

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com August 7, 2025 | Vol. CLXXIV, No. 28 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

Local riders bring 'Day Zero' of Pan-Mass Challenge to community

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – A quiet Friday afternoon in Palmer was briefly transformed into a scene of purpose, camaraderie, and community spirit as a team of cyclists made a pit stop at the Palmer Public Library; not just for water and rest, but to connect with the town that's become part of their powerful tradition.

The riders were part of Bikes Fight Cancer, a cycling team that participates each year in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), a two-day, nearly 200-mile bike ride from Sturbridge to Provincetown, all to raise funds for cancer research and care at



Riders circle the loop and stop in front of the Palmer Library.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Supporters gather for the Bikes Fight Cancer team during the Pan-Mass Challenge.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. But before the official start, this team pushes even further, adding a third day, informally dubbed "Day Zero", and beginning their journey at the New York State line.

This year's Day Zero route passed directly through Palmer, prompting team members and local residents Candy and Michael Swiatkowski to host an unofficial water stop at the Palmer Public Library, where they

BIKES | page 8

MONSON



Submitted photos

The Monson Community Cupboard building at 24 Green Street, Monson.

Community Cupboard set to open up this fall

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – In response to rising food insecurity and growing economic pressure on local families, a new community food pantry is preparing to open its doors this fall. The Monson Community Cupboard, spearheaded by the grassroots civic group Monson Together, is scheduled for a soft opening on Sept. 1 at 24 Green Street, just off Main Street near downtown Monson.

The project has been in development for several months, but the conversations that led to it go back even further. Karen Davis, one of the lead organizers, said the idea began as Monson Together started lis-

tening closely to residents' needs.

"Since we started Monson Together a few years ago, one of the biggest things we kept hearing about was food insecurity," Davis said. "People were quietly struggling...whether it was due to job loss, inflation, or unexpected crises. And after doing some exploratory research, it became really clear that Monson has a much larger need for food assistance than the current resources can handle."

At the moment, Monson is served by just one food pantry, which is open only once a month. According to Davis, that limited access is not enough to

CUPBOARD | page 6

HOLLAND

Therapy dog makes friends at Holland Library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – At the heart of the Holland Public



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Debbie LeMay with Crew: the three-year-old Russell Terrier therapy dog you can read to.

Library's cozy, well-loved space, a small, expressive Russell Terrier named Crew is making a big impact on

young readers in town. Crew, a three-year-old

READING | page 7

MONSON

Legacy in straw: Dominick shares history of straw hat industry

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Keep Homestead Museum welcomed a full house on Sunday, August 3, for a captivating historical presentation by Bill Dominick, board member of the Monson Historical Society. Dominick offered a richly detailed look into the history of the Merrick, Fay, & Co. Straw Works Hat Factory; an industry that not only defined Monson's identity in the



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

Bill Dominick shares the history of the Merrick, Fay & Co. Hat Company.

HATS | page 14



Jain Dental Care

DENTISTRY FOR KIDS, ADULTS & SENIORS

1411 North Main Street, Palmer

413-356-6100

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: By Appointment



Dr. Sunit Jain, D.D.S.



NOW OPEN
For Our Local Communities
Community Medical Services

PREMIUM DENTAL CARE
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Stop In Today To Learn About
Our Practice And Services

We Offer Same Day Treatments

NEW PATIENTS & WALK INS WELCOME

~ We Accept MassHealth ~



Sen. Oliveira announces historic Chapter 90 Funding Increases

Prioritizing regional equity in WMass

BOSTON – Senator Jake Oliveira announced today that communities across his district will see unprecedented increases in state transportation funding with the passage of this year’s Chapter 90 bond bill.

The legislation, approved by both the Senate and House, represents an important step forward in prioritizing not only municipal infrastructure across the State, but especially in rural regions, by ensuring that Western Massachusetts receives its fair share of infrastructure investment.

This year’s bill authorizes \$300 million for the Chapter 90 Program, a 50 percent increase over past funding levels, which provides direct state aid for cities and towns to maintain and improve local roads and bridges. In addition, for the first time, \$100 million of the total will be distributed using a formula that more accurately reflects the road mileage maintained by rural communities, addressing inequities in the

funding process.

Communities in Senator Oliveira’s district will receive the following allocations for FY26:

- Belchertown** – \$1,373,752.85
- Chicopee** – \$2,470,648.27
- East Longmeadow** – \$1,147,885.68
- Granby** – \$595,589.12
- Hampden** – \$550,461.64
- Longmeadow** – \$1,025,164.97
- Ludlow** – \$1,394,952.36
- Palmer** – \$957,407.76
- South Hadley** – \$986,521.67
- Springfield** – \$6,337,499.15
- Warren** – \$632,644.52
- Wilbraham** – \$1,144,776.84

“These are not just numbers in a budget. They represent safer school bus routes, rebuilt bridges, and smoother roads for our communities,” said Senator Oliveira.

In addition to the Chapter 90 funding, the bill includes \$885 million in additional statewide infrastructure investments:

\$200 million for culvert and small bridge replacement and modernization.

\$500 million for MassDOT’s lifecycle asset management program to enable

proactive repairs and maintenance.

\$185 million for congestion reduction and street safety improvements, benefiting communities of all sizes.

Senator Oliveira went on to reiterate how this year’s bill represents a stronger commitment to equity in state infrastructure investment. “This approach recognizes that each community faces its own unique challenges, and meeting those needs requires targeted solutions,” said Oliveira.

“I’m proud to have advocated for a funding formula that ensures places like Belchertown, Granby, Ludlow, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, and all twelve communities I represent get the resources they need to thrive. This year’s Chapter 90 bill shows that when we say we’re building a stronger Massachusetts, we truly mean all of Massachusetts, including Western Mass.”

Having passed through both chambers of the Legislature, the legislation now heads to the Governor’s desk for signature.



Submitted photo

Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO and member of the Monson Free Library Finance Committee met with Hope Bodwell, Monson Free Library Director, to present her with a \$2,500 donation on behalf of the Bank.

MSB donates \$2,500 to the Monson Free Library

MONSON – Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO and member of the Monson Free Library Finance Committee recently met with Hope Bodwell, Monson Free Library Director, to present her with a \$2,500 donation of behalf of the Bank. The donation was a part of the 2025 Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative, where the public was given the opportunity to vote on which non-profits would receive a donation from the community bank in 2025.

“I’m pleased to present this donation on behalf of Monson Savings Bank,” said Moriarty. “As a lifelong resident of Monson, my family and I have utilized the town’s library and have experienced firsthand the positive impact it has on the Town of Monson and the surrounding communities. The library provides residents with free access to reading materials, program-

img, and other important resources.

The Monson Free Library is enthusiastic about working with the Monson community. It is a valuable resource center for people of all ages. The library focuses on community priorities, culture, and education. It offers educational tools through diverse collections, services, technology, and programming.

“We are grateful for Monson Savings Bank’s partnership and support over the years,” said Hope Bodwell, Director of the Monson Free Library. “Likewise, we are extremely grateful for the votes submitted through the Bank’s annual Community Giving Initiative by the community.”

To learn more about the Monson Savings Bank annual Community Giving Initiative, please visit: <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/our-community/community-giving-initiative.html>

Corrections

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



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

WEB
www.journalregister.turley.com

[@The Journal Register](https://www.facebook.com/TheJournalRegister)

The Journal Register is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Capture ‘Purrfect Moments’ at Here Today Adopted Tomorrow’s Feline Fun Day

MONSON – Come for the crafts, stay for the ice cream and the kittens! Feline Fun Day returns for its 4th year on Saturday, August 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Road in Monson.

The event is hosted by Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT), a Brimfield-based cat shelter, and features over 50 local craft vendors, upbeat music, great food, and a chance to enjoy a “purrfect” summer day.

This year’s theme, “Purrfect Moments,” celebrates joyful little snapshots of life—whether it’s a sweet treat, a

furry face, or a photo-worthy memory. HTAT will bring adorable kittens, themed selfie stations, and all the cuteness you need to fill your camera roll.

“Feline Fun Day is a chance for our community to come together, celebrate everything we love about cats, and support HTAT’s work to give each one a real shot at a better future,” said Rachael Max, Executive Director of Here Today Adopted Tomorrow. “Whether you’re shopping, snapping a photo, or just stopping by for a cone, you’re making a difference.”

HTAT is more than a traditional shelter. Its cageless environment and individualized approach give every cat the room to flourish—especially those with medical needs, tough pasts, or unique personalities that may need extra time or care to shine. Beyond adoption, HTAT supports cats and families through specialized programs that help keep pets healthy and loved in their homes.

Whether you’re a lifelong cat lover or simply looking for a fun day out, Feline Fun Day offers something special for everyone.

Admission is free. For more info, visit heretodaysanctuary.org/feline-fun-day

Feline Fun Day is made possible thanks to the generous support of Suppur Hero Sponsors: Australian Natural Soap (www.wavertreeandlondon-us.com) and B’leaf Wellness Centre (www.bleafma.com)

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at [facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary), and follow us on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtomorrow](https://www.instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtomorrow).

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

DEADLINE

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

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Join Us For Dinner Before The Fireworks Celebration On Saturday Night



91 Main Street Ware, MA 01082
413-277-0009
www.hannasonmain.com

We Are Open For Breakfast Every Sunday 8am - 12pm



All of your Favorite Breakfast Items!



FREE Stack Of Pancakes with any order of \$20 or more
Cannot be Combine with any other offer. Must Present Coupon. One coupon per table. Expires 8/15/2025

Weekly Events

Every Wednesday
\$5⁹⁹ Burgers at 4PM & Musical Bingo at 6:30

Every Thursday
\$6 Pizza at 4PM & Opinionation at 6:30

Every Friday
Live Entertainment, Weekly Specials & Fried Seafood Favorites

Complete Catering Services!
Hot Foods • Cold Foods
Salads • Sandwich Trays

Graduations • Holidays • Anniversaries
Business Events
Birthdays • Retirements • Reunions



www.hannasonmain.com
413-277-0009

Function Room Available

OPEN FOR LUNCH Wed - Fri at 11:00AM

Dinner served Saturday from 11am - 10pm & Sunday from 12pm - 9pm

Function Room Available!
(up to 50 people)

Book Your Event Today!



Prime Rib Dinner

Served Every Saturday 4pm - Close
Includes a generous portion of our slow roasted prime rib served with a baked potato and a seasonal vegetable. While Supplies Last!



A wide shot of all participants from the moss terrarium group.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
The completed moss terrarium displayed in the example jar.



Another young participant, Michael Menard, dramatically presents his moss terrarium creation.

Teens dig into moss terrariums youth workshop

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – A dozen local teens got their hands dirty in the best way possible during a new nature-based craft workshop hosted at the Monson Free Library last Wednesday, July 30. The “Moss Terrarium Workshop,” held for the first time specifically for youth ages 12–18, offered a blend of science, creativity, and hands-on learning, providing participants with their very own low-maintenance, living ecosystem in a jar.

Led by Sarah Thomas, the library’s Teen Services Coordinator, the program was a reimagined version of a previously successful adult event held in 2024. That original offering drew strong interest, and, according to Thomas, the enthusiasm for moss terrariums made it an ideal candidate for expansion into the teen programming schedule.

“This is the first time

it’s being offered to teens,” Thomas said. “We’re really happy that we’re able to make this available to more people in the community. It’s been done for adults before, and now we’re bringing it to a younger age group.”

Each participant constructed their own bioactive terrarium inside a mason jar. The mini-environments included layers of rocks, soil, sphagnum moss, and live moss. Decorative additions such as colored gemstones, glittering stars, and miniature seashells gave each creation a personal touch. Chopsticks were used as a handy tool to place the moss and decor with precision.

The layered system isn’t just for looks. “The gravel helps with drainage, the sphagnum moss holds the soil in place and supports beneficial bacteria, and the live moss brings the whole thing to life,” Thomas explained. “They need a bit of oxygen now and

then and a mist of fresh water, but otherwise, they mostly take care of themselves.”

Terrariums made with care can last for years. Some advanced hobbyists even add small insects to help manage the ecosystem, creating what Thomas described as “jungle-in-a-jar” setups. While the teen version was a little simpler, it still served as a gateway into a potentially lifelong hobby.

“We try to respond to the interests teens already have, while also exposing them to new things they might not try otherwise,” Thomas said. “This age group is perfect for a project like this: old enough to appreciate the science and the maintenance, and still young enough to be excited about making something hands-on to take home.”

The workshop drew 11 participants, a solid turnout for the library’s summer teen series. According to Thomas, this year has seen strong par-

ticipation in teen programs overall, and there’s more to come.

Coming up after this in the Monson library’s summer events is Greek Mythology Day on Wednesday, August 6, an event inspired directly by teen input. “They specifically asked for it, and we’re really excited to offer that one,” Thomas said.

The moss terrarium workshop, in addition to being fun, also emphasized sustainability. Many of the materials used were recycled or sourced from existing library supplies. Participants were encouraged to share their new skills with friends, and possibly even host their own moss jar parties at home.

“We’ll definitely offer it again if the interest is there,” Thomas said. “It’s easy to pick up, inexpensive, and really engaging.”

As teens headed out with their completed terrariums, carefully held upright in both



One of the boys, Thomas Ryan, proudly showed off his moss terrarium.

hands, they left with more than a souvenir; they carried with them a tiny world to care for, observe, and enjoy for months or even years to come.

Terrarium Care Tips (from the Workshop):

Watering: Use a spray bottle. In closed terrariums, mist every 2–3 weeks. Mist

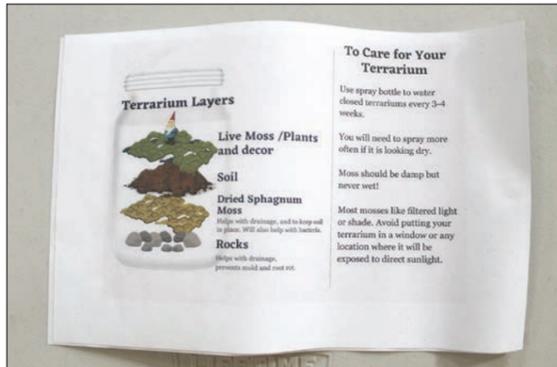
more often if dry. Moisture: Moss should be damp, not wet.

Light: Indirect sunlight is best. Avoid windows or direct sun.

Maintenance: Occasionally open the lid to introduce fresh oxygen.



The plain jars and the moss that Sarah Thomas collected for the moss terrarium.



A diagram explaining how to care for and build your own moss terrarium.



Step three: Sarah Thompson has just added soil on top of the sphagnum moss layer.

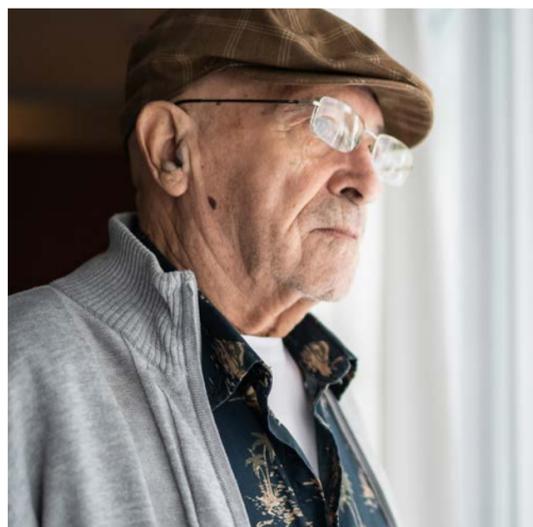
DEMENTIA CARE TRAINING SERIES

Presented by Stephanie Donaghy, Registered Nurse Educator & Certified Dementia Practitioner of HomeCare Hands HGH EDU

THURSDAY, AUG. 21ST • 4:00PM-5:00PM



HomeCare
HANDS
24/7 Care at Home
& Staffing Services



Designed for care partners of individuals with Alzheimer’s and other dementias, this session is open to family, friends, healthcare professionals and anyone involved in dementia care seeking tools, knowledge, and support to enhance both care and self-care.

COURSE 1: UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA

This session will offer a broad overview and cover the following topics:

- Definition of Alzheimer’s Disease & Dementia
- Comparative overview of types of Dementia & possible risk factors
- General stages of the dementia disease process and impacts on daily living
- Recent research & treatment – technology, adaptive devices and medication.



RSVP by 8/18 to Mary at 413-758-5377 or mdembkowski@cedarbrookvillage.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING

ASSISTED LIVING

MEMORY CARE

413-758-5377

CedarbrookVillage.com

73 South Street

Ware, MA 01082

Cedarbrook Village
at Ware

An Everbrook Senior Living Community

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why hasn't my SS benefit changed because I am still working?

Dear Rusty:

I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time.

There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings.

That held true for the first two years, but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case?

when calculating your benefit amount.

Your earnings for each year in your lifetime up to age 60 were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years adjusted for inflation over your lifetime to calculate your benefit and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

Signed:
Waiting Anxiously

Dear Waiting:

If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS and they typically do that review by the end of the third quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation, which is a normal part of Social Security's process

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1-800-772-1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Alternative to buying flood insurance...



The Terrifying Tripyramid Slide

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

When you're attempting to hike EVERY trail in all six of the Federally Designated Wilderness areas in the White Mountains, you can't just skip a trail just because it takes you out of your comfort zone.

At 1,200 vertical feet in just half a mile, North Tripyramid Slide is known as one of the steepest trails in New England and is also on the NH Terrifying 25 hiking list. The granite slide requires hand-over-hand climbing using 3 points of contact on steep, exposed rock slabs and is not recommended for the descent.

There are actually three potential routes up the slide; left, middle, and right.

The far left route is not the actual slide, but appears to be very popular based on how well-worn the steep dirt path has become over the years. I'm guessing that anyone with an ounce of self-preservation and a strong desire to hug trees chooses this route.

The far right route is clearly the least used-covered in slick moss, with no trees to grab onto and providing little in the way of traction. I would say this is the route you take when your brain hasn't fully developed yet. Which, 'scientifically' speaking, is anyone under the age of 28.

And the space in between the left and the right? Well, that's the route for those who want to experience the thrill of rock scrambling without the benefit of rope, while still feeling like Spider-Man on the way up.

When Tom and I reached the base of the slide, I told him I wanted to take the dirt path on the left. My 68-year-old husband replied, "I came here to climb a rockslide, so I'm going to stay to the right."

Now, at 60 years old, I fall somewhere in between the age at which brain cells become fully developed and the age at which they start to decline, so I was completely against taking the moss-covered route on the right. I suggested we compromise and stay on the middle section, which is still part of the slide, but with far less moss, meaning far less chance of plunging to our death. However, Tom—who is usually the more rational one—was intent on taking the hardest route to the top. Unwilling to stray far from my safety net, I reluctantly followed behind.

Until, that is, my feet began slipping on the wet moss, at which point, I found a small crevice in the granite and slowly worked my way left until I was on the middle section. Tom, however, remained undeterred, and continued up the mountain a couple dozen feet to the right of me.

Although I was relieved to be on dry rock, the middle part of the slope was no less steep. I managed to scramble upward on all fours for about 25 feet, until the angle of the slope became so perilously steep that it was impossible to continue upward. I scanned the smooth granite to the left and right of me, looking for



with every ragged breath.

Tom attempted to encourage me from his own precarious position. "There's a slight projection on your left," he said. "Trust your trail runners. You got this!"

It was fight or flight, and there was no way to flee. I extended my left hand as far as I could to feel for the slight protrusion Tom was referring to. Once my fingers found it, I took a deep breath, then used every ounce of strength I had in my quaking arms to haul myself up onto a slight depression in the rock above me. I grabbed onto the trunk of a nearby shrub and clung to it in a death-grip while waiting for my heart rate to settle back into a normal rhythm.

Tom, in the meantime, was facing his own set of challenges just twenty feet to my right. He was unable to move upward himself due to how steep the slide had become. However, unlike me, he has no fear of steep, open rock slabs. He felt the rock below his hands until he found a small split and used the very tips of his fingers to work his way over to me.

Thankfully, the trail soon turned from large, open slabs to loose boulders and gravel. No less physically challenging, but somewhat less mentally demanding. I find that taking a step upward and feeling the mountain slide down below my feet is far less terrifying than scrambling on all fours on a smooth slab of granite.

When we finally reached the top of the slide, Tom and I heaved a sigh of relief. I was filled with jubilation, not only for having completed EVERY trail in the Sandwich Wilderness, but also for making it up the single most terrifying trail we had ever attempted. I did not feel brave, rather, empowered.

I had not overcome my fears, rather I had charged into them with shaking arms and quaking legs. In doing so, I learned that sometimes the fear does not go away, so you just need to do it afraid. And perhaps, just perhaps, that is where courage begins.

See you in the wild places, my friends!



The Journal Register TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Journal Register

WEB

www.journalregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Turley Publications, Inc.

Homegrown

NEWS
SHOPPING
DINING
EVENTS
IDEAS
DEALS
SPORTS
JOBS
FUN
& MORE

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
www.turley.com • 413.283.8393
24 Water Street, Palmer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to journalregister@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to journalregister@turley.com.

Please bring your chairs, along with friends and family. Enjoy a beautiful summer evening of great music and delicious food. Special appreciation to Monson Savings Bank for supporting this Concert Series.

Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E “Best In Show” winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

dors welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

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

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

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

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

WALES CHURCH FARMER’S MARKET - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. Every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. - noon. It will begin on Memorial Day weekend and run throughout the summer until Labor Day. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Ven-

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

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

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the

HITCHCOCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

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

AUG 6

Pioneer Valley Flamethrowers, Bluegrass | Crust & Confections

AUG 13

CobbleStone Road Band, Country | Flippin’ the Bird BBQ

AUG 20

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

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

ONGOING

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield

UPCOMING

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SHOP

40 Wright St., Palmer

AUGUST VENDOR SALES

August 12 Wicked Good Treats
August 18 Generations of Cookes
August 19 Hobbit Hollow Herbs
August 20 How Charming

AUGUST 19

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB WILL BE HOLDING ITS 2ND SUMMER CONCERT SERIES at Dave Grieve Park & Gazebo, Main Street, Monson on Tuesday, August 19. Free Admission. “Ultraviolet”, a local Band from Belchertown will be performing from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Food Truck, Fry’d Guys is available for food offerings starting at 5:00 pm.



Palmer Senior Center

Activities for August

PALMER – The Palmer Senior Center is bringing back **Healthy Bones and Balance starting Wednesday, August 6 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and every Wednesday after that.** The class will be taught by Denise who is a volunteer for RSVP, Denise also works at the YMCA with Erin, the Wednesday Strength Training Class.

Friday, Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m. with drinks and popcorn

August 8, “The Zone of Interest” is a 2023 historical drama film written and directed by Jonathan Glazer, coproduced among the United Kingdom, the United States, and Poland. Loosely based on the 2014 novel by Martin Amis, the film focuses on the life of German Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss and his wife Hedwig, who live with their family in a home in the “Zone of Interest” next to the German concentration camp.

August 15, Activity Coordinator Choice

August 22, “Beautiful Day in The Neighborhood” with Tom Hanks, is a 2019

American biographical drama film on the TV presenter Fred Rogers, directed by Marielle Heller and written by Micah FitzermanBlue and Noah Harpster, inspired by the 1998 article “Can You Say... Hero?”

August 29, “Fly Me to the Moon”, Set against the backdrop of the historic Apollo 11 mission, the film stars Scarlett Johansson as Kelly Jones, a savvy marketing specialist, and Channing Tatum as Cole Davis, the serious launch director at NASA. The story unfolds in late 1968, during a time when public interest in the Space Race is waning, and NASA is under pressure to ensure the success.

Upcoming Events

Starting Monday, September 8 the center will be open from 8:30-7:30 PM and every Monday after that. Each month we will post what will be taking place in the newsletter. I hope that you can join us and bring along some new friends.

Annual Picnic, on Friday, September 12th from 11 to 2 p.m. at Pulaski Park. Pick up tickets \$10 at the center a week before the picnic

Boston Harbor Cruise

- October 9, 2025—\$110 includes transportation & tips, cruise w/ buffet lunch and three rounds of Bingo, onboard DJ. \$55 due at sign up and \$55 due by August 1. The center has acquired another bus. If interested, please sign up at the center.

NURSES: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CAREER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- ✓ Become a Private Patient Advocate
- ✓ High Pay | Rewarding Work | Flexible Schedule
- ✓ Online Training & Mentorship with Expert Guidance
- ✓ Help Patients Navigate the Healthcare System



BOOK A CALL TODAY WITH TERI FRYKENBERG



www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!	INFLATION	PRICE BUSTERS	PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED LOIN CHOPS \$1.98 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE \$11.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL..... \$6.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS WHOLE CHICKENS TWIN PAK \$1.49 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK CUT FREE \$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$2.35 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SUPERIOR ON MAIN ECLAIRS CREAM FILLED JUMBO PAK 30.75 OZ \$8.88 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN GORTON'S CRUNCHY BREADED FRESH PORTIONS 3 LB BAG..... \$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA.... \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. MONTEREY JACK CHEESE \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 90% DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG	90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.69 lb	SALE DATES: 8/7/25-8/13/25	HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
		BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE	We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Palmer High Class of 1975 Reunion

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

Please RSVP to ccolburn172@comcast.net for yourself and guest by August 9, 2025.

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

Please make checks payable to “PHS 75 Reunion” and mail them to:

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

We would like a recent photo if possible, to add to our slideshow. If you would like to share any other photos from high school days, it would be appreciated. Photos can be e-mailed to Cindy at: ccolburn172@comcast.net

SUMMER SALE! SALES TAX HOLIDAY!

AUGUST 9th & 10th - Pre-Select Now!

HYBRID WATER HEATERS \$750 Rebate - Details In-Store	INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!	GET THE BEST PRICE AT WHITCO!
A/C SALE!	MATTRESS SALE!	WE SELL E-BIKES! (\$1200 Rebate Available - See Salesperson!)
	TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)	BIKE SALE! WE REPAIR BIKES!
	FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)	
	QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)	GRILL SALE
43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 Regularly \$249.99	LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1499.99 \$1299.99	SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. \$1599.99 \$1299.99 AFTER REBATE!
50" HDTV Television...\$229.99 Regularly \$269.99	G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 \$999.99
55" Samsung HDTV...\$349.99 Regularly \$349.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$399.99
65" HDTV.....\$399.99 Regularly \$599.99	WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$799.99	SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 \$1199.99 AFTER REBATE!
70" Samsung 4k TV...\$499.99 Regularly \$599.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1399.99
75" Samsung HDTV...\$599.99 Regularly \$699.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$189.99 \$189.99
	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99
	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1199.99	10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$459.99 \$399.99

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCO SALES.COM
FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 10am-7pm

CUPBOARD | from page 1

serve the volume or diversity of people who need help today. The Monson Community Cupboard is designed to offer a more responsive, flexible, and dignified approach.

"We're not just opening another food pantry, we're trying to change the experience for the better," Davis explained. "When someone walks through our doors, we want them to feel respected and empowered, not ashamed or like they're being scrutinized."

To that end, the Community Cupboard will operate using a shop-style model. Instead of receiving pre-packed bags of food chosen by volunteers, visitors will be able to browse shelves and select their own groceries, just as they would in a typical store.

"That's one of the things we felt strongly about from the start," Davis said. "Giving people the power to choose what they want brings a sense of control back into a situa-

tion that often feels disempowering. When someone is facing financial stress or food insecurity, even small choices can make a big difference in how they feel."

The pantry will have weekly hours, (Mondays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 12 to 4 p.m.), and will also be available by appointment for emergency situations, such as when a family loses their SNAP benefits, has a stolen EBT card, or is caught in an unexpected financial crisis. Davis said she has already handled calls like that in the past, and being able to offer same-day support could be life-changing for some families.

In designing the Cupboard, the team deliberately chose an open-access model that requires no financial documentation to receive food. This choice was made to eliminate one of the biggest psychological and logistical

barriers people face when seeking help.

"People often avoid food banks because they're afraid of being judged, or they don't

what you earn or what you do for work. Nothing financial, nothing personal. Just food, no questions asked."

She emphasized that for many, the existing income thresholds for food aid don't reflect the reality of rising prices. "A lot of the data used to determine eligibility was collected before the worst of the inflation hit. It's outdated," she said. "And in the meantime, people who make just slightly too much money to qualify are often the ones struggling the most."

By keeping the initial access simple and barrier-free, Davis hopes to remove the sense of shame that can accompany food insecurity. "Shame is such a powerful and harmful thing in our society," she said. "But when you walk into a pantry that's clean, welcoming, and lets you make your own choices without judgment, that shame

starts to fall away. Because the truth is, everybody needs to eat."

The pantry is also designed with scalability in mind. Through its emerging partnership with the Western Massachusetts Food Bank, the Monson Community Cupboard will eventually become eligible for USDA food distribution programs. Participation in those programs would require some form of income verification, but Davis said any future programs of that nature would remain optional and separate from the pantry's basic offerings.

"We might grow into that later on," she said. "The USDA program could help us expand our inventory, especially with staple items. But if we get to that point, we'll make sure that participation in those programs is clearly optional. Nobody will be turned away for not wanting to provide that information."

To qualify for that level of partnership, the pantry must be an official member of the Western Mass Food Bank for at least six months. That gives the Monson Community Cupboard time to get its footing, expand its volunteer base, and build trust with the public before considering those next steps.

For now, the focus is on getting the physical space ready and ensuring the pantry is clean, functional, and inviting. The building at 24 Green Street is undergoing light renovation work, with volun-

teers painting, scrubbing, and organizing shelves in preparation for opening day. "We've made a lot of progress just in the last week," Davis said. "It's been a true community effort."

Organizers are also reaching out to local institutions, including Monson Savings Bank, in hopes of organizing food drives and fundraising campaigns in the coming months. In the meantime, donations of both food and money are welcomed. Financial contributions and correspondence can be sent to their mailing address: Monson Community Cupboard, 209 Wales Road, Monson, MA 01057.

While Davis and her team acknowledge that challenges lie ahead, they are deeply hopeful about the future of the Cupboard and its role in the community. "We're going to open, even if it's small at first," she said. "And we're going to grow in a way that stays true to our values: compassion, dignity, and access."

She also issued a call to anyone who may be quietly struggling: "Whether you've used a food bank before or never thought you'd need one, we're here. No shame, no red tape: just help."

With an emphasis on respect, choice, and accessibility, the Monson Community Cupboard is poised to become not just a source of food, but a symbol of resilience and solidarity in the heart of town.



want to disclose sensitive financial information," Davis explained. "So we're not going to ask for it. We'll ask how many people are in your household and the ages of those people, just so we know how much food you need... but we're not going to ask



Saturday, August 9th
Uncle Country
 7pm-11pm

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke Saturday Nights also if no band

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 15th
 8pm-11pm
Bigelow

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
 LUCK OF THE DRAW
 5:30pm • All Welcome



Clean Out Solutions
 Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals *Arthur "Skip" Gervais (774)397-6500*

School Supply List

Suggested School Supply Donations:

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

Items For Sharing With The Class:

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



Drop Off Locations:

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

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

MONSON
 The Better Bean
 Monson Savings Bank
 TJ's Tavern

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693



FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
 413-477-6496
 TDD (800)439-2379






"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
 WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM





WB&CA
Ware Business & Civic Association



Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce
Established 1940

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Matt Lemieux, 413-886-2591
Mnchkn1221@aol.com

Dan Flynn, 413-297-5886
dflynn@turley.com

READING | from page 1

trained therapy dog registered through Pet Partners, is part of the library's "Read with Me" program; an initiative designed to build children's confidence and fluency in reading by providing a calm, nonjudgmental listener.



The weekly drop-in craft the Holland Public Library has set up, a paint a fire fly jar project.

idents. Those interested in participating can sign up in 15-minute increments, and sessions fill up quickly.

Library Director Beth Crosby, who has led the library since 2024, is proud of how the small but mighty institution serves the Holland community.

"Our building dates back to 1912 and was originally constructed to be a library," Crosby explained. "There's been an addition since then, and while space is limited, every square inch is well used. It's a charming space, and we've worked hard to balance updates with keeping that charm intact."

The Holland Public Library is part of the interlibrary loan network, giving patrons access to a vast statewide catalog despite the library's modest footprint. "We may be small, but people are always amazed at how much we fit into this space," said John King, a library clerk who previously worked in the Springfield Public Library system.

King, a retiree from the insurance industry, has been with the Holland library for about a year and says the library is as much a community center as it is a place for books.

"We average about 25 to 40 patrons a day, and in July alone we saw 643 visitors," he said. "For a small town like Holland, that's incredible. People come for books, computers, programs, and even yard games."

The library's summer reading program is currently underway, complete with

prize incentives and weekly themed activities. "Last week we had cupcake decorating," said Crosby. "This week's craft is 'fireflies in a jar,' which we've left out on the craft table for anyone to enjoy."

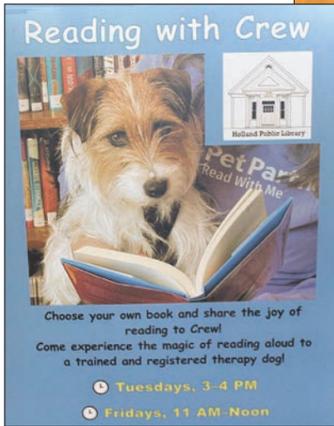
Programming is offered for all ages, and Crosby is especially excited about the library's growing "Library of Things" collection and a new projector they recently acquired for outdoor or group use.

Additionally, a new chapter of early literacy is about to begin: the Holland-Wales Foundation story time program will return in September, providing engaging read-alouds and activities for preschool-aged children.

The library works closely with the neighboring town of Wales, with many patrons attending programs and borrowing materials across both towns. "We've got a strong relationship," said King. "People float between us for different needs, and it works really well."

As a mostly volunteer-driven organization, the Holland Public Library thrives on community spirit. "This place is more than just a building with books," said LeMay. "It's a place where children find their voice, where neighbors reconnect, and where even a little dog like Crew can make a big difference."

Those interested in learning more about the "Read with Me" program, story times, or summer events can stop by the Holland Public Library or contact Director Beth Crosby for more information.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy "Reading with Crew": the welcoming sign just inside the library.

His handler, Debbie LeMay, known affectionately to patrons as "Miss Debbie," volunteers with Crew twice a week at the library. The pair are a regular fixture on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon.

"Crew is very nonjudgmental. He's a gentle soul... I don't think he has a mean bone in his body," LeMay said. "Kids can come in and read to him in a completely stress-free environment. Even children who can't read yet are welcome; they can sound out words, look at pictures, or just talk to him."

LeMay, who has a background working with therapy dogs, emphasized that the program can also benefit adults. "I had a friend who used to bring her therapy dog to a town near Boston, and they had adults come in just to get comfortable around dogs," she noted. "A program like this can help people of all ages."

The "Read with Me" initiative is part of a growing effort at the Holland Public Library to enrich programming, build literacy skills, and foster a welcoming space for all res-

Opacum Land Trust selected as 2025 TerraCorps Service Site

BRIMFIELD – The Opacum Land Trust is excited to announce that they have been selected as a 2025 TerraCorps service site. TerraCorps places AmeriCorps members in 11-month service terms across a network of land-based community nonprofits working towards equitable land use, food justice and environmental sustainability. Opacum Land Trust is now recruiting for a Land Stewardship Coordinator position. Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. TerraCorps service members receive a stipend for their service.

TerraCorps is an environmental nonprofit working at the intersection of land conservation, sustainable agriculture, and food justice to grow the next generation of environmental leaders. They operate as an AmeriCorps program intermediary and administrator, facilitating access to federal resources that are often out of reach for small, community-based nonprofits. TerraCorps helps community nonprofits leverage the AmeriCorps national service model. Each year, they recruit a new cohort of up to 60 AmeriCorps Service Members and place them at a service site organization within their network of 40+ nonprofit partners throughout Massachusetts and

Rhode Island. Service members are paired with a site supervisor, an experienced professional, who provides them guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects throughout their service term.

TerraCorps cultivates an ecosystem of people and organizations that center community land ownership, access, and stewardship to support a diversity of interests that benefit human health and environmental sustainability. They value the power of local nonprofits to best understand and serve their communities. TerraCorps's goal is to help them succeed by providing them access to the AmeriCorps national service model to build organizational capacity. The program is funded in part by a grant provided by AmeriCorps, a federal agency, and administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

Do you love being outdoors? Are you interested in gaining valuable experience in land stewardship, volunteer coordination, and education? Interested candidates can apply today to be a Land Stewardship Coordinator through the TerraCorps Service Program and help Opacum Land Trust to expand our stewardship program.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating

networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands.

Some potential LSC projects might include:

- Set up Landscape software to track stewardship needs on Opacum properties, including migrating data into LandScape, establishing property monitoring protocols with staff, and completing/coordinating monitoring needs with volunteers on 30 properties.

- Coordinate educational walks on our properties about environmental stewardship or nature education, with a focus on families and youth.

- Set up a volunteer stewardship program to assist with property monitoring and coordinating volunteer property workdays for trail improvements, habitat management, and maintenance.

Interested applicants should complete an application at <https://terra Corps.my.site.com/terra Corps/s/available-member-positions> and choose Opacum Land Trust as your preferred service site.

Opacum Land Trust works to protect the land, water, and wildlife of south-central Massachusetts through land conservation, stewardship, and education. To date, the organization has protected more than 4,000 acres across the region. To learn more or to make a donation to support OLT's work, visit www.OpacumLT.org.



THE CENTERED PLACE
SINCE 1988

Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by
Town & Country Living Magazine

Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered,
open and energized.
Come experience this for yourself.

413 436 7374
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM



www.richardgreeninsurance.com

Fax: 413-267-3496
Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

- Great Locations • Registry service
- Quotes gladly given • We make housecalls

Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes

Two Locations:



128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495



32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners,
HiSet Tutors:
English, Writing & Math

Call For Details About Our Next Computer Security Class

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

1455 N. Main St
3rd Floor
Palmer, MA
01069

We're on Facebook!



Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER **413-544-6600**

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

BIKES | from page 1

welcomed fellow riders and supporters.

“We live in Palmer, and the route just happens to go right by here,” said Michael Swiatlowski. “It felt natural to create a stop where we could refuel, say hello to our supporters, and raise a little more awareness along the way.”

The Bikes Fight Cancer team was formed in 2006 by friends John Jasak and Johnny Morin, inspired by Jasak’s fifth year in remission and in memory of Morin’s father, who passed away from cancer. What began as a heartfelt tribute has grown into a community-powered effort that’s lasted nearly two decades.

The moment was made even more meaningful by the personal connections that fuel the team’s efforts. “This is actually my 20th Pan-Mass Challenge,” Michael shared. “I’ve been friends with Jasak and Morin for a while, so this mission is deeply personal. And now our team has raised over \$100,000 for Dana-Farber this year.”

This year, 21 riders are part of the team, with four participating in Day Zero. The complete ride spans approximately 287 miles, with Day Zero adding over 80 miles to the traditional PMC route. On Saturday, the team heads from Sturbridge to Bourne, and Sunday finishes with a ride to Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod.



Group photo of everyone who visited the unofficial Bikes Fight Cancer water stop in Palmer.



The first group of riders arrives at the unofficial water stop for Day Zero.



The second wave of cyclists pulls in to hydrate and rest at the water station. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Support for the ride extended beyond the cycling team. Stephanie Maher, representing the Palmer Public Library, expressed joy at being involved: “We’ve been letting them use this space for many, many years. I’ve known Mike for a long time,

and we’re so happy to offer a stop for such an important cause.”

Maher emphasized how proud the library was to play even a small role in the team’s journey. “It’s amazing what they do,” she said. “We’re just happy to help

however we can.”

As for the future of Day Zero, things may shift slightly. The Pan-Mass Challenge’s official starting point is moving from Sturbridge to Worcester next year, meaning the Day Zero route may be altered. Michael noted

that next year’s informal Day Zero ride likely won’t include Palmer, but he hopes to find another welcoming town to host a water stop along the way.

“It’s been wonderful having it in Palmer this

year,” he said. “And maybe someone new will see this, get inspired, and join us next year. That’s what it’s all about: raising more awareness, more support, and more funds to fight cancer.”

As the riders clipped

in and headed toward Sturbridge, the energy they left behind lingered: a blend of determination, community pride, and the unwavering belief that every mile matters when it comes to fighting cancer.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

GRAND OPENING

AUGUST 14TH

SNOWS SURE SHACK

136 Pleasant Street
Ware, MA 01082
Tel: 413-277-6060

WWW.SNOWSURFSHACK.COM

WIN 17 DAYS AT THE BIG E!

The BlazeXpress “Big E Blaze to Win” Sweepstakes!

BlazeXpress

THE GRAND PRIZE
Two (2) 17-Day Adult Value Passes for the 2025 Big E fair! Experience all 17 days of New England’s greatest tradition.

GET A \$1 PRE-ROLL & ENTER TO WIN!
Place any delivery order at blazexpress.com and use code **BIGE** at checkout. You’ll get a pre-selected 1g Pre-Roll for just \$1 and be automatically entered to win!

Or Call to Order:
(413) 412-8525

Scan to Order NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

Enter with a Delivery Order

1. Visit our website at BlazeXpress.com to browse our menu of premium, lab-tested cannabis products.
2. Place an order for delivery to your home.
3. At checkout, use the promo code **BIGE** to receive a pre-selected 1g Pre-Roll for just \$1.
4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

Free Mail-in Entry NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN
BlazeXpress “Big E Blaze to Win” Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

SOCCKER

Mustangs capture B Division championship



The 2025 B Division Champion Monson Mustangs.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Aubrey Hemm gets to the ball before her opponent.



Jordyn Szado tries to keep the ball away from an opponent.



Audrey Gregoire struggles to gain possession near the sideline.



Emma Maziarz advances up the field.



Lylia Ellis receives the MVP award.

LUDLOW – Last Saturday on a sun-splashed day, the Monson High School girls summer soccer team defeated Southwick win the B Division championship with a 2-1 win. The Mustangs were able to score early on and just allowed the Rams to get one goal back. They went nearly the entire second half with no more scoring in the 70-minute contest, though Southwick nearly got a goal with an accidental hand-ball on a pass back to the goalie. But a wall of Mustangs prevented the goal, and Southwick never came close to scoring again. Defender Lylia Ellis was awarded the MVP award for an outstanding performance in the back for Monson. Monson, which has had a strong girls soccer program for many years, now prepares for the upcoming fall preseason, which begins in a couple of weeks.

SOCCKER

Monson girls capture semifinal win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League Girls' Division B semifinal match between fourth-seeded Granby and top-seeded Monson was played from start to finish in a downpour.

The score was tied 4-4 at halftime before Monson netted a pair of second half goals leading to a 6-4 victory at Larry Tassinari Field in Monson.

"Playing soccer in the rain is a lot different than on a dry day. The ball moves very quickly on the wet grass and it bounces differently," said Monson summer league coach Brooke Murphy. "I'm very glad that none of the players on either team suffered an injury."

Being a goalie is very difficult on a rainy day.

Granby's starting goalie was Emily Durham, who was filling in for normal starter Meredith Bartzosz, who was on vacation.

The Monson starting goalie was Grace Berry.

"It's very difficult on both goalies," Murphy added. Their gloves are soaking wet which makes it very hard to make the saves."

The major difference maker in the semifinal match for Monson, who went 10-1 during the regular season was Tennessee Murphy and Hannah Murphy, who aren't related.

The duo will be playing college soccer at the Division 1 level in the fall of 2026.

Tennessee Murphy, who's Brooke's younger sister, has committed to play soccer for the Bucknell University women's team after graduating from the Loomis Chaffee School next spring.

She was also selected as an All-American player last

December and was a member of the New England Mutiny, which lost in the United Women's Soccer League championship match for the second consecutive year.

Hannah Murphy, who'll be the only senior on the Monson girls' soccer team this fall, has made a verbal commitment to play for the women's soccer team at Sacred Heart University, which is in Fairfield, Connecticut. She recorded a hat-trick in the semifinal victory.

"They've been playing soccer together for many years," said Brooke Murphy, who played college soccer at the University of New Hampshire and was also an All-American player during her high school career at Monson. "They always find each other on the field and are a lot of fun to watch."

Five minutes into the opening half, Tennessee Murphy delivered a crossing pass to Hannah Murphy, who finished off the play by scoring a breakthrough goal.

The duo hooked up again during the 10th minute, as Hannah Murphy fired a low shot into the right corner of the net giving Monson a 2-0 lead.

Granby, who finished the summer league regular season with a 7-3-1, cut the deficit in half during the 13th minute following an unassisted goal by Kalli White, who's only going to be a junior.

"It's very difficult playing in the rain," White said. "I'm very glad that nobody got injured. We need everyone to be healthy to have a successful season this fall."

Monson built a 4-1 lead with ten minutes remaining in the first half.

Hannah Murphy scored an unassisted goal before Tennessee Murphy netted

MONSON | page 8

FIELD HOCKEY

Central takes silver, West bronze in field hockey games

FITCHBURG – Utilizing the turf fields at Game On Sports Complex, the Bay State Games for field hockey were held, featuring teams from Western and Central Massachusetts, both of which have had great success in the sport in past Bay State Games competitions. The games, which were held the weekend of July 11 to 13, started off with a strong 3-0 victory from Central over the Metro/Northeast team.

Western Mass. got into the action right after, taking on a Central team that has just played a few hours earlier. But Central was equal to the task and scored a 4-2 win over West.

West then had its second game of the day, facing off with the Coastal team, and rebounding with a 4-3 win.

On Saturday, July 12, West fell for a second time 4-1 against the Southeast team while Central also suffered a loss, falling 5-2 against Southeast.

Both teams would rebound with wins later in the day. Central beat Coastal 5-3 while West shut out Metro/Northeast with a 4-0 decision. That put the West team in the bronze medal game on Sunday, July 13.

West would defeat Coastal in a rematch of their second game of the tournament, winning 3-2. Central made the gold medal game, but suffered a 2-0 shutout against the Southeast team.

This year, representing Central Mass. in the games were Quabbin High School's Makenzie Casey and Tantasqua's Sophia Bochicchio.

Tantasqua's Dessa Demears played for the Western Mass. team, while Anna Taylor and Kendall Placzek represented Minnechaug Regional.

Agawam High School placed four players on the team. Alyssa DaSilva, Finola Mahoney, Olivia Govoni, and Lily Charest represented the Brownies.

BASEBALL

Rivalry renewed as PeoplesBank takes title over St. Joe's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Tri-County Baseball League will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2029.

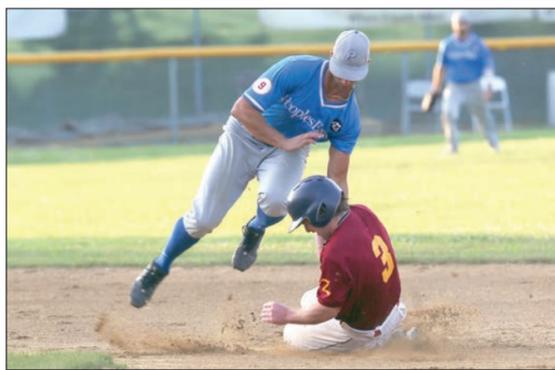
PeoplesBank, who has been the best team in the league during the past thirty years, swept St. Joseph's in this year's best of three championship series.

"Feels great to win another championship. It's our goal every summer," said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. "We just enjoy playing baseball with each other. Our chemistry is a key to our success. I can't thank the players enough."

Ferry, who started both games against St. Joe's in left field, was aided by assistant coach Rey Rivera, who had three base hits and an RBI in game two.

PeoplesBank has captured the championship title in each of the past twelve seasons and a total of twenty times since 1995.

PeoplesBank and St. Joseph's both finished the 2025 regular season with ten victories.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dave Clark gets the out at second.



Sam Allen swings for PeoplesBank.

"Our season was a success and great bonds were

created," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes.

"We had a team composed of mostly college players this year."

PeoplesBank, who was the top-seeded team, advanced into the finals after sweeping fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas in the semifinals.

Second-seeded St. Joseph's needed three games to eliminate third-seeded bank-ESB in the semifinal round.

The Bankers scored seven runs on seven base hits in the bottom of the first inning enroute to a 10-0 victory in game one of the championship series last Monday night. The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

It was also PeoplesBank last game of the season at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

"We just love playing games on this field," said Ferry following game one. "We played very well in tonight's, but as Kobe Bryant, who was my favorite athlete growing up once said, 'the jobs not finished'."

PeoplesBank finished the job twenty four hours later

BASEBALL | page 8

Patnode, Brousseau take modified wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Todd Patnode and Andrew Brousseau each won a Modified feature on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday, July 26, the potent pair each roaring to victory on New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

Andrea St. Amour was awarded the Pure Stocks win after a post-race inspection penalized Kyle Begos, and Erik Smith was victorious in the Super Street main event.

Young Gun Hunter Duquette continued his summer of success, scoring his fourth 2025 feature win. And while top 604 Modified point man Brian Robie came up short of winning for the fifth time this season, he still had a strong night all the same.

Todd Patnode and Brian Chapin led the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green in round one of the open-wheeled rocket ships twin 35-lap main events. Patnode jumped all over the opening lead, bringing teen blaster Ty Leclerc — launching from row two — with him.

The Swanzey competitor, a past speedway champion and winner of volumes of both Modified and Pro Stock main events here, would be sorely tested but would never bend en route to ending a two-season personal drought on the high banks.

Robie, charging from row four, got up for second on lap 13, yielded it back to rookie phenom Ty Leclerc on lap 20, and the battle was on, as Leclerc, Robie, and Chapin fought tooth-and-nail for the number two spot. Leclerc prevailed for a career-best runner-up finish, and Robie nudged past Chapin to steal third on the final lap.

In the nightcap 35, Brousseau started up front and never looked back. The second-generation hot shoe survived several strong restart bids by Colton Martin to stay on top as he blasted to his second win of the summer.

In a post-race inspection, 604 Modified competitor Brian Chapin was disqualified from both features as result of not complying to the engine rules of having a sealed engine.

Erik Smith had raced to many near misses in Twin State Truck Services Super Street features this summer but had never quite sealed the deal. Saturday, he put all that behind him, as the Green Mountain State hat shoe roared to victory.

Smith's win didn't come easily though. Had he extended his arm out the window, he could have high-fived points leader Dylan Zullo almost all the way, as the high-flying Claremont speedster rode in

his shadow from start to finish.

With JD Stockwell finishing at Zullo's bumper in third, Zullo finished the night still a handful of points atop the leader board. Zach Zalinski and Hillary Renaud were close behind in Saturday's nose-to-tail top five finish.

In the Pure Stocks, Kyle Begos led the field from the green to the checkers. Defending track Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour trailed Begos and ended in second on the night with Markus O'Neil in third. In a post-race inspection, Begos was penalized to ninth place finish for a camber rule violation.

Hunter Duquette wired the Doug's Auto Body Young Gun feature to earn his fourth victory lap of the season. Heat race winner Ella Grabowski was second, and Sofia Rego, aboard a loner ride, came home third.

In Senior Tour Auto Racers support card events, Chris Jarrett, aboard his 1970 Pinto open-wheeled entry, topped the STAR Sportsmen, with Ken Archambault second and Skip Stearns third. Windham, Maine's Alan Zemla was victorious in the STAR Modifieds, leading a trio of vintage coupe racers under the checkers, just ahead of Dennis Desautels and Skip Swianteck.

T-Birds makes moves in operations staff

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds announced hockey operations staff changes on Wednesday. Julia Snow has been promoted to Head Athletic Trainer, and Dylan Schoen has been hired as the team's Video Coach. In addition, former Thunderbirds Head Athletic Trainer Koryd Lavimoniere has accepted a position with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes as an Assistant Athletic Trainer.

"We're thrilled for Koryd on his much-deserved promotion to the NHL and want to thank him for his dedication to the Blues and Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell. "Our team will

be in great hands with Julia moving into the head athletic trainer position, where she will remain a key resource for our players and staff. We look forward to continuing to work with her."

Snow is entering her fourth season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as Assistant Athletic Trainer since August of 2022. She becomes the fourth female actively to serve as a head athletic trainer in the AHL. Prior to joining the T-Birds, Snow served as the Head Athletic Trainer for the ECHL's Worcester Railers, as well as stints with the Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League and the Massachusetts Pirates indoor

football team.

Snow graduated from Worcester State University with a health education and therapeutic studies degree in 2018 before obtaining her masters in athletic training at Boston University.

Schoen is entering his first season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as an assistant coach last season with Bowling Green State University.

"We are pleased to welcome Dylan into the Thunderbirds organization," said Maxwell. "His background in coaching at the junior and collegiate levels has prepared him to take on this new opportunity in Springfield, and we are happy to have him join

our coaching staff."

A former NCAA Division III goaltender at SUNY-Geneseo and Stevenson University, Schoen has also served as a goaltending coach and assistant coach, respectively, for the North American Hockey League's Amarillo Bulls and Maryland Black Bears.

Springfield Thunderbirds fans are encouraged to visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com to learn more about 2025-26 Ticket Memberships, which feature the best benefits, including a special 10th anniversary season ticket holder jersey. For more information or to order now, call (413) 739-GOAL (4625).

[@turleysports](https://twitter.com/turleysports) www.turleysports.com facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Lylia Ellis
Monson High School

In Monson's summer championship victory, Ellis captured the MVP award for her team.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



MOULTON

Insurance Agency | 

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327



Safety Insurance®
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS



James Flahive delivers a pitch home in the championship series.

BASEBALL | from page 7

er with a 10-7 win in an old fashion slugfest at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

The winning pitcher in game one was lefthander James Flahive, who's sidearm. He allowed only two base hits and issued two walks in his final start of the 2025 campaign.

"Jimmy has been the best pitcher in the league during the past four or five years," Ferry said. "I don't ever recall him losing a game since he put on a PeoplesBank jersey."

St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Ware High School, drew a walk with one-out in the top of the first inning. After the next batter flied out to right, Slattery was thrown out try-

ing to steal second base by catcher Pete Hogan.

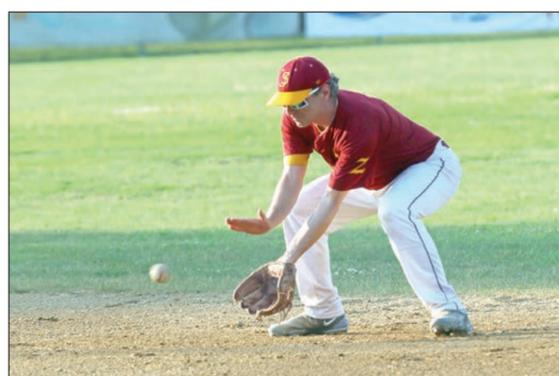
Centerfielder Seth Allen hit a ground ball up the middle into centerfield for a single leading off the bottom of the first inning against St. Joe's righthander Jack Feltovic.

Then Hogan walked before second baseman Dave Clark launched a 3-run homer that landed beneath the giant scoreboard in left field.

Following back-to-back singles by first baseman Kyle Platner and right fielder Cam Rivest, DH Johnny Gegetska delivered an RBI single to left giving the home team a 4-0 advantage.

Another run crossed the plate following a sacrifice fly to left by shortstop Sam Allen.

After catching the ball, St. Joe's left fielder Jacob Petrin threw the ball to third baseman Brandon Magni,



Greg Vouros fields a grounder to second.

who tagged out the runner who was trying to advance to third base on the play.

Shortstop Seth Allen, who's Sam's twin brother, capped off the opening frame by hitting a two run double off the left field fence.

"We kept passing the bat and put a lot of pressure on them in the first inning," Ferry said. "We had some hard hits and a couple of walks in that inning. We also batted around in the first inning of last year's finals. I capped the inning off with a bases loaded triple in that game."

St. Joe's DH Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk leading off the second inning, but he was thrown out trying to steal by Hogan.

PeoplesBank scored three more runs in the third inning.

Clark, who was hit-by-a-pitch in the second inning,

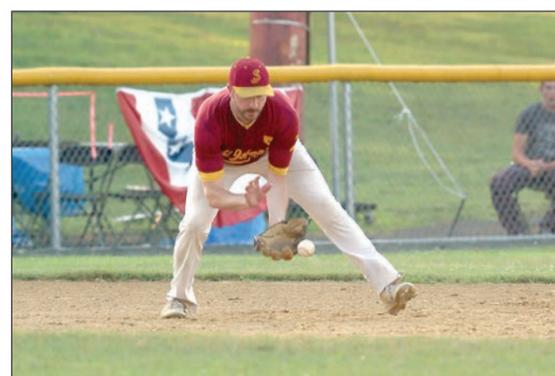
knocked home the first run of the frame with a double to left. Platner followed with a two-run double to right.

Trailing, 10-0, St. Joe's began the fourth inning with a line-drive single by Petrin, who was thrown out trying to steal second base. Slattery also singled, but the next batter grounded into a 6-4-3 inning ending double play.

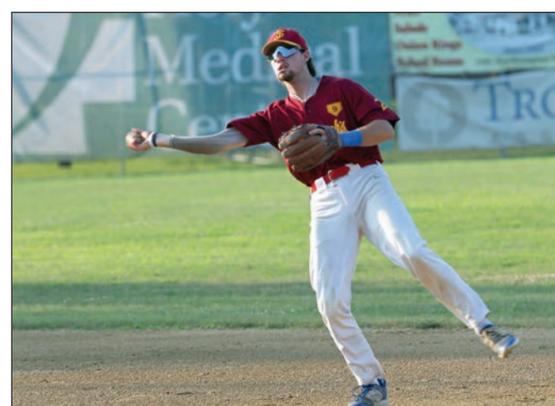
St. Joe's standard two runs on base in the top of the fifth, as PeoplesBank took a 1-0 lead in the series.

The Bankers jumped out a 7-0 lead in game two before St. Joe's battled with five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Center fielder Aaron Little knocked home two runs with a double and right fielder Colby Harrington contributed with an RBI single. The other two runs crossed the plate fol-



Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's.



Nate Carrill makes an off-balance play.

lowing errors.

The Bankers, who were led offensively by third baseman Cam MacDonald with two hits and two RBIs, responded with three runs in the sixth inning giving the visitors a 10-5 advantage.

ten minutes into the second half following another corner kick goal.

This time Hannah Murphy booted the ball into the box from the left corner where Tennessee Murphy put a shot into the right corner.

Hannah Murphy, who enjoys playing in the rain, sealed the deal for Monson after scoring her third goal, which was unassisted, with less than two minutes remaining in regulation.

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

MONSON | from page 7

her first goal of the contest following a corner kick from Emma Maziarz.

Granby came storming back with three goals by White in a five-minute span at the end of the opening half.

"Once I scored my first goal during that span, I was able to score a couple more, which tied the score," White said. "I wish we could've scored a few more goals during the second half. We're looking forward to playing Monson again this fall."

Monson retook the lead

St. Joe's scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Danny Gaines was the winning pitcher in game two, which capped off another memorable season for PeoplesBank.

Obituary

Stephen N. Kacoyannakis,

1971-2025

MONSON — Stephen N. Kacoyannakis, a beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away on July 11, 2025, at the age of 53. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on December 20, 1971, Stephen was a man



of many talents and passions, whose curiosity, satirical sense of humor, snappy jokes, sarcasm and ability to learn anything kept his family and friends smiling, laughing, and shaking their heads throughout his life.

Stephen mentored anyone who was lucky enough to catch him in the garage, on a job site, on the field, or in the woods. He will be deeply missed.

Stephen is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years, Terri L (Buckley) Kacoyannakis; his daughter, Kayli Derryberry and her husband Michael of Marlborough, and his son, Kyle Kacoyannakis of Monson. He also leaves his parents Eleftherios Kacoyannakis (predeceased) of East Longmeadow and Mildred Parzychowski-Potter and husband Garry; brother Justin Parzychowski and his wife Tara of West Springfield, and Henry Parzychowski of Florida in addition to many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends he adored.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Please reach out to Terri directly for the details. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Stephen to Pittie Love Rescue in Framingham, MA. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Stephen was a member of Monson High School in Springfield, he worked diligently to become a journeyman, ultimately earning his Master Electrician license from the State of Massachusetts first and others as the years went on.

Stephen mentored anyone who was lucky enough to catch him in the garage, on a job site, on the field, or in the woods. He will be deeply missed.

DEATH NOTICES

James E. Barnes
Died July 31, 2025
Services Aug. 12, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Grayson George McIntyre Jr.
Died Aug. 3, 2025
Services Aug. 14, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Stephen N. Kacoyannakis
Died July 11, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Robert "Bobby" J. Santos
Died July 31, 2025
Services Aug. 5, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

James E. Barnes, 1949-2025

MONSON — James E. Barnes, known to many as Jim, passed away on July 31, 2025, at the age of 76. Born on March 8, 1949, in Ludlow, MA, Jim led a life filled with hard work and passion for the things he loved.



Jim worked for Springfield Molders for 33 years, where he served as a warehouse supervisor, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues. He proudly graduated from Monson High School and went on to join the Army National Guard, serving for six years. Jim was a very self-reliant man that would tackle just about any job himself. He was always available to help and willing to lend a hand to family, friends and even complete strangers in any way that he could.

Jim was devoted to his family, never missing an event or milestone. Family gatherings always included tales of his childhood adventures. His family meant everything to him, and he was known for his thoughtful gift giving. Jim cherished the moments spent at the beach in New Hampshire with his wife and daughters.

One of his greatest joys was sitting down and savoring a fried seafood dinner while on the coast. He was also a compassionate man who loved animals, especially his feline companion, Heathcliff, who enjoyed lying on his lap while watching their nightly shows together.

As an outdoor enthusiast, Jim could often be found fishing local streams and hunting. In his later years, he discovered the joys of boating and spent many an afternoon on Big Alum with his wife, Cathie. Jim held his childhood home in Monson, affectionately known as "The Farm", close to his heart. He spent countless hours walking the wooded trails, cutting cordwood to heat his home and performing trail maintenance so he could access them with his ATV and snowmobile, all while soaking in nature. Being at "The Farm" helped him feel connected to his beloved step-mother, Susie, who had purchased the farm after The Depression; thus starting the legacy of family land that was to be passed onto Jim and then his daughters.

Among his many passions, Jim enjoyed turning wrenches while listening to music from the 50s and 60s, with a special love for his blue 1966 Corvette Stingray. He attended classic car shows and always dreamed of the day that his Corvette would be fully restored, and he would be able to take it out for a cruise. In the spring and fall, Jim would go to the auto parts swap meets at the racetrack, always on the lookout for parts for his Corvette. During the summer, on Friday nights, Jim would often go to the stock car races at Stafford Motor Speedway. If he was with friends, he would spring for a pit pass. If he brought his daughters, then he would sit in the stands, share french fries with them, and instill in them his love of auto racing and the appreciation of a well-tuned engine.

Jim was so very much loved and will be missed beyond words by his family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Cathieann (Dockham) Barnes, whom he married in 1971. Jim leaves behind three daughters: Heather A. Panico and her husband Todd of Monson, Carrieann I. Kumor of Ellington, and Jessica

A. Groleau and her husband Jeremy of Monson. He was a cherished brother to Robert T.B. Barnes and sister, Judith Lusty, both of Monson. Jim adored his grandchildren—Gabrielle A. Longe, Joshua L. Rodriguez, Sebastian J. Groleau, Jack H. Kumor, Duke J. Kumor and his step-grandson, Joshua B. Panico—and was proud to be a great-grandfather to Khaiden J.P. Randall-Longe, and great step-grandfather to Maverick T. Panico and Chloe M. Panico. He also leaves many nieces and nephews, along with his lifelong friend, Bobby Coolong of Monson.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Lyle and Alice (Ingraham) Barnes, and his brothers Roger W. Barnes and Theodore V. Barnes.

Visitation will be held at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St in Monson, MA, on August 11, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Jim's legacy of kindness and love will be remembered by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children.

Robert "Bobby" J. Santos



Robert "Bobby" J. Santos, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on July 31, 2025, at the age of 77 after a long courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer. Born on Jan. 11, 1948, in Three Rivers, Massachusetts, Bobby was a lifelong resident of this close-knit town, where he not only dedicated his life to his family but also played an integral role in various community activities.



Scott Santos and his wife Tiffany of Chicopee. Bobby also leaves behind his stepchildren, Amanda Gagne and Christopher Flowers, both of Palmer. He was a proud grandfather to Kevin Pendleton Jr., Mariah Pendleton and her partner Nkechi Wamuo, Antonio Santos and Jasper Joray. He is also survived by his siblings, Ronald Santos and his wife Linda of Florida, and Darlene Blethen and her husband Jack of Palmer and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Bobby served his country honorably as a proud U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War in the 25th Infantry artillery division. He embarked on a fulfilling 25-year career with the Palmer Highway Department, during which he proved to be a dedicated worker. Bobby was

influential in starting the Local Union and served as its president, advocating for the rights and welfare of his fellow workers. He also started the Palmer Basketball Association and coached his sons and many other children in youth sports. An avid sports enthusiast, Bobby was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees (Especially when they beat the Red Sox) and the Boston Celtics. He loved going to Hampton Beach and, engaging in outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, especially enjoyed with his wife Karen and nephew Johnny and his Uncle George. A vibrant spirit with a passion for the "High Life", he embraced opportunities to experience live music, attending memorable events like Woodstock and enjoying performances at Pulaski Park in Palmer. At home, Bobby relished family gatherings, cookouts, playing cards with his siblings, spend-

ing time with his children and grandchildren, and visits from family and friends on his front porch.

The Santos family expresses their heartfelt gratitude to the doctors and nurses at the D'Amour Cancer Center in Springfield for their exceptional care and support over the past eight years. Bobby was a source of strength and love for those around him and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Family and friends were invited to pay their respects during calling hours on Tuesday, August 5, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. A memorial service and military honors celebrating Bobby's life was held on Wednesday, August 6, at 10 a.m. at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, MA.

Grayson George McIntyre Jr.

Grayson George McIntyre Jr., affectionately known as "Mac," passed away



on August 3, 2025, at the age of 82 in Holland, Massachusetts. Born in Pennsylvania in 1942, Mac lived a life rich in service, craftsmanship, and devotion to his loved ones.

A proud veteran, Mac served his country honorably in the United States Navy. Among his many assignments, he especially cherished his time aboard the icebreaker USS Atka, where he forged lifelong memories and friendships while navigating challenging waters. His stories of service reflected both humility and pride, echoing his deep commitment to his fellow sailors and his country.

Mac was also a master craftsman whose skilled hands and generous heart built more than just furniture—he built memories.

From treasured handmade gifts to meticulous repairs of anything broken, Mac brought beauty and utility to the lives of those around him. Using tools passed down through generations of McIntyres, he carried forward a legacy of craftsmanship and care.

When he wasn't in his workshop, Mac found peace and purpose in the natural world. He loved being in the woods, hiking trails, and hunting—more for the joy of being surrounded by God's splendor than for the trophies themselves. Nature was his sanctuary, and he was happiest beneath the trees and sky.

Above all, Mac was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Charlotte A. McIntyre; his daughters Laurie A. Williams (Springfield, MA), Grace C. McIntyre (Monson, MA), Wendy Wright (Hudson, NH), and Amy Hammonds (Farmingdale, ME) as well as his siblings Virgie Gableman, Robert, Richard, and Elaine Ray; 10 cherished grandchildren—Kristy, Shannon, Amanda, Kiyanna, Kaylee-Anna, Kareena, Collin, Maya, Devon, and Pearce—and 11 adored great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Shawn McIntyre, and his siblings William, Mark Leo, Doris Miller, Ruth Gilbert, Francis Kamiel, Joan Wenschlof, and Theresa Utz. His love for his family was unwavering and surpassed even his passions for woodworking, hunting, and the outdoors.

Mac will be remembered for his strength, his selflessness, his enduring sense of service, and the quiet way he made life better for everyone around him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in his honor at St. Christopher's Church in Brimfield, Massachusetts on Thursday, August 14 at 11am. A visitation will take place at the church from 10am-11am and burial will follow after the Mass at Holland Cemetery with military honors.

Grayson's legacy of service, generosity, and quiet strength will live on in the memories of all who knew and loved him. A special thank you to Overlook Hospice services for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Christopher's Church, 16 Sturbridge Rd, Brimfield, MA 01010.

Public notices

More public notices on page 12

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 19, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability for proposed activities associated with augmentation of an existing gabion basket retaining wall and creation of a terraced step system to include hardscape landscape features. This work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot buffer of a vegetated wetland. The project address is 39 Smith Street in Palmer (Assessors Map 75, Parcel 10-4). The applicant making the request is Daniel Belanger. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair,
Palmer Conservation
Commission

08/07/2025

PALMER PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 25th, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA. The applicant, Palmer Paving Corporation, also known as Ware St. Sand and Gravel Pit, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove earth materials from the property located at 863 Ware Street. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 31 Lot 28. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

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

This notice is also posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
08/07, 08/14/2025

PALMER PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 25th, 2025, at 7:10 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA. The applicant, Palmer Paving Corporation, also known as JJC Materials Sand and Gravel Pit, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove earth materials from the

property located at 1312 Park Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map 7, Lot 13 & Map 56, Lots 78, 79, 80, 83.

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

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

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association (MNPA) (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman
08/07, 08/14/2025

Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display

RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508



Public notices

More public notices on page 11

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 25th, 2025, at 7:20 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Rupert Realty, Inc., is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a commercial building with multiple rental spaces available for vehicle and equipment service, maintenance and repair, and retail or office space on the property located at 1524 Park Street, Palmer. These parcels are also known as Assessor's Map 2, Lots 60 & 60-5.

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

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
08/07, 08/14/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, at 7:10 P.M.** in the **Auditorium of Granite Valley School 29 Thompson Street, Monson**. It is proposed to add a new section §6.26 Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and add a new definition(s) §1.10 Clean Energy Generation and Storage Facilities to the Zoning Bylaws. A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw amendments are on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board, and is available on the Town website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
Monson Planning Board
07/31, 08/07/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT

Docket No. 2579CV00303
FRANCES BENOIT, et al.

v.
BEECHSTONE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, Q202, LLC,

ELIEZER SINGER
A/K/A ELLIOT SINGER,
CHARLES SHEMANO

A/K/A CHAIM SHEMANO,
AKIVA FEINSOD and
RAYMON SHEPPARD

v.
QUINEBAUG COVE
CAMPGROUND
COOPERATIVE, INC.

TO: RAYMON SHEPPARD (now or formerly of Brimfield, Massachusetts, East Hampton, New York, Glens Falls, New York, Saratoga, New York or North Carolina) and all other persons interested;

You are being sued. The Plaintiff(s) named above has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint filed against you has been filed in the HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT. A copy of the Complaint may be

obtained from the Court's public records at <https://www.masscourts.org/eservices/home.page.6> or from Plaintiff's Attorney at the address below.

YOU MUST ACT PROMPTLY TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

1. You must respond to this lawsuit in writing. If you do not respond, the Court may decide the case against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. You will also lose the opportunity to tell your side of the story. You must respond to this lawsuit even if you expect to resolve this matter with the Plaintiff. If you need more time to respond, you may request an extension for the Court.

2. How to Respond. To respond to this lawsuit, you or your attorney must file a written response with the Court and mail a copy to the Plaintiff's Attorney. You can do this by:

a) Filing your signed original response with the Clerk's Office for Civil Business, Hampden Superior Court, PO Box 559, Springfield, MA 01102, by mail, in person, or electronically through the web portal www.eFilema.com AND

b) Delivering or mailing a copy of your response to the Plaintiff's Attorney at the following address: Christopher M. Hennessey, Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook LLP, 66 West Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA 01201, chen_nessey@cohenkinne.com before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **1st day of October, 2025.**

3. What to Include in Your Response: An "Answer" is one type of response to a Complaint. Your Answer must state whether you agree or disagree with the fact(s) alleged in each paragraph of the Complaint. Some defenses, called affirmative defenses, must be stated in your Answer or you may lose your right to use them in Court. If you have any claims against the Plaintiff (referred to as "counterclaims") that are based on the same facts or transaction described in the Complaint, then you must include those claims in your Answer. Otherwise, you may lose your right to sue the Plaintiff about anything related to this lawsuit. If you want to have your case heard by a jury, you must specifically request a jury trial in your Court no more than 10 days after sending your Answer.

Another way to respond to a Complaint is by filing a "Motion to Dismiss," if you believe that the Complaint is legally invalid or legally insufficient. A Motion to Dismiss must be based on one of the legal deficiencies or reasons listed under **Rule 12 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure**. If you are filing a Motion to Dismiss, you must follow the filing rules for "Civil Motions in Superior Court," available at: www.mass.gov/law-library/massachusetts-superior-court-rules

4. Legal Assistance. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you cannot get legal help, some basic information for people who represent themselves is available at www.mass.gov/courts/selfhelp.

5. Required Information on All Filings. The "Civil Docket No." appearing at the top of this notice is the case number assigned to this case and must appear on the front of your Answer or Motion to Dismiss. You should refer to yourself as the "Defendant."

WITNESS, Hon. Michael

D. Ricciuti, Chief Justice, on 7/23/2025

Laura S. Gentile,
Clerk of Courts

Attorney for Plaintiffs:

Christopher M. Hennessey
COHEN KINNE VALICENTI & COOK LLP

66 West Street, Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-443-9399
07/31, 08/07, 08/14/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Holland Public Hearing

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

6:00 PM in the

Holland Town Hall

27 Sturbridge Road,

Holland, MA 01521

FY22/23

Community Development Block Grant Performance Union Road Infrastructure Improvement Project

The Holland Select Board will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Town Hall located at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA** regarding its FY22/23 CDBG grant performance to include the Union Road Infrastructure Improvement Project. During the hearing, an overview of the project will be provided, and the Select Board will seek public input on the project.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance review will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town several days prior to the hearing date at (413)-245-7108 ext. 101. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Holland Town Administrator, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521, Attn: Stacy Stout.

For further information contact Sarah Maroney at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or smaroney@pvpc.org.
08/07, 08/14/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the **Auditorium of Granite Valley School 29 Thompson Street, Monson**. It is proposed to amend § 6.23 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Installations, amend existing §1.7 Definition and add definitions as needed as it relates to Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Installations. A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw amendments are on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board, and is available on the Town website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
Monson Planning Board
07/31, 08/07/2025

Town of Monson Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, at 7:10 P.M.** in the **Auditorium of Granite Valley School 29 Thompson Street, Monson**. It is proposed to amend § 6.19 Stormwater Management. A copy of the complete text of the proposed bylaw amendments are on file with the Monson Town Clerk, the Planning Board, and is avail-

able on the Town website.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman
Monson Planning Board
07/31, 08/07/2025

Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K

The MONSON HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Parking Improvements at State Aided Development: Colonial Village (667-1) in Monson, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by GRAVES ENGINEERING, INC.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Construction of new parking area with associated walkways and stormwater management features.

The work is estimated to cost **\$192,500.00.**

All Bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 08/01/2025 at 5:00PM EDT for general bids.

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 13 August 2025 at 1:00PM EDT 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 (including all alternates) and made payable to the MONSON HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

The Contractor and all sub-contractors (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).

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

07/31, 08/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No.
HD25P1552EA

Estate of:

Christina Lynn Poulin

Also known as:

Christina Lynn North

Date of Death: 05/31/2025

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 Nathan D North of Springfield, 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: Nathan D North of Springfield, MA and Lilly E North of Springfield, 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 08/25/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but

a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 28, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No.

HD25P1585EA

Estate of:

Janina A Pryga

Also known as:

Janina Pryga

Date of Death: 06/20/2025

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 Daniel Jacher of Worcester, 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: Daniel Jacher of Worcester, 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 08/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 31, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/07/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BONDSVILLE FIRE & WATER DISTRICT BONDSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS STATE STREET

Sealed Bids for the construction of the State Street Waterline Extension Project Contract No. 2025-01 will be received, by the Bondsville Fire and Water District, at the office of the Bondsville Fire and Water District, 3174 Main Street, Bondsville, MA 01009, until **2:00 PM local time on Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of connecting into the existing 12-inch watermain on High Street. Installation of approximately 5,000 linear feet of 12-inch and 16-inch waterline along State Street to the intersection with Jim Ash Street where it will be constructed to the entrance of the access road for the proposed new water tank. The project includes all the associated valves, hydrants, connecting the existing customers to the new watermain as well as installing 23 new service lines to the curb stops to the properties with existing homes on them. Final restoration shall include permanent trench pavement and loaming and seeding.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis. Bidders must meet the minimum experience requirements set forth in Article 3 of the Instructions to Bidders (Section C-200) in the contract documents. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as Sewer & Water for the project with an estimated value of \$2,631,025 will be required. The Project is funded by the USDA Rural Development. The Project has an expected duration of 180 days.

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Bondsville Fire & Water District Office, 3174 Main Street, Bondsville, MA 01009. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend.**

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or reject any or all bids. A bid which includes, for any item, a unit cost that is abnormally low or high may be rejected as unbalanced. The right is also reserved to accept any bid deemed to be best for the interest of the Bondsville Fire and Water District.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: McClure Engineering, Inc. 119 Worcester Road, Charlton MA 01507. Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Contract Documents may be obtained electronically at www.accentblueprints.com. Hard copies may be obtained for a fee by completing an order online or by calling 978.362.8038. Completed orders may be picked up at the office of Accent Printing located at 99 Chelmsford Road, North Billerica, MA 01862 (978.362.8038), from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Offices will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of the Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office or Accent Printing.

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A -Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All listed iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials. The minimis and minor components waiver apply to this contract.

OWNER: Bondsville Fire and Water District
Date: July 30, 2025
07/31, 08/07/2025

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons. Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

MISCELLANEOUS

PREMIUM SCREENED TOPSOIL from 2 to 100 yards. \$20/yd. plus delivery. 413-267-3827.

TAG SALE

AUG. 8-9. NOS POTBELLY STOVE. 1937, wood/coal, 52" ceiling fan, garage door opener, collectible Hess and Tonka trucks. Asking top dollar, will discuss prices. 10am-4pm, 114 Hendrick St., Chicopee.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
Interior and exterior
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.
Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

MASONRY

C J MASONRY HARDSCAPE RETAINING WALLS
Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Pool Surrounds
Pressure Washing
Water Proofing
Cord Wood

Brian French
(413) 222-5542
frenchyn@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505.

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A & M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

Buying? Selling?
Our Classifieds Get Results!

SERVICES

SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

HELP WANTED

CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE
cleaning with our team. Experience preferred but will train. Retirees welcome. Call Pride Cleaning Contractors, 413-283-7087.

HELP WANTED FOR A BUSY BREAKFAST LUNCH RESTAURANT.
Weekday Dishwasher, great hours, good pay for hardworking person. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant, 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

HOUSEKEEPER. Monday and Friday, 5 hours each day. Duties include cleaning, ironing, washing. Send resume to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036.**

LINE COOK. Fast order wanted for fun, busy family Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant. Good pay, weekends and weekdays. Fulltime. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant, 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

CHICOPEE: LARGE 3 BEDROOM APT., no pet, hot water, 1st/last/secure. Call 413-297-1513. 18 Mount Carmel Ave.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

- AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS**
BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDLOW REGISTER
QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

[turleynews](https://twitter.com/turleynews)
[TurleyPublications](https://www.facebook.com/TurleyPublications)



STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

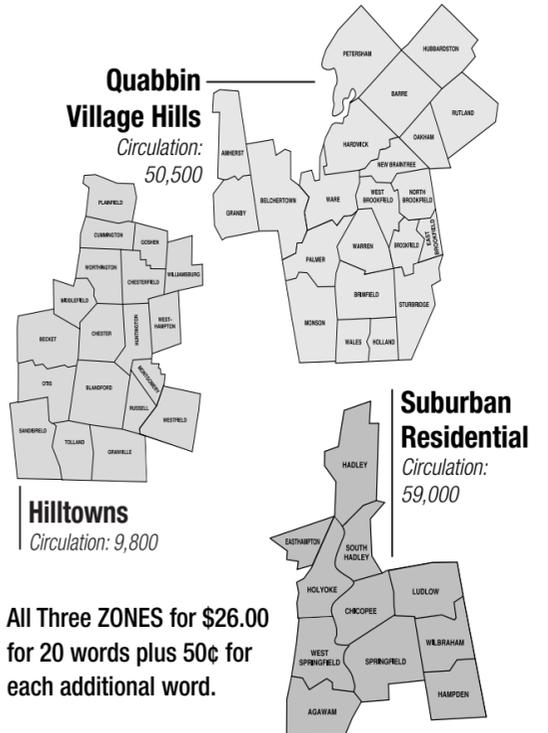
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**



A wide shot of the barn overflowing with visitors attending the hat history presentation.



A showcase of vintage hats that were produced back in the day, still striking in style and detail.



Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

Photos of the parlor rooms inside the identical Merrick and Fay houses.



A historic photo of the original Merrick, Fay & Co. hat factory.

HATS | from page 1

19th century but also played a vital role in its economic and social fabric.

The event, held in the museum's historic barn, was free and open to the public, and included light refresh-

ments, a photo display, and vintage hat molds and period hats. Dominick's talk highlighted the company's evolution from a modest palmleaf venture to an industrial-scale employer with national reach.

The origins of the straw-hat industry in Monson date

back to the ingenuity of Charles H. Merrick, born in 1812 on a farm where Monson State Hospital now stands. A self-taught master weaver, Merrick returned to Monson in 1838 after being laid off from a woolen mill during a national depression. While

passing through Somers, Ct, where palmleaf weaving was conducted under secrecy, he caught a glimpse of one of the few looms in operation and managed to acquire seven pounds of palmleaf for weaving and two pounds for braiding.



Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

\$12.50
Each

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.

LAND FOR SALE

Belchertown	7.5 acres with tw n util.	\$149,900
Belchertown	4.2 acres with tw n util.	\$99,900
Hampden	6.95 acres	\$80,000
Hardwick	11+ acres 2 perc	\$159,900
Monson	63 acres, frtg 2 roads	\$280,000
New Salem	5.8 acres, perc	\$94,900

CALL FOR DETAILS AND LOCATIONS

Land is in demand all shapes and sizes. Hire a Land Specialist like myself to list and sell your land parcel.





Contact Sue Como
(413) 531-9098

www.BuyRiteHome.com

HOMES FOR SALE

214 OLD BELCHERTOWN RD., WARE – Beautiful log home set on 5+ acres near the Quabbin, oversized two car garage with workshop area. Open living room area, granite counters, lower-level family rooms, enclosed sunroom on the front, hot tub. **\$599,999**



OPEN HOUSE SUN., AUGUST 10TH 12-2

26 1/2 CHERRY ST., SPENCER – New Construction colonial nearing completion. Downtown location for those who want the conveniences nearby. Finish the walk out lower level for more living space. Three bedroom and huge kitchen/dining area. **\$589,900**



OPEN HOUSE SAT., AUGUST 9TH 11-1

WARE: Commercial building on over 4 acres. Multiple garage space, multiple office spaces. Great rental potential rent to one person or split up and rent to a few. So much potential here for the price. **\$280,000**





Food Trucks, Farmers & Artisans Markets



Friday August 8th 3 pm - 8 pm

Divine Mercy Parish

Main Street, Three Rivers MA

FILL THE MINI BUS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Great food, over 40 unique artisan vendors, entertainment, fun for everyone



Clown

Live Music



Free Admission

Sponsored by: Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce

Inspired and undeterred, Merrick built his own loom and hired local women, one from East Hill and another from the western hills, to begin weaving and braiding. Lacking a sample Shaker hood to follow, Merrick cut and sewed the first palmleaf hood in Massachusetts by hand, marking the beginning of an industry.

In 1839, Merrick was joined by his brother-in-law, Rufus Fay, and the partnership of Merrick and Fay was formed. They moved operations to a building in the center of town, on the future site of the Spinning Wheel Restaurant, where the families lived in the front, and the factory operated in the rear. Their handmade Shaker hoods, selling for \$1 to \$1.25 apiece, quickly gained popularity.

By 1841, business was thriving enough for the firm to purchase a two-story building on the site of today's Monson High School, where ladies' hats and bonnets were produced from foreign and domestic straw braids.

In 1856, a new, larger factory was constructed on Main Street, and in 1858, the firm reorganized. Henry Hodges of Foxborough and J.T.D. Hersey of East Bridgewater, both active in New York's straw goods market, were brought on as equal partners. The Monson factory operated under the name Merrick, Fay & Co., while the New York showroom was known as Hodges, Hersey & Co.

The addition of the New York salesroom expanded their reach dramatically. Their factory in Monson employed up to 2,000 people at its peak, approximately one-third of Monson's population, with an additional network of outworkers in neighboring towns. As Dominick noted, hats, quarries, and farms were the triad of industries that defined Monson's economy.

Before the invention of the Bosword braid-sewing machine in 1863, all sewing was done by hand. The new machine could do the work of 15 women, drastically shifting production. Many outworkers were no longer needed, though overall output increased as the firm adapted to industrial efficiencies.

It was also during this period that Merrick, Fay & Co. expanded into menswear hats, marking a new phase in production. Dominick showed examples of stovepipe hats and other styles during the event, noting that until then, the company's focus had been primarily on women's straw bonnets.

To accommodate the growing workforce, particularly young women, boarding houses were established in town, including conversions of the original shop and adjacent buildings into dormitories. Private homes also opened their doors to boarders, and the company grew into a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Dominick highlighted the close personal connection of the founders, whose families lived side-by-side in iden-

tical homes on Main Street; down to the furniture, which their wives picked out together in New York. Both homes, and the shared carriage house that once sat between them, still exist today. One of them, the Rufus Fay House, is now owned by Dominick himself.

"These families were so connected that after Martha Fay passed away, Rufus Fay married her sister, Sarah," Dominick said. "They really kept it all in the family."

The company's momentum was severely disrupted by a massive fire in 1912 that destroyed the Main Street complex. Although operations were temporarily moved to the old Reynolds hat mill and later the Cushman Mill on State Street, the business never fully recovered. By 1926, Merrick, Fay & Co. had closed its doors for good.

Though the building is long gone, its materials live on. Dominick noted that the retaining wall along Academy Hill was built using cinder blocks salvaged from the destroyed factory. The company's brass sign, once displayed at the site, now stands in front of the town administration building thanks to the Monson Historical Society.

Attendees viewed original hat molds, decorative accessories, and early straw hats displayed on-site. Hatpins, once used both for fashion and self-defense, sparked chuckles as Dominick recounted his grandmother's story of jabbing an inappropriate man with a bent safety pin at the movies; a story she "loved to tell."

Dominick also acknowledged Monson's other lesser-known hat-making operations, including those on South Main Street and even private homes. Artifacts from these smaller ventures are still stored at the Jacob Thompson House attic, thanks to donations from residents who find these sorts of historical items hidden in basements or attics of family homes.

Toward the end of its life, the Monson factory stopped making hats from scratch, instead decorating imported felt hats, many from Foxborough, MA, and Danbury, CT. Straw braids were still handmade, with palmleaf delivered to homes for braiding before being shaped, lacquered, and finished at the factory.

The event closed with audience questions and personal memories, including one attendee whose mother was among the first women trained on the new sewing machines. Visitors lingered to view the photos and artifacts, discussing how this once-booming industry still echoes in Monson's buildings, streets, and family lore.

"This town was built by hats just as much as it was our quarries," said Dominick. "And it's worth remembering how much craftsmanship, creativity, and community went into every one of them."

The Keep Homestead Museum is open regularly for tours and continues to host engaging events that preserve and share Monson's rich history.