

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com August 13, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 29 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
Above, members of the Fire Department were on hand, (from left) Josh Rutola, Grace Leone-Forgette, Jason Cousineau and Captain Pat Jessop. Right, Palmer Police Chief Christopher Burns (right) stood on the Light Side from Darth Vader.

National Night Out

Community and good weather show up for annual event

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Police Department joined other departments around the country for the annual National Night Out celebration.

On Aug. 4, the community was invited to visit

the Police Department for a community event filled with snacks, games and informational materials from various town departments.

“It’s a free event to bring the community together with stakeholders and civic groups,” said Lieutenant Erin Sullivan, who arranged the event for the town. “It’s a night and evening of fun to have the public come and see officers when there isn’t a crisis occurring, in a more casual setting.”

“We have been doing this for, I don’t even remem-

ber anymore, but it’s been a long time,” said Police Chief Christopher Burns. “We were doing it back in the early 2000s, and it stopped for a little bit, but now it’s probably been 10 years. Since we’ve been here, we’ve been doing it.”

National Night Out presented an opportunity for members of the public to meet with police officers and learn more about their work, as explained by Officer Tom Cowell, who was seen talking to members of the commu-



nity about his K-9 partner, Vici.

“It’s good to interact with the community and to be able to answer a lot of their questions, because a lot of times I don’t get a chance to hang out with a canine handler or see the canine himself,” Cowell said. “For us to be able to showcase and have these conversations with people is huge, because a lot of people just see like a dog and think, ‘oh, dog, dog, dog,’ but

these are working dogs. We find missing people, narcotics, go after and chase bad guys and all that fun stuff.”

The event had a great turn-out, with families arriving early, eager to participate in the festivities.

“Like I pulled up right around 6 o’clock, and I couldn’t believe the cars are down the street,” said Fire Chief William Bernat. “A guy said when they got here around like at 5:30 p.m., it

NNO | page 6

VETERANS

Towns join forces to support veterans

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

Following state approval, Ludlow and Palmer have officially united to expand services for veterans.

The intermunicipal agreement merges the veterans services departments of both communities, creating the Ludlow-Palmer Veterans Services Department.

Recently greenlighted by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, the agreement enables veterans living in Ludlow and Palmer to benefit from a stronger, more comprehensive regional department.

“This is more than a merger. It’s a commitment to providing the highest level of service to those who served our nation,” said Eric Segundo, the Director of Veterans Services for the Ludlow-Palmer District. “This partnership reflects our commitment to ensuring every veteran receives the benefits, services and respect they have earned.”

The state approval marks

VETERANS | page 12

PALMER

Lemonade Day returns to Palmer and entices entrepreneurship

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – In a quickly growing town tradition, residents are looking forward to the return of Lemonade Day this month.

Set for Saturday, Aug. 22, the event will run from

noon-3 p.m. at lemonade stands set up by local youngsters throughout town.

“Lemonade Day is a fantastic adventure where kids dive into the world of entrepreneurship,” read a statement posted to the town website. “They discover vital business and life skills, like setting ambitious goals, craft-

ing smart plans, and working hard to turn dreams into reality.”

Now in its third year, the event is expected to be bigger and better than ever.

During event hours, lemonade stands will be set up across town. Residents are encouraged to show their community spirit by going

out and supporting young participants.

“It’s a great way to bring the entire community together. Every member of the town can get involved, whether they’re helping to set up stands or shopping at them,” said event organizer Julia Taylor.

After assisting with a

similar event when she lived in Nome, Alaska, Taylor brought its inspiration with her to western Massachusetts. She hopes enthusiasm for the event will continue spreading throughout town, which could pave the way for neighboring communities to arrange their own versions.

In addition to being a fun

program that brings the community together, Lemonade Day also teaches kids about the importance of organization and financial literacy.

“Lemonade Day is a tremendous opportunity for our young people to learn the fundamentals of financial literacy.”

LEMONADE | page 8

MONSON

ADA grant funds help transform park

Dave Grieve Memorial Park to be rededicated

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

MONSON – Following a major grant-funded improvement project, residents are looking forward to a rededication ceremony at Dave Grieve Memorial Park and Gazebo.

The town received a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant to address longstanding accessibility challenges at the park. The completed project trans-

forms one of the community’s most active and visible public spaces into a fully inclusive site for individuals of all abilities.

The total grant award for the project was \$105,257, disbursed by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. Final project expenditures amounted to \$105,187.27, resulting in a favorable balance of \$69.73 under budget.

“The Dave Grieve Park project is a great example of what can be accomplished when communities actively seek out and pursue grant opportunities,” said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. “Local budgets alone often cannot fund projects of this scale, which is why researching

GRANT | page 11

PALMER

Lovell celebrates 90th birthday ON THE TRACK



Turley Photos by Kevin Flanders
Janice Lovell told Palmer Motorsports Park official Al Sandy about her birthday wish. Driver Glen Wiley made Janice Lovell’s birthday wish come true in his Corvette Z06.

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – Surrounded by family, Janice Lovell celebrated her 90th birthday with high speeds at Palmer Motorsports Park.

Lovell, a lifelong Palmer resident, made it her birthday wish to reach 90 MPH in celebration of 90 years young.

LOVELL | page 16



sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

BASKETBALL



Ray Labonte eyes the hoop as he enters the paint.



Eli Nissenbaum goes for a shot.

Monson finishes up season

BELCHERTOWN – The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held playoff last week, utilizing a few sites in addition to the courts at Spec Pond. Monson, a 5-6 team, were involved in a matchup held in Belchertown at Chestnut Hill Community School.



Alex Potter looks for an open teammate just past midcourt.



Nate Zimmer looks to pass.

Turley photos by David Henry

SOCCER



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

West Side Sports Shop, featuring adult female players from throughout the region, took the PVSSL Women's Championship.

Sport Shop grabs ladies title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Since joining the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League in 2021, West Side Sports Shop has claimed the women's championship title five times. West Side Sports Shop entered this year's playoffs as the fourth seed. They posted a 2-0 shutout victory over second-seeded W. Mass Xtremes in the women's finals held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last Friday night. "We might be the fourth seed, but we played very well in the playoffs," said West Side Sports Shop head coach Chris Andre. "We lost to the Xtremes twice during the regular season."

The only year that West Side Sports Shop didn't take home the championship trophy was in 2024. They beat top seeded Here for Beer in the fi-

nals a year ago. "We've set a high stranded here," Andre added. "A number

LADIES | page 10



Chapin Jeannotte takes the ball up the sideline.



Sydney Mercier sends a free kick away.



Julianna Beaulieu sends a pass away.



Kaela Mochak heads up the field.

SOCCER

Mount Carmel takes Men's title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Anthony Bourget was an assistant boys' soccer coach under longtime varsity coach John O'Keefe at Minnechaug Regional High School before stepping down at the end of last season.

Bourget was also the head coach of Villa FC, which captured the last two Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship titles. Villa FC changed sponsors before the start of the 2026 summer league season and are now known as Mount Carmel FC.

Mason Perham is one of the former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster.

Perham scored a second half goal, which helped topseeded Mount Carmel FC win the championship title once again with a

MENS | page 10



Shane Sewell sends a pass away.



Jake Durham plays the ball off his toe.



Deandrae Brown dribbles away from a defender.



Anthony Basile turns play around.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mount Carmel captured the PVSSL Men's title this year.