

The Journal Register

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PALMER

ConComm reviews land use applications

Transmission Line Project and trail concerns also discussed

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, Aug. 19, where commissioners worked through a packed agenda that included land use applications, updates on major infrastructure projects, and ongoing environmental challenges.

The evening reflected both the routine business of maintaining conservation oversight and the larger issues of balancing development pressures with the town's environmental priorities.

Forest Cutting Plan on Springfield Street

The meeting opened with a discussion of a forest cutting plan and Notice of Intent submitted by Forester Jacob Macco. Commissioners noted that the documents were received in unapproved form, a recurring issue that in the past has left the Commission without enough time to weigh in before state approval.

Members were reminded that comments can still be submitted to the service forester even after a plan has been approved. While no immediate decisions were made, commissioners agreed to prepare questions for Macco in advance of further review.

Open Space and Recreation

CONCOMM | page 20

PALMER

School Committee launches mission

Handbooks approved and budget measures

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer School Committee convened on Wednesday, Aug. 20, for its regular monthly meeting, taking up a wide-ranging agenda that included committee reorganization, community feedback, the launch of the district's new mission statement and core values, handbook updates, personnel and financial reports and several key action items as the district prepares for the first day of school.

Committee Reorganization

The evening began with the annual reorganization of the committee. Longtime member Joseph Nompleggi was welcomed back to the panel. Members then voted unanimously to re-elect Bonnie Rathbone as chair and Sandy Noonan as vice chair. Subcommittee assignments remained largely unchanged, with Noonan and Anthony Braden continuing their work on Policy, Nompleggi and

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MONSON



Emily Monteiro, helped serve ice cream sundaes to everyone.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Library Summer Reading wraps up with ice cream, games, prizes

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Free Library brought its 2025 Summer Reading Program to a close on Thursday, Aug. 21, with a lively celebration for children ages seven to 12.

Held in the DeSantis Community Room, the Summer Reading Finale Party rewarded participants with ice cream sundaes, games, and the chance to win prizes, all in recognition of the time they devoted to reading over the summer months.

Children's Librarian Denise Newland, who co-ordinated the program, explained that the library made

some adjustments this year to encourage broader participation. Instead of requiring students to complete an entire reading log, children could submit a log with as little as one book or activity recorded in order to qualify for the party.

Each additional book read or library event attended earned participants a raffle ticket for donated prizes, ranging from books to LEGO and STEM kits.

"We handed out over 100 reading logs this summer," Newland said. "Not all of them were turned back in, but we saw lots of families participating...whether it was checking out books, attending events, or just enjoy-

ing the library. At the end of the day, the important thing is that kids were reading and having fun."

About ten children registered for Thursday's finale, which featured a mix of activities: a Mario Kart tournament, a scavenger hunt, and plenty of time to socialize.

"It's really just a chance for kids to celebrate their success and enjoy themselves before heading back to school," Newland said.

The summer reading program was not limited to school-age children. Preschool participants earned small rewards such as "Super Reader" yard signs or

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BRIMFIELD

Wales Community Pantry opens new location in Brimfield

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – The Wales Community Pantry celebrated the grand opening of its new home at 172 Palmer Road in Brimfield, marking an important milestone for the volunteer-driven nonprofit that serves families across Wales, Brimfield and Holland.

The move comes at a time of rising demand. According to Board Member Meghan Matczak, the pantry has nearly

PANTRY | page 17



A raffle and donation table greeted visitors.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

MONSON

School Committee reviews hiring, Pathway Programs, policy updates and budget

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson School Committee held its regular business meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 20, covering a wide range of topics including staffing updates, new academic pathways, district policy revisions, long-term financial planning, and adjustments to the 2024-2025 meeting calendar.

The session began at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of

the district's mission and vision statements, and adjourned shortly after 8:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Update: Staffing and Back-to-School Preparations

Superintendent of Schools Paul Foster provided an upbeat report on the district's staffing efforts, noting that Monson Public Schools has nearly completed its hiring for the 2025-2026 school year. Over the

REVIEWS | page 18



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Planning Board advances Bylaw Amendments

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Planning Board devoted its Tuesday, Aug. 19 meeting to a series of significant zoning bylaw discussions and decisions, covering an unusual land ownership clarification, stricter standards for large-scale solar projects, the creation of a regulatory framework for battery energy storage systems and federally-mandated updates to the town’s stormwater bylaw. The meeting underscored the board’s effort to balance local development pressures with environmental protection, public safety, and long-term planning needs for the community.

ANR Plan Review:

**Randy Pasco/
William Jerzyk Property**
The first matter before the board involved an Approval Not Required (ANR) plan concerning property owned by William Jerzyk and prospective buyer Randy Pascale. The discussion centered on Lot 3, a parcel identified as the old #1 mill pond, which appears on historic plans but lacks a clear deed that may date back to the 1600s.

Jerzyk has occupied the land for over two decades, and town assessors currently treat Lots 1 and 3 as a single parcel for tax purposes.

The ambiguity over Lot 3’s ownership complicated Pascale’s attempt to purchase

the property, as he could not secure a loan without a clear title. The board expressed concerns that endorsing the plan as presented could inadvertently legitimize Lot 3 as a buildable parcel despite its unclear status and lack of road frontage.

Board members suggested revisions including renaming Lot 3 as “Parcel A,” adding a note indicating that ownership has not been definitively established, and striking any language implying the town was granting ownership or that the lot could be combined with adjoining land. The applicant’s representative, Tom Fancy, agreed to withdraw the plan for revision, and the board voted to waive reapplication fees once the updated plan is submitted.

**Bylaw Amendment:
Large-Scale
Ground-Mounted
Photovoltaic Installations**

The board next discussed proposed amendments to the town’s solar bylaw, Section 6.23, which regulates large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations. These changes followed months of workshops and public input and were designed to address concerns from residents about noise, inadequate buffering, and other quality-of-life impacts from existing solar facilities.

Among the key amendments, minimum lot sizes for solar arrays were doubled, setbacks were increased to

200 feet from property lines, and inverters were required to be located as far as reasonably possible from neighboring properties with sound-attenuating enclosures and vegetation screening. Landscaping standards were strengthened, requiring six-foot-tall buffer strips at installation and ongoing seasonal maintenance secured by a 10-year planting surety.

The bylaw also introduced new requirements for monitoring and maintaining plantings and security measures and added a noise section requiring compliance with Massachusetts DEP noise regulations, including baseline and annual third-party sound measurements.

Developers are now required to update the Planning Board within 14 days of any change to ownership or contact information.

The board emphasized that the amendments aim to reduce the burden on nearby residents and mitigate noise and visual impacts from solar installations. No members of the public spoke during the hearing, and the board voted unanimously to recommend the amendments favorably to the official town meeting.

**New Bylaw Amendment:
Battery Energy Storage
System (BESS)**

The board also advanced a new zoning bylaw, Section 6.26, establishing standards for battery energy storage systems. Modeled in part af-

ter guidance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the bylaw creates a tiered regulatory system covering small residential systems up to large utility-scale installations.

Tier 1 systems, typically for home or small commercial use, require only a building permit. Tier 2 and Tier 3 systems, ranging from 250 kW to over 10 MW, require a special permit.

Battery storage paired with solar is permitted in districts where large-scale solar is allowed, subject to site plan review, while standalone battery projects are limited to General Commercial, Central Commercial, and Commercial Recreation districts. Tier 2 and Tier 3 systems are prohibited within the town’s Water Supply Protection District.

Design standards mirror those for solar projects, including 200-foot setbacks, clearance of combustible vegetation, noise mitigation, and maintenance requirements.

Public comment raised safety concerns. Resident Bob Lamb cited the potential hazards of lithium batteries, noting their inability to be extinguished with water and the toxic contents that could be released if damaged.

Board members acknowledged these risks but emphasized that, due to the Dover Amendment, some regulation is required rather than none. They highlighted

the prohibition in water supply zones and the strict safety standards in the bylaw as key protections.

The board voted unanimously to recommend the bylaw favorably to the official town meeting.

**Bylaw Amendment:
Stormwater Management**

The final major discussion concerned updates to the town’s stormwater management bylaw, Section 6.19, required for compliance with the federal EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4) permit. The amendments strengthen requirements for new development and redevelopment projects in Monson’s urbanized downtown, particularly regarding discharges into the Chicopee River.

Developers will now be required to treat stormwater runoff for total suspended solids, phosphorus, and nitrogen.

Consultants from AECOM have assisted the town in identifying outfalls with elevated nitrogen and E. coli levels, with mitigation efforts already underway, including infiltration basins and rain gardens. Failure to update the bylaw could result in fines under the town’s administrative consent order with the EPA, making compliance urgent.

Resident Bob Lamb asked about the source of nitrogen, and officials explained that decomposing organic

matter such as leaves and grass clippings often concentrates in runoff and elevates nitrogen levels. The board voted unanimously to recommend the bylaw amendments favorably to the official town meeting.

**Correspondence and
Future Business**

In other business, the board approved a \$393 bill for public hearing notices and reviewed correspondence from neighboring towns and notices of decision for local projects. A memo from the applicant for 132 Bethany Road detailed minor site adjustments, including shifts to EV charging stalls and modifications to the sewer system.

The board voted to refer the memo to a third-party reviewer and, contingent on a positive review, decided not to reopen the public hearing.

Looking Ahead

The board plans to discuss potential amendments to commercial recreation zoning at the September meeting, including inviting affected property owners to participate, and begin work on scoping for a future master plan.

All four bylaw amendments concerning: solar facilities, battery storage, stormwater, and land ownership clarification, are now moved to the official town meeting, where residents will decide whether to formally adopt the Planning Board’s recommendations.

Palmer Boosters Club seeking volunteers

PALMER – The PUB Club is seeking volunteers to assist with transporting athletes during its upcoming event on Saturday, August 30, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteers are asked to

arrive at Legion Field by 8:30 a.m. to help drive athletes around town. Anyone interested in lending a hand is encouraged to contact the Palmer Boosters Club for more information.

Bargain clothing sale set for Sept. 6

MONSON – Bargain Clothing sale to take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church

located at corner of Main St. & Cushman St.

The cost is \$1.00 per bag, clothing for the entire family, men, women and children. Make sure to bring a friend.

Town to host 9/11 Remembrance event

PALMER – The American Legion, Palmer Post 130, would like to invite the town to our annual 9/11 Remembrance/Dedication to be held Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. at 1010 Thorndike Street in Palmer, now the new location of Crimmins & Graveline - formally, the Fire

Service Group.

At this time, we will continue to honor ALL the police, firefighters, EMTs, veterans and civilians who lost their lives that fateful day. We will also honor our fallen from Western MA since 9/11 and dedicate the pavers received since our last ceremony.

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Palmer Senior Center

Evening Programs 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Starting Sept. 2 - the center will be offering to Piyo Exercise Class from 5:15-6:15 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Piyo exercise combines Yoga, Pilates, Strength Training and low impact Cardio for all ages.

Sept. 8 - Join the center for a farewell to Summer Dinner and Music. We will be having Hotdogs, Beans, Salads and Watermelon. We also will have music and fun conversation at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 - The center will be welcoming the Cub Scouts (pack 164), they will be helping with Make Your Own Sundaes and great conversation at 5 p.m.

Sept. 22 - Spaghetti

Dinner with Meatballs, Toss Salad, Garlic Toast and Assorted Desserts from Randall's Farm at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 - 4:30 p.m. Learn the art of Acrylic Painting, center will be providing all supplies, we will be painting on bricks.

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

Sept. 5 - The Note Book (is a 2004 American romantic drama film directed by Nick Cassavetes, from a screenplay by Jeremy Leven and Jan Sardi, and based on the 1996 novel of the same name by Nicholas Sparks. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young couple who fall in love in the 1940s. Their story is read from a notebook in

the modern day by an elderly man, telling the tale to a fellow nursing home resident.)

Sept. 18 - Hillbilly Elegy "A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" is a 2016 memoir by JD Vance about the Appalachian values of his family from Kentucky and the socioeconomic problems of his hometown of Middletown, Ohio, where his mother's parents moved when they were young. It was adapted into the 2020 film Hillbilly Elegy, directed by Ron Howard and starring Glenn Close and Amy Adams.

Upcoming Events

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

Senior Portrait Day.

Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. Remember those days when you had senior pictures taken, you fussed with your hair and the guys were making sure they were shaved, hair neat and so forth. Well it's happening again, we will have a professional photographer taking these pictures, so bring along your children, grandchildren or special someone and have your picture taken. The only fee is extra copies.

Boston Harbor Cruise

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

PHS Hall of Fame inducts Class of 2025

PALMER – The Palmer High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is excited to welcome the Class of 2025 Inductees: six individual athletes and three teams.

Congratulations to outstanding athletes **Charlie Lanzetta**, Class of 1964; **Carl Santos**, Class of 1982; **Joseph Ferry**, Class of 2004; **Halie Laviolette**, Class of 2012; **Ryan McCarthy**, Class of 2017; **Brittany North**, Class of 2017; to the **2010 and 2012 Girls' Basketball Division 2 Western Mass Champions**, and to the **2017 Boys' Basketball Western Mass Division 3 Champions and State Finalists**.

Individual inductees are chosen after the Hall of Fame Committee receives nomination papers for an athlete, deliberates on the credentials, and then votes on the merits. Individual teams are selected

on the basis of achieving a Western Mass Championship and beyond. All individuals and teams must have graduated more than five years ago.

The 2025 Induction Ceremony will be held at Amvets in Three Rivers, MA on Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$45/person and can be ordered by contacting Walt Reynolds at (413) 552-9716 or emailing nimpuck77@gmail.com.

Checks should be made out to the Town of Palmer and mailed to PO Box 63 Palmer, MA 01069. Please order first, before sending the checks, and clearly specify the number of tickets you would like. Tickets MUST be ordered by Oct. 1.

We can't wait to have you join us as we recognize these outstanding athletes and championship teams.

HAKIM MEDICAL
Michael H. Hakim, MD



Front row (Left to Right) Janet Stadnicki, FNP, Michael Hakim, MD, Angela Nurek, DNP, Back row (Left to Right) Charlene Gryszowka, Kirsten Apraham, Susan Piche, Caitlyn Garceau, RMA, Practice Manager, Crystal Best, RMA, Kalise Salzarulo, Dawn Greene, RMA

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NAIL & HAIR SERVICES

Viewpoints

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please return lawnmower!

To the editor

If you took a lawnmower from my yard on Front Street, Three Rivers, Saturday about 5 p.m., please

return it!

It wasn't "free" just in use. Thank you.

Alyssa Rusiecki
Three Rivers



How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

Dear Rusty:

I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.

Signed: Ready to Collect

Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: <https://www.ssa.gov/>

hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov/ apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on you application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

SECURITY | page 5



Gardening tasks best accomplished now

The mornings have been a little cooler this last week or so. I must admit that after the summer we had, the respite from the heat is a welcome relief.

With the unofficial end of summer just a few short days away, folks are starting to think about winterizing their pools, getting their boats in storage, closing up their cottages and the like. There are a number of things that we gardeners can do now to ease winter's blow and set the stage for a successful garden next year!

Here is a replay of a timely column that lays it all out there.

Order spring flowering bulbs now. I ordered mine just last week!

For the widest array of tulips, daffodils, crocus and the like, consider making your selection from a mail order company. Most have great web sites, offering photos of pretty much everything they sell. Our bulbs will arrive in early October—the perfect time for planting!

We get them into the soil prior to the ground freezing so that they will have a chance to send out roots, perfect little anchors for winter heave/thaw cycles. Once spring comes it is all about flowering. Yippee—a welcome sign that brighter days lie ahead!

Cure squash and pumpkins well prior to storage. Give your cucurbits a couple of weeks in the sun up off of the ground before you bring them indoors. This will harden the vegetable's skin and improve its longevity.

If temperatures dip below 50 degrees at night consistently, find a dry, sunny spot inside to complete their

der plants up, some folks prefer to take tip cuttings. During the rooting process, mist a few times a day to prevent wilting. You will have especially good luck rooting scented geraniums—it should take just about a month.

Take cuttings now, before the plant starts prepping for winter (yes, plants do, too!), and you'll have better luck.

Plant some autumnal color. Mums and kale are at their peak at local garden centers now. Choose a plant that is healthy, free of brown leaves and with a root ball that fills the pot and isn't sunken away.

Use these plants to fill in places in the border where annuals have gone by, or, fill a container or two for a quick burst of fall at your front door. Die-hard gardeners have no problem staving off the onset of winter with a last minute plant installation.

Be sure to cover with a sheet if frost threatens, to prevent the flowers from being nipped. With careful watering and some good luck, the mums may even return to the garden next season—just as we intend to!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Don't be surprised if the lemon verbena loses its leaves soon after you pot it up or that the French lavender doesn't look all that zippy during the winter—both are normal responses. New leaves will sprout and luster will return come March. Instead of digging ten-



by Roberta McQuaid

The Journal Register

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,

or by e-mail to:

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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.

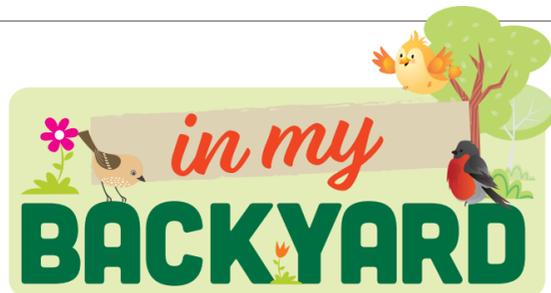


Great egret

A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belcher-town with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebe's and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the



By Ellenor Downer

classic heron way standing immobile or wading through water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their feathers for hat decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the larger chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for la-

dies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great Egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.

Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in

the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juvenile eagles, all dark brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the peninsula. Eventually the two adult eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their babies. So neat to be able to see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.

Male cardinal

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog

after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night!"

Loon census

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H. participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

BIRDS | page 5

In the classroom



Liam Lemon and Amanda Roy, of The Better Bean, present Quarry Hill School Principal Jordan Wissinger and Vice Principal Myriah Hudak with school supplies collected at TJ's Tavern, Monson Savings Bank and The Better Bean.



Dustin Pennington and Micah Hinkley of Pennington Painting, present school supplies collected to SMK Principal Pam Iwasinski and Vice Principal Paige Clark. Staff photo

University of Rhode Island celebrates more than 3,500 new graduates

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University's 2025 Commencement. Nearly 3,600 undergraduate degrees and 600 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 16-18, 2025.

Among the graduates were:

- **Leanna Craven** of Monson graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- **Mary Godek** of Wales graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Communicative Disorders
- **Morgan Kowal** of Monson graduated with a

Bachelor of Arts in Biology. Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

Western New England University proudly announces spring 2025 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 790 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Mason Ahlman of Palmer, Aleisha Beeman of Three Rivers, Hannah Bissonnette of Palmer, Haley Bronson of Monson, Natalie Bruneau of

Monson, Braylon Casinghino of Brimfield, Tess Chevalier of Brimfield, Cole Crosby of Palmer, Lauren Harris of Monson, Kevin Hess of Palmer, Claire Hill of Brimfield, Austin Leclerc of Palmer, Jack Leland of Brimfield, Jack Letendre of Palmer, Makenna Matczak of Wales, Noah Melnick of Thorndike, Emily Moran of Holland,

William Partelo of Palmer, Melissa Pereira of Palmer, Alexandra Riley of Palmer, Domenick Romeo of Monson, Colton Santarelli of Palmer, Aidan Smith of Palmer, Matthew Sweet of Monson, Evan Thomas of Wales, Priscilla Thornhill of Palmer, Kaylin Tietz of Brimfield, Kaitlyn Vedovelli of Monson, Stephen Ventura of Bondsville, and Zackery Wysk of Monson

BIRDS | from page 4

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

Sandhill cranes

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre on Aug. 14 in a field across from the Listening Center. Sandhill cranes also visit his field in Oakham as well.

Warren birds

The Brimfield resident said, "In Warren this week there are still adult ospreys about, on two visits I saw and adult on or near the nest. I have not seen a juvenile out of the nest so am not sure if any young fledged this year. I saw one chick in the nest earlier this summer and there is an

eBird report from July with a picture of a fully grown chick in the nest with an adult. It's unknown if the chick fledged successfully?" In Warren at the pond on New Reed Street the past several years I had seen Great Egrets there in August but none have been seen there this year.



Cedar waxwings

The Brimfield resident in referring to recent mention in this column about cedar waxwings, said a large part of their diet is fruit based. He read an article that stated that because their diet is mostly fruit based that if a waxwing nest is parasitized by a brown-headed cowbird the cowbird chick is not likely to survive because it can't survive on the fruit based diet.

I visited the section of Ware River recently where

my daughter has seen cedar waxwings and I was not disappointed. I stood and watched them fly over the water and into nearby trees. They moved so quickly I was unsuccessful in watching them through binoculars.

Bird bath

The Brimfield resident reports the bird bath in his yard is getting lots of use, especially by catbirds and blue jays. Goldfinch show up and drink from the drip as well as black-capped chickadees, chipping sparrows and house finches.

Four juvenile raccoons are regular visitors to the bird bath. He has a trail camera near the bird bath and it captures lots of pictures of the raccoons in the bird bath. Not sure what they are doing, it doesn't look like they are drinking and sometime the stones in the bath are moved around. A couple of times he's seen a pickerel frog in the bird bath.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

SECURITY | from page 4

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.

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Sheriff Nick Cocchi holds Annual Cookout

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – On Aug. 20, more than 1,500 people gathered under the Elks lodge pavilion as Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his 8th Annual Cookout, which consisted of elected officials, friends and a plethora of community members.

Some notable names that were in attendance were Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, along with State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, and even the previous Hampden County Sheriff, Michael Ashe, who served 42 years in the role, who was known for his clam bakes back in the day stopped by to greet Sheriff Cocchi, along with Springfield PD Commissioner Albert Tranghese.

Offering insight despite the rainy and inclement weather was Cocchi, who reflected on the chance to continue the legacy left behind by Ashe in the pursuit of bringing the community together.

“We do it in August, just before Election time, so a lot of people running for office come, which allows the public to express their concerns or interests to get to know who they will be potentially voting for, and it allows me to offer an ode of gratitude and just a thank you to the people who have been the Sheriff’s office,” Cocchi said. “I just feel this love and support from the community, but make no mistake about it, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office is the people’s, and I’m very grateful to have the awesome responsibility to run day-to-day operations.”

Cocchi noted that the key to keeping the event fresh and unique as the years continue to pass, by summing it up to the fact of building relationships and staying true to what you mean.

“It’s about providing services to the people in the community who need help



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi doing a photo with supporters.

and support, to allow offenders who are incarcerated that opportunity for redemption, and give them a piece of hope,” Cocchi said.

Cocchi also discussed the overall elation of seeing familiar faces and the foundational pillars of colleagues who helped pave the way for him, such as a former Correctional Officer SGT. James Rooney, who was a mentor to Cocchi when he first started, back during the days of the old York Street Prison being in use.

“It was so great to see Jimmy (Rooney),” Cocchi said. “I have had so much respect for him, since the days of when I was a young CO, and he (Jim) was one of my mentors in one of the toughest areas in the facility.”

Cocchi was grateful to the community for their support.

“I’m just so grateful to see this level of support in 2025; it’s extremely humbling,” Cocchi said.

Providing similar comments to Cocchi’s gratitude was Springfield Police Commissioner Tranghese, who kept his thoughts simple, highlighting the support and unity from the community.

“This is a great function for all of Western Mass, and it brings us all together, and it’s always a big occasion,” Tranghese said.

Touching upon the resilience of the community,

showing up strong, despite the rainy and wet conditions, was Mayor Garcia.

“You would think with rain, you would expect low turnout, but that’s not the case,” Garcia said. “But this turnout is a testament to Sheriff Cocchi, and again, that has to do with good leadership, good direction, and I’m here to contribute and offer support, and everyone here in some way, shape, or capacity are doing important work in the community, and we show up to show support for each other, for the Sheriff to continue the good work of improving quality life of people.”

Offering similar sentiments to Garcia’s comments was State Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

“Even when it rains, people are going to come out and support Sheriff Cocchi,” Gomez said. “From the work he and his team have been doing, it shows that the public is still with him, and they enjoy this annual event.”

Gomez also noted the diversity and overall enjoyment of everyone in attendance.

“We have children here, grandparents, we have everybody, and everyone is enjoying good food and conversation, and just remember to stand tall and keep pushing our region forward,” Gomez said.

Following suit in the ode of gratitude centered around



Volunteers running the raffle table.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi and Former Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe

Cocchi, while branding a new name for supporters of the Sheriff was Mayor Vieau, who attributed the ‘Cocchi army’.

“I’ll tell you that Sheriff Cocchi is just beloved by this community, and it’s not just Western Mass; it’s beyond,” Vieau said. “And Nick (Cocchi) is a great guy, and I’m grateful and thankful to call him a great friend.”

Gulluni also offered his initial thoughts about the event, sharing that the support from everyone was “phenomenal.”

“It’s a testament to Cocchi’s community outreach and engagement due to the credibility he’s achieved as Sheriff over these years, to bring out this number of people in a washout, and I’m happy to be here to support Nick (Cocchi) and his team,” Gulluni said.

He also talked about the passion for being in the position he is in.

“I feel privileged to have had this job for almost 11 years, and I worked in the office as an assistant DA, so I have a great appreciation for the impact that we can have,” Gulluni said.

Gulluni cited the success due to his staff.

“I’ve been really fortunate to have great people around me through all the projects and the initiatives that we have, but particularly on unresolved cases, we’ve had a lot of success, and that is meaningful to the community, and it’s obviously tremendously meaningful to the families and loved ones involved who lost someone and never got answers and that is a trauma I can’t even envision, so if we can give back in

that capacity, I’m really honored to do so,” Gulluni said.

The all-day event kicked off with a golf tournament in the morning, and for those in attendance, they were treated to grilled foods like Italian sausage, burgers, corn, grilled chicken and BBQ ribs, along with plenty of drinks, were provided to bring a classic cookout feel. The event also featured live music, cornhole and tons of raffle prizes.

All funds from the event went towards the Sheriff’s election committee.



Former CO Jerry Crews, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail.



Volunteers who cooked all the food.



Former Springfield PD Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO.



Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail, Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO, and Springfield Police Commissioner Al Tranghese.

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PUB Club is looking for volunteers to help drive athletes around town. Please let us know if you able to help.

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IG Shapiro met with Hampden County leaders

Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro recently met with municipal leaders in Hampden, Holland, Monson, and Wales, as part of an ongoing listening tour around the Commonwealth.

“As the only statewide inspector general with municipal oversight, I have made it a priority to meet with leaders in their communities to encourage a candid dialogue,” IG Shapiro said. “I want to make government work better tomorrow than it did today. To best do that, I need to hear from the people who are doing the day-to-day business of governing to understand what works and what doesn’t work.”

On August 12, 2025, IG Shapiro met with Holland Town Administrator Stacy Stout; Hampden Select Board Chair John Flynn, Select Board Member Donald Davenport, and Town Administrator Brian Domina; Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz; and Wales Town

Clerk Sarah Ryan and Town Accountant Pamela Leduc.

“I am appreciative of the Inspector General’s time and interest in our community,” Holland Town Administrator Stacy Stout said. “We had a good conversation about the unique challenges that small towns confront when procuring goods and services as well as appreciative Holland is for the One Free Designee program, which made it possible for me to participate in the OIG Academy’s procurement training.”

Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz expressed her appreciation for the Inspector General’s invitation to meet. “Reaching out directly to the local municipalities is a proactive approach and assists in building relationships. Over the 15 plus years that I have been a certified public purchasing official, the experienced staff at the OIG have always been a phone call away to assist me as I navigate public purchas-

ing requirements,” she said.

“All too often the challenges voiced by smaller communities throughout the Commonwealth are overlooked so we appreciate the Inspector General visiting Hampden to hear our concerns and ideas on how to make the procurement system work for all communities,” Hampden Town Administrator Brian Domina said.

Since becoming the Inspector General in October, 2023, IG Shapiro has proac-

tively engaged with municipal leaders from communities all over the Commonwealth. Several policy initiatives have resulted from these meetings, including the One Free Designee program that offers tuition-free public procurement training to every city and town, passage of a law that streamlines the procurement process for electric buses and the Inspector General’s advocacy for common sense changes to the state’s procurement laws.



Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz with Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro. Submitted photos



Wales Town Clerk Sarah Ryan, Shapiro and Town Accountant Pamela Leduc met during his tour around Commonwealth.



Shapiro with Holland Town Administrator Stacy Stout.

Have you experienced a housing need?

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We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling! If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.

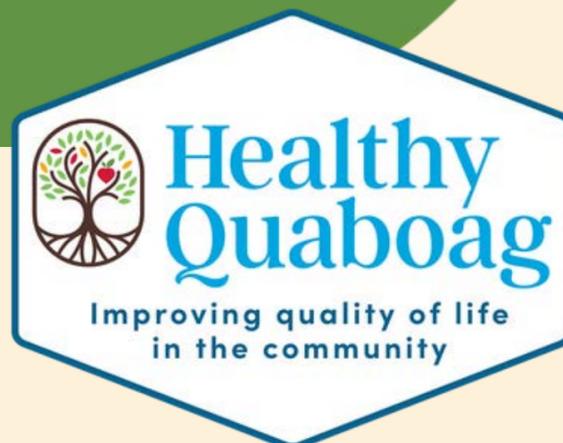


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For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com or (413) 207-7698



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.

UPCOMING

Wales Public Library Events
77 Main Street, Wales, MA 01081
For more information call 413-245-9072
Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. Adult Book Club
Sept. 9 at 10:30 a.m. Mom's Morning
Wales Tales Story Time Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Beginning Sept. 10
Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. introduction to American Sign Language (ASL)
Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. Meet Bunnies from Lily Meadow Farm and enjoy a story
Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. Tea Party
Sept. 30 & Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m. (2 part program) Clay Ghost Tea Lights

Sept. 13

On Saturday, Sept. 13, First Church of Monson, 5 High Street, will hold a dinner and organ recital celebrating the restoration of the Swell Division of the Johnson Organ. Guest organist will be Robert Greene, nationally known composer and organist. The concert will feature works by Bach, Boellmann, and Mendelssohn as well as Greene's original compositions. The baked ham dinner will be

served at 5 P.M. followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$20.00 available by calling Gail at 413 267 4818. Concert donations of \$5.00 are available at the door. The concert is supported in part by the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

ONGOING

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more information and to register.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT CAR CRUISES with Bruce Marshall 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., come check out the amazing car collection. Brimfield Winery 35 Main St. in Brimfield

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 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.

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. Vendors 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.

Monson announces flushing fire hydrants notice Sept. 2

MONSON – The Monson Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2 and

continuing throughout the month during the day and evening hours.

Visit the Water Department's web site at www.monson-ma.gov for daily updates as to the location and time we will be flushing.

and time we will be flushing.

Monson Cultural Picnic to be held at Veterans Field on Aug. 30

MONSON – The Monson Cultural Picnic will take place on Saturday, Aug. 30 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The picnic will take place at Veterans Field in Monson, right next to the town offices and Police Station.

There will be a free cook-out, activities for all ages, musical performances and unique vendors.



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St. Paul's Church presents "The Saxy Guys"

PALMER – St. Paul's Church of Palmer is delighted to host a joyful fall concert featuring The Saxy Guys, a dynamic saxophone ensemble from Berkshire Hills Music Academy (BHMA). The performance will take place on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 3 to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Church located at 1060 Central Street, Palmer, MA.

About the Concert
Audiences can look forward to an uplifting afternoon of lively, feel-

good music performed by BHMA students and alumni. The program will include spirited selections from the saxophone ensemble, as well as special features by Wes Hunter.

Wes Hunter is a vocal teacher at Berkshire Hills Music Academy and also serves as the Minister of Music at St. Paul's Church of Palmer. He holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and is a much-in-demand performer throughout Massachusetts and the Bos-

ton area. His artistry and leadership enrich both the Academy and the St. Paul's music program, making his participation in this concert a true highlight.

A Celebration of Talent & Community
Berkshire Hills Music Academy, located in South Hadley, is a unique post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through music-infused learning, students develop vocational, social, and life skills while

sharing their love of music with the community.

For more information, please contact St. Paul's Church at (413) 283-8185 or StPaulsUUChurch@gmail.com.

About St. Paul's Church
Since 1876, St. Paul's has been a beacon of grace, acceptance, and love in the Palmer community. The church offers Sunday worship at 10:00 AM and is committed to providing spiritual enrichment, outreach programs, and welcoming events for all.

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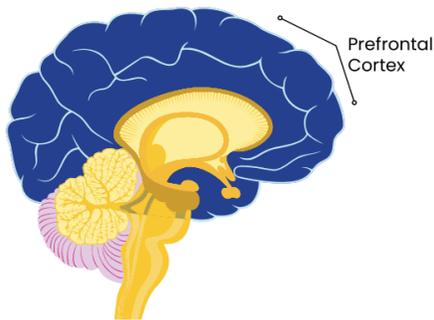


Teens are especially vulnerable to alcohol-related harms due to the developing brain.¹

Brain maturation occurs from the back of the brain to the front.²

Alcohol impacts the fine-tuning of the prefrontal cortex that happens in adolescence through our mid-20s, including the development of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), one of the primary inhibitory neurotransmitters in the central nervous system.

One of GABA's roles in the brain is to counterbalance the action of excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate. Interrupted GABA development leads to an imbalance between the excitatory and inhibitory systems, which contribute to mental health issues like anxiety.³ Thus, reduced GABA development is associated with anxiety disorders, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and alcohol dependence.⁴



So why are teens more at risk from drinking alcohol than adults?

Teen brains have an overactive impulse to seek pleasure, and less ability to override those impulses and consider their consequences.

Because the internal rewards systems are still being developed, a teenage brain is more compromised by how substances affect the brain. So teen drinking predisposes youth to alcohol addiction.

Children who begin drinking around age 13 are 4-5 times more likely to become alcohol dependent than people who begin drinking at age 19 or older.⁵

Find more resources at talklistenrepeat.org a SPIFFY Coalition public service campaign.

The SPIFFY Coalition works to collaboratively engage in data-driven prevention efforts to reduce youth substance use and build healthy communities in Hampshire County.



Monson Fire Logs

For the week of Monday, August 18 through Sunday, August 24, 2025, the Monson Fire Department responded to 3 fire calls and 19 medical calls.

On Monday, August 18
5:23 p.m. the Department responded to Green Street for a propane torch malfunction. The Department returned back in service at 5:33 p.m.

On Tuesday, August 19
3:33 p.m. the Department responded to Upper Hampden Road for public assistance. The Department returned back in service at 4:02 p.m.

On Saturday, August 23
0:44 a.m. the Department responded to Main Street for alarms sounding. The Department returned back in service at 10:52 a.m.

Monson Police Logs

The Monson Police Department reported 113 incidents and arrests on its logs from Sunday, Aug. 3 through Saturday, Aug. 9.

Sunday, Aug. 3
8:30 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

11:50 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a safety hazard.

12:45 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of harassment/stalking/threat in progress.

1:29 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a mental health incident.

2:24 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a structure fire.

2:48 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a traffic violation/hazard in progress.

2:53 p.m. – An officer responded to a motor vehicle stop. As a result, Emerson Amado Sosa Brea, 33, of 416 Orange Street, Springfield was arrested on charges of receiving a stolen vehicle.

11:32 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suspicious/wanted person.

Monday, Aug. 4
4:09 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

5:58 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

11:48 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance/nuisance in progress.

1:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

3:15 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a weapons/firearms incident in progress.

4:22 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of an in-progress suicide attempt.

4:40 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a past assault.

4:47 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance/nuisance in progress.

7:56 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

Tuesday, Aug. 5
6:59 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suspicious/wanted person.

9:36 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

10:58 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

12:37 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a medical emergency.

1:02 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a medical emergency.

2:10 p.m. – An officer responded to a delivery of a harassment order.

6:13 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

7:46 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance/nuisance in progress.

10:52 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance/nuisance in progress.

Wednesday, Aug. 6
8:22 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a safety hazard.

8:50 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a past assault. As a result, James Cote, 61 of 31 State Street, Apt. 302C, Monson, was arrested on charges of assault and battery on a person 60 years or older/disabled, assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct.

1:38 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suicide attempt in progress.

2:17 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a past domestic disturbance.

5:18 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

7:54 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a mental health incident.

9:07 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud/deception.

Thursday, Aug. 7
6:18 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

11:03 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

12:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a past traffic violation/hazard.

1:35 p.m. – An officer conducted a DART team follow up.

4:58 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suspicious/wanted person.

6:35 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of trespassing/unwanted person in progress.

9:07 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a traffic violation/hazard in progress.

11:25 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suspicious/wanted person.

Friday, Aug. 8
6:14 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

8:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

5:51 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

7 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a traffic incident/crash.

8:19 p.m. – An officer responded to an EMS mutual aid request.

10:40 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud/deception.

Saturday, Aug. 9
12:12 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

12:23 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a suspicious/wanted person.

9:49 a.m. – An officer responded to an animal complaint.

10:12 a.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

5:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

8 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

11:01 p.m. – An officer responded to an EMS mutual aid request.

11:11 p.m. – An officer responded to a medical emergency.

11:20 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a past disturbance/nuisance.

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Palmer Police Logs

The Palmer Police Department reported 157 incidents on its logs from Sunday, Aug. 10 through Saturday, Aug. 16.

Sunday, Aug. 10

2:12 a.m. – An officer responded to Squier Street for a report of something suspicious.
 2:41 a.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a well-being check.
 8:39 a.m. – An officer responded to Country Lane for a report of a medical alarm.
 11:19 a.m. – An officer responded to Burlingame Street for a report of trespassing.
 3:04 p.m. – An officer responded to Lathrop Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 3:42 p.m. – An officer responded to a Depot Street business for a report of a larceny.
 5:01 p.m. – An officer responded to Central Street for a well-being check.
 7:17 p.m. – An officer responded to a Church Street business for a report of smoke.
 8:34 p.m. – An officer responded to Longview Street for a report of a forest/brush fire.
 11:14 p.m. – An officer responded to School Street for a report of a suspicious person.

Monday, Aug. 11

11:06 a.m. – An officer responded to Ware Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
 12:06 p.m. – An officer responded to Pleasant Street for a report of trespassing.
 1:30 p.m. – An officer responded to Chestnut Street for a report of a forest/brush fire.
 2:30 p.m. – An officer responded to Lawrence Street

for a report of harassment.
 4:08 p.m. – An officer responded to Baptist Hill Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 4:51 p.m. – An officer responded to Maple Terrace for a report of neighbor disturbance.
 5:58 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of breaking and entering. As a result, Frank Carey, 36, homeless, was arrested on charged of breaking and entering for a misdemeanor and trespassing.
 6:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street for a report of larceny.

Tuesday, Aug. 12

7:48 a.m. – An officer responded to Central Street for a report of a suspicious person.
 9:30 a.m. – An officer responded to Lawrence Street for a report of a threat.
 10:09 a.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 10:43 a.m. – An officer responded to Breckenridge Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 11:42 a.m. – An officer responded to Connor Ave for report of medical assistance.
 1:15 p.m. – An officer responded to Pleasant Street for a report of suspicious person.
 1:29 p.m. – An officer responded to Emery Street for a report of vandalism.
 3 p.m. – An officer responded to South Main Street for a well-being check.
 4:24 p.m. – An officer responded to Stimson Street for a report of an accident with property damage. As a result, Julie Ann Gromosky, 63, of 2268 Palmer Road, Three Rivers, was arrested on charges of trafficking in 18 grams or more, less than 36 grams of cocaine, possession

with intent to distribute class A drugs, a marked lanes violation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and possession of class B drugs.
 4:49 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of fraud.
 4:56 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of fraud.
 5:35 p.m. – An officer responded to High Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
 9:49 p.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of a weapons violation.
 10:02 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a well-being check.
 11:23 p.m. – An officer responded to Beacon Drive for a well-being check.

Wednesday, Aug. 13

12:59 a.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 1:05 a.m. – An officer responded to Converse Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 1:28 a.m. – An officer responded to Emery Street for a report of breaking and entering/burglary.
 2:27 a.m. – An officer responded to River Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 7:52 a.m. – An officer responded to Pleasant Street and Crawford Street for a report of a fire.
 8:23 a.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of a well-being check.
 9:20 a.m. – An officer responded to Chestnut Street for a report of vandalism.
 12:27 p.m. – An officer responded to Laurel Road for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 2:34 p.m. – An officer responded to Wright Street for a report of a disturbance.

2:42 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of fraud.
 3:50 p.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of hazardous conditions.
 3:55 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of fraud.
 6:17 p.m. – An officer responded to Old Warren Road for a report of an animal complaint.
 6:56 p.m. – An officer responded to Park Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 9:30 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

Thursday, Aug. 14

6:36 a.m. – An officer responded to River Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 4:16 p.m. – An officer responded to Emery Street for a report of an unwanted person.
 4:39 p.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of an unwanted person.
 6:53 p.m. – An officer responded to First Street for a report of hazardous conditions.
 7:07 p.m. – An officer responded to Beverly Street, for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

Friday, Aug. 15

10 a.m. – An officer responded to Park Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
 11:05 a.m. – An officer responded to Gates Street for a report of a forest/brush fire.
 11:58 a.m. – An officer responded to Foster Street for a report of trespassing.
 12:41 p.m. – An officer responded to Thorndike Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
 1:04 p.m. – An officer

responded to Old Farm Road for a report of an animal complaint.
 2:17 p.m. – An officer responded to assist another police department.
 2:27 p.m. – An officer responded to Bennett Street for a report of an animal complaint.
 2:41 p.m. – An officer responded to Main Street for a report of fraud.
 3:26 p.m. – An officer responded to a mutual aid request in Wilbraham.
 3:46 p.m. – An officer responded to Carpenter Road, for a report of an animal complaint.
 8:40 p.m. – An officer responded to Waverly Street and Old Warren Road for a report of suspicious activity.
 11:21 p.m. – An officer responded to Springfield Street for a report of a suspicious person.

Saturday, Aug. 16

6:40 a.m. – An officer responded to Gates Street and River Street for a report of hazardous conditions.
 9:05 a.m. – An officer responded to Ware Street and Breckenridge Street for a report of an accident with property damage.
 11:06 a.m. – An officer responded to Anderson Street for a report of a fire.
 11:29 a.m. – An officer responded to Boston Road for a report of a suspicious vehicle.
 12:01 p.m. – An officer responded to Park Street for a report of a hit and run accident.
 3:19 p.m. – An officer responded to arrest a person on a warrant. Michael J. Hogan JR, 32, homeless, was arrested on a warrant.
 4:01 p.m. – An officer responded to Walnut Street for a report of an assault/assault and battery.

5:19 p.m. – An officer responded to Maple Street for an animal complaint.
 9:37 p.m. – An officer responded to Wilbraham for a mutual aid request.
 10:57 p.m. – An officer responded to Springfield Street for a report of a motor vehicle violation. As a result, Jose Ramon Cabezudo Gomez, 55, of 4188 Street, Thorndike, was arrested on charges of uninsured motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle.
 11:54 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street with property damage.



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Community gathers for Patio Party at Monson Free Library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Laughter, music and the clinking of cans filled the air Friday evening, Aug. 21, as the Monson Free Library hosted its annual Patio Party, a community tradition that has become a late-summer highlight for the town.

Now in its seventh year, the event drew a large crowd to the library's patio at 2 High Street for an evening of live music, food, raffles, and camaraderie. While the library called this its "fifth annual" celebration on their Facebook, Library Director Hope Bodwell confirmed with a laugh that the party has actually been running for closer to seven or eight years and they just used an old announcement banner.

"It started when we put in the patio and expanded the parking lot," Bodwell explained. "We wanted to do something to give back to the community, bring people together, and end the summer with music and fun. The raffles support the library, and the whole event is really about celebrating Monson."

This year's Patio Party featured a few last-minute surprises. North Elm Butcher Block, originally scheduled to provide food, was unable to attend after being delayed at another event in Deerfield. Stepping in to save the evening were Maddie's Dogs, serving up classic hot dogs and snacks, and longtime supporter Dave "The Beer Guy"

Capriati, who kept the taps flowing with 14 varieties of craft beer.

Bodwell credited Capriati for rallying the food replacement quickly. "Thanks to Dave, we're still able to enjoy the night. He saved the day," Bodwell told the crowd as guests cheered and raised their cups.

Music was provided by The Willies, a popular local band that has played at the Patio Party several times be-



Dave Capriati "The Beer Guy" poured local beer for guests.



Local band The Willies performed live.

fore. Their setlist of rock and pop classics from the 1950s through the 1970s had attendees dancing and singing along.

"They're a crowd favorite," Bodwell noted. "They play something for everyone."

Raffles were another centerpiece of the event, with more than 40 prizes donated by businesses from Monson, Wilbraham, Sturbridge, Brimfield and even Worcester. Proceeds from the raffles, as well as from ticket sales to

a highly anticipated Red Sox vs. Yankees game in September, will benefit the library's Window Replacement Project.

Families, friends, and library supporters packed the patio from 4:30 to 8 p.m., enjoying the festive atmosphere. Despite the food vendor hiccup, spirits remained high, underscoring the resilience and community spirit that have made the Patio Party a beloved Monson tradition.

"It's really just about bringing people together," Bodwell said. "Every year, it feels like the best way to close out summer."



Benjamin White, 2½, showed off his dinosaur while riding on his dad Kyle White's shoulders.



A wide view of residents enjoying the annual event.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

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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.

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Zurawka becomes new Monson High athletic director

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – After becoming the new Assistant Principle/Athletic Director at Monson High School on July 1, Mary Zurawka was given a tour of the school building by Principal Chris Fontaine. Zurawka, who graduated from

Monson High School twenty years ago, could've given the tour herself.

"I'm really excited and honored to be working here at Monson High School," said Zurawka during a recent interview. "When I walked into the school for the first time back in July, I knew exactly where everything was located."

One of the Monson teachers who Zurawka won't have to introduce herself to on the first day of school is Eric Degnan, who's a physical education teacher. Degnan retired as the Lady Mustangs varsity soccer coach following the 2023 season, which ended with a 4-0 victory against Whitinsville Christian

in the Division 5 state finals at Doyle Field in Leominster.

"Coach Degnan started coaching the girl's junior varsity soccer team when I was in the seventh grade," Zurawka said. "I also played for him at the varsity level for a couple of years. He put a lot of time and effort into coaching the soccer team for

so many years."

When Zurawka was a senior, the Lady Mustangs advanced to the Western Mass finals as the seventh seed. They lost to the Lenox Millionaires.

"We had to beat the third seed and the second seed just to make it to the finals that year," said Zurawka, who

was also a member of the track & field team in high school. "I still remember a lot of those soccer games. Being a member of the Monson girls' soccer team was very special to me."

Three years later, the Lady Mustangs captured the

DIRECTOR | page 15

Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very

well in our first game this morning," said West head coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah



Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.

Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis (Monson), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oylar (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

GIRLS | page 15

West dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very good start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're

WEST | page 14



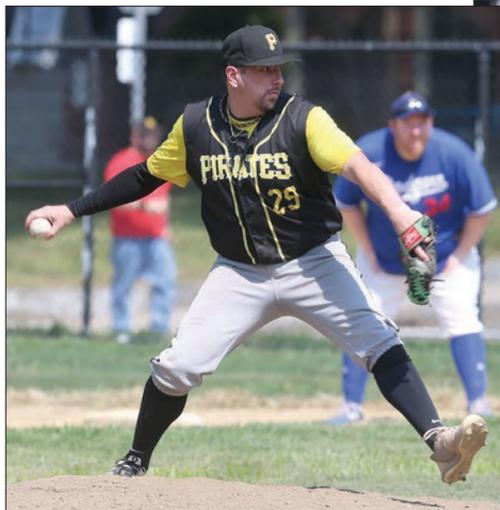
Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.

Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarterfinal games. In one matchup, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semifinals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Steven Bilodeau slings a throw to first.



Pitcher Mike Afflitto sends a pitch home.



The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.



The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



The Twins Jordan McCarthy fires away.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch home for the Orioles.

Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel title

WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staved off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a 4-2 lead until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.

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Athlete of the Week

Seth Peets
Palmer High School

Peets was a part of the Palmer Blue Devils 7-8 Boys Basketball team that reached the semifinals in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League.

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



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Meservey, Riendeau, Farnum win

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Third-generation open-wheel ace Brett Meservey dominated Saturday night's 75-lap MRS Modified main event at Monadnock Speedway, as the Bay State blaster - last summer's series' Rookie of The Year - led 63 of the last 64 laps en route to his first career MRS win.

With Saturday's breakthrough victory, Meservey stayed atop the series' air-tight 2025 championship points race - he came into the night's event only four markers ahead of Brian Robie, third in Saturday's 75-lapper - and, with the win, secured a guaranteed starting berth in Thompson Speedway's Race Of Champions biggie set for later this season at the Nutmeg State oval.

Other winners at the Aug. 16 event on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway included Chris Riendeau, the quarter-mile speedplant's reigning Super Street champion, who put his sluggish 2025 campaign back in high gear by soaring to his first win of the summer, and four-holer star Gordon Farnum, victorious for the second time this month.

Aaron Thompson rebounded from a mid-race drubbing to top the Pro V8 Sportsmen.

Young Gun dominator Hunter Duquette earned his sixth victory lap of the summer, and Hayden Kingsley won the visiting 603 Mini Cup series Saturday night feature.

Ryan Doucette and Joey Jarvis led the thundering Modified Racing Series field to the green Saturday, with Doucette immediately taking charge, Previous series winner Matt Kimball, from row two, was close behind and rocketed up to second on lap five.

Meservey, who'd started alongside Kimball, blasted to the duce spot four laps later, but Kimball wasn't done. Meservey took command on lap 11, with Kimball blasting back to second six circuits later. And the chase was on.

While the 24-year-old Meservey would be strongly tested most of the way, he never wavered en route to his first MRS feature win. Kimball inched ahead on a lap-18 restart but Meservey was soon back at the point and, once in clean air, was unbeatable on this Saturday night.

Brian Robie, the points leader in Monadnock's weekly 604 Modified division, was up to third on lap 28 aboard a new tour car completed only earlier in the day but could advance no further as he settled for Saturday's bronze medal finish behind Meservey and Kimball. Joey Jarvis, strong all night, finished fourth at his 2025 home track, and Brad Zahensky was fifth.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first five go-rounds of Saturday's 30-lap Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event. Chris Riendeau, though, firing from row three, took charge on lap six and quickly opened a huge lead.

While Riendeau, fully shaking off his summer-long slumber, raced all alone, points leader Dylan Zullo, from way back in row five, passed Zach Zilinski for second but ran out of laps pursuing the blazing Riendeau.

With Zullo padding his 2025 championship points lead in second, Zilinski impressed in third, just ahead of Hillary Renaud. JD Stockwell, second in points entering Saturday's event, finished the night as an infield spectator, credited with a disappointing 11th.

There were two levels of competition in Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. There was Gordon Farnum, and then far behind him, everyone else, with some terrific battles for position waged from green to checkers in the one-caution 25-lapper.

Farnum, from row two, took charge on lap three and rocketed off into another time zone to win for the second time this season. Behind him, early leader Addison Brooks, bidding for her first win, held a perfect line until being bumpered aside on the final lap.

Andrea St. Amour finished second, with Brooks inches behind in third. Jimmy Zellman, the winner a week earlier, was fourth, and points leader Kyle Kenny completed the top five.

Mikey Bollinger took the lead on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature, with Aaron Thompson soon glued to his bumper. Thompson, though, was ushered to the outside lane on lap 14, his hope for victory then suddenly in doubt.

Thompson low-lined back to the front on lap 17, taking the lead from Seth Lamotte and sailing off into the sunset to score a popular victory at his former weekly track. Lamotte held strong for second, and Wollinger finished third.

Racers in the speedway's youth division Young Guns don't compete for points but if they did, Hunter Duquette would be well on his way to the 2025 title town, The Thorndike, Mass. teen led all the way Saturday to score his track-high sixth win of the summer. Maya Bell, victorious a week earlier, was second, and Sofia Rego, shaking down a new ride, came home third.

In the visiting 603 Mini Cups, a division equally powered by motors from Harbor Freight, Hayden Kingsley won by six lengths over Jacob Raby, who rebounded from a mid-race thumping to come home second. Kendall Whitehill was third on the night.



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.



Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.

WEST | from page 13

going to be facing some very good competition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wrisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tiago Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

"Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good showcase for the players," Destapdo said. "There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass."

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at try-outs.

"We had 35 players try-out, and we have 20 players on our team," Destapdo said. "Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could've taken all 35 players."

The duo Henderson and Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Cen-

tral.

"They're different types of goalies," Destapdo said. "Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn't a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie."

Henderson, who's a raising senior, played the first half against the Central team.

Graham, who's a raising sophomore, played the second half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi (Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Senn-McNally (Northampton).

The two second half goals were scored by Cajun Benson (Smith Academy). Sean-McNally was credited with both assists.

The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and Southeast, 5-0.

The West team then captured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning.

In their five Bay State matches, the West team outscored their opponents, 20-2.



Will Senn-McNally takes the shot.



Griffen Wrisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.



Fikayomi Ankitan starts up the field after making a play on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

GIRLS | from page 13

Mosher has been coaching at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

"It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions," Mosh-

er said. "A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It's been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games."

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon's match attend Agawam High School.

Sullivan was the starting goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren't enough girls' soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more

than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

"About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn't have enough players," said Central head coach Eric Wood, who also coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. "We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don't make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year's team. It's been a great situation."

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications cover-

age area, were Rylee Joeph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman (Holyoke, South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

"I just want my players to have a lot of fun here," Wood said. "I also keep in touch with the players throughout

the year.

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clanged off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps (Northampton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie's hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second

half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West team during the second half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls soccer.



Kylie Warner, of Feeding Hills, sends a shot into the net for the West team.



Laura Parolo makes her way up the field.



Willow Claps is pressured for the West team.



Kallie Tevepaugh clears the ball away for Central.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

DIRECTOR | from page 13

Western Mass. Division 3 championship title for the first time with a 5-3 victory over Sabis at Szot Park in Chicopee.

Zurawka didn't play soccer at the collegiate level.

"I always say that if soccer was a spring sport, I would've absolutely played in college," Zurawka said. "Not knowing what to expect going into my first year of college, I decided not to play a fall sport. Academics was the most important thing to me."

Zurawka graduated from Framingham State University, which was the nation's first public college dedicated to the preparation of teachers.

Zurawka is the sixth women Athletic Director at Monson High School during the past twenty years. The

other five were Jessica Bethoney, Sarah Shaw, Kim Evans, Leah Zippin, and Jennifer Gouvin.

"I think it's very important to have women in leadership roles," Zurawka said. "I recently attended a conference at the MIAA office. There were just as many female AD's at the conference as there were men."

Zurawka, who replaced Zac Dreher as the Monson Athletic Director, had been an English teacher and coached the girls' junior varsity soccer team at Lee Middle & High School.

"I've been looking to get into administration for a few years now," she said. "I know that it's probably going to be a challenge balancing both roles. I do like how I get to work with both the academic side and with the athletes. I'm looking forward to fostering

those relationships on and off the field. Getting to know every student and staff member personally is a very important thing to me. That's the benefit of working at a small high school."

Zurawka has already built a very good working relationship with the Monson fall coaches.

"I'm looking forward to working with the coaches," Zurawka said. "I'll be looking for their input about scheduling new opponents. I also want the coaches to get in touch with me with anything that they might need. They've been very welcoming so far."

The first official practice of the fall high school sports season was held on August 18.

Larry Pagliaro returns as the Lady Mustangs varsity soccer coach.

Jared Pignone, who took over as the boys' varsity soc-

cer coach during the middle of last season, is also returning this fall.

William Lemon is the first year boys' junior varsity soccer coach.

Joe Willis will be coaching both the boys' and girls' cross country teams.

Zurawka recently hired Jason Roebuck as the golf coach.

Roebuck, who previously coached the girls' cross country team, was inducted into the Monson Athletic Hall of Fame as both an athlete and a coach in 2019.

The Monson golf team, which co-ops with Palmer High School, plays their home matches at the Quaboag Country Club. They're scheduled to kick off the fall season by hosting Pathfinder Tech on August 25.

Monson also co-ops with Palmer in football.

Palmer is the host school in football and Matt Marciniac is the Panthers head coach.

"I think co-ops are a great thing, especially at small schools that don't have enough players to sustain their own teams," Zurawka said. "At the moment, we don't have any of the Palmer students signed up for the golf team, but it's open for them. I'm also not sure how many of our students will be playing football for the Palmer team."

Marciniac, who's also the Palmer Athletic Director, has been mentoring Zurawka this summer.

"I've been texting with Matt a lot this summer," Zurawka said. "He has been amazing and so helpful. I'm very grateful for his support during my transition. I'm looking forward to meeting

the other Athletic Directors in the surrounding communities."

The Monson boys' and girls' soccer teams are scheduled to play their annual night home match on September 19. The boys' team will be playing Pathfinder Tech in the opening game. The girls' team will be facing Granby in the second game.

"When I was in high school, playing night games on the road was always very exciting," Zurawka said. "Installing permanent lights on one of our soccer fields is something that's on my wish list. It's also a very expensive wish list item, which isn't in the budget. I'm hoping to find a grant to help us out."

Zurawka is looking forward to watching all the student-athletes compete in their sports during the 2025-26 school year.

When investing, one of the best abilities is durability

You've probably heard about "genius" investors or those who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn't glamorous, and it isn't necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability. Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you're more likely to be successful making money over time. You'll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest "hot" investment tip, especially if it's already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don't reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn't mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it's important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don't all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diversification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn't about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It's about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

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Business

New Dental Practice brings comprehensive care to town

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – A new dental office has opened its doors in town, offering patients a full range of in-house services and specialized care.

The practice, led by Dr. Sunit Jain, officially began seeing patients on Aug. 5 and is already welcoming the community with a focus on accessibility, advanced treatment options and patient comfort.

Dr. Jain, who graduated from dental school in India in 2011, brings more than 14 years of experience to the new office. After completing his advanced dental training at the University of Michigan in 2018, he practiced in Connecticut and Massachusetts before establishing his latest office here.

“Massachusetts has been a great choice,” Dr. Jain said. “I’ve practiced in the Springfield area, and now this new location allows us to serve even more patients.”

The practice stands out for its ability to provide com-

plex procedures that are often outsourced to specialists. Root canal treatments, one of Dr. Jain’s areas of expertise, are handled on site, saving patients from having to travel elsewhere.

In addition, the office offers oral surgery services such as dental implants and wisdom tooth extractions, performed by a highly trained surgeon with both U.S. and international credentials.

Cosmetic dentistry is another focus, with treatments including veneers, crowns, and Invisalign. The office also emphasizes accessibility by accepting a wide range of insurance plans, including MassHealth, which many local practices do not accept.

“A lot of patients with MassHealth struggle to find offices that will see them,” Dr. Jain noted. “We want to make sure those patients are cared for here.”

Beyond its clinical offerings, the practice has been designed with patient comfort in mind. Treatment rooms are equipped with ceiling-mounted televisions to ease anxiety

during procedures, and the office offers flexible scheduling, including Saturday appointments by request. Emergency dental services are also available, ensuring that patients don’t have to endure an entire weekend in pain if they suffer a broken or chipped tooth.

Dr. Jain emphasized that the combination of advanced technology, skilled staff and a convenient location sets the office apart. Dr. Jain also praises his alma mater, University of Michigan School of Dentistry where he got his



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Above, Dr. Jain and his team at Jain Dental Care at 1411 N Main St, Palmer. Left, The sign on their front door.



Doctor of Dental Surgery, as the school is one of the premier dental schools in the world.

“It’s rare to find a Michigan-trained dentist nearby,” Jain said. “We’re bringing that expertise here, along with a full-service approach where most dental needs can be handled under one roof.”

Located in the center

of town with ample parking, the office operates Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Saturday hours available by appointment. With its commitment to high-quality care and community accessibility, the practice aims to become a trusted resource for families seeking both routine and advanced dental services.

MSB donates \$2,500 to the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank recently provided a \$2,500 donation to the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship as a part of their 2025 Community Giving Initiative. Dan Moriarty, President & CEO of Monson Savings Bank, and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO, met with Cori Medeiros, Vice President of the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship, at the Bank’s Loan and Operations Center in Wilbraham to present her the donation.

Monson Savings Bank President & CEO Dan Moriarty expressed the Bank’s excitement, “We are excited to present Cori with this donation knowing that it will be used to help support local women reach their education goals. Monson Savings is honored to support the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship year after year.”

As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, The Women’s Empowerment Scholarship works to invest in the future of females in the Greater



Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO (right), and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO (left), met with Cori Medeiros, Vice President of The Women’s Empowerment Scholarship, at the Bank’s Loan and Operations Center to present the donation.

Springfield communities by encouraging and empowering them to pursue higher education. The foundation pro-

vides educational grants to women while paying special attention to women entering one of many male-dominated

career paths, including, but not limited to, science, technology, engineering, finance, and law. In aiding women

financially, the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship team aims to propel their careers and allow them to shatter stereotypes. To learn more about The Women’s Empowerment Scholarship, please visit: <https://womens-empowermentscholarship.org/>

“The recurring support we have received from the Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative is always so meaningful,” said Cori Medeiros, Vice President of the Women’s Empowerment Scholarship. “We would not be able to fulfill our mission without our supporters.”

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank’s commitment to the local communities, please visit: <https://www.monsonsavingsbank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>

About Monson Savings Bank

Incorporated as a mutually chartered community

bank in 1872, Monson Savings Bank has one of the longest tenures of service and stability in its market. Civic leaders chartered the bank with the intent to give working men and women the opportunity to save, which – incredibly, they could not do prior to the bank’s inception. Today, Monson Savings Bank retains its legacy of empowerment through savings, but has expanded to serve its customers with a variety of innovative financial services, including digital banking, online mortgage applications and business banking, and commercial lending. The bank has expanded on its promise of “where people save, businesses prosper, and communities benefit” by opening offices in Hampden, Wilbraham, Ware, and most recently East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The bank also opened a retail and business loan operations center in Wilbraham in 2020. Member FDIC, Member DIF, Equal Housing Lender. NMLS # 613363.

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LIBRARY | from page 1

plush reading buddies, while teens and adults had their own prize systems.

"There was something for everyone this summer," Newland noted. "The more you read, the more you could earn."

In addition to the children's party, the library hosted their annual Summer Patio Party on Friday evening, Aug. 22, open to all ages as a community-wide sendoff to the season.

As the calendar turns toward fall, the library is preparing for a fresh slate of programming. September will bring back Baby Time on Wednesday mornings, contin-

ue Toddler Time on Fridays, and introduce a new Saturday Story Time and Craft series at 10:30 a.m.

"We don't usually offer programs on weekends," Newland said, "but now that I'm working Saturdays, it's a great opportunity to give kids and families something fun to look forward to."

With school starting soon, the library plans to keep its early fall schedule balanced.

"We know students get overwhelmed as they adjust to the new school year, so we'll give them a little breathing room," Newland said. "But we're excited to continue creating opportunities for kids to learn, play, and discover at the library."



Prizes included a variety of toys for young readers.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



A hidden Waluigi cutout on a windowsill was part of the scavenger hunt.



Kids raced each other in Mario Kart on the big screen.



Children enjoyed sundaes, games, and scavenger hunts.



Children picked books as rewards for completed reading logs.

PANTRY | from page 1

doubled the number of families it serves in the past year.

"We really outgrew our previous space," Matczak explained. "This new location gives us room to grow...we have more parking, outdoor lighting, a plowing service in the winter, air conditioning, and even a bathroom, which we didn't have before."

The pantry, which operates as a client-choice model, is open twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with one morning and one evening shopping session to accommodate families' schedules. Visitors are greeted by volunteers, who guide them through the shelves stocked with staples like canned goods, boxed meals, rice, pasta, cereals, snacks, juice, coffee, and tea, as well as gluten-free items and fresh bread. A refrigerated section offers perishable goods.

The process is simple. Families complete an application, verifying that they meet income eligibility guidelines and noting food preferences.

Once registered, clients check in with their name, then shop with a volunteer escort who helps them select items based on household size. At checkout, food is weighed, and high school student volunteers, many from the National Honor Society, help carry groceries to vehicles.

In addition to its pantry services, the organization has expanded outreach through partnerships with area

schools. Matczak, a teacher in Brimfield, has helped launch a "backpack program" that allows the school nurse to pick up food weekly to send home with families in need.

The pantry relies on a dedicated team of volunteers but is always looking for more help.

"It's a great place with a lot of kind people," Matczak said. "We're also working on adding more fundraising

events to help support the growing need."

For now, pantry leadership says the current hours are sufficient, but expansion could be considered in the future as demand continues to increase.

The Wales Community Pantry's new Brimfield home is stocked and ready, offering local families not only food security but also a sense of dignity and community.



Guests explored the pantry's new space.



Shelves were stocked with a wide variety of food.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



One of the volunteers, Susan Picone, helped pass out snacks for all the guests.

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The Journal Register will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to

The Journal Register,
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 All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 13, 2025.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact Dan Flynn no later than October 13th (413) 297-5886.

Comedy show in Brimfield featuring Dan Altano

BRIMFIELD – Comedy show featuring Dan Altano on Friday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Brimfield Senior Center located at 20 Main St. in Brimfield. Dan has carved a name for himself in stand-up comedy by blending brutal honesty, sharp wit, and genuine heart into high-energy performances. Whether he's reflecting on fatherhood, marriage, or the hilarious absurdities of everyday life, Dan delivers every punchline with a storyteller's charm and a Jersey-born edge.

He headlines comedy clubs and theaters nationwide and was recently named the National Comedic Host of the 2025 "Best Of" Awards, an event held in major cities around the country to honor top businesses.

Dan's 2023 album, Stand-Up Dad, debuted at #1 on the iTunes Comedy Charts and now plays in regular rotation on SiriusXM. His comedy special of the same name has been praised for its relatability and consistently laugh-out-loud moments. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Join us for a laughing good time right here at the senior center.

REVIEWS | from page 1

summer, the district brought on board 10 new teachers, three aides, a school nurse, a counselor, an assistant principal, two principals, and an administrator who will serve both the superintendent's office and the School Committee.

"We're very close to being 100% staffed," Superintendent Foster said, acknowledging one recent teacher resignation but emphasizing that the district is in a strong position heading into September.

Preparations are underway for the start of school with a series of orientation and community events scheduled for the last week of August. New teacher orientation will be held Thursday and Friday at Granite Valley, focusing on the educator evaluation system and the district's mentorship program.

All educators will return on Monday, Aug. 25, for professional development sessions and classroom preparation. Families will also have opportunities to connect: Granite Valley Back-to-School Night took place on Aug. 25 at 4:30 p.m., followed by a Monson High School new student barbecue at 5:30 p.m. The Quarry Hill Early Childhood Center hosted a "Bus Night" at 6 p.m. the same evening, with "Popsicles on the Patio" on Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. and open houses scheduled for Aug. 28 and 29.

Enrollment figures are trending positively, with 30 more students enrolled across K-12 than at the same point last year. 26 of those students are entering Monson High School, a boost the superintendent partially attributed to the launch of two new career pathways in engineering and medical assisting.

Approximately 30 students have enrolled in each pathway, which will be supported by newly established labs.

On the cafeteria side, the

district announced a small increase in adult lunch prices, from \$5.00 to \$5.50, to comply with updated Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations. Athletics are also gearing up, with 96 students signed up for fall sports including golf, soccer, and cross country, which begins Sept. 4.

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports: Budget Planning and Policy Review

The committee heard an update from a recent "mini Tri-Board" meeting involving representatives from the School Committee, Finance Committee and Select Board. The purpose of these smaller gatherings is to strengthen communication among town officials and avoid unexpected issues during the annual budget process.

Goals include meeting monthly and developing five-year financial projections for all town departments.

The discussion also touched on potential grant opportunities, such as funding that could support tuition-free preschool and ultimately qualify the town for additional Chapter 70 state aid. The town's stabilization account currently stands at about \$1.6 million, with \$153,000 in capital stabilization.

At present, no school-related warrant articles are expected for the October Special Town Meeting. Officials noted that if a Proposition 2 1/2 Override were to be considered, a decision would need to be made by December to allow time for community outreach.

The Policy Subcommittee also provided an update, reporting that it has recently reviewed policies regarding student conduct on school buses, student publications, and dress code. The group plans to examine policies on crowdfunding and graduation requirements next, with its next meeting scheduled for Sept. 11 at 5 p.m.

New Business: Sick Leave Bank, Graduation Policy, Curriculum Documents

One of the evening's major votes involved a request to allow non-unionized employees to donate sick days to a colleague facing a significant medical issue. While union employees already have access to such a "sick leave bank," non-bargaining staff do not.

After consulting legal counsel, the superintendent recommended a one-time approval to address the immediate need, while leaving room for the Policy Subcommittee to draft a permanent policy. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

The committee also took up the revised graduation and competency determination policy (IKF), which required changes following the statewide ballot initiative that eliminated MCAS as a graduation requirement. The new language specifies that Monson students must still meet local graduation standards, including successful completion of designated coursework in English, social studies, math and science.

It further outlines grading scales, attendance expectations, and processes for appeals and diploma requests from past students who were previously denied due to MCAS results. After minor revisions to clarify wording, the policy was approved on first read.

In addition, the Monson High School Program of Studies for 2025-2026 was formally approved. The updated document now highlights four-year course pathways in engineering and medical assisting and makes adjustments to prerequisites in world language and healthcare courses. Committee members praised the program guide as a valuable tool for families.

The Student and Family Handbook was also finalized for the coming year.

The committee spent considerable time discussing the dress code, with members stressing the importance of maintaining reasonable guidelines without unfairly targeting female students.

Other revisions included clarifying tardiness policies at Quarry Hill, updating language around cell phone use and removing references to a librarian, as the district currently does not employ a certified library media specialist. The committee also decided against including information about the therapy dog program in the handbook, as that is managed separately through an opt-in form.

Finally, the committee revisited its proposed crowd-funding policy brought up initially in a previous meeting. While the policy's intent is to regulate employee use of online fundraising platforms for classroom supplies, members expressed concern that restrictions against soliciting parents directly would make it difficult for teachers to use common tools like Amazon Wishlists. The policy was tabled and sent back to the subcommittee for further legal review and simplification.

Future Meetings and Additional Discussion

The committee reviewed its calendar for the 2024-2025 year, adjusting several dates to avoid conflicts. Meetings will continue monthly, generally on Tuesdays, with the next session scheduled for Sept. 17.

Additional items discussed included a proposal to conduct a survey on the district's homework policy, particularly to assess how high school students are preparing for college expectations. The survey will be considered at the October meeting. Subcommittee meetings were also scheduled, with the Finance Subcommittee set for Sept. 17 and the Policy Subcommittee for Sept. 11.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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MISSION | from page 1

Matthew Lovell reassigned to Budget and Finance, and Braden and Nompoggi also returning to Athletics.

Public Comments Highlight Praise and Concerns

Community members offered both praise and constructive criticism during the public comment session. Several spoke positively about the district's recent participation in National Night Out and applauded the newly refinished gymnasium floor at Palmer High School, describing it as a major improvement for students and athletics.

Other residents raised concerns, including the maintenance of the school's tennis courts, which were said to still have leaves and weeds left over from last season. Officials clarified that the Parks Department, rather than the schools, oversees upkeep of those grounds.

Parents that had reached out before the meetings questioned the early start times for girls' soccer games, which have been difficult for working families to attend, while others inquired about gym access for the Palmer Youth Basketball Association.

Staff concerns were also voiced regarding the district's 403B retirement plan. The issue of staff departures was briefly addressed, with Chair Rathbone clarifying that many of the exits were retirements rather than resignations.

Old Mill Pond School Principal Holly Riopel also used the opportunity to welcome Ms. Sonya Rodriguez Mendina as the building's new assistant principal, who was warmly received by the committee.

District Mission and Core Values

A major focus of the evening was the official unveiling of the district's new mission statement and five guiding core values: Respect, Safety, Responsibility, Community

and Kindness; developed over the past year with input from students, staff and families.

These values are already being promoted across the district, with banners installed at Palmer High School and Old Mill Pond, and T-shirts for staff and students bearing the phrase "Palmer to the core."

The new mission statement reads: "To educate, inspire and empower, creating a supportive environment where students learn, grow, and thrive through shared values of respect, kindness, and community."

Superintendent Francis explained that each term was chosen carefully. To educate reflects the district's central responsibility; to inspire is to "breathe life into passions"; to empower means giving students agency over their own futures; and to thrive represents success, resilience, and the ability to contribute positively to the community.

Handbook Updates and Discipline Discussions

The committee also reviewed proposed revisions to the district-wide student handbook. The new mission statement has been added to the title page, and legal sections concerning special education discipline were rewritten in simpler language on the advice of legal counsel.

At Old Mill Pond, Principal Riopel talked about schedule and policy adjustments, including swapping Grade Four and Five lunch times, clarifying that parents may request extra help sessions for their children, and updating preschool progress reports to include "teaching strategy assessment" as the monitoring tool. References to the Cougars' Den program for Grade Six were removed, as it is no longer offered.

At Palmer High School, Principal North presented a new vision statement focusing on rigorous academics, inclusivity, and real-world connections. Handbook changes at the high school emphasized the benefits of advanced

coursework, noting that Honors and Advanced Placement courses carry additional weight in GPA calculations and that AP courses provide financial and college-readiness advantages.

A new annual award was also established in memory of longtime Special Education Teacher Paul Holloway, who passed away this summer. The award will honor a student who embodies Holloway's compassion for others and commitment to the Palmer community.

A new tardy policy was also introduced, designed to align with restorative practices promoted by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Rather than focusing on punishment, the policy encourages teachers and administrators to explore barriers to timeliness, build stronger relationships with students, and connect them with resources when necessary. Progressive consequences are still in place, including loss of privileges or detention, but the policy emphasizes empathy and consistency.

"Our tardy expectations are rooted in understanding, equity, and the importance of building relationships, while also encouraging responsibility," North said.

Additional updates at the high school included increased replacement fees for Chromebooks and Yonder pouches used to secure cell phones, reflecting actual costs and high replacement rates. Teachers will now check pouches daily for accountability. The district also moved to prohibit energy drinks due to documented health risks, and outside food deliveries from services such as DoorDash will no longer be allowed during the school day.

Committee members also held a broader discussion about the use of profanity in schools, particularly when directed toward staff. While regulations limit how suspensions may be applied, both Superintendent Francis and Chair Rathbone affirmed that

offensive language remains unacceptable and that disciplinary action is being taken where appropriate.

Rathbone stressed the importance of preparing students for life after school, noting that in the workplace such behavior would not be tolerated.

"We want them (the students) here so we can educate them. But the way the teachers are talked to, the way the paraprofessionals are talked to, and I'm sure the principals and administrators, but we've got to do something about it." Rathbone points out the need for consequences for profane language and behavior in schools.

Personnel Updates

The committee formally recognized several new hires, including Athletic Trainer Adam Coffin, Assistant Principal Sonya Rodriguez Mendina at Old Mill Pond, and a licensed practical nurse at the high school. Superintendent North reported that about half of the district's remaining open positions have been filled, with confidence that staffing will be complete before the start of school. Coaching roles for the fall season are fully staffed.

Financial Report

Finance Director Sara Menard presented the district's first budget update of Fiscal Year 2026. With the new year just underway, expenditures remain low, with only 2.3% of the budget spent as of July 31. Technology accounts stood slightly higher at 9.1%, reflecting early-year equipment purchases, while transportation had yet to record activity.

Smola added that supply chain issues lingering from the previous year have largely been resolved, with most

orders now fulfilled. A new budget line was created to track overtime chargebacks from the Department of Public Works for athletic events.

Menard said the final report for Fiscal Year 2025, which closed June 30, will be ready for the committee's September meeting.

Action Items

The committee voted unanimously to approve several measures, including the renewal of the district's contract with Valley Medical Group for physician services at a cost of \$3,000, adoption of the updated 2025-2026 Student and Guardian Handbook, and disposal of two obsolete 2013 Ford vans that are no longer roadworthy. The vans will be offered to the town before being disposed of under state surplus regulations.

Perhaps most significantly, the committee also approved the establishment of

a Special Education Stabilization Fund. The fund, which requires additional approval from the Town Council, will allow the district to set aside up to 2% of net school spending each year to cover unanticipated expenses such as out-of-district tuition or transportation costs.

Closing Remarks

Committee members ended the evening by thanking administrators, custodians, and staff for preparing buildings over the summer. They praised the new mission statement and values, calling them a strong foundation for the year ahead, and offered condolences to the family of Paul Holloway, noting the significance of the new student award in his memory.

The community was reminded that staff returned on Monday, August 25, and students in grades 1 through 12 began classes on Tuesday, August 26.

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Palmer High School Pub Club:

BOOSTER DAY

Saturday, August 30th
9am-12pm

This Saturday August 30th between the hours of 9am - 12pm student athletes from Palmer High School will be visiting houses in the Palmer, Three Rivers, Thorndike and Bondsville areas collecting cash donations to support the Palmer Pub Club. The Pub Club provides amazing support to our student athletes including help providing sports equipment, organizing recognition events, providing athletes with sandwiches for long distance games, providing seniors with gifts, scheduling fan buses for students and much more! This is their biggest fundraiser event of the year! **In exchange for your donation you will receive a Palmer High School fall athletic schedule.**

Donations can also be made by scanning the QR code

There will also be members of the Pub Club at Legion Field at the concession stand collecting donations on Saturday 8/30 between the hours of 9am-12pm.

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Obituary

Richard John Coville

8/6/75-8/10/25

BELCHERTOWN – Richard “Rick” Coville of Belchertown passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on August 10, 2025. Rick was the youngest of three and grew up in Palmer, with his two sisters. As a youth, he played football for the Palmer Cowboys. He graduated from Palmer High School in 1993, where he played football and hockey and then went on to work as an apprentice plumber. Rick continued to excel at his craft as a plumber and was also skilled in all HVAC capacities. Rick was very hardworking and always willing to take on any job with great knowledge and dedication. He loved working for his current employer, DF Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors in Belchertown, MA, where he has many friends. His strong work ethic and unwavering humor will be greatly missed by his team.

Rick was predeceased by his grandparents, Mary

and Richard Coville, Sr.; Elaine and Donald Brunelle; his father, Richard Coville, Jr.; and stepfather, Robert Hafner. Rick is survived by his two children, Alexis Eve Coville and Ayden Joseph Coville; his mother, Melodie Hafner of Belchertown; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Jennifer and Kevin Lynch of Wilbraham; Kimberly and Kyle Cote of Warren; his stepbrother, Gregory Hafner of Las Vegas, NV; his nephew, Matthew Dreisch; his nieces, Mackenzie Fagan and Molly Lynch; and many aunts, uncles and cousins, locally and in California.

Rick is loved by many for his humor, his quick-witted nature, and his personable demeanor. He made every occasion more fun. Rick was also very generous with a heart of gold and would help anyone in need.

Rick was a devoted Red Sox baseball fan his whole



life. He also loved football and was a fan of the Green Bay Packers. His favorite pastime was playing golf. He always loved spending his leisure time on the golf course. He was an amateur chef at home with a natural talent for cooking. For many summers, Rick and his sisters took their children on an annual beach trip, and he would be up early each morning to cook breakfast for everyone. He loved his family and took pride in caring for his children.

Rick will always be remembered for making people laugh and for making life so much more enjoyable. He is loved for so many reasons and is greatly missed by his family with profound sadness. The family is keeping final plans private.

There will be a “Celebration of Life” event to honor Rick’s memory in October. Further information to follow.

Barbara J. Stone

PALMER

Barbara J. Stone, daughter of the late Gordon Rockwood and Beth (Bissell) Stone passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on August 20, 2025. She was born in Springfield, MA on July 29, 1939 and lived in Palmer her entire life. Graduated from Park Street Grammar School and Palmer High School, after which she was an active member of several reunions. Predeceased by her brother, Gordon E. Stone and his wife, Sarah (Lombard) Stone. She leaves her nephew, George F. Stone (Tracy) of Grand Cayman Islands, niece, Tricia L. Arling (Tim) of Cromwell, CT, great nephews, Colton J. Stone (Angie) of Poland, ME and Brandon T. Stone (Kolby) of Lisbon, ME; great nieces, Jennifer and Alison Arling of Cromwell, CT, great great nephews, Theodore



James and Calvin Edward Stone of Poland, ME along with her 95 year old aunt, Audrey Bissell of Goshen, MA as well as many cousins.

She was a 74 plus year member of St. Paul’s Church of Palmer where she served as Clerk, President and member of the Board of Trustees; the last surviving member of the Ladies’ Social Union, Registrar, organizer for over 18 years, choir member since junior choir, wedding coordinator, chairman of former monthly community dinners, alter decorator, and current property manager.

She was employed at Rathbone Corporation following high school graduation and 33 years at Westvaco (US Envelope) as administrative assistant to HR/Labor Relations Manager. She was Director of Palmer Food Share for over 15 years.

She was a member of the Palmer Republican Town Committee; Palmer Senior Center, Westvaco Quarter Century Club, Majority Member of Ware Assembly, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Holder of Grand Cross of Color, former member of Mercy Warren Chapter DAR, poll worker for Town of Palmer, Former President and member of Springfield Chapter IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals), and former Secretary of the Year.

She enjoyed cooking, sewing, reading, gardening, traveling, and family get-togethers especially the annual Bissell family fourth of July reunions in Goshen, MA which have been held for over 85 years on the family farm.

A Memorial service will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul’s Universalist Unitarian Church of Palmer. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Palmer Fire or Dakin Animal Shelter.

DEATH NOTICES

Richard John Coville
Died August 10, 2025
Celebration of Life in October

Barbara J. Stone
Died Aug. 20, 2025
Services Sept. 2, 2025

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CONCOMM | from page 1

ation Plan Extension

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the upcoming deadline for the town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan, which must be updated by Sept. 30 to qualify for a ten-year extension, serves as a guiding document for Palmer’s land use, recreational resources, and environmental protection strategies. Commissioners outlined key tasks still to be completed, including the development of a “unique features map,” refinement of goals and objectives, and revisions to the plan’s implementation timeline.

Technical support from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is available to assist with mapping work. The matter will remain a priority at the Commission’s next meeting.

Vacancy on the Commission

The board also announced an opening on the Commission and encouraged residents with an interest in conservation to apply. Letters of interest should be submitted to Town Manager Brad Brothers by Aug. 29, with the goal of appointing a new member by mid-September.

Blue Trail Expansion and Lavalette Field Improvements

Positive news came with an update on the Blue Trail initiative. The Town Council

has approved a donation to enhance the walkway at Lavalette Field, a move that will make the area more accessible to kayakers and strengthen the town’s ability to secure grant funding for future trail improvements.

Commissioner Keith, who has been spearheading the effort, is also exploring additional access points at Route 67, Water Street, and town-owned land near Palmer Road.

New England Power Transmission Line Refurbishment

The most detailed hearing of the evening centered on New England Power Company’s Line 301 refurbishment project. The utility company plans to replace wires and structures along a 23-mile transmission corridor, including six miles that cross through Palmer. Because the project includes work in wetland areas, a Notice of Intent was required.

Company representatives outlined mitigation measures such as erosion controls, restrictions on refueling near wetlands, secondary containment systems, and the deployment of environmental monitors who will provide reports twice a week. Workers assigned to the project will also undergo environmental compliance training.

Commissioners expressed concerns about safety and access along the right-of-way. They specifically requested gates to be installed near Peterson Road, which

the company agreed to coordinate for completion by early 2026.

The board also raised concerns about rocks blocking access near the Massachusetts Turnpike, and New England Power agreed to address the issue. Quarterly progress reports will be provided to the Commission.

The project is expected to begin in early 2027 and take two years to complete. Following discussion, the public hearing was closed and an Order of Conditions was issued, allowing the project to move forward under the outlined safeguards.

Ongoing Issues and New Business

In other updates, the Commission reviewed continuing efforts to address severe bank erosion at the Quaboag Valley Mobile Home Co-op. Securing equipment with a sufficiently long boom has proven difficult, and members acknowledged that a backup plan may be necessary, particularly given the risk posed by heavy rainfall events.

The Barker Street trail project is progressing, with a kiosk already installed and additional work planned for September. However, commissioners expressed frustration over acts of vandalism, including tables being thrown into the river.

The chair issued a stern appeal for the public to stop damaging property and suggested that the Town Council consider installing cameras and improving enforcement. If progress continues, a trail opening is anticipated in October.

Finally, the Commission addressed lingering concerns in Thorndike, where tree cutting by CSX and Northern Tree has left large piles of logs blocking local trails. Communication with the companies has been limited, but the town continues to push for a resolution.

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Public notices

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, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Theodore Bonnayer, is seeking a Finding under section 171.83K for the alteration of a pre-existing nonconforming structure or use other than a one family or two-family dwelling on the property located at 2063 Main Street, Three Rivers, MA. The applicant is proposing to replace the existing block structure in the south-east corner of the parcel with a storage shed. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 71, Lot 105.

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://masspublicnotices.org>).
 Norman Czech, Chairman
 08/28, 09/04/2025

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, September 15, 2025, at 7:10 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Twin Golden Realty of MA LLC, is seeking a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as allowed under sections 171.28, 171.29, & 171.69 to redevelop the former Thorndike School building to accommodate fourteen residential apartments on the property located at 4023 Main Street, Palmer. These parcels are also known as Assessor's Map 82, Lot 95.

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://masspublicnotices.org>).
 Norman Czech, Chairman
 08/28, 09/04/2025

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025**, at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main Street (Thorndike), Palmer, MA at **6:35pm** on the proposed revisions to the Floodplain District § 171-68 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance. Anyone interested in being heard should appear at the time and place so designated.

Palmer Town Council
 08/28/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD25E0025PP

To Diana M Landry, of Fiskdale, Worcester County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by John J. Buday, of Brimfield, Hampden County, representing that they hold as Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship in an undivided part or share of land lying in Brimfield, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand (\$395,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said

Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **twenty-third day of September 2025**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 23rd day of July 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
 08/21, 08/28, 09/04/2025

Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **September 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Monson Rd beginning at a point approximately 95 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Monson Rd and Reed Hill Rd. Install (1) 40' Class 3 pole on southeast side of Monson Rd. New Pole will be installed 89' southwest of Pole 52. Located between Pole 52 and Pole 53 in existing course of line. The documents and maps related to this matter are available for review from the Executive Secretary during regular business hours.

Wales Board of Selectmen
 08/28, 09/04/2025

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 2:00 PM 4417 MAIN ST. PALMER, MA 01069

Notice is hereby given and public hearing to be held, as provided by law, IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures to, as requested in petition of said companies as follows:

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber and reasonable straight and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked-Main St-Palmer (Bonds-

ville)-Massachusetts.

Main St-National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Main St. (Bondsville) beginning at a point approximately 50' feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Main St (Bondsville) and Depot St. Install new Pole 0-50 on Main St in Palmer (Bonds-ville).

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.
 08/21, 08/28/2025

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. HD25P1685EA Estate of: Nellie Frances Olson Date of Death: 09/21/1985 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

A Petition for Formal Determination of Heirs has been filed by Kristen Allaire of Sherborn, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 09/12/2025. 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: August 15, 2025
 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
 08/28/2025

Notice of Public Auction

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts enforcement of Warehousemen's Lien, MGL 106, 7-210
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the person herein after named and to all whom it may concern. The contents of leased units are subject to our lien for non-payment of rent and other charges. You are denied access to that unit and warehouse.

You can redeem such goods on or before Friday Sept 19th 10AM. The goods you have stored after this time will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. The sale will take place at: **140 Bethany Rd, Monson, MA 01057 phone number 617-515-9886 on Friday Sept 19, 2025.** The facility/auctioneer reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason.

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140 Bethany Rd, Monson, MA 617 515 9886
 08/21, 08/28/2025

Town of Monson Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Section 15A of the General Laws of Massachusetts, that the Select Board for the Town of Monson will hold a public hearing on the application of Tin Cup Family Golf, Inc. d/b/a/ River Hollow Family Golf Center, Luis Teixeira, Manager, 15 Hospital Road, Monson, for a seasonal liquor license to sell alcoholic beverages of the following kind: Restaurant - All Alcoholic Beverages.

The hearing will be held in the large meeting room, 100 Main Street, Town Office Building, at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.**

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should appear at that time and be heard.

MONSON Select Board Licensing Authority
 08/28/2025



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The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants do not have to be academy trained, but academy trained are preferred. Must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step of pay.

Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until position is fill to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

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