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# The Journal Register

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MONSON



The Peters family, of Monson, showed off festive costumes.

## Christmas in July

at Westview Farms

By Kevin Flanders  
Staff Writer

MONSON – The holiday season came early last weekend for local families, as Westview Farms Creamery hosted Christmas in July.

The July 25 event, held exactly five months before Christmas, featured a packed schedule of fun programs and activities.

Among the event highlights, multiple Amazon mystery boxes (packed by Amazon) were available for purchase.

The festivities also included music, tasty summer treats, family entertainment, sleigh rides and even a visit from Santa.

**The Young family, of Monson, got ready for fun activities.**  
*More photos on page 2*



STATE

## Oliveira secures funding for Palmer rail stop

By Kevin Flanders  
Staff Writer

PALMER – Plans to bring a passenger rail stop to town remain firmly on track after a major funding announcement last week.

On July 22, state Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) announced that he secured \$5 million in state funding to advance the future Palmer rail stop. The funding marks one of the most significant milestones to date for the project, as well as the state's overall west-east rail initiative.

"For years, we've worked to move west-east rail from a vision to a reality," Oliveira said. "MassDOT has completed the planning, selected the site, and finished the conceptual design. My priority was making sure we didn't lose momentum. By securing this \$5 million investment, we're giving the Healey-Driscoll Administration the resources and authority needed to move the Palmer passenger rail stop forward."

The funding was secured after the Massachusetts Senate adopted Oliveira's amendment to the Senate's \$325 million Economic Development Bill, which was passed last week.

The amendment provides the Healey-Driscoll Administration with the funding necessary to advance the Palmer rail stop as part of Phase I of

the Commonwealth's Commonwealth Rail initiative.

The investment supports planning, design, engineering, site preparation, accessibility improvements, parking, pedestrian access, utility work and other infrastructure projects needed to move the project toward construction.

"That's a tremendous win for Palmer, for western Massachusetts, and for everyone who has worked to make west-east rail a reality," Oliveira said of securing the funding.

MassDOT first launched the Palmer station planning process in 2024, evaluating multiple potential locations through technical analysis, public meetings and community engagement.

In February 2025, Governor Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation selected the South of Palmer Yard site (1199 South Main St.) as the preferred location for the station.

Over the past year-plus, MassDOT has completed the station's conceptual designs and other critical pre-construction work, positioning the project to move into its next phase.

Throughout the entire process, Oliveira has worked closely with MassDOT leaders, local officials, and legis-

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SCHOOLS

## Supt. provides updates for new school year

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week's School Committee meeting, the town received updates from the superintendent about new legislation, a grant the town is pursuing, and the new Middle School Principal.

The Wednesday, July 22 meeting began with Superintendent Paul Foster announcing that Serenity Greenwood has been appointed as the new principal at Granite Valley Middle School.

"She comes to us having

been a teacher, instructional specialist, assistant principal, and principal across Hamden, Wilbraham, Springfield, and West Springfield over the course of her career, so she's local and has a lot of good background," Foster said. "I'm particularly excited for her background in instructional leadership, knowing we have a lot of new curriculum coming in at Granite Valley next year, so I'm excited for that."

Foster then went into legislative updates, mentioning a previous discussion in June

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SCHOOLS

## School Committee reorganizes subcommittee and liaison appointments

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Last week's School Committee meeting included a vote on subcommittee and liaison appointments for the 2026-27 school year.

At the July 22 meeting, the committee reorganized its liaisons and subcommittees for the upcoming school year. Committee Chair Alison Morgan invited the committee to look at the appointments from the previous year and weigh in if they wanted to switch to a different sub-

committee or felt they would not be able to meet the needs of the subcommittee.

"We typically let our newest member have some of the less chaotic subcommittees, just to get your bearings," Morgan said. "That's not to say we have to do it that way, so I'd like to open it up to all the members."

The committee members were largely comfortable staying in their positions. Committee Member Peter Wiggins asked to make one change, to his position in the Human Resources and Negotiations subcommittee, with newly-elected Commit-

tee Member Jonathan Verda taking over as Chair, prompting Morgan to ask for a volunteer to serve as the second member.

"I am part of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, so I'm not allowed to do it," Morgan said.

The committee asked Superintendent Paul Foster how many meetings could be expected of the subcommittee.

"I don't know what the history is," Foster said, "but we'll have lots of meetings with the union for actual negotiations."

After determining that

the subcommittee typically attends all the bargaining sessions, Foster said that the subcommittee has only started the conversation to begin scheduling the meetings. He added that Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz had expressed interest in attending the bargaining meetings to consult on state law.

"I think we want School Committee representation at the bargaining sessions," Foster said. "I don't think we're under an obligation that both members of the subcommittee have to be

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SCHOOLS

## Committee appoints Chair to Municipal Financial Sustainability Task Force

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week's School Committee meeting, the committee voted to appoint a representative to the Municipal Financial Sustainability Task Force.

The Select Board is creating a draft makeup of who comprises the task force and its purpose. At the July 22 meeting, the School Committee voted on who to send

as a representative.

"I'm interested in doing it," Morgan said. "My interest lies with not only supporting the understanding of the financial piece and the school's needs, but also, having been on the School Committee for a while now, the historical background and information of things that have occurred over the years. I've created lots of documents since my start on the School Committee of historical budgeting information

and things like that."

Committee Member Karen Nothe-Valley said that Morgan would be a good fit for the position, given what she had described about her history on the committee.

"Obviously, this is a separate municipal-based task force, which you are going to be casting votes at that meeting, with this hat on as part of a voting member of the Municipal Task Force,"

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PALMER

## Rolling Pines presents new plan to Conservation Commission

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At last week's meeting of the Conservation Commission, a presentation was made to update the commission on changes to the Rolling Pines property.

At the Tuesday, July 21 meeting, Conservation heard a Notice of Intent from BT Commercial, LLC, in the care of Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering,

for activities associated with the proposed construction of a 24-lot open space residential subdivision. The project site is located on State Street, and work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer zone and 50-foot no disturb zone to bordering vegetated wetlands.

According to the representative, the submission met most of the items that were originally noted. The first item that remained outstanding was the infiltration basin

near the entrance.

"Some of the logs indicate there's a larger amount of historic fill," the Sherman & Frydryk representative said, "so they would like us to update the plans to notify the contractor that they're going to have to manage that

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# Fiscal year 2027 tax bills due Aug. 3

PALMER – The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:  
Fiscal Year 2027 1st quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by August 3, 2026.  
Please call the Collector’s office at 413-283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday the Town Administration Building is closed.

# Annual water quality report available

MONSON – The 2025 annual water quality consumer confidence report for Water-Qua- lity-Report-CCR-Index. Hard copies are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free Library located at 2 High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street in Monson, Mass.  
Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

# School supply drive benefits local schools

WARE – The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and the Ware Business & Civic and Beyond organizations are hosting a school supply collection drive to benefit local schools.  
This year’s school supply drive marks the second year of the collection drive program. Participating locations will serve as a drop off destination for local citizens to donate school supplies to benefit students from the Ware, Palmer and Monson schools districts.  
The school supply collection drive runs though Friday, Aug. 21.  
Participating drop off locations are found at Cedarbrook Village, Cluett’s Appliance Center, Dhillon Dentistry, Hakim Medical Center, Hanna’s on Main, Monson Savings Bank, Moulton Insurance Agency, Ware Town Hall and Westfield Savings Bank in Ware, Monson Savings Bank, The Better Bean and TJ’s Tavern in Monson, and Palmer Town Hall, Palmer Senior Center, Palmer Library, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Phriends Coffee, Mustang Seats, Just a Little Craft Store and Nick’s Sporting Goods in Palmer.

## NOTICE

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

## Palmer High School planning Class of '66 Reunion

PALMER – The Palmer High School class of 1966 is planning a get-together on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 2 p.m. The event will take place at Teresa’s in Ware.  
The cost of the meal is \$34. Please contact dgouvin@yahoo.com or Gail Clark at 413-262-9568, by August 31.

# Rededication of park/gazebo is Aug. 21

MONSON – Residents are invited to attend a rededication ceremony at Dave Grieve Memorial Park and Gazebo.  
The program will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. Several special guests and speakers are expected to attend, as well as members of town departments.  
Family members of Grieve will also be in attendance at the ceremony to mark the completion of a major renovation project.  
Thanks to an Americans with Disabilities Act compliance grant, several improvements were made to Dave Grieve Memorial Park. These included projects at the gazebo and the parking area to provide increased accessibility.  
The area was closed in May to allow for work to take place.  
For additional updates, check the town website at www.monson-ma.gov.

# Keep celebrates the nation Aug. 2

MONSON – As a part of our programming to celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary, the Keep Homestead Museum will welcome consulting historian Dennis Picard on Sunday, August 2 as he presents his lecture “Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts.”  
Even though there were no battles in Western Mass. during the American Revolution, there were Hessian soldiers here. Folklore says that these soldiers were mercenaries purchased by King George to fight the rebellious colonies. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and why some remained in our regions.  
Dennis Picard of Westfield is a living history interpreter who has held key leadership roles at several historic sites including Sturbridge Village and Storowton Village Museum. He continues to educate the public about history doing reenactments, lectures, and craft demonstrations.  
The program starts at 1:30 pm in the barn and is open to the public free of charge though donations are welcome. Visitors are welcome to tour the museum from 1 to 3:30 pm to view new patriotic button displays and enjoy refreshments.  
For more information about the museum visit www. keephomesteadmuseum.org

# Annual Mary Farm Picnic to be held Aug. 2

PALMER – The Apostolate of the Suffering invites the community to its Annual Mary Farm Picnic on Sunday, August 2, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at Mary Farm, 1915 Ware Street, Palmer.  
Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and homemade desserts. Admission is just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, with tickets available at the door.  
Be sure to visit Memorial Hall, the beautifully renovated barn, where you’ll find raffle baskets and the Mary Farm Gift Shop. Memorial Hall is accessible, and restrooms are available for your convenience.  
Proceeds benefit the mission and ministries of the Apostolate of the Suffering at Mary Farm.  
Mary Farm looks forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of good food and fellowship.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING

at the



# PALMER

PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m.**  
*Federalist Fathers and Republican Mothers: The Fashions of John and Abigail Adams*

The end of the 18th century witnessed turmoil and revolution not only in governments and economies, but also in fashion. In this talk, local textile expert Lynne Zacek Bassett will discuss the fashions of John (1735–1826) and Abigail Adams (1744–1818), their family and their associates, using portraits, images of period clothing, and period prints—but mostly, the wonderfully opinionated descriptions of fashion offered by John and Abigail Adams in their correspondence.  
Lynne Zacek Bassett is an independent scholar specializing in historic fashion and textiles. From 1995-2000 she was the curator of textiles and fine arts at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Since going independent, Lynne has undertaken a number of large projects, including award-winning exhibitions and publications. Her contribution to the field of historic fashion and textiles has been recognized by the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Historic New England, and the International Quilt Study Center, which have all elected her to membership in their honorary or advisory societies.  
This program is free, and registration is not required.

**Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.**  
*Suzanne Strempek Shea*  
*Compositions Book Launch*

Please join us for the book launch of *Compositions: A memoir in 42 essays by 1 kid on her 8 years in Catholic School*, which is the 12th book and latest release of Bondsville-based author Suzanne Strempek Shea. In this extraordinary memoir, Suzanne writes about her early years in a close-knit 1960s and ‘70s Polish-American grade school and community of Three Rivers and Palmer, Massachusetts.  
*Compositions* details a life that revolves in a circle of faith and family. Fine societal distinctions are made: Polish Catholics and French-Canadian Catholics, the two majorities in her village, each have their own churches and their own schools, even their own funeral homes. At Strempek Shea’s school - known in the village as “Polish school” - the most important grade is for conduct.  
Written in the author’s voice and point of view from grades one to eight, the humorous and poignant essays show a past still fully present. *Compositions* is a kaleidoscope of close-to-the-bone observations and stories written as energetically as if the author had always been waiting to tell the world all she knew.  
Registration is not required for this program. Books will be available for purchase from the author immediately following the program.

# Town Clerk announces new polling location

MONSON – Officials have announced a polling location change.  
Future elections in town will take place at Quarry Hill School, 43 Margaret St.  
Please use the pool entrance when entering the school.  
For more information about the change, contact the Town Clerk’s office at 413-267-4115. You may also send an email to: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

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## DEADLINE

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

### 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 an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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## Work Days & Kids ON TRACK

August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th  
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Next Surplus Equipment Sale  
Saturday, August 8th  
Pioneer Valley Live Streamers  
Southwick, MA  
MONTHLY PROGRAM  
Tuesday, August 12th  
Bill Stephens Editor, Trains Magazine  
Interested in more information  
amherstrail.org



## Kids ON TRACK at Union Station to be held on Aug. 1 & 2

REGION – On August 1 & 2, the Amherst Railway Society, CTrail, and Springfield Union Station are jointly sponsoring Kids ON TRACK at Union Station in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Area model railroad clubs will have operating model railroads set up in the Union Station concourse, and children (of all ages) will have a chance to run trains. Model railroads are fascinating to watch. But, the real thrill is getting a chance to run your own train. And, that's what Kids ON TRACK is all about.

CTrail is offering \$5 round-trip train rides between Springfield and Hartford both mornings, August 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

And, Maggie the Railroad Clown will be at the event performing magic tricks, juggling, and creating balloon wizardry. Maggie is a graduate of the prestigious Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. She spent four years traveling with the Greatest Show On Earth.

Kids ON TRACK is a national effort by the model railroad industry to encourage young modelers, and link model railroading to STEM education.

There is no charge for this event and the Union Station parking garage, located on Main Street, will be offering a special \$2 event parking fee.

## Eagle Scout Project for Palmer Public Library



PALMER – Jackson Quinn of Troop 64 Palmer completed his Eagle Scout project for the Palmer Public Library. Jackson had a successful fundraising drive to purchase a memorial bench in honor of all Veterans and the country's semi quincennial.

During the July 4th weekend, Jackson led a team of Scouts, Leaders, and his peers in expanding the garden on the library's front lawn. Congratulations to Jackson on a beautiful garden.



### CONCOM I from page 1

material, properly dispose of it, and bring the bottom of the basin grade up to the proposed grade after they remove the fill."

The representative said that this will be included in the revised plan set that will be put up for the commission's final approval.

The second item referred to the town's Stormwater Ordinance, which requires that retention basins be graded at a four-to-one slope.

"Our design is a three-to-one slope," the representative said. "During the Planning Board approval process, (...) we were granted a waiver to that requirement."

The next item referred to level spreaders shown on the plans, which Sherman & Frydryk was able to point to in the plans, noting that the level spreader is very close to the vernal pool.

"Looking at it quickly, I suggested to our client that we could potentially, with the Commission's approval, create a modification to the

plan to protect the resource better," the representative said. "We're relocating the closed drainage so that's further from the vernal pool, and then the closed drainage is discharging into the blue rectangle which is going to be the riprap spreader, so now we're outletting into the middle of the spreader at a 90 degree angle, as discussed."

Sherman & Frydryk was hesitant to call it a wetland replication, as there were no wetlands that the company was filling, but explained that by dropping that area, they would create good conditions for wetland species to inhabit. Commission Agent Jessica Ladin asked how much water moves over the level spreader, and the representative said that peak run-off is 0.25 cubic feet per second with a volume of over 2,000 cubic feet of water over a 24-hour rainstorm.

"This is a very small catchment," the representative said. "There's not going to be any kind of real flow unless it's a very large rainfall."

The applicant requested a waiver from the Planning

Board to reduce the entrance radius to less than 40 feet, or otherwise provide alternatives to relocate the access roadway further from the vernal pool.

The Sherman & Frydryk representative reiterated the history of the entrance, saying "We had a smaller radius and the Planning Board basically insisted upon that larger radius at the time of this approval."

"I like this a lot better," Commissioner Lauren Perry said of the proposed plans, "as long as the wetland plants, or the plantings that are made, are appropriate for the area and survive."

Ladin asked about the likelihood that the area will stay wet, and the representative said that if the elevation in the 30 by 30 square is dropped to the elevation limit of the vernal pool, it will be very close to seasonal water.

"It's all sands out there," the representative said. "If the vernal pool is filling, then the soil around it is also filling at the same level."

Ladin pointed out that if the level is being dropped, it essentially extends the pe-

rimeter of the wetland. The representative from Sherman & Frydryk said that the vernal pool is a deeper basin, and the project will bring the 30 by 30 square to the height of it, rather than the base elevation, in order to create a natural filtration system.

Sherman & Frydryk expressed that the proposed plans represent an attempt to provide similar protections to the vernal pool as moving the roadway. Commission Member Nicholas Zeo was appreciative of Sherman & Frydryk's work, noting that there is "vulnerability" in the area.

"In the last month or so, there's been quite a bit of activity in that area, not related to this project," Zeo said.

The Commission voted unanimously to request that the Planning Board agree to reduce the radius to shift the roadway in the project, and the hearing was continued until September.



### Burial Grounds Presentations

PALMER – Take part in Palmer's MA 250 celebration by joining local historian Robert Comeau in this presentation about the Burial Grounds of Palmer. This presentation will be Oct. 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

To register for this program, please visit: <https://palmerlibrary.org>

In addition to this presentation, Robert has done two Palmer Cemetery Tours and will be hosting the final tour at the Four Corners Cemetery on Saturday, October 10th.

Brought to you by the Palmer Historical Commission and the Palmer Public Library.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

This program is free, but registration is requested.

**August 22**  
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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I was cheated; I delayed claiming SS but didn't get my full benefits

Dear Rusty:

I'm 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68.

Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was "not an option;" they said I could take it only the way "they said." That's our illegal government.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

Regarding your comment that SS "would not allow" you to take all of your "increased percentage," I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied

for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023), and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn't have been credited to you until January 2025. Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule. Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn't personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn't dissuade you from "feeling cheated," but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn't personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.



## The joys of harvest season

It's been a fun week in the garden! I love it when the harvest starts to roll in.

This week I picked broccoli, kale, green beans and zucchini. I also replanted a few crops in hopes of a second harvest prior to the first frost.

Read on to hear about my adventures.

You may remember my column from a few weeks back, where I was having a hard time getting "into it" this year. I guess like building any relationship, the more time you spend, the more time you may want to spend as things start to progress and go well.

Anyway, I am happy with my garden again and it feels good to spend time out there. Back to the harvest.

I enjoy harvesting broccoli. It's always fun to see just how big you can get the heads to grow before they want to flower.

The first one I cut was maybe six inches in diameter. Not bad, but the second one was closer to nine inches.

More heads will be ready in the coming weeks. After that I will be harvesting side shoots.

This year, cabbage moths were kept at bay by using a tightly woven bug netting draped over the plants and supported by wire hoops and secured at the base by old wooden planks or stones. So far so good; no worms of any kind in the water left over after steaming.

Kale is broccoli's cousin and is subject to the same pests. Because of that I also

grow it under the netting. I've been harvesting the kale for well over a month and we already have several bags of it in the freezer. I am starting to rethink my use of plastic baggies, but for now the leaves are washed, patted dry then ripped into pieces and stuffed into baggies pushing out as much air as possible. When my husband makes his vegetable juices and stews, all he does is empty the contents into his creation.

I noticed that the older leaves of the kale were starting to have a yellow cast, so I got out the organic granular fertilizer and gave the plants a sprinkle and a good watering. Hopefully that will reinvigorate the plants for picking well into the fall.

My bush bean seeds got planted late; well after Memorial Day. The harvest is just starting. I will be sure to pick often to keep the plants producing.

I have been saving my own bean seeds for a few years now. It's easy, just harvest the dry pods of "the ones that got away." Make sure they are crispy dry.

Break open the seed pods and store the seeds with a packet of desiccant (usually in a bottle of vitamins or with leather shoes) in a jar. If you are growing

open pollinated or heirloom, non-hybrid varieties you will reliably get the same variety back again. They don't cross pollinate with neighbor beans.

This week I was happy to harvest four zucchinis with more coming. It's funny that already I see freebies at the end of driveways on my commute. I truly hope I have an abundance.

To avoid "boat-sized" squash, pick them small, say six to eight inches long. The seed cavity won't be too big that way and you will encourage the plant to keep producing.

No doubt the vine borer will do in my early sowing soon enough, but never fear, I have sown additional seeds under cover to hopefully have a later harvest once this one expires. I try and keep them covered until the plants bloom, at which time the cover needs to be removed so that the flowers can be pollinated and fruit can form.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the harvest season as much as I am.

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

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

## DWA: Driving while aging

Many of the articles I see about older drivers focus on how families can have The Talk: "Mom/Dad, it's time for you to stop driving."

That's not a helpful way to approach it. It's better to observe their driving, take notes and have a conversation about road safety, looping in their doctor if necessary. But this column isn't about that.

Instead, I think senior drivers themselves (and I am one!) should be assessing their own fitness to drive and take that burden off their kids. The fact is that medications, physical limitations and cognitive difficulties can make driving very dangerous for older folks.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration says that the majority of people killed in traffic crashes involving

older drivers are 65 and older. About 66% of the deaths in 2024 were either the older driver or their passenger, also 65 years of age or older.

The risk of serious injury and death increases with age. Older drivers may have fewer accidents than younger ones, but when you look at accidents per mile driven, the math is clear: Getting older behind the wheel can be very risky.

Massachusetts law requires drivers 75 years of age or older to renew their licenses in person every five years at a Registry of Motor Vehicles office or AAA. If you have a medical condition or are taking a medication that affects your driving, you must self-report to the RMV.

But between the ages of 75 and 80, how many

YOUR HEALTH I page 12

A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck.

Glossy ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost

By Ellenor Downer



Photo by Doug Moore  
Juvenile glossy ibis

any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, mangroves, and

rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four eggs and incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida

The Journal Register

We Want to Hear From You

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

Please send opinions to:

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**Letter to the Editor**  
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**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.

BACKYARD I page 7

# 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

### FRIDAY, JULY 31

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY ACTIVITIES  
Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

### AUGUST 1

FELINE FUN DAY RETURNS TO BRIMFIELD WINERY A Day of Cats, Crafts, Music, and Community Fun

Looking for a fun summer outing? Feline Fun Day returns on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brimfield Winery, and everyone is invited. Hosted by Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT), a cage-free cat shelter based in Brimfield, Feline Fun Day is a celebration of cats and community with something for all ages.

What to expect: Visit friendly shelter kittens (not available for adoption at the event); Local craft and artisan vendors; Live music throughout the day; Wine and beer in a relaxed outdoor setting; Raffles with fun prizes

All proceeds support HTAT's work keeping cats safe, healthy, and supported in our community. Bring your friends, bring your family, and enjoy a relaxed summer day of shopping, music, and feline fun. Learn more at [heretodaysanctuary.org](http://heretodaysanctuary.org).

### Vendors For The Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shoppe

#### August Vendors

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

#### September Vendors

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

#### October Vendors

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

### SEPTEMBER 19

THE PALMER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966 is planning a get-together on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 2 p.m. The event will take place at Teresa's in Ware. The cost of the meal is \$34. Please contact [dgouvin@yahoo.com](mailto:dgouvin@yahoo.com) or Gail Clark at 413-262-9568, by August 31.

## ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET - Located in the church pavilion across

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

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC.

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

Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes!

Students must be available for show date in May!

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

Contact: [trulytorie2000@gmail.com](mailto:trulytorie2000@gmail.com) for more info and to register!

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

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

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

found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email [kham@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:kham@keephomesteadmuseum.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. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](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 School Class of '76 plans August reunion

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE. SPREAD THE WORD.

Please RSVP by contacting Sue Warner Prosperi at [suewpro@gmail.com](mailto:suewpro@gmail.com). Registration and payment are due no later than September 30, 2026.

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## Crafters wanted

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

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for

an 8-ft table, which will be provided by the church.

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

Light refreshments will be available.



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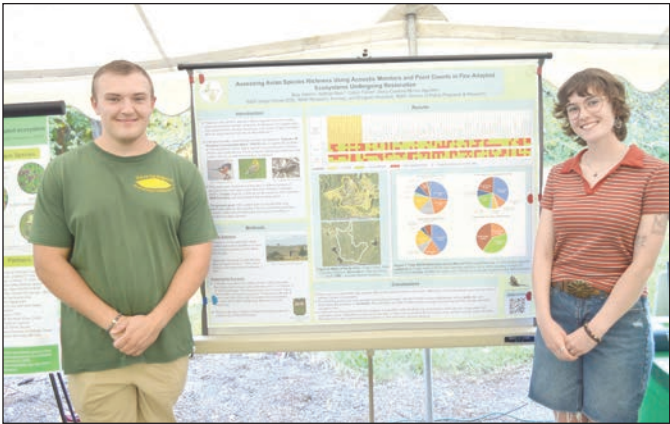
**Introduction to Strategic Planning for Nonprofits**  
Get your feet wet with key points for building a strategic plan and why it's essential to your success / winning grants.  
Handouts will be available.  
Tuesday, August 4th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
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PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
Call Lori 413-682-5070**

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- Reading, Writing, Math
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**TUTOR INFORMATION SESSION**  
Want to be a tutor? Curious about requirements or commitments?  
Join us on Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. for "punch & cookies" and a brief presentation.  
Third Floor of the Palmer Public Library (*take the elevator*)

**Contact Us For More Information**  
**NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600**  
**email: [director@topfloorlearning.org](mailto:director@topfloorlearning.org)**  
**<https://topfloorlearning.org/>**



Norcross Wildlife Foundation interns Nathan Dietz and May Adams presented their research.



Local guests took part in several fun activities.



Noah Matheson and Erin Tague participated in craft activities.



Musical entertainment was provided throughout the evening.

# Norcross and Opacum co-host ‘Moth Ball’

**By Kevin Flanders**  
*Staff Writer*

WALES – Continuing to ramp up its offerings in community programming, Norcross Wildlife Foundation hosted an interactive event for guests of all ages last week.

In partnership with Opacum Land Trust, Norcross Wildlife Foundation held the very first Moth Ball program on July 25. Local families enjoyed several educational activities, including presentations from Norcross summer interns, craft sessions, and special displays.

“We want to give people more opportunities to learn about the restoration work we are doing. These types of programs help connect people with nature in a meaningful way,” said Caro Munoz, the director of programs and research at Norcross.

During the July 25 program, several interns explained their summer research projects to guests. Meanwhile, Norcross staff leaders were excited to meet people

from throughout the area.

“We love getting people involved and introducing them to the projects we’re working on. This is a fantastic way to bring people out for a fun program,” said Calvin Fisher, a research and education assistant at Norcross.

Interns Nathan Dietz and May Adams have enjoyed their opportunities this summer to focus on conservation and restoration efforts. Their research has been mostly concentrated on tracking multiple species of birds and their overall diversity over time.

“I love getting to work with really knowledgeable conservationists. It’s been an awesome experience,” said Adams, who has worked with her team to track a total of 83 bird species.

The interns have also used specialized equipment to enhance their research work, including acoustic monitors to track birdsongs.

The evening slate of family fun was highlighted by Adam Kohl’s presentation on moths across Massachusetts. Guests

were thrilled to celebrate National Moth Week with a series of other educational programs.

Additionally, themed craft activities and other arts sessions were also included to combine fun and education for families.

Event organizers thank everyone who made the program possible, including musical performers who entertained guests.

Norcross Wildlife Foundation is located at 30 Peck Road. Its mission is to protect wildlife through conservation efforts, research and education.

To learn more about upcoming seminars and other programs hosted by the foundation, check out its website: [www.norcrosswildlife.org](http://www.norcrosswildlife.org).

A full calendar of events is listed on the site, and you can also access information on public trails.

Further event information is available on the organization’s Facebook page.

If you have additional questions, please send an email to: [info@norcross-wildlife.org](mailto:info@norcross-wildlife.org).

## Local residents to participate in 2026 Pan-Mass Challenge to Support cancer research

NEEDHAM – This August 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC’s mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

**Local Participants Include:**

**Marty Maketansky** of Holland (<https://profile.pmc.org/MM0058>)

**Kayla Dighton** of Wales (<https://profile.pmc.org/KD0196>)

**Jonathon Jasak** of Enfield (<https://profile.pmc.org/JJ0043>)

**Ted Mora** of Palmer (<https://profile.pmc.org/TM0454>)

**Robert Peritz** of Palmer (<https://profile.pmc.org/RP0264>)

**Jessica Desautels** of Palmer (<https://profile.pmc.org/JD0788>)

**Jill Giebutowski** of Monson (<https://profile.pmc.org/JG0709>)

**Stan Zwyrbla** of Monson (<https://profile.pmc.org/SZ0032>)

**Cynthia Schermerhorn** of Brimfield (<https://profile.pmc.org/CS0295>)

**Michael Swiatlowski** of Bondsville (<https://profile.pmc.org/MS0292>)

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year’s PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation’s top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber’s community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefiting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year’s Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at [PMC.org](http://PMC.org).

About the Pan-Mass Challenge

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event’s founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber’s single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber. In addition to its two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, the PMC is powered by further “spokes in the wheel,” with initiatives including the PMC Winter Cycle, an indoor spin event; PMC Unpaved, a gravel bike ride; and PMC Kids Rides, mini bike-a-thons for children ages 2 to 15. The PMC attracts riders and volunteers from 47 states and 12 countries and over 300,000 individual donors. Across events, the PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual donors, all of whom are essential to the PMC’s goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC’s aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber’s doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org).

## 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  
Cluetts Appliance Center  
Dhillon Dentistry  
Hakim Medical Center  
Hanna’s on Main  
Monson Savings Bank  
Moulton Insurance  
Ware Town Hall  
Westfield Bank

**PALMER**

Palmer Town Hall  
Phriends Coffee shop  
Mustang Seats  
Palmer Senior Center  
J. Stolar Insurance Agency  
Just A Little Craft Store  
Nicks Sports Shop  
Palmer Library

**MONSON**

Monson Savings Bank  
The Better Bean  
TJ’s Tavern

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[dianevadnaisrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:dianevadnaisrealtor@gmail.com)

**KAREN DAVIS**  
[admin@monsontogether.com](mailto:admin@monsontogether.com)

**DAN FLYNN** 413-297-5886  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



# Palmer Senior Center

## AUGUST ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

**Friday, Movie Matinee at 12:30 with drinks and popcorn**

**August 7** - “Ice Age” – To avoid a bad frostbite, Earth’s majestic creatures begin migrating south. The ex-ceptions are a woolly mammoth named Manfred, and a lazy sloth named Sid. When Sid “adopts” Manfred as his protector, the mammoth tries everything he can to unload his newfound baggage. Manny is roped by Sid not helping him reunite and abandoned human baby named Roshan with his family. They are joined by Diago, a saber-toothed tiger who befriends Sid and Manny, seeing the infant as a tasty treat.

**August 14** - “Water for Elephants” – Epic Tale of forbidden love. Against all odds, a veterinary student and a beautiful circus performer from a bygone era meet and fall in love through their shared compassion for a special elephant. But their secret romance incurs the wrath of her dangerously volatile husband.

**August 21** - “Pearl Harbor” - History comes alive in this unforgettable epic picture. This real-life tale of cat-astrophic defeat, heroic victory, and personal courage focuses on the war’s devastating impact on two daring young pilots and a beautiful, dedicated nurse.

**August 28** - “Small Things Like These” - In 1985 coal merchant Bill Furlong uncovers disturbing secrets in a small Irish town that is controlled by the Roman Catholic Church.

**Monday Evening Programs 4:30**

**August 3** - Movie “Remarkably Bright Creatures”. Sandwiches (ham salad) will be served.

**August 10** - Sunflower

Hat w/Kim

**August 17** - Family Feud and Dinner (American Chop Suey) \$3

**August 24** - Gift Bag Purses w/Marlene and Dinner (Meatball Grinders). Limited seating. \$3

**August 31** - Fall craft w/ Kim. See sample.

### Activities

**August 5, 12, 10, 26** - Fruit & Veggie Stand This program made possible through QHCHIP2026 mini-grant through the town of Ware refer to “Healthy Quaboag.”

**August 5** - Lunch & Learn Powerback Rehab

**August 6** - Lunch Bunch—Hitchcock Tavern in West Brookfield. Self-drive, self-pay.

**August 7** - Make & Take scrapbooking w/Kim—FREE

**August 13** - PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC TODAY

**August 19** - Seashell mirror/tray w/Kim. Cost \$10.00

**August 25** - Volunteer Luncheon. By invitation, if you have not received an invitation and feel you should have please contact Marlene on extension one.

### Upcoming Events

**August 1** (Saturday) -Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is

\$40 prepaid, no refunds. Includes transportation.

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

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

## Wales Senior Center lists upcoming events

By Kevin Flanders  
Staff Writer

WALES – Local seniors are invited to check out a packed schedule of events next month at the Wales Senior Center.

An open sew session will take place on Aug. 3 from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. If you have an interest in enjoying the company of fellow sewers, while working on your own project, this is the perfect program for you. Please RSVP for this event to ensure space is available.

Fun and games sessions are slated for Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 at the Senior Center (both starting at 12:45 p.m.).

On Aug. 18 at 12:45 p.m., a paint and sip program will be held. “Come enjoy mock-tails as you learn techniques and create your own unique sunflower painting,” read a statement released by the Senior Center.

Crafts with Lisa will take place on Aug. 20 at 12:45 p.m. This month’s featured craft is the gel air freshener.

Additionally, a Krafts with Kristen session (Aug. 25 at 12:45 p.m.) will focus on charcoal pencil coloring.

The Senior Center will hold technology assistance sessions on Aug. 13 and Sept. 10. If you require help with issues related to your phone, tablet, or computer, visit the center and let representatives of Fisher Tech take a look at the problem.

On Aug. 27 at 12:45 p.m., guests will learn about recognizing the signs of scams. In recent years, scammers have utilized advanced technologies to target area seniors, often by posing as trusted organizations, municipal departments, and even family members.

The program will focus on several topics, including mail scams, email fraud, and scams involving phone

calls and texts.

“Back this month by demand is our scam presentation, where we will be sharing information on how to spot and hopefully avoid becoming a victim,” read the statement released by the Senior Center. “We will share examples of scams and what to watch for, and you can take part in an activity to test what you learned.”

Craft and Stitch sessions are held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea and light snacks while you socialize and work on your project.

Crafts include painting, crocheting, knitting, embroidery and hand-sewing, among others.

Even if you don’t have your own supplies available for this program, the Senior Center will offer them. Paint by number kits, diamond dot kits, wood plaques, stencils, yarn, glue guns and more items are all available.

For more information

about the Wales Community Pantry, call 413-245-0055. Additional materials can be obtained by sending an email to: walescommunityfoodpantry@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, Veterans Service Officer Jason Burgener attends the center every Thursday to answer questions and provide assistance. Please call ahead to make an appointment at 413-640-0540.

Exercise programs are held at the center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunches are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the center to reserve dine-in or take-out meals.

The Senior Center is located at 85 Main St. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

To learn more about upcoming activities at the center, call 413-245-9683. You may also send an email to: coa@townofwales.net.

## RAIL | from page 1

lative colleagues to help keep the project on the rails.

The ultimate goal is to see a completed project that opens new pathways in accessibility and economic development.

“West-east rail is about far more than getting from one place to another,” Oliveira added. “It’s about reconnecting communities and expanding access to jobs, higher education, and health-care, while creating new economic opportunities across western Massachusetts.”

Strategically located at the crossroads of the Massachusetts Turnpike and major rail transportation corridors,

Palmer is uniquely positioned to serve as a regional transportation hub. Now, with the latest advancement in the project, a town steeped in railroad history is one step closer to connecting residents and businesses throughout the area with a new station.

The Palmer rail stop is slated to serve both the proposed Boston & Albany Corridor and the Inland Route, strengthening connections between Springfield, Worcester and Boston as part of the Commonwealth’s Compass Rail network.

“Reliable passenger rail will help revitalize our downtowns, attract private investment, strengthen our workforce and position our

region to compete and grow for decades to come,” Oliveira said. “Today’s investment moves us one significant step closer to making that promise a reality.”

Oliveira’s amendment builds upon more than \$270 million in previous state and federal investments that have steadily advanced west-east rail plans. These include funds for corridor improvements, Springfield Union Station, project planning, engineering, environmental reviews, and rail infrastructure improvements.

Now, by securing the first major legislative investment dedicated specifically to advancing the Palmer rail stop, the amendment rep-

resents the next milestone in returning passenger rail service to Palmer.

Earlier this month, the State House of Representatives passed its own version of the Economic Development Bill. Looking ahead, a conference committee will reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions.

“West-east rail has never been about a single vote or a single funding bill,” Oliveira said. “It’s been about making steady progress, one milestone at a time. There’s still work ahead, but we’re closer than ever to welcoming passenger rail back to Palmer and creating new opportunities for generations to come.”

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## Debunking five common Social Security myths

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here’s the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

**Myth 1: Social Security is going broke.** You’ve probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that’s just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

**Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs.** Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you’ll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

**Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working.** Not true. Social Security does have an “earnings test” that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

**Myth 4: An ex-spouse’s benefits come out of your own.** If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person’s full retirement benefit. But those payments don’t affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

**Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed.** Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you’ll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

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## BACKYARD

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species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

### Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and

female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

### Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing [edownerturley.com](mailto:edownerturley.com) or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



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# Opacum Land Trust and Town of Monson announce new conservation property

MONSON – The town of Monson has permanently protected Reimers Road Conservation Area, a 124.9-acre property on Reimers Road, through a conservation restriction agreement now held by Opacum Land Trust.

This agreement ensures that the land will remain forever conserved for open space, wildlife habitat, and passive recreation, strengthening Monson’s commitment to protecting natural resources for future generations.

Reimers Road Conservation Area is just minutes from downtown Monson and features a parking area with a kiosk and a short trail highlighting some of the interesting ledge and boulders found on the property. In the

coming months, Opacum Land Trust and the Monson Conservation Commission will develop a longer trail system to highlight the geology and history of the new conservation area. The property’s ecological values include flood protection, mature forest, and habitat for rare species, contributing to regional biodiversity and water quality.

“This was a wonderful collaboration between the Conservation Commission and a landowner that wanted to see their land permanently protected as the forest they had enjoyed for many years. Opacum Land Trust will hold the Conservation Restriction on the property, ensuring it remains protected forever,” said Glenn Colburn, Monson

Conservation Commission chairperson and Opacum board member, “This 124.9 acres will be a significant addition to open space in the north end of Monson. Without Opacum’s participation, land protection projects like this would not be possible.”

The property was acquired by Monson earlier this year with Community Preservation Act funding and a Massachusetts state LAND (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant. By holding the conservation restriction, Opacum ensures that Monson’s newest conservation area will remain protected forever, preventing development and guaranteeing its use for public recreation for generations to come.

“Projects like this show what’s possible when towns and conservation organizations work together,” said Laney Wilder, Opacum Land Trust executive director. “We’re honored to partner with the town to ensure the Reimers Road Conservation Area remains a place for recreation and as wildlife habitat.”

The Reimers Road Conservation Area represents a key link in the town of Monson’s efforts to create a continuous greenbelt of conserved lands in northern Monson. This property is less than a quarter mile from a contiguous block of 960 acres of protected land, bringing them significantly closer to creating a connected greenway and wildlife

corridor.

Glenn Colburn, Conservation Commission Chairperson and Opacum board member emphasized the importance of collaboration: “Opacum Land Trust has been a long-time partner in conserving and stewarding conservation parcels in Monson, and the Conservation Commission is pleased to add the Reimers Road Conservation Area to the other permanently protected open space areas in town.”

Opacum Land Trust’s partnership with the town of Monson to support green space began in 2012, with the protection of 163 acres, known as Flynt Quarry Lands. Opacum now works alongside the town to protect five properties totaling 515

acres.

Opacum Land Trust is a regional, non-profit land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects over 4,000 acres of land and is actively working to protect more land across south-central Massachusetts. To learn more about conserving your land or to become a member, visit [www.OpacumLT.org](http://www.OpacumLT.org).

Reach out to us at Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566; [info@opacumlt.org](mailto:info@opacumlt.org), (508) 347-9144 and check out our website for events, properties you can visit, and ways to get involved at [www.OpacumLT.org](http://www.OpacumLT.org)

SUPT. | from page 1

regarding curriculum adoption. At the time of the discussion, there was a bill pending around the science of reading, An Act Relative to Teacher Preparation and Student Literacy, which was signed by Governor Maura Healey on June 26.

“It requires every district in Massachusetts to have what’s considered a high quality early literacy curriculum,” Foster said. “Because of our adoption of Core Knowledge Language Arts in June, we’re compliant, so there’s nothing we have to do different than what we’re already doing.”

Foster noted that the town had “made the right decision,” mentioning that the committee had considered another product that would not meet the Department of Early and Secondary Education’s definition of high quality.

There are two other bills pending, including a bill to re-

strict cell phone use in schools, and legislation to constrain screen time. Foster noted that different versions of the former bill were presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives, saying that “language will matter a lot” when it comes time to implement the new regulations.

Foster showed appreciation to Director of Business and Operations Leah Zippin and Director of Food Service Tracy Blanchard for their work for the Summer Eats Program.

“As through yesterday, we have served 3,031 meals in 21 days of our Summer Eats Program,” Foster said. “That was 2,620 meals to children and 411 meals for adults. It’s about a third breakfast, two-thirds lunch. We’re proud to be supporting our community that way, and Tracy’s done really good work on that program.”

Foster updated the committee on the facilities, including first grade moving from the Granite Valley building, as well as shuffling classrooms

around within the Granite Valley building. Foster anticipated postings going out for a new maintenance employee and for one and a half night custodians.

“As it turns out, the two night custodians we have now are both interested in shifting to day, and one of our day custodians wanted to shift to night,” Foster said, “so we have all of our day custodian positions filled, which is great, but we do need to fill one and a half night positions.”

Foster added that, since Anthony Kinley was made Head of Maintenance, his former maintenance position is one that needs to be back-filled.

To support keeping transportation costs down, the committee had previously discussed moving from 10 bus routes to nine. Foster announced that the rerouting work to make that possible has been completed.

“We’ll feel our way when the school year starts,” Foster

said. “10 routes to nine routes means some of those routes are a little bit longer, so we may hear from some families, but we’ll work through it as it comes.”

Foster shared that the town has been pursuing an opportunity with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation to engage in a three-year process of implementing strong district and community partnerships. The grant amounts to \$500,000, to be awarded over three years.

“This is not a small opportunity,” Foster said. “We have a small team of staff with a few community partners who are meeting to put together our application, which is due in September.”

Foster described the team as including representatives from the town, the First Church of Monson, the Parent Teacher Student Association, and Monson Together. The grant application is focused on shifting the school toward a full-service community schools model, found in urban districts around the country, that provide economic, wellness, and mental health support to students and families.

“The idea is, how do we make our hubs where both students and families are able to access supports they need,” Foster said. “That’s what we’re in conversation with some of our community members about, thinking how we can better support our families

and close some of the gaps we have.”

Karen Nothe-Valley asked about Foster’s involvement in writing the grant application, and he said that, along with the team of staff and community members, he’s the primary grant writer. Foster said that in this process, the team identified the best practices for implementing a full service community school is to engage with the community to understand its needs, rather than just offering services.

“We’re intending to write the grant where year one is a planning year,” Foster said, “essentially planning a design where we engage a much broader group of community members.”

MONSON | from page 1

there.”

Foster mentioned that the subcommittee will bring issues to the whole committee for any decision points, at which point the committee would have an executive session to be able to vote on them.

“What gets tricky is if it gets to the point where the negotiation has come to an agreement, and then it comes to the full board, and if the full board says no, then it goes back to the drawing board,” Morgan said.

Foster said that, because it’s about bargaining strategy, the discussions could be held in executive session. Morgan requested that Wiggins remain on the subcommittee as a formality, while Verda takes over as Chair.

Morgan and Committee Member Jamie Murphy will remain on the curriculum committee.

For Facilities and Long-term Planning, Wiggins will be the Chair and Verda will join as the second member.

The Finance Subcommittee will be chaired by Committee Member Karen

Nothe-Valley, with Morgan as the second member.

Human Resources and Negotiations will have Verda as the Chair and Wiggins as its second member.

The Policy Subcommittee will feature Murphy as the Chair and Nothe-Valley as the second member.

Nothe-Valley will continue as liaison for the Quarry Hill liaison, Morgan will remain at Granite Valley, and Murphy will remain the liaison at the high school. Verda will join as the liaison of the Wellness Advisory Committee.

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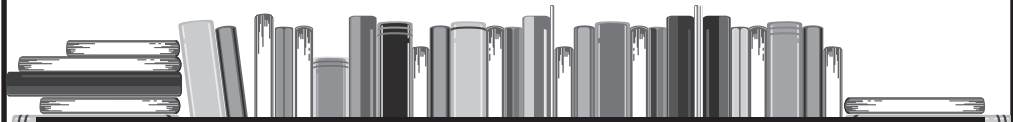
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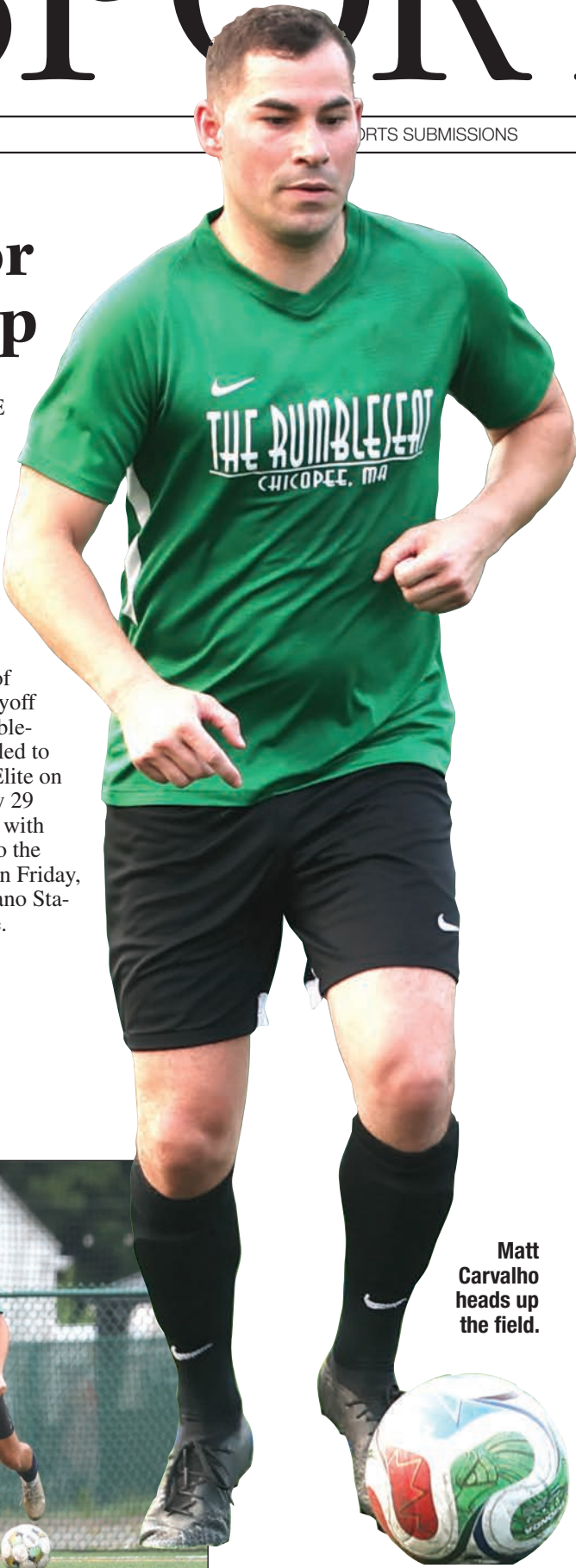
SOCCKER

## Rumbleseat set for semifinal matchup



Jack Leland, of Brimfield, gets a header.

**CHICOPEE** – The Rumbleseat Men’s PVSSL soccer team earned the No. 2 seed in this year’s playoffs. They received a first-round bye to the semifinals as a result of the six-team playoff structures. Rumbleseat was scheduled to face No. 3 KO Elite on Wednesday, July 29 at Elms College with a chance to go to the PVSSL Finals on Friday, July 31 at Lusitano Stadium on the line.



Matt Carvalho heads up the field.



Kye Girourd dribbles toward the sideline.



Dylan Wesley looks to clear the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCKER

## Here for Beer earns first-round bye



Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Shean Smith sends a free kick away.



Ally Fleury heads up the field.

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Here for Beer, a women’s soccer team in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League featuring women from all over the region, has continued to have successful summer campaigns. They have earned the No. 1 seed in this year’s playoffs. With that, they have a first-round bye to the semifinals. If they get past their semifinal opponent, they would play in the finals on Friday, July 31 at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.



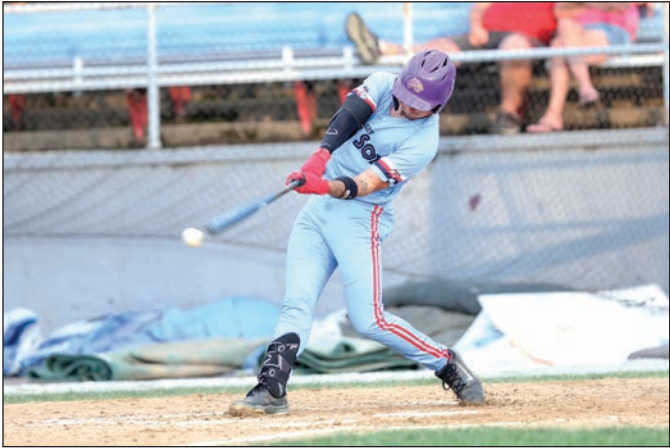
Martine Worrall-Turgeon guides the ball near midfield



Rachel McKenna, of Granby, dribbles near the sideline.



Nick Tomasetto looks to turn a double play during recent action last week at Mackenzie Stadium.



Trey Spees swings and makes contact.



Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Estaban Garcia has his eyes on the ball as he swings.

## Blue Sox nearing end of regular season

**HOLYOKE** – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a doubleheader against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday’s doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the playoff picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division’s postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and remain in the postseason hunt. Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners. The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double down the left-field line, giving Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut the deficit in half. Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1. Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came up just short. The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap. Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto

BLUE SOX | page 10



Joshua Toole frames up a pitch.



Nico Soul fields the ball in the outfield.

# Saints beat rival PeoplesBank



Seth Adams swings and connects.

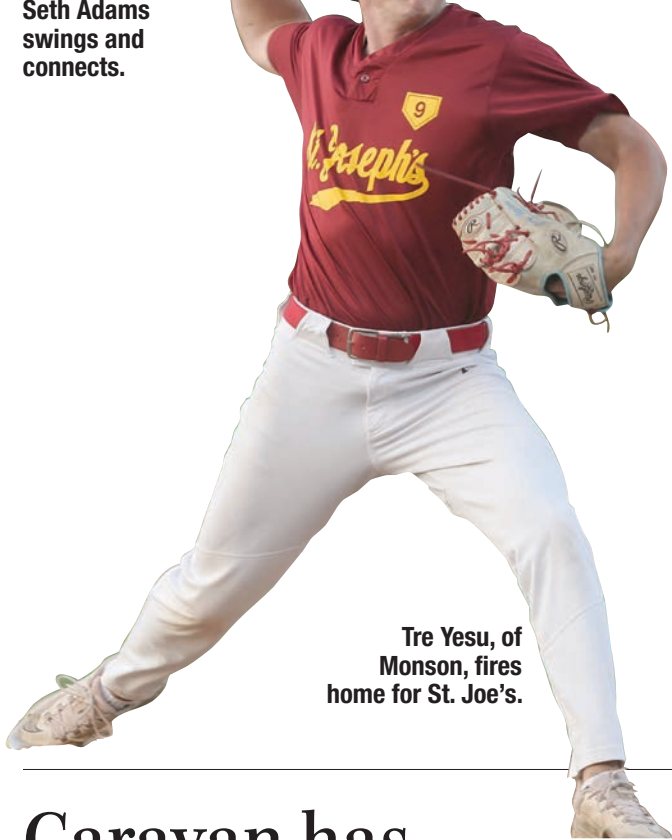


Jake Jachym fires home for the Bankers.

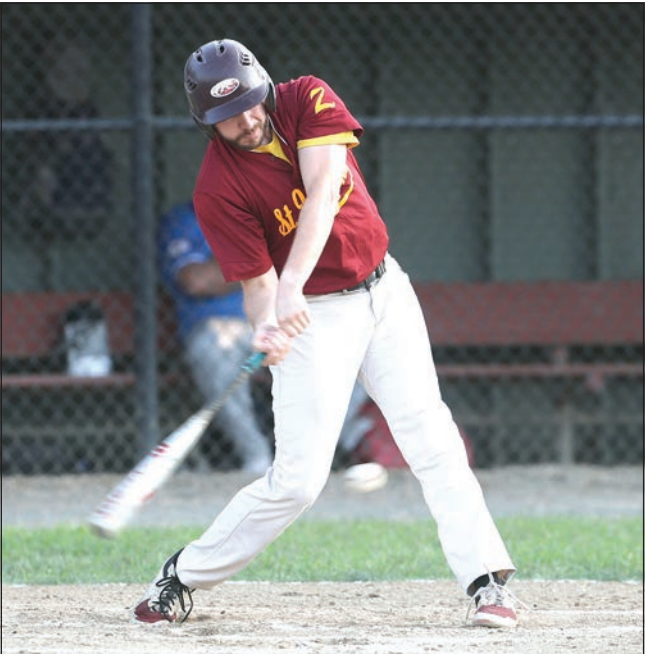


Dave Clark sends a throw to first for PeoplesBank.

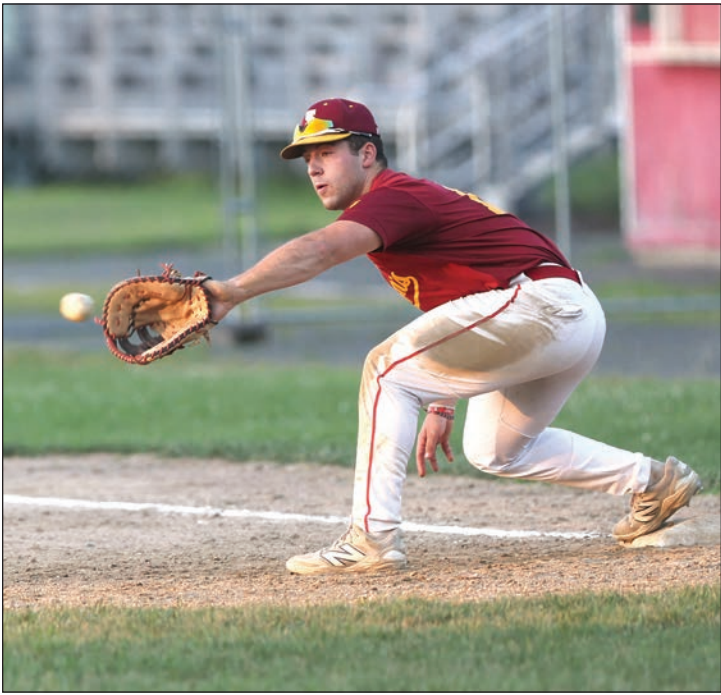
HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, the pennant race stepped up with rivals PeoplesBank and St. Joe’s matching up at Mackenzie Stadium. While PeoplesBank trailed early in the game, they nearly came all the way back, but St. Joe’s prevailed 9-7. The playoffs are on the horizon in the league with St. Joe’s and PeoplesBank likely drawing top seeds for the six-team playoffs.



Tre Yesu, of Monson, fires home for St. Joe’s.



Brandon Magni swings and connects for the Saints.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Joe DeMichele makes a catch at first.

## Caravan has two more dates

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds will continue to be a busy presence in the Greater Springfield community throughout the offseason, as the team is happy to announce its summer event calendar.

The T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, will host two more dates of fun throughout the summer months:

- Friday, July 31 at Basketball Hall of Fame, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Kids dressed in T-Birds gear receive free admission to the Hall of Fame museum; parents will receive discounted admission
- Benefiting Foundation for TJO Animals - fans are encouraged to bring dry/wet dog and cat food for donation; everyone who donates will be entered to win four T-Birds game tickets & T-Birds prize pack
- Saturday, August 22 at Amelia Park Arena (Westfield), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Caravan will coincide with T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Ages 9-12; games to be played 3-on-3
- Registration includes one ticket to Opening Night + T-shirt for each player

CARAVAN I page 11

## New exhibit dedicated to Curry

SPRINGFIELD – On Friday July 24, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame made history by launching its newest exhibition dedicated entirely to 12-time NBA All-Star, two-time MVP, Olympic gold medalist, four-time NBA champion, and the undisputed greatest shooter of all time: Stephen Curry.

This project represents the first time in the Hall’s nearly 75-year history that a current, active player will be honored with a dedicated feature experience.

Developed as the next iteration of the Hall of Fame’s acclaimed gallery, “The Vault,” the immersive exhibit titled Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc goes far beyond Curry’s legendary on-court accolades. Created in direct partnership with Curry’s Thirty Ink business team, the exhibit is designed to explore his multifaceted legacy as a basketball icon, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and family man.

Visitors can expect a captivating, curated journey through Curry’s life and career, featuring:

- Exclusive Memorabilia: Rare game-worn gear, championship artifacts, and Olympic ephemera
- Rare Footage: Archival video tracing his journey from an overlooked college prospect to a global superstar.
- First-Hand Storytelling: Immersive audio and video components that capture the emotion and heart of a true

EXHIBIT I page 11

## BLUE SOX I from page 9

drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before Chris Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox’s lead to 6-1. Valley continued to add insurance the rest of the way, highlighted by Tomasetto’s two-run single in the fifth, an RBI single from Iannazzo in the sixth and Nico Soul’s sacrifice fly in the seventh. The Blue Sox finished with 10 runs on 14 hits.

Earlier, Carson was named a NECBL All-Star, and the outfielder backed up the honor with another productive performance. Carson finished the doubleheader 3-for-7 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored, helping pace a Valley lineup that received contributions throughout the order. Tomasetto led the way by going 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs, while Iannazzo collected two hits and two RBIs. Spaventa also homered as the Blue Sox salvaged the split.

Four Valley pitchers combined to secure the Game 2 victory. Lukas Jachens started before Niall Todd earned the win with two scoreless innings in relief. Jon Shields and Jason Pinsonnault closed out the final three innings as the Blue Sox improved to 17-19-1, keeping themselves alive in the NECBL playoff race entering the final week of the regular season.



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**Cost: \$30** Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)  
AAU membership needed \$28 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

**Tryout # 1: Friday, July 31, 2026**

**Location: Oxford High School**  
100 Carbuncle Dr., Oxford, MA

- Boys & Girls Grades 4th-6th 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (3rd grade can try out with 4th grade)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Tryout # 2: Thursday, August 6, 2026**

**Location: North Brookfield High School**  
10 New School Dr., North Brookfield, MA

- Boys & Girls Grades 4th-6th 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (3rd grade can try out with 4th grade)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Pre Register/pay on website: [teammassbasketball.com](http://teammassbasketball.com)  
Questions Email: [teammassbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:teammassbasketball@gmail.com) or call 413-539-1548

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# Emerson grabs win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – The Crown Vics began Wednesday’s showcase with multi-time winner Ethan Williams showing the way early before youth prevailed. Upon his first time at the Thompson 5/8-mile, young Jack Emerson would take over the lead with eight laps remaining and never looked back to take the win over Williams and Ty Mello.

Jared Materas and Jason Williams may have brought the Late Model field to green but it was Matt Lowinski-Loh who quickly took over the top spot within the first lap. Materas would bring out the first caution on lap 10 after spinning across the nose of Jared Roy’s #1CT. Things went sideways once again on lap 18 with a mechanical issue slowing Jake Johnson leaving Williams and Mike Benevides to pile in for a massive wreck into the turn four wall. Back to green, Lowinski-Loh drove away with the 25-lap win over rookie Travis Hydar and Jared Roy.

Todd Douillard ran away with the lead at the start of the SK Light Modified feature before Austin Goff made it a two-man show by lap four. RJ Marcotte, John O’Sullivan, Kevin Davis and Dalton McCarthy ran nose-to-tail behind the leaders, keeping them honest before Goff was shuffled back on the inside groove. Motor-ing into turn one, Davis and O’Sullivan launched side-ways into the corner to bring out the lap nine caution that also ended the day for new-comer Brandon Michael

with a hard lick into the turn one wall.

Douillard would be next on the wrecker on the restart with Marcotte leaving no room to race, making hard contact with the turn one wall to end his day. Back to green, McCarthy, Goff and Eddie Gomarlo ran nose-to-tail at the head of the field. The busy night for the Thompson Speedway wreckers continued on lap 13 with McCarthy and O’Sullivan piling into the turn three wall. Under green for the final time, Austin Goff would run away with the win followed by RJ Marcotte and rookie Milania Shilosky.

Dan Bowes took off at the start of the Twisted Tea 40 for the New England Supermodified Series with hopeful winner Jon McKennedy dropping out on lap five with mechanical issues. All the while, Jeffrey Battle began reeling in Bowes out front as Ben Seitz lay in wait back in third. Battle would finally nab the lead on lap 22 while Seitz and PJ Stergios went to war for third behind him. Stergios would win that battle and one more against Bowes as the right-rear tire on the #25 was all but expired through the final fifteen circuits. Jeffrey Battle lambasted the field for the win with PJ Stergios coming home second and Dan Bowes holding on for third to round out the victory lane podium.

Ryan Lineham would bring out the lap one caution in the Street Stocks when a three-wide move in the first corner didn’t pan out. Back

under green, Nick Anderson and Mike Viens showed the way up front with Jerrod Soucy and Al Stone III keeping the pressure on behind them. Soucy would make his way around to lead the halfway marker and never looked back for win number one on the season ahead of Lineham and Viens.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out Wednesday’s racing program under the leadership of Nathan Pytko and Derek Ramstrom at the head of each lane under the initial green flag. Keith Rocco and Todd Owen made their way to the front by lap five just as contact between Bryan Narducci and Ramstrom sent the #35 into the turn one retaining wall. The remainder of the 50 lap feature saw Rocco and Owen wage their classic over-under battle for position before Owen finally began to drove away with fifteen laps remaining to take his first Sunoco Modified victory of the season. Keith Rocco came home second with Narducci coming back from his penalty for the lap five caution to claim third.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to Thompson Speedway on Wednesday, August 5 for the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.com. The August midweek showdown at the Big-T will also feature the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time. Event schedule will be released in the near future.

## TASK FORCE

from page 1

Nothe-Valley said. “Having been a multi-term Chair of our School Committee at this point, you would also be in a position to recognize if there were anything – other than your regular updates coming to us – if there were anything that the decision point belonged at this table versus that table.”

Committee Member Jonathan Verda said he looked forward to hearing about the Task Force. Morgan said the theory is to get more people looking at the town’s financing and budgeting.

Nothe-Valley added that there are Community-at-Large positions, which the town was still taking applications for as of the July 22 meeting, to be appointed by the Select Board at a later meeting.

“If anybody from the community is interested in jumping in on this, there is still an opportunity,” Nothe-Valley said.

The committee then voted unanimously to appoint Morgan as the committee’s voting member on the Mu-

nicipal Financial Sustainability Task Force.

Morgan attended the July 14 meeting of the Select Board to ask that add the School Department’s Business Manager Leah Zippin or Superintendent Paul Foster as a non-voting member for Professional Staff Support, in parallel with the town’s Director of Finance, and the board discussed making the change to allow a non-voting member to represent the school’s financial side.

“The Director of Finance is an invaluable resource for the municipal side, but would not be positioned to speak to the school-specific compliance requirements,” Morgan said during the Select Board meeting. “Adding our Business Manager or Superintendent to the Professional Staff Support structure simply ensures that the Task Force has the same depth of financial expertise on the school side that it already has on the municipal side.”

Morgan provided documents to the rest of the committee to illustrate why she felt that it was important that either Zippin or Foster also be in attendance to provide

information on the significant differences in school and municipal finances.

“Although the committee is aware of those things, we obviously are not the experts in regards to the day-to-day workings of the budget and all of that,” Morgan said.

At the Select Board meeting, Morgan highlighted that the School Department represents 42.1% of the town’s total budget, and school finances operate under a separate legal framework from the General Municipal Budget. She also identified part of the Task Force’s scope as identifying Special Education as an uncontrollable cost to be reviewed, which will require understanding of circuit breaker reimbursements, Individualized Education Program obligations, and Department of Early and Secondary Education reporting.

Another addition related to the Task Force was to add a 10th voting member to the Task Force to represent Pathfinder Technical Vocational School to be appointed by the superintendent, with the stipulation that the member be a resident of the town.

## CARAVAN

from page 10

- Public ice skating inside Amelia Park Arena (skate rental available)

Additionally, the Thunderbirds are proud to collaborate with the Springfield Hockey Heritage Society to be part of the Heritage Society’s annual HockeyDay on Saturday, July 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Better Living

Center at the Big E. The annual event will kick off a celebration of 100 Years of Hockey in Springfield, dating back to the original Springfield Indians of the Canadian-American Hockey League in 1926. Numerous past Springfield Indians, Kings, and Falcons are scheduled to appear as part of the celebration, which is open to the public. Tickets are available now by clicking here.

## EXHIBIT

from page 10

champion.

The Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc experience promises to be an unparalleled attraction, offering fans

an intimate look at a superstar of basketball - and a superstar of life.

The exhibit was scheduled to open to the public July 24 at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

# CAMPUS NOTES

## Messier named to Univ. of Scranton Spring 2026 Dean’s List

SCRANTON, PA – Gabriel M. Messier of Palmer was among nearly 1,900 students named to The University of Scranton’s Dean’s List for the 2026 spring semester. The Dean’s List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean’s List. The list includes students from the Jesuit university’s College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and the Leahy College of Health Sciences.

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

The University of Scranton is a Jesuit university located in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Michael Bachand of Three Rivers, Mass., earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

## UMass Amherst announces Spring 2026 grads

AMHERST – Approximately 7,000 students received bachelor’s degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Undergraduate Commencement on May 15, 2026 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area that received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst:

*Brimfield*  
**Libby Higgins Sheldon**  
**Abigail Kathryn Stattenfield**

*Monson*  
**Bianca G Cardano**  
**John Edward Daly III**  
**Madison Amber Farquhar**  
**Jennifer Gralia**

*Palmer*  
**Grace Catherine Doyle**  
**Daniele Freitas**  
**Grace Callan Kaiser**  
**Keyshla Nannett Lorenzo**  
**Tiye Tiako Ngachoko**  
**Sara O’Connor**  
**Lindsay A. Thomson**

*Wales*  
**May Marie Adams**

## Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY – Nichols College congratulates the 2026 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College’s commencement ceremony on May 2, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Delcie D. Bean IV, founder and CEO of Paragus IT, an employee-owned managed information technology (IT) services firm that is one of the most successful, fastest-growing IT firms in the region, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

**Julia Fearing** of Brimfield, Mass., earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

# Hitchcock’s Summer Concert Series continues till Aug. 19

BRIMFIELD – The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. now through August 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

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

Long-time series favorite

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

The series closes out on August 19th with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and «forgotten classics» setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the <70s and <80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT’s Smokehouse will return to bookend this

year’s food truck lineup.

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

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

**Aug 5 The Willies**  
*50s, 60s, 70s & more! | Flippin’ the Bird BBQ*

**Aug 12 CobbleStone Road**  
*Country ~ Smashing Patties*

**Aug 19 Hard Knox**  
*Classic sounds of the 70s, 80s, & 90s | BT’s*

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



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# Christmas in July



Monson's Phil Simpson spent the day with his sons, Landon, age 8, and Liam, age 3.



Monson's Brady Ronaldson served up hamburgers and hot dogs to hungry guests.



Jake Provost, of Monson, welcomed guests for hayrides.



The dog days arrived early, as four-legged friends Rocky (left) and Storm receive treats from Melissa and Brian Nemet, of Sturbridge.



Local families and volunteers enjoyed the event.



Pamela and Donald Klein, of Leicester, found a picnic table in the shade.



Noah Smith, age 5, showed his mask to his grandmother, Thomi Fowler, of Palmer.



Turley Photos by Kevin Flanders  
All guests in attendance enjoyed some fun in the sun.

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|    |    |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    | 24 |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |

- CLUES ACROSS**

  - 1. Egyptian bull god
  - 5. Romanian monetary unit
  - 8. Santa's helper
  - 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
  - 13. Sea eagle genus
  - 14. Broad volcanic crater
  - 15. Minneapolis suburb
  - 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
  - 17. Exchange rate
  - 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
  - 20. Men's fashion accessory
  - 21. Craft material
  - 22. Offerings
  - 25. Early
  - 30. Large room
  - 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. One who hauls
  - 33. Shorthand for accepting
  - 38. Promotional materials
  - 41. Loss of memory
  - 43. One who beheads
  - 45. Photographers
  - 48. Small, rich sponge cake
  - 49. White clerical vestment
  - 50. Partner to "ooed"
  - 55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
  - 56. Zero
  - 57. Owl monkey genus
  - 59. Lace bug genus
  - 60. Mild expression of surprise
  - 61. Storage devices
  - 62. Keyboard key
  - 63. Make a mistake
  - 64. One-time Korean president
- CLUES DOWN**

  - 1. Bridge building degree
  - 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
  - 3. Large, stocky, lizard
  - 4. Rumanian river
  - 5. Missive
  - 6. Stout-bodied moths
  - 7. Brings out
  - 8. Bird of prey
  - 9. King of Thebes
  - 10. Cleaving tool
  - 12. African antelope
  - 14. Three are particularly famous
  - 19. Satisfy
  - 23. C. European river
  - 24. Dictator
  - 25. Portion of (abbr.)
  - 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - 27. Consume food
  - 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape or wear away by friction
  - 34. Popular vegetable
  - 35. Pacific Standard Time
  - 36. Brazilian state capital
  - 37. Paddle
  - 39. Cause to become insane
  - 40. Drier and flakier
  - 41. Mimic
  - 42. ESPN host Kimes
  - 44. One who moseys
  - 45. Secret political clique
  - 46. Behind the stern of a ship
  - 47. Supernatural force
  - 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
  - 51. Swiss river
  - 52. Grayish white
  - 53. Engrave
  - 54. UNC's chief rival
  - 58. Midway between south and southeast

## YOUR HEALTH

from page 4

drivers develop conditions like arthritis that limit their ability to turn their head? How many are taking medications that can potentially impair their ability to not only drive but react to an unexpected situation, like a deer in the road? How many are having trouble remembering where they were going but get behind the wheel anyway?

Are there 95-year-olds who are still safe on the road? Of course. But we older drivers need to be honest with ourselves and not assume that, just because we've been driving for 60 or 70 years, we should still be driving.

Here are some things to ask yourself:

Can you comfortably turn your head to back out of a parking spot or check a blind spot before merging or changing lanes?

Do you have the muscle strength, reaction time and control to slam on the brakes if needed?

Are you able to clearly read signs?

Do you get confused at roundabouts, when making left turns or getting on or off the interstate?

Do other drivers honk at you?

Have you narrowly missed having an accident and said to yourself, "That

car/pedestrian/bike came out of nowhere"?

Vision, hearing, motor abilities, cognitive abilities all decline naturally with aging. That doesn't mean you have to hang up your keys at a particular age. It just means to be aware of those changes and adjust to them.

For example, take time to stretch your arms, legs and neck every morning to maintain flexibility. If your doctor prescribes a new medication, ask whether it will have any impact on your ability to drive. Maybe stay on surface streets rather than highways or drive only during the day if night vision and glare are a problem. Assistive devices can also help.

From a cognitive standpoint, it's important to keep distractions to a minimum. Don't try to eat or drink while driving. Tell passengers to keep conversation to a minimum. Set your GPS before putting the car in drive. And, for the love of all that is holy, stay off the phone – hands free or not.

Cars these days are packed with safety technology. Your car may alert you when you're following too close, wandering into another lane or have a car sitting your blind spot. It may automatically correct a skid or even parallel park for you. All of that technology is great, but remember: You are still the one in the driver's seat.

Every so often, invite a trusted adult to ride shotgun

and note your driving behaviors for later discussion. They may spot things, like driving too slow or being in the left lane when you're not passing. If they identify concerns, talk to your doctor or an occupational therapist who specializes in driver safety and sign up for an older driver course.

After an honest self-assessment, you can decide for yourself if it's time to stop driving and, guess what? There's life after cars! Friends, family, taxis, ride-shares and transit-on-demand are all plentiful. You can have groceries, meals and prescriptions delivered.

We all love the independence of going anywhere we want when we want. Just be aware that freedom comes with the responsibility to make sure you're fit to drive.

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

# Obituaries

## Robert Aldrich, 1934-2026

ALBANY, OREGON/MONSON—Robert Aldrich (Bob) Aldrich died on July 15, 2026. Bob was born on December 8, 1934, in Palmer, Mass. to his late parents, Rufus and Yolande Aldrich. Bob attended, and graduated from, Monson High School, Monson Academy and then the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with a degree in Business Administration.

Bob is survived by his 3 sons, Chris Aldrich, James Aldrich and Joseph Aldrich, his 2 granddaughters, Arielle Aldrich Dunn and Alexa Aldrich and his 2 great grandchildren, Stella Aldrich Dunn and Leandro Aldrich Dunn.

Bob was employed by various companies during his working years including Uniroyal Inc, (Chicopee Falls Ma and Los Angeles Ca), Parco Inc, (Ontario Ca)



and First Student Transportation Inc, (Tustin Ca). Bob retired from First Student in 2005 and relocated to Albany Oregon in 2006 with his wife, Joanne Aldrich, (now deceased).

In his retirement years, Bob was a member of St Marys Parish in Albany, OR. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, (connected to the St Marys Parrish), and a member of the Lebanon Radio Control Airplane club. His hobbies included cooking, woodworking, photography, history and flying his radio-controlled model airplanes.

A funeral mass will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, July 30, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albany, Oregon.

Burial will be held on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Bethany Cemetery in Monson, Massachusetts.

## James Leo St. Amand



PALMER – Retired Administrative Judge and civil servant James Leo St. Amand was born on April 23, 1944, in Springfield, Massachusetts. On July 25, 2026, he passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family before reuniting with his parents, Leo and Bernice.

Jim will be deeply missed by his devoted wife, Victoria Ursula Gumula (married 60 years this November); his sister, Kathy Tassinari; his daughter, Andrea Mastalerz (Jay Joseph); his sons, Eric (Melissa Marie) and Jonathan (Robin); his sister-in-law, Paula Cieplinski; his brother-in-law Thaddeus Gumula.

Memories of “Pops” will not be forgotten by his grandchildren, the pride and joy in his life, Tyler James, Dr. Paige Victoria Mastalerz (Connor), Esq. Olivia Ann St. Amand (Brendan), Madelyn Rose, and Chase James; and his newly born great-granddaughter, Nora St. Amand Feehery; as well as, several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was also predeceased by his cousin, Paul Russo; his brothers-in-law, Stephen Cieplinski and Don Tassinari; and many other cherished relatives and lifelong friends.

Jim St. Amand was the last of his kind.

A three-sport letterman and a proud graduate of Palmer High School in 1962, Jimmy went on to Assumption College, where he played baseball and hockey.

Jim was inducted into the Palmer High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

He loved his family deeply, and he held a lifelong devotion to the town of Palmer, Massachusetts. He loved what Palmer provided to him

and his family, and he devoted much of his life to serving the community in return. You could take Jim out of Palmer, but you could never take Palmer out of Jim.

His devotion to the town involved more action than words. For five decades, he gave his time and leadership to the people of Palmer through numerous elected positions and volunteer organizations. He served on the Palmer School Committee, on the Palmer Board of Selectmen, and for 47 years on the Prudential Committee for Palmer Fire District #1. He coached youth baseball and basketball, guided generations of young athletes as an American Legion baseball coach, served as a Trustee of Wing Memorial Hospital for 22 years, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. For more than 55 years, he led the foundation and presentation of the Leonard J. Bailey Award, recognizing the Palmer High School football player who best exemplified team spirit and leadership.

Appointed in 1977 by Governor Michael Dukakis, he retired in 2003 as an Administrative Judge for the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents, ending a highly distinguished career marked by integrity

and fairness. In his retirement, he also served in the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

Jim was a lifelong Democrat who participated in numerous local, state, and national campaigns and conventions.

He was a fan of Boston sports, especially the Red Sox and Patriots. In addition, an unwavering supporter of Palmer High School athletics. Visiting the Mohegan Sun was a favorite pastime for him and Ursula.

His legacy endures through his family, the young people he mentored and coached, the institutions he strengthened, and the community he served with unwavering loyalty for more than half a century.

God bless you, Dad and Pops. You were a great, genuine guy who elevated everyone around you.

Special thanks to the Palmer Fire Department and the Baystate Hospice Group that helped during the final mile of his life. The family will never forget Paula, Aubrey, Donna, and Hope.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Amand Family Scholarship may be sent to 65 Buckland Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, 01069.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, July 31, 2026 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. On Saturday, Aug. 1 a Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Church. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will follow at St. Thomas Cemetery. For more information, please visit [www.beersand-story.com](http://www.beersand-story.com)

## DEATH NOTICES

**Robert Aldrich**  
Died July 15, 2026  
Services July 30, 2026  
Lombard Funeral Home

**James Leo St. Amand**  
Died July 25, 2026  
Service Aug. 1, 2026  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## Public safety

### Monson Fire Logs

Fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of July 20 through July 26, 2026. The department responded to 27 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls.

On Monday, July 20 at 4:59 p.m. the department responded to 74 Bogan Road for the alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 5:59 p.m.

On Friday, July 24 at 2:46 p.m. the department responded to 106 Main Street for the gas leak. The department returned to service at 2:48 p.m.

On Saturday, July 25 at 6:03 a.m. the department responded to 85 Moulton Hill Road for the alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 6:39 a.m.

On Sunday, July 26 at 10:39 p.m. the department responded to 17 May Hill Road for the brush fire in the woods. The department returned to service at 11:07 p.m.

On Sunday, July 26 at 7:56 p.m. the department responded to 49 Main Street for the water leak. The department returned to service at 8:06 p.m.

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## Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 9, 2026.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.**

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

**FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley**

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:jamie@turley.com)**  
**\*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER.**  
\$27.40 to \$32.21 per hour based on qualifications.  
Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us)

Deadline to apply is 8/6/2026 .  
*Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME CHIEF OF POLICE.**  
\$37,500 - \$50,000 yearly salary based on qualifications.  
Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us).  
Deadline to apply is 8/6/2026. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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| 33        | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37        | 38 | 39 | 40 |

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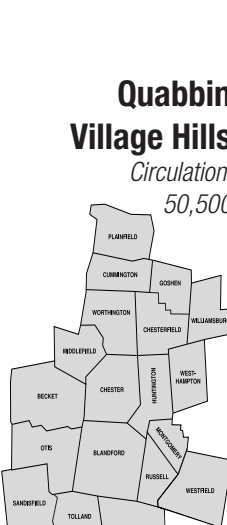
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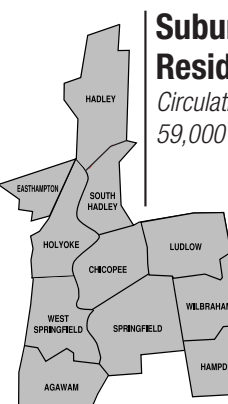


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# Public notices

## TOWN OF BRIMFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 10, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M.** in the cafeteria of the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA to hear a complaint filed by Caroline and Jerry Degon of 36 East Hill Road regarding an ongoing dog nuisance, concerning three female and one male Belgian Tervuren owned and/or kept at the property located at 28 East Hill Road, Brimfield, MA as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 157 and Chapter 7 Sections 5.1-5.2 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Brimfield. If you have an interest in this hearing, you are requested to attend said hearing at the aforementioned date and time.

Martin J. Kelly,  
Select Board Chair  
Town of Brimfield  
23 Main Street  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
07/23, 07/30/2026

## Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7:10 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA, to consider an application for Site Plan Approval submitted by BrayMar LLC for property located at 148 Boston Road West, Monson, Map 64, Parcel 002. The applicant proposes exterior alterations to an existing commercial building for the purpose of storing and repairing equipment and vehicles associated with its construction business. The property is located within the General Commercial Zoning District. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board Office and is available for public review during regular business hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman  
07/30, 08/06/2026

## Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. §.11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall, 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Randy Dimitropolis for a Site Plan approval as provided by §6.7 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to construct a 467.64 sq ft accessory dwelling unit in the homes existing basement on property located at 168 Wales Road, Map 139 and Parcel 015D, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board office.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman  
07/30, 08/06/2026

## (SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 002268 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:  
**Eric E. Anderson**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):  
**Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 253B Ware Street, given by Eric E. Anderson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nations Direct Mortgage, LLC, dated June 28, 2019, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22734, Page 440, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your

attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **August 31, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 20, 2026.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
07/30/2026

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN [seal] No. 21 TL 000126

To all whom it may concern, and to Louis Braica; and Gerald Braica, also known as Gerald “Jerry” A. Bracia; and Carol Braica, all deceased, all formerly of Brimfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Megan Monyhan, formerly of Springfield, Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; and known parts unknown; Robert Lincoln, and Philip P. Beniot, both now or formerly of Ludlow; Paul P. Benoit, now or formerly of Palmer; Michelle Goodrow, now or formerly of Chicopee, all in Hampden County, and said Commonwealth; Roland Cote, now or formerly of Northampton, Hampshire County, and said Commonwealth; Jerry Gleason, now or formerly of Crookston, in the State of Minnesota; Diane Carabetta, now or formerly of Oriental, in the State of North Carolina; and their heirs, devisees, or legal representatives.:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Brimfield. 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 Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.36 Acres located and known as 1546 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 9-B-16 and being the premises recorded in book 4482 on page 215 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is September 21, 2026.**

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 The Journal Register a newspaper circulated in Town of Brimfield.

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

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

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
David E. Condon Esq.  
Ten Post Office Square,  
Suite 1330,  
Boston, MA 02109  
Tel: (617)439-0305

07/30/2026

**ADVERTISEMENT**  
The **Brimfield Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contrac-

tors for the **Exterior Lighting Upgrades** project at State Aided Development: Colonial Park (667-1), in Brimfield, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Hesnor Engineering Associates, PLLC.

The Project consists of: Upgrade exterior lighting at Colonial Park

The work is estimated to cost **\$53,130**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **2:30 PM on Friday, August 21, 2026** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Brimfield Housing Authority**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026** for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and electronically downloaded at no cost).

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as “the Contractor”) agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

A pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 11:30 AM. Meet at the community building.**

07/30, 08/06, 08/13/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P1599GD In the matter of: Patricia Cox Of: Palmer, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Baystate Wing Hospital of Palmer, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Patricia Cox** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Chris Bare of Gilbertville, CT** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 a.m.** on the return date of **08/19/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs**

**or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

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

Date: July 22, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
07/30/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1610EA Estate of: Rosemary L Demers Date of Death: 12/13/2025 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 **Jefferson B Hurst of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Jefferson B Hurst of Palmer, MA** 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 08/25/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 27, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
07/30/2026

## (SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 002311 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:  
**Mario N. Giordano Jr; Mechealea Giordano**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):  
**CMG Mortgage, Inc.**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 2069 High Street, given by Mario N. Giordano Jr. and Mechealea Giordano to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Shamrock Home Loans, Inc., dated October 27, 2022, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24781, Page 558, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently

have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **August 31, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 20, 2026.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
07/30/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1616EA Estate of: Jeffrey Gerard Roden Date of Death: 06/12/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Julie B Roden of Portland, 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 **Julie B Roden of Portland, 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 08/25/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 27, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
07/30/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1411EA Estate of: Damian C Sarrette Also known as: Damian Sarrette Date of Death: 10/30/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dene Sarrette Ackerman of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as re-

quested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that **Dene Sarrette Ackerman of Monson, MA** 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 08/28/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 27, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
07/30/2026

## (SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 002318 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:  
**Erica Veary**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):  
**Guild Mortgage Company LLC**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 2010 High Street, given by Erica Veary to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, dated August 13, 2024, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25530, Page 75, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **September 7, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 21, 2026.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
07/30/2026

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

# Audit highlights need for improvements at Gaming Commission

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s Office released an audit report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, reviewing the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

MGC is the oversight agency charged with monitoring gaming establishments in the Commonwealth. Its mission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the 2021 expanded gaming law, which was passed to generate new revenue for Massachusetts and to increase economic growth in surrounding communities.

The five-person appointed body establishes oversight and management of the licensing and regulatory processes for two casinos, MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor and the statewide slots parlor, Plainridge Park Casino, through a series of regulations. Additionally, MGC is tasked with creating and overseeing the regulatory framework of the Commonwealth’s sports wagering industry, which includes 13 sports wagering operators licensed to conduct online and in-person sports gambling within Massachusetts.

Among the audit’s findings is that MGC failed to monitor sports betting advertisements before public release, violating state regulations. Seventeen advertisements lacked required responsible gambling information, including an omission of the Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline. These failures risk exacerbating gambling addiction and exposing youth to harmful promotional materials.

The audit also found that GameSense agents, who are tasked with supporting individuals affected by gambling addiction, were not fully trained as mandated. Without proper training, these agents are ill-equipped to help individuals struggling with gambling addiction. This undermines the very support systems designed to mitigate gambling-related harm.

Moreover, the audit found that MGC has no accountability process for reviewing and entering into employee settlement agreements, which could conceal workplace misconduct. Without transparency, public funds may be used to silence victims while shielding wrongdoers, risking erosion of public trust.

Finally, during the audit, the State Auditor’s Office learned that two class action lawsuits were filed against Massachusetts gaming establishments. These lawsuits are believed to have arisen from discrepancies between the Massachusetts General Laws, specifically Section 29 of Chapter 23K, and Code of Massachusetts Regulations, 205 CMR 138.13(4), regarding the monthly win/loss statements that should be sent to reward cardholders.

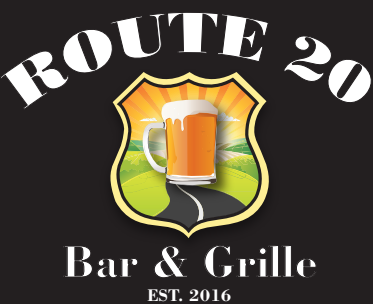
Reward cardholders were not provided with clear and detailed monthly statements that outlined their wins and losses. This means that cardholders were deprived of information that was essential for making informed decisions about their gaming habits and practicing responsible gaming.

By not meeting these requirements, gaming establishments may enhance their profitability at the expense of their patrons’ well-being. Moreover, MGC stands to gain financially, as it receives a portion of the revenue generated by these casinos. This situation raises concerns not only about the implications of prioritizing profit over player welfare but also about the effectiveness of regulatory oversight in promoting safe gaming practices, especially when that regulatory oversight appears inconsistent with the General Laws.



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