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The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

August 20, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 30 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

MONSON

Board honors Grieve

Park re-dedicated

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – Last week, the Select Board voted to honor Dave Grieve for his service to the town to coincide with the upcoming park rededication.

On Aug. 21, at 6 p.m., the town will rededicate Dave Grieve Park in honor of its namesake. The event is being organized by Dottie Jenkins, who has been in contact with Grieve’s family and the Select Board.

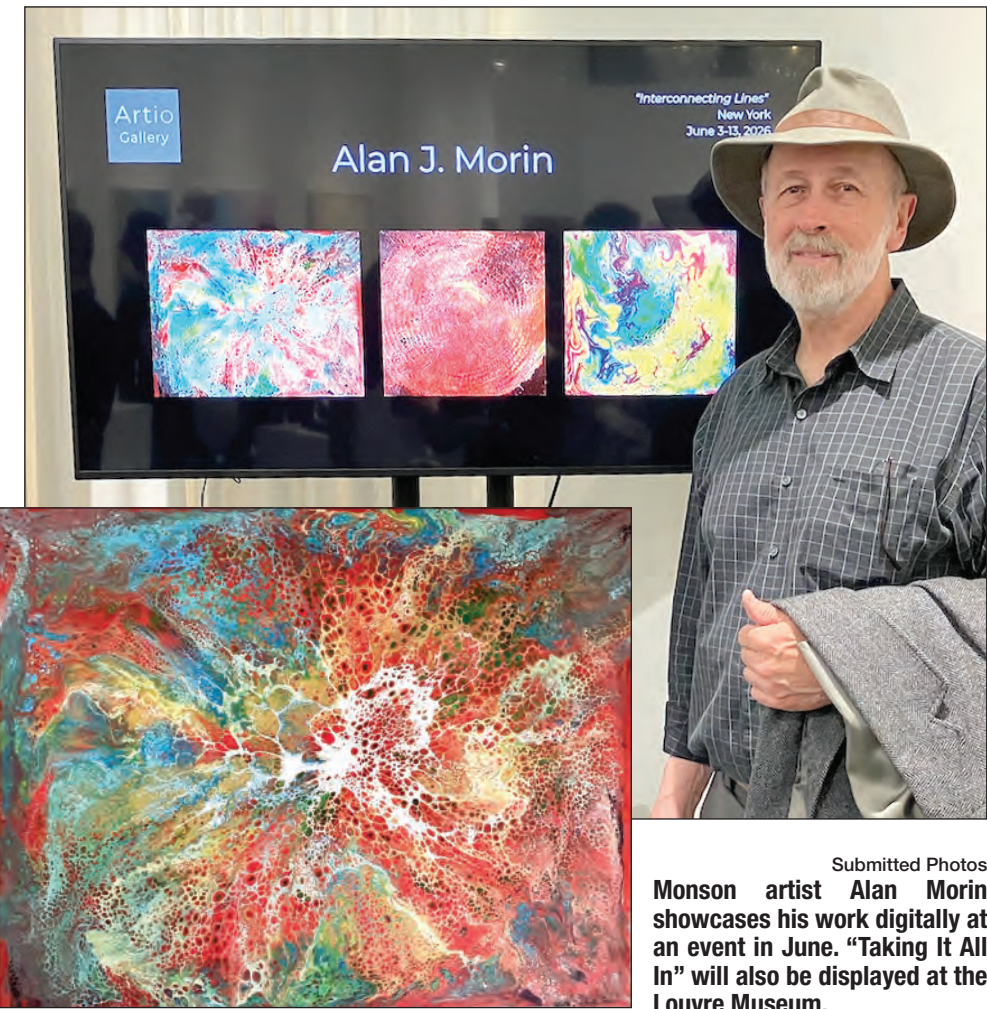
“The Select Board is honoring Dave W. Grieve on his outstanding achievements,” read Select Board Clerk R. Keith Valley, who went on to describe Grieve’s work as a teacher, administrator, coach, mentor and friend.

“His teaching career began at Monson High School, where he also coached basketball and served as Director of Recreation for many years,” Valley said. “Dave served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946.”

Valley also mentioned Grieve’s academic career in Springfield College and the University of Connecticut,

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MONSON



Submitted Photos
Monson artist Alan Morin showcases his work digitally at an event in June. “Taking It All In” will also be displayed at the Louvre Museum.

From Monson to the Louvre

Local artist to display pieces at world-famous museum

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – After Alan Morin finished one of his early acrylic paintings in 2023, he assumed it was

meant only for disposal following the development of cracks during the drying process.

Three years later, “Earthquake in Death Valley” will be displayed – cracks and all – along with

another of Morin’s paintings at the world-renowned Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

“I thought it was ruined by the cracks,” Morin, a re-

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A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It’s hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for over 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *The Journal Register*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of *The Journal Register* to everyone in Palmer, Monson, Brimfield, Holland and Wales, on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what’s important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we’re meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family’s life. That’s why we’re here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, *The Journal Register*.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Turley Publications, Inc.

MONSON

Select Board approves gifts to town departments

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At last week’s Select Board meeting, the town received three requests for Gifts to the Town, from the Police Department, the Council on Aging and the Arts Council.

During the Aug. 11 meeting, Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz informed the Select Board that the balance of the gifts account was approximately \$43,000.

Police/Fire barbecue

The first Gifts to the Town request was for \$4,000 to fund Public Safety Night Out. Police Chief Nicholas Gasperini made the request for this year’s Police versus Fire Barbecue competition.

“For anybody that doesn’t know, the loser has to come and ask for the Gifts to the Town,” Gasperini said. “The police department has lost for the last four years.”

The barbecue is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17. The time is set for 3-6 p.m.,

but Gasperini said that it will run from 3-7 p.m. if the police department wins, “because we’re going to do a victory lap around town with the trophy.”

“It’s a great event,” Gasprini said.

Gasperini estimated that between the two departments, they serve approximately 300 meals annually. He said that the Gifts to the Town request would pay for bounce houses and the food.

“It’s a really nice event, and it doesn’t cost the people anything,” said Select Board Chair Pat Oney.

The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Gasperini said the two departments will also host a Late Breakfast on Sept. 14 at the Senior Center. He also recommended the memory care events that the departments arrange with the library and senior center on the first Monday of every month.

BOARD | page 22

THREE RIVERS



Turley Photo by Kevin Flanders
Market guest Brandon, of North Brookfield, is all smiles with Maggie the Clown.

A day at the market

Chamber hosts second event

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER – Last week, the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held its second installment of Food Trucks, Farmers, and Artisans Markets.

Despite the threat of rain, the Aug. 14 event drew a big crowd to Hryniewicz Park. Dozens of vendors were in attendance, and the event also featured live music, family activities and appearances from community groups.

Earlier this summer, on July 10, the first program of the two-part series was held.

“It’s a great event. All of the money we take in for crafting fees goes right back out into the community,” said Vicki Baldyga, the treasurer for Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce.

The event also included a school bus provided by J.P. McCarthy Bus Company for the collection of school supplies.

In recent weeks, several local stores have set up collections boxes. All donated supplies will benefit K-12 students at Palmer Public Schools.

“We love to see the community pull together to help the kids have a success-

MARKET | page 19

PALMER

Palmer Town Planner explains Code of Ordinances reorganization

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – Last week, Town Council discussed the reorganization of the town’s Code of Ordinances.

At the Town Council meeting on Aug. 10, the town held a public hearing for a zoning amendment ordinance.

“This is an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the town,” read Council President Barbara

Barry. “The purpose of this amendment is to include previously undefined and new uses within the definition section of the ordinance, and to amend and reconfigure six articles of chapter 171, article 7-12, so as to compile all use regulations for the residential, commercial, industrial, and village center zoning districts into a single unified table.”

Barry went on to say that the amendment will clarify certain existing uses to ensure that the town’s land use con-

trols continue to meet their intended purpose. The amendment will not alter any district boundaries or dimensional requirements.

To further explain the amendments of the ordinance, Town Manager Brad Brothers introduced the council to the interim Town Planner, Maxwell Ballou, who is taking over for Heidi Mannarino, who recently accepted a position with a different town. Ballou has been with the department for over two years, and is

working on a Master’s Degree in planning.

“I’m excited to have him,” Brothers said. “We felt, for the continuity of the department, and because he has a good background in what’s going on, to keep him on an interim basis.”

Ballou explained to the council about the department’s work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on the Code of Ordinances to combine the uses into a single chart that would be easier

to read for both residents and town employees.

“We’re not really changing all that much, it’s more so just making it more user-friendly for us reading it as staff, and also residents coming in,” Ballou said. “There were some uses that were called out, but were never defined, and now we’re defining them as well.”

Councillor Karl Williams asked who this project would help and who it would hurt. Ballou said that he didn’t ex-

pect the changes to hurt anyone, as the primary purpose is to make the Code of Ordinances clearer.

“It really is just reorganizing it into one chart, so it’s not in separate different spots in the ordinance; now it will all be in one place,” Ballou said.

PLANNER | page 16



SPORTS

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FOOTBALL

Leonatti hopes to lead team back to varsity status

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – If Joseph Leonatti had not met his girlfriend, Chelsea Flamand, while they were students at the University of New England, he probably wouldn't be the first-year head coach of the Palmer High School junior varsity football team.

Leonatti, who was born in Las Vegas, spent most of his life living in Coral Springs, Florida. He played high school football at Coral Springs Charter School before moving 1,000 miles north to Biddeford, Maine.

"I met Chelsea at the University of New England, and her family has lived in Ware for many years. She has told me all about the rivalry between Ware and Palmer High School," Leonatti said. "We also lived in Missouri for two years after graduating from college before moving to Ware."

While living in Missouri, Leonatti worked in the Kansas City Royals sales department.

"I sold single game tickets and season tickets," Leonatti said. "I met a lot of great people there. It was an awesome experience for me."

LEONATTI | page 14



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aaron Gasque gets a layup under pressure.



Dominic Venneri goes for the layup.



Mason Cowher takes a free throw.

BASKETBALL

Youth basketball wraps up

BELCHERTOWN – The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held playoff held the first week of August, utilizing a few sites in addition to the courts at Spec Pond. Palmer, a 7-8 team, were involved in a matchup held in Belchertown at Chestnut Hill Community School.



Dominic Venneri makes his way down the court.

BASEBALL

Forge Baseball Clinic returns to Western Mass.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – One of the last sports camps of the summer of 2026 was held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 10-13.

A total of 57 baseball and softball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the four day clinic.

"This is our fourth year conducting the baseball clinics, and this is probably the best one yet," said camp director Dustin Brisson. "We

have almost 60 kids, including a couple of softball players for the first time, this week. It's the most campers we've ever had at this clinic and I'm very pleased."

Brisson, who is the owner of Forge Athletics, was born in Florida and played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. The first baseman was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft.

Brisson, who played 345 minor league games, advanced to Double A Portland. His baseball career came to

an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm doing what I can to give back to these kids."

Some of the camp instructors were Lindsay Beer, David Wendt, Ace Adams Chade Shade, who's the head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Pat Strange, who's the pitching coach at Westfield State University, Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who's the the baseball coach

at New England College.

"It's an honor to have these coaches working at our clinic this year," Brisson said. "They want to help these kids. This is a high level skills clinic. I just want the older kids to have the opportunity to work with the college coaches."

A couple of the guest speakers at the clinic were Brandon Seymour, who's the general manager of the Valley Blue Sox, Nancy Street, who's a board member of the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, and Duke Castiglione Jr who's a sportscaster at a television station in Boston.

Ray Fagnant, who grew up in Chicopee and is the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also spent a day at the clinic.

A few of the different stations were hitting, fielding, and throwing.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," Brisson said. "I also want to keep the kids active at this clinic. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing."

Brisson was aided at the clinic by his wife, Kasey.

"My wife is the backbone of the organization," Brisson said. "She keeps everything in order. I appreciate all the support from many different people that I've received running this camp."

Brisson and his staff is already looking forward to holding the baseball clinic at Spec Pond again next summer.

BASEBALL

Tri-County finals forced to decide game 3

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas had a golden opportunity to sweep the top-seeded St. Joseph's Saints in the Tri-County League championship series.

Teddy Bear held a 1-0 lead entering the top of the third inning in game two.

St. Joe's rallied for three runs in the third and fourth innings and they evened the best-of-three series at 1-1 following a 6-3 victory at South Hadley High School Friday, Aug. 7.

The game came to an end after five innings due to darkness, which didn't please the Teddy Bear players and their supporters.

"It's a very frustrating situation," said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magini. "I think we should've been able to finish the final two innings of tonight's game at St. Joe's Park before playing the deciding game tomorrow night."

The baseball field at South Hadley High School doesn't have any lights and the first pitch of game two was thrown by Teddy Bear righthander Sean Rosemond at 5:55p.m. The three um-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Top photo, Greg Vourros fires a throw to first base. Above, Ray Toth makes a throw on the run.

pires made the decision to end the game at 7:45 p.m.

"The pace of tonight's game was very slow," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "We were very lucky to finish five innings which made it an official game."

Had the game ended before the bottom of the fifth inning, it would've resumed at South Hadley High School the following day. If the score would've

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Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Campers receive some instructions from one of the coaches in the Forge Baseball Clinic.