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MONSON

New principal joins Granite Valley School

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON — With the first day of classes only a few weeks away, new Granite Valley School Principal Serenity Greenwood is eager to welcome students.



Serenity Greenwood

Bringing 25 years of experience in public education to her new role, Greenwood has enjoyed each opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, families, and educators.

"Accepting the position of Principal at Granite Valley School is both an incredible honor and a tremendous responsibility," Greenwood told The Journal Register. "Joining the Granite Valley community represents the next chapter of a career dedicated to ensuring that every child feels valued, challenged, supported, and capable of success."

Greenwood's career in education has provided her with experiences across many roles. She began as a kindergarten teacher before becoming an elementary science specialist, working with students from preschool through fifth grade.

Over the past several years, she held school administration positions that served students in Pre-K through eighth grade. In these leadership roles, she focused on strengthening instructional practices, implementing multi-tiered systems of support, augmenting social-emotional learning

and improving school culture.

Additional responsibilities included leading professional learning communities, analyzing student achievement data and partnering with families and community organizations.

"These experiences have reinforced my belief that student success is built through strong relationships, effective instruction, collaborative leadership, and a relentless focus on continuous improvement," Greenwood added.

Looking ahead to her first year at Granite Valley, Greenwood aims to build strong bonds at all levels of the school community. She has already been impressed with the dedication and preparedness of team members she's met throughout the district.

"I am excited to become part of a school community that values strong relationships, high expectations, and continuous growth, and I look forward to working alongside staff, students, and families to build on the many strengths already present at Granite Valley," Greenwood said.

During her transition into the principal role, Greenwood also took immediate notice of the community support for education in town.

"What drew me to Granite Valley was the opportunity to serve a close-knit community that values its schools and its children,"

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PALMER



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Above, the carpentry department showed off the birdhouses they constructed during the Summer Enrichment Program. Right, Annalea, age nine, practiced cosmetology on volunteer Anorah, age 12.

Summer Enrichment Program concludes at Pathfinder Tech

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER — Last week, Pathfinder Technical Vocational High School concluded its three-week Summer Enrichment Program, a three-week long program that offers five-day courses for third to eighth graders on fundamentals of the various vocational programs that Pathfinder has to offer.

The program was put on through the collaboration of staff, primarily instructors from the school year, and student volunteers. Vocational Coordinator Joseph Brewer, also Director of Pathfinder's

Cold Springs building, said that the program provided an opportunity for kids from the community to use the hands-on technology that's available to Pathfinder students throughout the school year.

"We did see the kids at different ages interacting with each other, building friendships, supporting each other," Brewer said, "so they get the chance to see what student life is like here and interact with the high school students."

Students had the option of signing up for one to three weeks of the program, and could enjoy different offerings from Pathfinder's curriculum each week.

"We try really hard to



make sure we have a wide variety of things to offer to all of the youths. They're fourth through eighth grade, so there's a big variety of ages," said Career and Technical Education Director Shelly Zayas. "We try to come up with things that would hold their interest. This is for any student from any town, but we always want the students to know from our nine sending towns that this is their school, this is where you could come, so here's all the things we offer around the school."

There were a great variety of programs offered in the Summer Enrichment Program, including Advanced Manufacturing; Auto Body Repair; Baking FUNDamentals; Baseball Skills; Basketball Skills; Beauty School; Cookie Creations; Custom Kicks and Courts; Dig, Design, and Grow; Drama/Theatre; First Responders; Fishing 101; Fun with Art; Junior Chef; Kid Cafe; MakeCode Arcade; Robotics BattleShop;

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PALMER

Town launches improved website

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER — Following last month's website overhaul project, visitors to the town site are enjoying improved accessibility and efficiency.

The goal of the project was to make several upgrades that enhance communications and transparency, while ensuring a streamlined experience for users.

"Improving communication is a continuous goal for the Town Council, Town Manager's Office and the administration team. The foundation for solid communications is the website," said Town Manager Brad Broth-

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Wales welcomes Wildlife



Submitted photo

On Thursday, July 30, the Forest Park Zoo visited the Wales Public Library to present Wildlife on Wheels, bringing live animals. See more photos on page 6.

PALMER

Library's Mah Jongg Club celebrates anniversary

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER — It's only been a year since the launch of the library's Mah Jongg Club, but the increasingly popular game has quickly drawn members and built friendships — one tile at a time.

Members celebrated the club's one-year anniversary during an Aug. 3 session in the community room at Palmer Public Library.

For Joyce Joyal, who worked with library leaders to get the club off the ground, it's been exciting to see a steady rise in community interest.

"It's a great game, not only for socialization but also for your mind. There's a lot of strategy involved," said Joyal, who lives in Ware.

After learning how to play Mah Jongg while residing in Florida — and eventually playing four times a week — Joyal was disappointed by

the absence of the game from western Massachusetts community venues.

"I couldn't find anywhere to play. There seemed to be nothing in the area," she recalled.

Unsure how to spark local interest in the game, Joyal attended Palmer Public Library after noticing it was hosting a presentation from a Boston-based Mah Jongg player. It became clear during the event that area residents were curious about the game, but the lack of local clubs seemed to be an insurmountable barrier.

Until Joyal teamed up with library officials to create a club.

"Four of us showed up to the first meeting. Since then,

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Zoe Cardano makes her way toward midfield.

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SPORTS



Maddy Bonavita sends a pass away.

SOCCKER

Mustangs pick up quarterfinals win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Despite only having seven players at the start of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League women’s quarterfinal match, sixth-seeded Chicopee United managed to keep the score close against the thirdseeded

Monson Mustangs for almost the entire match.

The Mustangs, who held a 2-0 halftime advantage, scored two late goals and they advanced into the semifinals following a 4-0 victory at Larry Tassinari Field on July 27.

“We beat them twice during the regular season

and it’s difficult playing the same team multiple times,” said Monson coach Cassidy Bailey. “I also know most of their players. We played very well.”

The Mustangs finished the regular season with a 9-2 record, while Chicopee United entered the playoffs with a 4-7 mark.

The Chicopee squad, who joined the PVSSL this year, did have four more players arrive by half-

MUSTANGS
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Ciara Monaghan turns play around.



Elenor Leland hustles up the field.



Christy Russo sends a pass up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Hannah Murphy is met by an opponent.

SOCCKER

CF Arbor reaches PVSSL semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week’s PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men’s soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt.

Carmel, which defeated CF Arbor’s chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year’s men’s championship.



Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.



Tyler Lewis advances up the field.



Landry Kwawu goes to meet up with a loose ball.



Owen Dieterle heads up the field.

BASEBALL

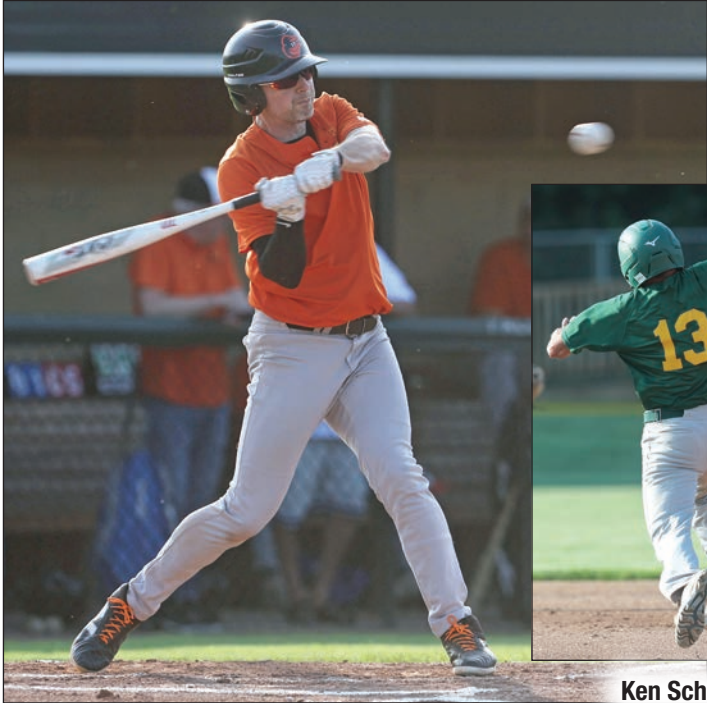
Valley Wheel Over-28 League regular season ends



Nate Woodland makes a catch for the A’s during regular season action in the Valley Wheel league.

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record, going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for

the tiebreaker advantage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A’s by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.



Sam Ribeiro takes a swing.



Ken Schubert heads to second.



Adam Strain fields a grounder.



Mike Burgos pitches in a game for the Orioles on July 26.

Turley photos by David Henry
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