to stay on track during a caution with 42 laps remaining that, ironically, involved his brother Trevor.

Tommy lined up second behind Luke Baldwin for the ensuing restart, with Tyler Rypkema providing the two

a buffer between Emerling, who led the remaining lead lap cars off pit road. Knowing he needed to move quickly, Tommy dove underneath Baldwin in Turn 1 to take the lead, which also pinned Emerling on the top line.

By the time Emerling worked his way back to second behind Tommy, another caution would trigger an overtime restart. The fastest car at Monadnock all evening would now be lined up to Tommy's outside for the final two-lap sprint, but even with the odds against him, the seasoned veteran was not ready

to surrender the win just yet. Emerling led at the white flag. Through determination and sheer will, Tommy led at the checkered flag, albeit just barely.

The scene in Victory Lane was nearly identical to last year's Duel at the Dog 250, with the only difference being the role reversal of the brothers.

As the Catalanos celebrated, Emerling felt a mix of frustration and disappointment with his second-place effort. He was critical of the maneuver Tommy pulled on him to take the victory but

does not plan to linger on Saturday's defeat for long.

"We had the best car today," Emerling said. "We led basically the whole race and the whole team executed really good. We were doing exactly what we had to do and had the race won in the last corner but got smashed out of the way. That's not the type of racing that I do, but I guess that's how it goes."

If Emerling had edged Tommy at the line, he would have snapped a streak of different winners to open 2025,

WIN | page 11

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# Turleysports



## Athlete of the Week

### Miguel Velazquez

*Pathfinder*

**Velazquez helped get some key outs for Post 241 in a matchup with West Springfield.**

*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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).*

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**MUSTANGS** | from page 9

The Lady Mustangs entered the final week of the PVSSL regular season sitting in first place in the B-Division standings with an 8-1 mark.

The Lady Rams (6-3) were tied for third place with the Chicopee Pacers, Frontier and Ludlow.

In the second meeting of last season between the two squads, which was also played at Tassinari Field, Murphy scored a late goal giving her team an exciting 2-1 senior day victory.

Murphy, who has been playing for the varsity team since she was an eighth grader, has compiled 150 career goals. She netted 49 of those goals as a junior last fall.

After graduating from Monson High School in the spring of 2026, Murphy plans to continue playing

college soccer at the Division 1 level. She has made a verbal commitment to join the women's soccer team at Sacred Heart University, which is in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Murphy's older sister, Emma, is a member of the UMass-Dartmouth women's soccer team.

Monson took a 1-0 lead in last Friday's summer league match in the fifth minute of the opening half.

After receiving a pass, Murphy made a move around Granby goalie Meredith Bartosz before firing a shot into the open net.

A little more than ten minutes later, Murphy weaved around a couple of defenders before putting a low shot into the left corner giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Then a shot attempt by Eleanor Szlosek was saved by Monson goalie Audrey Gregoire, who's entering

the seventh grade.

The Lady Mustangs normal starting keeper is Grace Berry.

Granby managed to cut the deficit in half when Carli Zobka delivered a pass to Sofia Marsh, who scored a goal, with a couple of minutes remaining in the opening half.

The score remained 2-1 until the middle of the second half when Murphy completed her hat-trick.

With about ten minutes remaining in regulation, Marsh netted her second goal, which made the score 3-2.

Margo Healey had a shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gregoire made the save, which helped the Lady Mustangs keep the lead.

The two regular season meetings between the Granby and Monson girls' soccer teams are scheduled to take place on Sept. 19 and Oct. 9.

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## Journal Register

# Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**  
Staff Writer  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)  
*Summer Edition*

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – The Wednesday Mixed Summer League have three weeks left of candlepin bowling left in the summer.

After 11 weeks of league, Sophia's Raiders remain in first place with a record of 67-21. Gutter Dolls are in a distant second place with a record of 53-35. Kristen's Squad are in third place with a record of 48-40 and Straight Shooters are in fourth place with a record of 46-42.

In week 11, the Rolling Stones bowled against the Gutter Snipes. In game one, Gutter Snipes won by a score of 425-418. In game two, Rolling Stones won by a score of 428-411. In game three, Rolling Stones won the last game by a score of 433-430.

Marc Vinciulla of Gutter Snipes finished the match with a 107. The final score was 1279-1266 in fa-

vor of the Rolling Stones.

The second place team, Gutter Dolls, bowled against Sophia's Raiders. In game one, Gutter Dolls got a big win over Sophia's Raiders, 432-425.

In game two, Sophia's Raiders won by a score of 425-410. In game three, Sophia's Raiders and Gutter Dolls tied the last game at a score of 424. Sophia Hearnlaye ended the match with a high game of 109.

The final score was 1274-1266 in favor of Sophia's Raiders. Gutter Dolls received three points and Sophia's Raiders won five.

Clock Barn bowled against Kristen's Squad in week 11. The match began with a tie in game one with both teams scoring 424. In game two, Clock Barn won by a score of 429-424. In game three, Kristen's Squad won the last game by a score of 438-428.

The final score was 1286-1281 in favor of Kristen's Squad.

The No Shows bowled against the Straight Shooters in week 11. In game

one, Straight Shooters won by a score of 442-407. Alan Nason of Straight Shooters bowled a 102.

In game two, Straight Shooters won again by a score of 449-447. Pete Swistak of No Shows bowled a 105 in a losing effort.

In game three, Straight Shooters won for a three-game sweep over No Shows, 485-425. Sue Rose of Straight Shooters bowled well with a 106 in game three. Nason finished strong with a 108 during the team's victory.

Straight Shooters defeated No Shows with a final score of 1376-1279. Straight Shooters move to fourth place with a record of 46-42.

Gutter Fingers won two out of three games and six points bowling against their average. The team scores consisted of 438, 444, and 434. Jean Pouliot was over average (87) every game by scoring 99, 90 and 90.

Sophia's Raiders have three weeks left to defend their #1 seed position.

**PIONEERS** | from page 9

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 10-1-3 record, played their last home game of the season.

Pioneers' goalie Trey Sheppard, who made his first home start of the season against Vermont, was feeling much better after posting his first shutout against the Rough Riders.

"I didn't sleep very well the other night, but I received a lot of support from my teammates," said Sheppard, who's from Columbus, Ohio. "I just forgot about the past and focused on tonight's game. I'm really looking forward to playing for this team again next year."

Sheppard is also one of the goalies listed on the Amherst College men's soccer roster. The Mammoths are the defending NCAA Division 3 National Champions.

Sheppard, who's going to be a sophomore in the fall, missed most of the Pioneers regular season because the Amherst men's soccer team made a trip to Europe where they played several matches.

"It was definitely a very cool experience," he said. "We played a few games over there, but I'm very glad they gave me an opportunity to play here."

Sheppard certainly enjoyed having a solid defense in front of him led by Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly, who's a member of the UMass-Amherst men's soccer team.

"Aidan is a great defender," Sheppard said. "He makes all of the plays."

The other three Pioneers starting defenders in the home finale were Jaiden Willems, Juan Hermoso, and Gustavo Barbosa.

Willems suffered an injury in the middle of the first half against Long Island (9-3-1). He was replaced by Jared Smith.

"I thought Jared was the man of the match," Sheppard added. "We have a very good defense."

The play-in match was scoreless until the 26th minute of the opening half.

That's when Mamadi Jiana, who graduated from Chicopee High School, received a pass from Israel Neto before blasting a shot into the net.

"I felt very good after scoring what turned out to be the game winning goal in front of the hometown crowd," said Jiana, who mostly likely played his final match wearing a Pioneers jersey at Lusitano Stadium. "It's always very special whenever we're playing at home."

A couple of minutes later, Neto fired a shot from the top of the box, but Long Island goalie Ethan Wood managed to knock the

ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

In the middle of the second half, Neto chipped a pass from the right side of the box to a wide Santiago Blasco

Gomez, who put the ball into the net giving the Pioneers a 2-0 advantage.

Unlike what happened in the regular season finale, Sheppard and the defense didn't allow the Rough Riders to make a late comeback.



Rees Sheppard socks a free kick away.



Gustavo Barbosa gets a leg on the ball. Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)



Jose Suarez Monaco goes after the ball.

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# Valley Blue Sox scored slugfest win before break

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox had great offensive success in their 14-11 victory over the Sanford Mainers. Valley (16-19) had the bats going early thanks to shortstop Michael Elko and right fielder Isaac Wachsmann, however, Sanford (18-18) started the offensive explosion first.

In the top of the first, Mainers' Zack Kent singled up the middle to score Domenico Tozzi. Peter Keblinsky scored an earned run on an E2 by Hayden Perry and Kent scored unearned. Sanford had a dominant top of the second inning, scoring four more insurance runs thanks to wild pitches and an error by the Blue Sox.

Valley found their footing in the bottom of the inning. It started with Wyatt Hunt being hit by a pitch which was followed by Andrew Loikits' double. An E6 error occurred which allowed Hunt to score and Loikits to advance to third. Kai Cunningham then singled into center field scoring Loikits. Cunningham found his way down to second base on a nice steal and was then driven in to score off of a single by Chris Carson. It was now 7-3 at the

end of two innings.

Sanford acquired two runners on first and second before Sam Miller nuked a three run home run shot into left field to start the scoring frenzy. Nichoals Spaventa and Hunt walked and then Loikits reached first base on an E1 which allowed Spaventa to score to make it 10-5. Cunningham hit a sac ground out to score Hunt and advance Loikits. Hayden Perry walked to reach first. Carson drove a ball into left center to score Loikits and advance Perry to third. Then Michael Elko came to the plate. Elko ripped a triple into right field scoring Perry, Carson and himself on a E4 to tie the game at 10-10. Wachsmann came up to bat for the second time that inning and crushed a homer into the same exact spot as before to give Valley their first lead of the night 11-10 to end the inning.

Wachsmann was hyped about his home runs. "There was not a lot going through my head [during the home runs.] I was just trying to put together good at bats and help the team get back into the game." Valley's Head Coach Endy Morales was impressed with Wachsmann's performance. "He's a super talented guy and when pitchers make mistakes and when facing really good hitters, you make them pay, that's just the name of the game right there." More scoring occurred in the bottom of the fourth. Hunt tripled which was then followed by Lokits walking and stealing second. Cunningham then walked to load the bases up. Perry's sac ground out scored Hunt and advanced Loikits to third. Carson walked and then Elko slapped a double off the center field wall to drive in Loikits and Carson. The Blue Sox were now up 14-10.

Sanford was ultimately not able to catch up to Valley's explosive offensive momentum as the game ended 14-11 in favor of the Blue Sox.

Morales was hyped about the win. "Absolutely incredible [game]. I told the [team] in the second inning this game was going to be a dog fight and they responded," Morales said.

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# Mass. Pirates near end of regular season

GREEN BAY, WI – The Massachusetts Pirates were held to just 10 points in the second half as the Green Bay Blizzard clinched a berth in the upcoming Indoor Football League playoffs with a 56-27 victory at the Resch Center. The Pirates (7-8) led three times in the first half but could not slow down the Blizzard (10-5) as Green Bay swept the season series from Massachusetts.

The Pirates took the opening kickoff and put together an 11-play drive that resulted in a 24-yard field goal by Josh Gable for the first points of the contest. The Blizzard wasted no time coming back as quarterback Max Meylor threw two passes to JT Davis and then handed off to Kymani Clarke for a two-yard touchdown run for a 7-3 lead.

The Pirates would reclaim the lead with 52 seconds on the clock in the quarter as quarterback Kenji Bahar scored his 26th rushing touchdown of the season on a one-yard scamper, capping a six-play 44-yard drive, giving Massachusetts a 10-7 lead after one.

The second quarter saw both teams turn the ball over. The Blizzard were deep in their own territory and on second and 12 from the 12, Meylor was intercepted by defensive back Smoke Monday, who returned it to the four-yard line. On the next play,

Bahar fumbled the ball as he tried to hand off to Pooka Williams Jr. Scean Mustin recovered the ball, and it led to the Blizzard's second score. Meylor threw a five-yard shovel pass to Lowell Patron for the third lead change of the game, with Green Bay out front 14-10.

The Pirates' offense almost misfired again on the next possession. With a first and goal at the three, Bahar fumbled again. This time he recovered at the 19. A defensive pass interference penalty moved the ball back to the four-yard line, and two plays later, it was Bahar running it in for his second rushing touchdown of the night to put Massachusetts back out front 17-14 with 3:36 remaining in the first half.

Green Bay would answer as Meylor threw his second touchdown pass of the half, as Andre Williams pulled in a 12-yard strike. Andrew Mevis added the point after for a 21-17 lead with 60 seconds on the clock. The Pirates drove all the way to the Green Bay six, but Gable's 14-yard field goal attempt was no good as the Blizzard led by four points at the break.

Green Bay started the third quarter with a bang as on the first play Meylor threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Williams, his second TD reception of the game, to give the Blizzard an 11-point lead at 28-17.

The Pirates added a 25-yard field goal from Gable to close the deficit to eight points with 8:12 remaining in the quarter, but the lead increased to 15 as Meylor connected with Patron for his second touchdown. The successful six-play, 30-yard drive gave the Blizzard the confidence to attempt an on-side kick. The kick was recovered by Green Bay's Kevin Ransom, and five plays later, it was Meylor throwing his fifth touchdown pass of the game. Clarke made a six-yard TD reception, and the quarter ended with the Blizzard leading 41-20.

The fourth quarter began with the Pirates scoring on a six-play 30-yard drive with Bahar hitting Teo Redding with a clutch four-yard touchdown pass from five yards out. Gable's PAT made the score 41-27 with 9:42 to play.

The Blizzard would score the next two touchdowns as TJ Davis found the end zone from 27 yards out on Meylor's sixth TD pass of the game. Then Ransom intercepted Bahar and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown. Green Bay's good fortune continued as the conversion snap bounced to Mevis, who executed a perfect drop kick to make the final score 56-27.

The Pirates' final regular season game will be next Friday night at the Tsongas Center at 7:05 against the Bay Area Panthers.

## WIN | from page 9

having previously won at New Smyrna Speedway. Austin Beers' victory at Lancaster Motorplex last weekend tied the record for seven different winners in seven events that was set in 1999.

Instead, Tommy's valiant effort during the final laps set a new NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour record; eight winners in the first eight races.

Building up Catalano Motorsports has been a prolonged, methodical effort not only by Tommy, but his mother Amy, his father Dave, his brothers and every member of his team. That elusive first victory finally arrived on Saturday, a day Tommy wasn't sure

would ever materialize.

"It's just nuts," Tommy said. "You see all the people that have won so far this year and if you said any of them were going to win their second race [this year], that wouldn't have surprised me at all. To come here and do what we did is phenomenal.

"You start getting down thinking it's not meant to be, but you keep plugging away and keep at it."

Kyle Bonsignore finished third in his 100th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour start, followed by his cousin Justin Bonsignore and Beers. The rest of the top 10 included Rypkema, Baldwin, Stephen Kopcik, Craig Lutz and Anthony Nocella.

# Quabbin Valley set to host second league

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

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers,

Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

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

depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from

outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

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

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Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email\* them to: jamie@turley.com \*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**



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**<https://topfloorlearning.org/>**



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
The Fales Family (left) and the Santana Family (right) making friends and doing a fun activity they can bring home.



Kids and guardians fill the room as the Youth Service's Librarian, Angie Sanchez, goes around to help the participants.



Violet Menard, age 6 1/2, paints a pattern on the inside of her jar.



Each participant is provided with a jar and a set of paint brushes, two different glow-in-the-dark paints are on the tables for people to share.

**FIREFLY** | from page 1

ivory-toned and neon green glow-in-the-dark paints, each UV-reactive, to decorate the inside or outside of small glass jars, creating a whimsical firefly-in-a-jar effect. Sanchez encouraged artistic freedom and experimentation, showcasing a drying example she had created with layers of paint both inside and outside the jar to offer a 3D-style finished look.

"I saw something online that used glow-in-the-dark paint in another context, and it sparked the idea," said Sanchez. "I had three dozen jars sitting around and thought, let's call them firefly jars and make that the theme."

While the concept was new to Palmer Library's programming, jar crafts and painting nights are a familiar staple. Sanchez noted that Pinterest and other online resources help inspire many of the activities she adapts for the library's programs.

The glow-in-the-dark jar project was also intentionally designed with flexibility in mind, especially after a more complex idea involving fairy



Youth Service's Librarian, Angie Sanchez, explaining how to make a DIY firefly jar with the least amount of mess.

lights and battery packs was ultimately set aside. "That kind of setup works well for adults," Sanchez said, "but with kids, all the wiring and big battery packs didn't feel like the right fit. I didn't want them to be frustrated. With this, they can take their time, enjoy the process, and feel proud of what they made."

The event is part of a lineup of weekly family-focused summer programming that happens each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., all listed at [www.palmerlibrary.org](http://www.palmerlibrary.org).

Sanchez hinted that the firefly jar craft may make a return in future seasons, possibly with some tweaks based on this first run. "Depending on how tonight goes, I'd consider doing it again. It really depends on how the kids respond."

From the turnout and enthusiastic painting happening throughout the room, it's safe to say the glow-in-the-dark firefly jars were a hit; one that lit up imaginations and made for a memorable night at the Palmer Public Library.



The example Angie Sanchez created before the event to show how it can be done.

# School Supply List

**Suggested School Supply Donations:**

- Box of Colored Pencils
- Plastic Pencil Box (Unlabeled)
- Erasers (Not Pencil Top)
- Thin Set of Crayola Markers
- Thick Set of Crayola Markers
- Scotch Tape
- Pack of Post-It Notes
- Box of 24 Crayons (No Larger)
- Colored Pencils
- Children's Scissors
- Elmer's Glue Sticks
- Expo Markers
- Single Subject Notebooks (Any Color)
- Erasers (Pencil Top Style)
- Lots of Pencils (Ideally Ticonderoga)
- Pencil Case/Box/Bag
- Cm/Inch Ruler
- Hand-Held Pencil Sharpener

**Items For Sharing With The Class:**

- Lysol/Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Expo Markers
- Paper Towels

**Drop Off Locations:**

**WARE**

- Cedarbrook Village
- Monson Savings Bank
- Moulton Insurance
- Hakim Medical Center
- Dhillon Family Dentistry
- Ware Town Hall
- Ware River News

**PALMER**

- J Stolar Insurance Agency
- AMVETS Post 74
- Just a Little Craft Store
- Palmer Restaurant
- Phish Phriends
- Life's Memories & More
- Rocky's
- Palmer Town Hall

**MONSON**

- The Better Bean
- Monson Savings Bank
- TJ's Tavern

## CAMPUS NOTES

**Alexis Plumley graduates from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

ALBANY, NY – More than 220 undergraduate, graduate and PharmD students crossed the stage at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' 145th Commencement on May 17, 2025. The ceremony was hosted at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, New York.

Among those that graduated was Alexis J. Plumley of Brimfield.

**Local residents named to Clark University Deans List**

WORCESTER – The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2025 Dean's List:

- Maya E. Senquiz, of Monson was named to first honors.
- Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield was named to first honors.
- Kayla R. Southworth, of Brimfield was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

**Fire Logs**

*Fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of 07/14/2025 thru 07/20/2025. The department responded to 21 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls.*

On **Monday, July 14** at 10:53 a.m. the department responded to 115 Wales Road for the vehicle gas leak. The department returned to service at 11:08 a.m.

On **Thursday, July 17** at 9:11 a.m. the department responded to 246 Woodhill Road for the stove fire. The department returned to service at 9:50 a.m.

On **Thursday, July 17** at 1:24 p.m. the department responded to 283 Wales Road for the illegal burn. The department returned to service at 1:43 p.m.

On **Saturday, July 20** at 4:33 a.m. the department responded to 14 Crest Road for the smoke detector activation. The department returned to service at 5:02 a.m.

On **Saturday, July 20** at 1:06 p.m. the department responded to 57 Town Farm Road for the vehicle in the pool. The department returned to service at 2:34 p.m.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**  
**Matt Lemieux, 413-886-2591**  
**Mnchkn1221@aol.com**  
**Dan Flynn, 413-297-5886**  
**dflynn@turley.com**

# Public notices

## TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Sections 10 & 11 M.G.L., the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, August 4th, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Amanda Pierce, is requesting a variance from §171-35 Dimensional and Density Regulations. The variance request is to allow for the construction of a shed within the rear setback. The property is located at 4061 Main Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 82, Lot 126.

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://masspublicnotices.org>).

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
07/17, 07/24/2025

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN

[seal] No. 25 TL 000076

To any former stockholders, officers, creditors, and any other persons claiming any interest in J.R.M. Realty, Inc., a dissolved Florida corporation formerly located in St. Petersburg in the State of Florida; Joseph R. Martowski, as he was President and Director of said J.R.M. Realty, Inc., deceased, formerly of Palmer, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Joyce V. Perry, formerly known as Joyce V. Welch, as she is Treasurer of said J.R.M. Realty, Inc., now or formerly of Belchertown, Hampshire County, and said Commonwealth; Michael J. Martowski, as he is Vice President of said J.R.M. Realty, Inc., now or formerly of Palmer, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Michael J. Martowski, now or formerly of St. Petersburg in the State of Florida; David Martowski, now or formerly of Springfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Sherri Martowski, now or formerly of Ware, Hampshire County, and said Commonwealth; Brenda Martowski Corbin, now or formerly of Palmer, Hamp-

den County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors, and assigns:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Palmer. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about a parcel of land located in the Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

Property: Building Containing: 0.00 SF (more or less)  
Location: 226 Gates St  
Assessors: 3003200  
Registry: 29320  
Land Court: -  
Recorded: Hampden County Registry of Deeds

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is September 15, 2025.**

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

**If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default.** You may lose the chance to answer or dispute

the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in Journal Register a newspaper published in Town of Palmer.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this eighteenth day of July in the year two thousand and twenty-five.

Attest with Seal of said Court.  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Peter A. Brown, Esq.,  
2 Oliver Street, Suite 501,  
Boston, MA 02190  
Tel: (617)463-9133  
07/24/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P1458EA  
Estate of:  
Anthony Niver**

## Date of Death: 12/02/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

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

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS**

## UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 14, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
07/24/2025

## TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PASSAGE

On July 14, 2025, the Palmer Town Council passed Loan Authorization 2025-3, a Bond Order authorizing the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$2,280,000 for the purpose of paying costs of designing, constructing, reconstructing, and equipping a centrifuge sludge dewatering system at the wastewater treatment plant. A complete text of this loan authorization is available at the office of the Town Manager and Town Clerk, 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Town Council of Palmer, MA  
07/24/2025

## E-FOILS | from page 1

merged weed mats, while others expressed concerns over the wake and speed disrupting kayakers and families on rafts. There were also worries about the deep rudders damaging native aquatic vegetation and the use of the devices by unregistered and potentially underage operators.

"These items are probably not meant for a lake like Forest Lake," one resident stated. "The fact that they can go up to 35 miles an hour means that they exceed the 10 mile an hour speed limit."

Commission members agreed to bring the matter to the attention of Town Manager Brad Brothers. There was discussion about possibly coordinating with the environmental police and filling a vacant recreation director position to help manage future conflicts between recreation and conservation. Some members suggested revisiting the town's waterway enforcement framework, including the potential appointment of a harbor master.

## Trailer Replacements in the Quaboag Valley Co-Op

Two separate public hearings focused on requests related to the replacement of manufactured homes at 67 and 61 Skyline Terrace within the Quaboag Valley Co-Op, a residential mobile home community adjacent to the Quaboag River.

For 67 Skyline Terrace, the applicant sought a determination for the removal of an existing trailer and the installation of a wider replacement home on a new foundation. The project falls within the 200-foot riverfront area, and one mature maple tree near the setback line is slated for removal. The applicant's representative, Mike Petros of Engineering & Land Solutions, offered to mitigate the tree loss by planting a replacement elsewhere in the park.

"Within our proposal, it would meet the standards of redevelopment since it is replacing an existing structure," Petros told the commission.

After reviewing the plans, which included a structural

slab foundation system and minimal earthwork, the Commission approved the request with a negative determination, meaning no Notice of Intent was required.

A similar but more complex proposal was discussed for 61 Skyline Terrace, which had previously contained a deteriorated trailer that was removed following a probate process. Petros explained that while the site qualifies as redevelopment, it does not meet the definition of a degraded site under Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidelines, as the area includes maintained lawn space.

Petros assured the Commission that the new trailer would be placed farther from the river than the original structure and noted that the plan includes removal of an outdated septic system. The system would be pumped, crushed, and filled according to DEP standards.

"We are improving on the conditions. We're not worsening it," Petros said.

Due to a delay in payment processing to the state DEP, the applicant requested a continuance until the Commission's August 19 meeting, which was granted without objection.

## Project on Old Warren Road Continued for Stream Classification

The Commission also considered a request for determination and notice of intent related to a home addition at 209 Old Warren Road. The applicant is seeking to overcome the presumption that a near-by stream is perennial, which would affect the regulatory review process.

Agent Jessica Ladin informed the board that the applicant was not yet prepared to provide the necessary documentation and had requested a continuance.

"We can't go through with the NOI until we first decide if it's a stream or not," Ladin said, emphasizing the procedural sequence required by DEP guidance. The hearing was continued to August 19.

## Developer Withdraws East State Street Subdivision Plan

In a significant development, applicant Brenda Ivankivetz formally withdrew her application for the proposed Rolling Pines subdivision on East State Street. The 24-lot open space residential development had sparked concern in earlier meetings due to its proximity to wetlands and resource areas.

Ivankivetz submitted a letter of withdrawal, which Ladin summarized for the record. The Commission then voted to close the public hearing and approved the withdrawal of the Notice of Intent without prejudice.

"Sometimes folks are unsure about the business aspect of all this," said one commissioner. "It's just very emotional and very upfront about her experience."

## Planning Updates: OSRP and Farmland Inventory

The Commission reviewed progress on updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) in advance of a required submission deadline in September. Tasks remaining include updating the action plan and creating a "unique features map" that was omitted from the last submission.

"We want to have that all done by mid-September," said Ladin. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission may be consulted to help complete the mapping component.

Commissioners also revisited a report on "farmland of local importance," which was compiled by a student working with a UMass professor last year. The report helps reclassify agricultural land not previously recognized in state databases and can improve eligibility for farmland preservation funding.

"We don't want to let this kind of document just fall by the wayside," Ladin emphasized.

She noted that the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources considers this classification when ranking applications for APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) funds, making the inventory a valuable tool for landowners interested in protecting working farmland.

## HUB | from page 1

function properly... They do desire to remain in Monson long term," said Houle during his presentation.

## Stormwater System Draws Scrutiny

Much of the board's discussion focused on the stormwater system, which represents a substantial upgrade from the current site conditions. Houle detailed the multi-tiered design, which includes catch basins fitted with hoods, hydrodynamic separators, oil-water separators, and a shut-off valve to contain potential spills. Most runoff will be handled by an underground infiltration system, while a small surface infiltration basin will serve the southern portion of the site.

The town's peer reviewer, Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI), had previously flagged the absence of a monitoring well in the basin as a potential shortfall. National Grid requested a waiver of that requirement, citing environmental concerns that a well in the basin could unintentionally act as a conduit for contaminants to enter the groundwater. Board members agreed to the waiver on the condition that a monitoring well be installed just outside the basin. They also required that groundwater from the well be sampled annually for three years to check for hydrocarbons, industrial solvents, and other contaminants.

"We are requesting that the board consider waiving that requirement for monitoring wells in light of the environmental sensitivity here," Houle said.

## Traffic and Safety Measures

The board raised concerns about traffic flow and vehicle operations. Houle confirmed that the site will operate primarily during daytime business hours, but will remain accessible 24/7 for storm-related emergencies. National Grid will instruct its staff and delivery drivers not to turn left from

Bethany Road onto Route 32 South, in response to safety concerns from the police department. The company intends to strictly enforce this restriction.

Lighting at the site will be designed to meet local regulations and avoid spilling onto neighboring properties. A modest fence and gated entrance will be added along the street-facing side of the property, primarily to discourage pedestrian intrusion. Houle explained that the fencing is not intended as a full security measure, since the site's proximity to active railroad spurs would make a secure perimeter difficult to maintain.

"National Grid takes safety very seriously... They intend to enforce that heavily with their staff," Houle told the board.

## Hazardous Materials and Rail Use

Board members asked detailed questions about the handling of hazardous materials. Houle clarified that no fueling will occur on-site and that existing underground fuel tanks will be removed in compliance with Department of Environmental Protection regulations. Only limited quantities of oil, lubricants, and cleaning agents will be stored indoors in accordance with building code and containment standards. The building's drainage system includes floor drains connected to an oil-grit separator and sanitary sewer, as required by the state plumbing code.

Transformers will be stored on-site, but only newer models containing mineral oil will be kept there. Older transformers containing PCBs will be sent directly to disposal facilities. Houle also noted that National Grid intends to make use of the property's existing rail spurs to receive large shipments such as wire reels, citing this as a logistical advantage of the site.

After closing the public hearing, the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve both the site plan and special permit. The approval includes stan-

dard conditions, along with the additional requirement for a monitoring well and groundwater testing. The decision will be filed with the Town Clerk and is subject to a 20-day appeal period.

"I make a motion we grant approval... plus monitoring well installed and tested for a three-year period adjacent to the infiltration basin," said one board member, summarizing the final conditions.

## Stormwater Bylaw Amendment Introduced

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to bring its stormwater bylaw into compliance with federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) regulations. Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy and AECOM stormwater consultant Kate Shasler explained that while Monson adopted a stormwater bylaw in 2006, recent federal enforcement actions have deemed the current language outdated. The town has received a consent order from the EPA, and failure to act could result in fines.

The proposed amendment would increase the required removal of total suspended solids (TSS) from 80 to 90 percent for new development, and introduce phosphorus removal targets for both new and redeveloped sites. The changes also prioritize low-impact development techniques and add language consistent with the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook.

"If we don't meet that deadline, they (the EPA) can come back with what's called a consent order... and potentially a fine," said Shasler.

Planning Board members emphasized that the existing bylaw will largely remain intact, with amendments focused on sections related to environmental performance standards. The proposed changes will undergo a formal public hearing and a vote at Town Meeting before they can be adopted.

## DEADLINE

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



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Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING**

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department.  
Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)  
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to [highway@worthington-ma.us](mailto:highway@worthington-ma.us) and [sboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:sboard@worthington-ma.us).  
This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.  
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!**

**HELP WANTED**

**TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER**

The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer**. Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits.  
Email resume to: [townadmin@townofperu.com](mailto:townadmin@townofperu.com) or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235.**  
For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. (The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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# Obituary

## Gloria Marie (Brothers) Ahearn

PALMER – Gloria Marie (Brothers) Ahearn, 96, was reunited with her beloved late husband, Emmett Ahearn on July 21, 2025 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center. Born December 31, 1928 in Palmer, she was the daughter of Hector and Marie (Nicholas) Brothers. Gloria has been a lifelong resident of Palmer and was a communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church. She was also active in the Palmer Senior Center and enjoyed her crossword puzzles. Over the years, she collected hundreds of bells and her sweet tooth relished in Keebler Chewy Chocolate Chip Cookies. Gloria was an animal lover, most espe-

cially cats. In 2021, Gloria was predeceased by her husband, Emmett Ahearn and is the last surviving of her siblings, Barbara Stred, Ector Brothers, Clifford Brothers, Jean Wilson, and Robert Brothers. Gloria will be dearly missed by her daughter, Robin McClenaghan and her grandson, Bruce Godin both of Three Rivers along with many nieces and nephews and extended family. A funeral service will be held Friday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with burial to follow in St. Thomas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to the Palmer Senior Center.

## Douglas E. Fox

1943 - 2025

MONSON – Douglas E. Fox, 82, born on May 1, 1943, in Springfield, passed away on July 12, 2025, in Palmer. He was a hardworking truck driver and a talented diesel mechanic, known for his skills behind the wheel and in the garage.



and Steven Campbell of Stuart, FL. His daughters, Tammy Desreuisseau of Palmer, and Lisa Wilson of Union, WV. He also leaves many grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as a niece and nephew. He will also be missed by his beloved pet "Miss Kitty."

Douglas had a passion for music and enjoyed nights at the bar, playing the guitar and entertaining friends at places like Lakeview Lounge, Mountain Park, and Sunset View Campground. He was also a HAM radio operator, a hobby that allowed him to connect with people near and far. With a personality that was a bit rigid on the line of a rebel, "Foxy" lived life on his own terms, cherishing each moment he spent with family and friends.

He leaves behind his sons, Marshall Fox of Windsor, CT, Douglas Fox Jr. of Palmer, MA,

Douglas was predeceased by his sister Virginia Johnson, and his parents, Elmer and Katherine Fox. He will be missed by all who knew him and remembered for his stories and the music he shared.

Family and Friends are invited to gather for a Celebration of Life to be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at St. Stans located at 2114 Main Street in Three Rivers from 4-7 p.m.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.Lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.Lombardfuneralhome.com).

## Judith A. McMahon

1939 - 2025



BONDSVILLE – Judith Ann (Bonelli) McMahon, age 86 formerly of the Bondsville section of Palmer, passed away quietly on Saturday, July 12, 2025, after a brief illness. Judy was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 7, 1939, and was raised and educated in Springfield, Massachusetts. She leaves behind her daughter, Wendy Dill, her sisters, Sally Hawley and Susan Magee, and her cousin, Walter Brown. Judy was predeceased by her wife, Linda J.

Lamay and her daughter, Julie Ann McMahon. Judy graduated from Commerce High School and completed the LPN program at STCC and worked at Springfield Municipal Hospital. After raising her family, she retired from her career in nursing and later was employed for many years at the Ware Walmart. Judy loved people and thoroughly enjoyed gatherings with friends and family on trips to Cape Cod and Disneyland. She loved playing BINGO, doing

puzzles and enjoying pizza. There will be no formal funeral events. Judy's final wish was to have her ashes privately scattered in the Scattering Garden of Springfield Cemetery. Memorial Contributions are Kindly directed to two of her favorite charities: The Salvation Army of Springfield (P.O. Box 971, Springfield, MA 01101-0971) or Doctors without Borders USA (P.O. Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5030. Final Arrangements are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

## Joseph H. Raczka

Joseph H. Raczka, 68, of Warren passed away peacefully at home on July 19 with his family by his side. It is difficult to have him leave us, but we know he is at peace after a 7-year journey with Alzheimer's. There is no cure, so we are thankful for God's grace and mercy. Joe is now fully restored in heaven.



He was the son of Matthew and Ruth (West) Raczka and was raised in Palmer. He married Diane Dubosh in 1979 and they moved to Warren

where they spent many happy years together. Joe was a dedicated son, husband, father, grandfather and brother. He took so much pride in his career as a truck driver and enjoyed providing for his family. Over the years he worked for several trucking companies, including Construction Service, Consolidated Freightways, and Yellow, but his favorite was at Palmer Paving. Joe was meticulous in maintaining any vehicle or "toy" that he owned. He enjoyed riding his 1981 Honda

motorcycle, many snowmobiles and even his riding lawnmower. Joe had a quick wit and could be very funny! On his softer side he loved his cats, Rudy and Luey. He will be missed by his family; wife of 45 years, Diane, daughters Kim Raczka and her partner Alyx, Liz Raczka and her partner Kev and Suzanne Raczka, grandsons Theo, Max and Orion, sisters Fran and her husband Tony and Margaret and her husband David and their sons Jon and Joe. Death is a comma, not a period. Services will be held at the Beers and Story Palmer

Funeral Home on Thursday, July 24 from 5-7 p.m. Private burial for the family will be held on Friday at Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren. Joe always hated dressing up, so please come as you are; no suits needed. Joe would like that. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: Town of Palmer c/o Veteran Services, Veterans Gift Fund, 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA 01069. In memory of Joe's father Mathew and his Uncle John, both veterans of WW II, or Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow PO Box 557, Brimfield, MA 01010. In memory of Rudy.

## Constance Schetzel

1944-2024

MONSON – Constance "Connie" Schetzel passed away peacefully in St. George, Utah on September 28, 2024. She was born in Springfield, Massachusetts on October 11, 1944, to the late Rose and Martin Furgal.



Connie spent her early years in Monson, Massachusetts, and later attended Framingham State College. The following year, she married her devoted husband, James Schetzel, and the couple relocated to Con-

necticut, where Connie began her career as a Home Economics teacher in the East Haven School System. After taking time off to raise their two sons, Connie returned to school and earned a Master's degree from St. Joseph College in Hartford, Connecticut. She then went back to teaching. She retired after 21 years of dedicated service in education. Connie was a devoted wife and a loving mother who

took great pride in her family. She loved to travel and embraced life's adventures, including driving cross-country to her new home in Mesquite, Nevada. There in the Southwest, she found new purpose, new friendships, and new joy. Connie is survived by her husband of 57 years, James Schetzel; her sons, Edward and Jeffrey; and her sister, Eleanor Miller of South Hadley, Massachusetts. She also leaves behind many cherished nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Martin and Rose (Jablonski) Furgal and her sisters Pamala Furgal and

Jane Robert. There will be a gathering of family and friends at Lombard Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Patrick's church at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Connie's honor to Alzheimer's Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Drive, PO Box 1950, Clarksburg, MD. Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements, for online condolences please visit [Lombardfuneralhome.com](http://Lombardfuneralhome.com).

### DEATH NOTICES

- Ahearn, Gloria Marie (Brothers)**  
Died July 21, 2025  
Services Aug. 1, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home
- Fox, Douglas E.**  
Died July 12, 2025  
Services July 26, 2025  
Lombard Funeral Home
- McMahon, Judith A.**  
Died July 12, 2025  
Cebula Funeral Home
- Raczka, Joseph H.**  
Died July 19, 2025  
Services July 24, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home
- Schetzel, Constance**  
Died Sept. 28, 2024  
Services Aug. 6, 2025  
Lombard Funeral Home

### The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

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# Job Connection

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**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

### newspaper correspondent

Journal Register seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

Send writing samples with resume to

Deanna Sloat  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to [dsloat@turley.com](mailto:dsloat@turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

### Park Administrator

Full-time Park Administrator for a large, over-55 mobile home community. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities and maintenance crew, as well as enforcement of cooperative rules. Individual would be expected to take an active role in day-to-day operations, in coordination with President, Board of Directors, maintenance crew and office staff.

Requirements include previous management experience; general knowledge of building, property and vehicle maintenance; excellent organizational, communications, and time-management skills.

Resumes can be sent to:  
**Pine Valley Plantation Cooperative, 281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC30, Belchertown, MA 01007**  
or emailed to [office@pvpco-op.com](mailto:office@pvpco-op.com)  
Attention: Richard Kelleher, President

Please include days and times that you would be available for an in-person interview.

# Brimfield Old Home Day Celebration

## Community Gathering of Music, Food, Fun & Fireworks

BRIMFIELD — The town of Brimfield invites everyone to join them at the 4th annual Old Home Day, Saturday, July 26 on the grounds of Brimfield Auction Acres at 35 Main Street. The event begins at 4 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m. when an amazing display of fireworks will light up the night sky. Admission is free until 7 p.m. and then it is \$5/carload. The gate will close at 8:30 p.m.

The day includes a stellar line up of music. Time Stretchers Band performs 4 to 6 p.m. The Band is known for strong lead vocals and for their impressive vocal

harmonies. The group features Barry Searle on guitar, Clark Howell on drums, Sarah Miller on vocals and percussion, Pete Rzasa on pedal steel guitar, Paul Racicot on keyboards and Mark Neveu on bass.

The repertoire is an enjoyable mix of songs from many artists and a variety of genres from the 50s to now! They are constantly expanding the song list, but frequently featured artists include the Beatles, Linda Ronstadt, Tom Petty, Johnny Cash, Badfinger, The Pretenders, Steely Dan and more. Immediately following from 6 to 7 p.m. will be a Community Drum circled led by Tim Kane. Learn about rhythms from around the world using our vast variety of djembes and other hand drums. The final musical act from 7 to 9 p.m.



Submitted photos

is local favorite, Larry Simonetti, whose extensive repertoire of music spans several genres and is always a crowd pleaser.

The day also offers a variety of activities for kids of all ages. Activities include carnival games, bounce house, face painting, Hitchcock Academy will create a playground that will include Badminton, Volleyball, Cornhole and the extremely popular Gaga Ball, among others. Local artisans will show their wares along with non-profit organizations, many who will be offering information and interactive games. The Brimfield Fire Department is on hand to show their interactive display. The Sheriff's department will bring their therapy dog and triad unit.

What is a celebration without food? Vendors will be on hand with popcorn, ice cream and cotton candy. St. Christopher Church will

have the grills fired up cooking hamburgers & hotdogs throughout the day. They have also been selling tickets for the Chicken Bar B Que, which is taking place from 4 to 6pm. Tickets were pre-sold, but a limited quantity will be available that day.

Dennis McCurdy of McCurdy Insurance, who is celebrating 50 years in business, has been the presenting sponsor since the event's inception. "I believe in community, community building and giving back and Old Home Day has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to do just that. I have countless memories of my youth in Brimfield and am happy to be able to support a community that has meant so much to me."

Volunteers are a key element to help pull the day off and keep everything running smoothly. There is always room for more volunteers to help at the bounce house,

game area and parking. If you are interested and able to help, please email [brimoldhomeday@gmail.com](mailto:brimoldhomeday@gmail.com)

This day would not be possible without the support of the community and the committee is for their support. They are Presenting Sponsors, McCurdy Insurance & Green Acres Antiques and Flea Market. Platinum sponsor, Ardizzoni Plumbing & Heating. Gold level sponsors are New England Motel & Antique Shows, Precise Paving, RPM Heating & Air, Soper Construction, Francesco's Restaurant, Value Mechanical, Elite Heating & Air, the Brimfield Athletic Association and Auction acres.

For additional details check the Brimfield Old Home Day Facebook page or the events page at [Hitchcock-academy.org](http://Hitchcock-academy.org). The rain date for the event is Sunday, July 27. Info will be posted there.

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## Merrick, Fay & Co. Straw Works Hat Factory history on Aug. 3

MONSON — If you have an interest in Monson history, plan to come to the Keep Homestead Museum on August 3 at 1:30 p.m. to hear Bill Dominick share information on the Merrick, Fay, & Co. Straw Works hat factory.

Bill, a board member of the Monson Historical Society, will present a program explaining the straw hat factory's history from 1830 – 1927. At one time it employed 2,000 people on its

Main St. site where the present town offices are located.

He will also share information about the 2 families who owned the factory and will have historical photos to view.

All are welcome to this free event in the barn and donations are appreciated. The museum will be open for viewing from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments.

For more information about the museum visit [www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org](http://www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org).

Join us at **MARY FARM**  
Sunday, July 27th • 12:30 - 4pm  
for our Annual Picnic (rain or shine).  
Enjoy a hamburger, hot dog, side dishes and deserts.  
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