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The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com September 3, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 32 | \$1.00 www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER



Submitted photo:
Local officials cut the ribbon outside the playground.

Old Mill Pond School playground renovated

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – Local leaders joined school officials last week to unveil the newly renovated playground at Old Mill Pond School.

Held on Aug. 27, a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour showcased the accessibility upgrades made possible by \$30,000 in Fair Share funding secured by State Senator Jake Oliveira.

“Every child deserves the opportunity to play,

learn, and spend time with their classmates in a space designed with them in mind,” Oliveira said. “Investments like this are exactly what Fair Share is about – putting resources back into our communities and making a meaningful difference for

students and families.” Oliveira was joined at the ceremony by State Representative Todd Smola, who grew up near the school and played an integral role in securing House support for Oliveira’s amendment filed on the Senate side.

“Without Rep. Smola, who understands this community as well as anyone, this wouldn’t have been possible,” Oliveira added. “Any project like this one is about teamwork to improve the quality

SCHOOL | page 8

MONSON

Legislators support Monson students

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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MONSON – As students and staff kick off a new school year, they’ve got plenty to celebrate thanks to the support of local legislators.

On Aug. 24, officials presented Monson school leaders with a check for \$70,000 secured in the FY27 budget. The state funds supported the purchase of 200 Chromebooks to be used by students throughout the year.

During the check presentation held at Monson High School, State Representatives Brian Ashe and Angelo Puppolo were joined by District Director Amanda Hellyar, of Senator Ryan Fattman’s office.

“We are very grateful for this support for the pur-

SUPPORT | page 8

PALMER

Picture book honors special bond

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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PALMER – With the release of her new picture book, author Mary Outhuse is sharing with young readers the joys of a close-knit family on a rural farm.

“The Adventures of Glady-Lu and Peg: Meeting a Moose” captures the special relationship between Glady-Lu and her older sister, Peg, as they experience both the excitement and the simple pleasures of life on their rural Maine farm.

“I wrote this book to honor my mother and her special bond with her sister,” said Outhuse, a retired bank-

BOOK | page 16

PALMER

Pathfinder Tech welcomes new principal

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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Jay Taylor

PALMER – As Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School reopens for the new year, the community welcomed Principal Jay Taylor to the staff.

Taylor has a diverse background in education, which has involved working in multiple roles as both a teacher and an administrator. He described himself as feeling honored and excited to be joining Pathfinder Tech.

“Each role taught me something different and helped shape who I am as

school leader,” Taylor said. This week, Taylor is coming off of the late-week Professional Development ahead of students arriving at Pathfinder this past Monday. This served as Taylor’s opportunity to introduce himself to the staff, and discuss all the opportunities the school has to offer and why he loves technical vocational education.

“People see relevance in their learning,” Taylor said. “Schools like Pathfinder Tech have the opportunity to change the trajectory of people’s lives.” “Above all I have an

PRINCIPAL | page 7

MONSON



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão
Eighth graders Mia, Maddie, Ashley, Aleksa and Ani enjoyed the food while watching the school’s presentation.

Back-to-School BBQ

Monson High School kicks off new year

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – This past Thursday, the school district invited incoming seventh graders to tour the school in a school-sponsored barbecue.

“We got a great turnout,” said Superintendent Paul Foster. “This is for our new students, so these are mostly

seventh graders, because the high school is seventh to 12th

BBQ | page 7



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Highway Surveyor talks about upcoming bridge projects

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – At last week’s Select Board meeting, the town received updates from the Highway Department about upcoming bridge repairs and grant applications.

At the Aug. 25 meeting, Highway Surveyor and Tree Warden Ben Murphy addressed misinformation that was reported on the television about a grant the department received from Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The grant from the Unpaved Roads Grant Program will provide a piece of equipment to maintain the town’s dirt roads.

“It was published that we got \$200,000; we did not, we got \$100,000,” Murphy said. “With that, you have to buy something that you would use

to maintain a dirt road; what we’re going to be doing is buying a compact roller.”

Murphy said that the new machine will serve as an upgrade that should become available in the near future.

He went on to say that the town was fortunate enough to receive a second grant.

“We also got accepted for the Municipal Small Bridge Program,” Murphy said. “With that, we’re going to fix Robbins Road. We have a culvert there that’s off of Route 32.”

Murphy and Administrative Assistant Amy Hersey have met with the engineers for the project, who were selected by MassDOT. Murphy said that the town was accepted for a design for the repairs, but that the cost of the project has yet to be determined.

“The state DOT is going to pay for it,” Murphy said.

Murphy compared the

project to the Maple Street Bridge, saying that it would be a very different operation, in part because of the 9 foot, 6 inch height tunnel that goes under the railroad. Construction projects, including those backed by the state, need to get permission from the railroad company to make any changes that affect the track.

“Maple Street, in case people don’t know, has been closed for almost five years now,” Murphy said.

The Highway Department has been negotiating with the company in South Dakota that owns the bridge to get a design. Murphy said the state is going to pay \$33,000 for the company to release what they have, at no cost to the town.

By comparison, Robbins Road is approximately 150 feet from the railroad, and will not involve the railroad company.

“We’ll get the design and then resubmit the grant to actually fix it,” Murphy said. “This will probably end up being three series of box culverts that they put in there.”

Murphy said that, from his conversations with the engineers, they seemed fairly confident that the whole project would take about two or three days of work.

In other bridge-related news, construction on Stafford Hollow Road Bridge will begin sometime next year.

“For the people who live up that way, Sept. 10-11 we’re going to be paying Peck Brothers Road, because that’s going to be how the traffic is detoured,” Murphy said. “Because right now it’s not in great condition.”

Murphy described visiting the state hospital road bridge with Select Board Member John Morrell to meet with developers from

WestMass.

“We’re getting the 60-foot easement,” Murphy said. “The bridge is getting done. The state is paying for that; it’s under our name, but the state is paying for that.”

Murphy added that the WestMass developers asked to meet with the other Select Board members as well to discuss their operation, and that Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz was in the process of setting up that meeting.

Another bridge that is on the list to be replaced is the one on State Avenue, on the Palmer line.

“Once we get the bridge done at MDC and get that open, State Avenue is going to be shut down where Palmer Highway is,” he said.

There was an attempt to keep one lane of the bridge open, but because of the nearby football field, it would

take years to get approval to go anywhere onto the property, and so it was decided to shut down the entire bridge.

“We can’t have that bridge shut and the state hospital bridge shut because anybody over there would have to come way back into Monson and go all around to Palmer,” Murphy said.

Murphy also talked about the \$300 million Fair Share Program, which is a state-funded program to help small towns by providing funds to provide relief after the past winter.

“We were over \$400,000 in town,” Murphy said. “We’re not going to get all that, but it’s just a matter of what we can get.”

The application process asked that the department describe its worst storm, and Murphy said the “verdict is still out” on how much the town will get.

Annual tag sale set for Sept. 12

PALMER – Local residents are invited to visit Mary Farm for its annual tag sale this month.

The event will take place on Saturdays, Sept. 12 and Sept. 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The location is Memorial Hall at Mary

Farm (1915 Ware Street, Palmer).

Browse a selection of gently used items, household goods, furniture, treasures, and more.

Come shop and support the Apostolate of the Suffering and the ongoing work at Mary Farm.

Cultural Council accepting applications

PALMER – The Palmer Cultural Council (PCC) will accept applications for 2027 Mass Cultural Council (MCC) grants from Sept. 1 through Oct. 15.

The PCC invites community members, groups, nonprofits, and others to apply for grants to support a range of offerings. These include art shows, concerts, performances, outdoor workshops, lectures, short-term artist residencies in schools, and other community programs fo-

cused on youth, veterans, and senior citizens.

Applications for 2027 must be submitted only through the MCC website: <https://masscultural.org/local-council/palmer/mass>.

The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 15. No late applications will be accepted.

The PCC will vote on applications in open meetings in the fall of 2026 and notify successful recipients by mid-January 2027.

Ceremony to honor 9/11 victims

PALMER – The American Legion, Palmer Post 130, invites residents to its annual 9/11 Remembrance/Dedication program.

The event will take place on Friday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. at 1010 Thorn-dike St., the new location of Crimmins-Graveline Insurance.

“At this time, we will continue to honor all the police, firefighters, EMTs, veterans, and civilians who lost their lives that fateful day,” read a statement released by the American Legion. “We will also honor our fallen from Western MA since 9/11 and dedicate any pavers received since our last ceremony.”

‘Burial Grounds of Palmer’ presentation

PALMER – Take part in Palmer’s MA 250th anniversary celebration by joining local historian Robert Comeau in this presentation about the “Burial Grounds of Palmer” on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St.

To register for this program, please visit: <https://palmerlibrary.com>

In addition to this presentation, Comeau will host

a tour at the Four Corners Cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m.-noon, 4287 Main St.

These events are brought to you by the Palmer Historical Commission and the Palmer Public Library.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

This program is free, but registration is requested.

Classes of 1976 plan 50th reunion

PALMER – The Palmer High School Reunion Committee invites the 1976 graduates of Palmer High School and Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School to a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 5-10 p.m.

Faculty is also welcome to attend the reunion party.

Graduates and guests are invited to eat, drink and be reunited in the outdoor venue at Vanished Valley

Brewing Co., 782 Center St., Ludlow. The cost is \$35 per person, includes entertainment by Kingdom of Jones Band and a BBQ style buffet with cornbread, salad, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n’ cheese, rice and beans and coleslaw.

Please RSVP by contacting Sue Warner Proserpi at suewpro@gmail.com. Registration and payment are due no later than Sept. 30.

Friends of the Poor Walk to be held Oct. 18

STURBRIDGE – The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk, on Sunday, Oct. 18, at noon at the Sturbridge common during the harvest fest.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward supporting local individuals and families in need across Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales and other nearby towns.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing and other essential needs – serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations and events such as this one.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms.

Residents are encouraged to come to the harvest fest and join the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the walk for their neighbors in need.

For more information contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit svdpfiskdale.org and click on the “Donate” button.



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MSB hosts work clothing drive

Overdose Awareness Day observed

MONSON – For more than 150 years, Monson Savings Bank has been dedicated to giving back to the local communities where the Bank operates.

Most recently, Monson Savings Bank announced they will once again be hosting a clothing drive to collect professional work attire for Suit Up Springfield and Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts at all bank locations.

Suit Up Springfield is happy to accept donations of suits, shirts, ties, shoes, and outer coats. Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts is accepting donations of blazers/suits, dress pants, skirts, shoes, outerwear, and jewelry.

Gently used and clean professional business attire donations will be accepted at the following locations during normal business hours from Sept. 8-12: Monson Branch, 146 Main St., Monson; Hampden Branch, 15 Somers Road, Hampden; Wilbraham Branch, 100 Post Office Park, Wilbraham; Ware Branch, 136 West St., Ware; and East Longmeadow Branch, 61 North Main St., East Longmeadow.

Suit Up Springfield is a non-profit organization focused on providing the young men of Springfield area professional attire. Their goal is to help each individual find a suit that will give them the confidence, knowledge, and

tools to help them become a successful member of their community.

Learn more at <https://suit-upspringfield.com/>.

Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts has a mission to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Learn more: <https://westernmass.dressforsuccess.org/>

“We are excited to partner with both of these community organizations who contribute to the success of so many people in our communities,” said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO. “Many members of our team have already started to gather items to donate to the clothing drive. We hope you will also consider donating items to make the drive successful.”

Monson Savings Bank was proud to work with AM Lithography Corporation, a certified Veteran-owned, small commercial printing business based out of Chicopee, to produce collection boxes for the clothing drive.

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

Lions Club hosts Family Fest on Sept. 5

MONSON – Guests of all ages are invited to enjoy special activities at the Monson Lions Club Family Fest.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East

Hill Road.

The event will feature food trucks, vendors, a kid zone, a magician, live music and several other highlights.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the event, text Karen at 413-544-1555.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A candlelight vigil was held at Veterans Park to observe International Overdose Awareness Day this past Monday evening.

July Lutz, Program Director of the Recovery Center of HOPE led the ceremony on Aug. 31, and she shared promising statistics about declining opioid overdose deaths in the commonwealth.

“For the first time in over a decade, overdose deaths fell below 1,000,” Lutz said. “Every number is a person.”

This marks a 27% decrease in opioid overdose deaths over the previous year.

“It matters the work that’s happening all over the state right now,” she said.

Lutz said the Recovery Center of HOPE has two locations in town, one at 52 Main St., and the other at 78 Main St. She said it is a place where people are treated with dignity, no matter where they are in their recovery journey.

“The center is a place where people can come as they are,” Lutz said.

Lutz welcomed speaker and resident Randy Gratton, who said he is “always honored and grateful” to speak at the candlelight vigil.

It was eight years and four days ago that Gratton used a substance for the last time.

“The last time I used, I overdosed,” he said.

He credited the decrease in opioid overdose deaths to the normalizing of carrying Narcan [naloxone], which he said is a “huge step at giving people a second shot at life.”

“Without that, I wouldn’t be here,” Gratton said.

Gratton said he has lost a lot of friends to overdose deaths, and that he carries their memories with them.

He shared a story about coaching his late friend’s son,

who lost both his father and mother to overdoses.

“I couldn’t help but call him by his dad’s name,” Gratton said of the little boy.

Keeping people, especially the youth, away from substance use is something that Gratton feels passionate about and he said it gives his life purpose.

“To hopefully steer kids away from the path so many of us went down,” he said.

Gratton said he wants to see the annual opioid overdose death number reduced to zero; something that seems impossible now, but he believes will happen in the future.

He said his recovery coach always reminds him that the beginning of his recovery was a “great start,” and just a part of the journey ahead of him.

At last year’s candlelight vigil, Gratton spoke about gratitude. This year, he focused on vigilance.

Gratton said as far as the community has come to decrease overdose deaths, they still need to stay vigilant and check in on those who need support. He credited the Re-



Randy Gratton spoke about staying vigilant to prevent overdose death.



Sean O'Connell spoke about his recovery.



The Town Hall's clock tower was illuminated with purple lights.

OVERDOSE | page 11



Julie Lutz, Program Director at the Recovery Center of HOPE, shared statistics about the reduction in overdose deaths across the commonwealth.



Vigil attendees observed a moment of silent for those lost to overdose.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Keep Homestead Museum program

Sound therapy sessions available

MONSON – A program focused on maintaining healthy ecosystems will be held at the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road, next month.

Slated for Sunday, Sept. 13, the open house will feature Carolina Munoz-Agudelo, Director of Public Programs and Research at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.

Munoz-Agudelo will present her program “Ecosystems in Action: Restoring

Nature, One Watershed at a Time.”

The PowerPoint presentation will highlight the importance of biodiversity; the roles of native plants and animals; and how watershed restoration benefits both wildlife and local communities.

The program will focus on how healthy ecosystems function, as well as the effects that occur when they are disrupted. Guests will also learn about practical ways to

support conservation in our community.

The free program will start at 1:30 p.m. The session is open to the public.

Visitors are also welcome to tour the museum from 1-3:30 p.m. Guests will be able to view new button displays and enjoy refreshments.

For more information about the museum, visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.org.

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock Academy will host a series of sound therapy sessions on Saturday evenings.

The sessions will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. on select evenings. Each session is offered at a cost of \$20 per person.

Dates for the sessions include Sept. 19 (stress management); Oct. 17 (immune defense); and Nov. 14 (dealing with life challenges, loss and grief).

Sound therapy aims to

utilize aspects of music, tones and notes to improve physical, emotional and mental health.

Pat and Ken Wheelock are bodywork practitioners based in Three Rivers. Their practice spans acupressure, Reiki, herbal studies, sound therapy, color therapy, and aromatherapy.

Certified practitioners since 2008, the Wheelocks have spent over 15 years studying, practicing, and teaching the healing arts.

Alora Heffernan is a certified Reiki master and certified meditation teacher. Her work focuses on such non-invasive modalities as guided meditation, Reiki, and sound therapy.

Event participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or folding camp chair.

To learn more about the sessions, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road.

Water quality report available

MONSON – The 2025 annual water quality consumer confidence report for Monson is available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Hard copies are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main St., the Monson Free Library located at 2 High St. and the Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main St.

Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.



PALMER – The Palmer Senior Center, located at 1029 Central St., lists upcoming activities and programs.

Palmer Senior Center

grams.

Please sign up for all programs by calling 413-283-2670, extension 3.

For more information about senior center happenings, follow “Palmer

Senior Center” on Facebook or visit www.townof-palmer.com.

Annual Picnic
Sept. 11 – Annual Picnic at Pulaski Park, will be

held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.. Entertainment will be provided by The Gemstones, and the meal by Tony and Penny Catering. The cost is \$15, which is due when you sign up.

Sept. 5 & Sept. 6 ★ 1-4pm

To honor our military, veterans, and first responders

9/11

TRIBUTE POST

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Questions?

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:

I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.

The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.

Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.

Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.

As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about reforming Social Security to restore it to solvency to avoid future

benefit cuts.

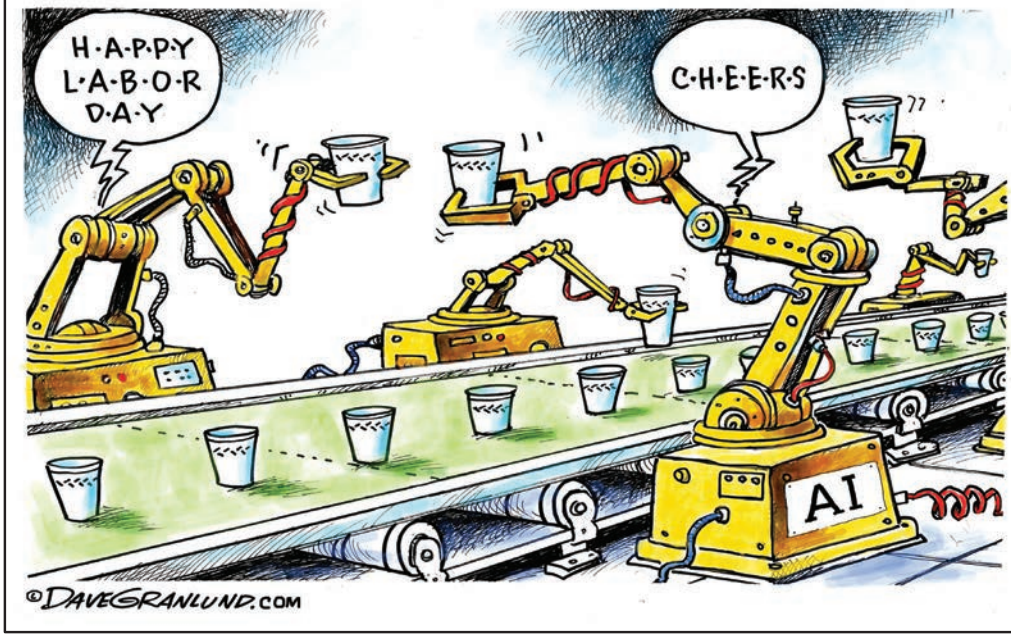
For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.

The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and they will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.

They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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.



Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.

Oftentimes planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter.

Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.

It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.

First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season.

Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.

Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node.

Terminal cuttings,

der or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container.

I have found that "less is more" when using these products.

When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem!

After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.

The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.

Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Kids used to have three ways of getting to school: on foot, on a bus or on a bike. School officials in many localities are dreading the new trend toward e-bikes, e-scooters and hoverboards.

Electrically powered two-wheel vehicles seem to be taking over our streets, bike lanes and, sometimes, sidewalks, driven by teens and tweens who don't necessarily know the rules of the road. Scary. Now couple that with lots of cars and traffic around schools. Even scarier.

As someone who has spent a lot of time around emergency rooms, I urge parents to think twice before buying an e-bike, e-scooter or other motorized vehicle for their child. In some localities, like Douglas County in

Colorado, parents can be held liable if their child is caught riding where they shouldn't or, worse, causing an accident.

Admittedly, state laws can be a bit confusing. In Massachusetts, e-bikes can fall into the same category as mopeds, which creates uncertainty about licensing, registration and where they can be ridden. E-bike riders and passengers age 16 or younger must wear a helmet. Localities are allowed to enact more restrictive rules.

ER visits related to e-bikes and e-scooters have increased by 671% for children and adolescents, according to Karen Gilbert Farrar, lead researcher at Truveta, a health data and analytics firm. "Just to put that in context," she told USA Today,

E-wheels complicate back-to-school safety

"that's if one patient was being seen in 2023, that's now nearly eight patients in 2026."

Most injuries are to the head and neck, and about 7% involve traumatic brain injury, her research found. Fatalities typically involve a collision with a car or truck or crashing into a fixed object or curb.

This is a three-pronged problem that needs a three-pronged approach, from parents, children and localities, as back-to-school season begins.

Parents

Understand how the state classifies e-bikes and e-scooters so you know what you are buying. Most states regulate e-bikes in three classes: motorized assist with pedals, up to 20 mph; motorized assist with pedals and a throttle, also up to 20 mph; and motorized assist with pedals and a speedometer, up to 28 mph.

Consider not only your child's age, but also their ma-

turity level, because e-bike riders need good judgment and mature decision-making, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Kids ages 9 to 12 should not be operating any motorized vehicle, the Consumer Products Safety Commission says.

Instruct them on the use of bike lanes and sidewalks, safety in parking lots, speed limits and how to handle themselves at intersections. I would observe them on the road for a time.

And make them wear a helmet. No helmet, no bike or scooter.

Kids

Don't give your friends rides or let them drive your e-bike or scooter.

Don't wear headphones or earbuds or talk on the phone. Obey traffic signals and don't show off – no wheelies. If you're not supposed to be on the sidewalk, don't be on a sidewalk.

And wear that helmet your parents are making you wear.

Localities and schools

I hope more cities and school districts will consider restricting e-bikes and e-scooters and not wait until a child is severely injured. They can be brought to school but not ridden on school property.

If the vehicles are allowed, the riders should be carefully monitored to make sure they wear helmets and are not riding recklessly.

When all is said and done, though, I think the main responsibility for e-bike and e-scooter safety lies with the responsible adult in a child's life. It comes with the job.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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



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Palmer, MA 01069

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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.

Business

Celebrating 25 years of community care

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – The team at Professional Medical Services, Inc., celebrated a major milestone with local officials last week.

Celebrating 25 years in business, the Professional Medical Services leadership team held a staff appreciation event on Aug. 28.

Joining staff members at the Palmer office (1525 North Main Street), local legislators were thrilled to congratulate the family-owned home care agency.

“As the owner, it is a profound privilege to serve the consumers in our community who are in need of home care,” read a statement issued by the Professional Medical Services, Inc., ownership team. “Our mission

is centered around making a real, meaningful difference in the lives of individuals who wish to safely and comfortably remain in their own homes. It is an honor to support our neighbors when they need it most.”

Professional Medical Services has two primary branches in Massachusetts (Palmer and Feeding Hills).

The agency specializes in helping clients maintain independence in their homes through several services. These include offering personal care attendants; home-making and companion services; private duty nursing (skilled care delivered by RNs and LPNs); medication reminders and refills; and 24-hour overnight care.

“I absolutely love this company and have been here for over 22 years,” said Denise Galarneau, a regional

manager with Professional Medical Services. “For me, working at a company with such a deep history in the community means everything. Over the past two decades, we have been dedicated to providing quality, caring service to our consumers right here at home.”

For local legislators, who work on a daily basis with seniors and their families, it was a thrill to celebrate an agency that helps aging populations preserve their independence.

“Having a place that offers these types of services is invaluable to the community,” said State Senator Jake Oliveira, who was accompanied at the Aug. 28 event by State Representative Todd Smola. “As the baby boomer population ages, there is a huge need for folks who can help people stay in their



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders

Local officials celebrate with the Professional Medical Services team.

homes.”

Regardless of which home care services seniors require, local residents know they can trust the Professional Medical Services team to deliver.

“Seeing the positive impact we make on our neighbors’ lives every day is incredibly rewarding, and it is a privilege to be part of a team that local families have trusted for so many years,”

Galarneau added.

To learn more about the agency, visit its website: www.pmshomecare.com.

The Palmer office can be reached by calling 413-289-9018.

The sky is the limit at Skyline Electrical Systems

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – Surrounded by local officials and members of the business community, the owners of Skyline Electrical Systems were warmly welcomed to town last week.

During Skyline’s Aug. 27 grand opening at 1420 Main Street, co-founders Dan Gomes and Jim Parenteau were congratulated by several area leaders.

Guests for the ribbon cutting ceremony included State Representative Todd Smola, State Senator Jake Oliveira, Palmer Town Manager Brad Brothers, and members of Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

“We are very excited to step out and start our own business here in town,” said Parenteau, who worked with Gomes for nearly eight years during previous chapters of their careers.

Skyline Electrical Systems specializes in building automation controls, HVAC electrical service, and several additional offerings throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Gomes, a West Springfield resident, is serving as the business manager and handling sales. Parenteau, of Framingham, is managing



Skyline Electrical Systems co-owners Dan Gomes (second from right) and Jim Parenteau (middle) are congratulated by local officials.

field operations.

With its easily accessible location off the Mass Pike between their respective communities – plus its proximity to Connecticut – Palmer was the perfect choice for the co-founders.

“Palmer is the crossroads of New England,” said Rep. Smola, speaking enthusiastically about Skyline’s opening as the latest in a series of positive developments for the historic railroad town. “When businesses come in and fill vacant spots, it’s great for everyone in the community.”

Added Sen. Oliveira, “Congratulations to Dan, James, their families, and the entire Skyline team. Wishing you many years of success. The sky’s the limit when you

partner with Skyline on your project.”

Combined, Gomes and Parenteau bring more than 50 years of experience in both the electrical and building automation industries.

Both men graduated from regional vocational high schools for electrical wiring in 1998. Gomes pursued degrees in energy systems technology and business at Springfield Technical Community College and American International College. His career in the building automation industry spans more than 25 years.

Parenteau, who acquired electrical licenses throughout New England, has led many complex projects within the industry over his career of

more than two decades.

“We are excited to bring our cutting-edge automation systems to the area for smarter and more efficient buildings and operations,” said Gomes and Parenteau in a joint statement. “No job or project is too complex or modest. We look forward to meeting and working with local businesses, as well as homeowners, to perform electrical work in both the commercial and residential markets.”

For town officials, it’s exciting to see a continued pattern of businesses seeking to call Palmer home.

“Any day we have a business opening is a great day for the town,” Brothers said.

Local business owners and organizations were



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders

Skyline co-owners Jim Parenteau and Dan Gomes cut the ribbon outside their new business.

also eager to greet their new neighbors prior to the ribbon cutting and presentation of legislative citations.

“The Quaboag Hills Chamber is thrilled to welcome Skyline Electrical Systems to the region,” said James Przypek, CEO of the Chamber. “We are especially appreciative to co-owners Dan Gomes and Jim Parenteau for bringing their expertise, vision, and dedication to the Quaboag Hills communities, and for selecting Palmer to be their home base of operations.”

Looking ahead, Gomes and Parenteau can’t wait to expand their customer base across the area.

“Our location is perfectly centralized to the area we want to serve. We intend to serve the entire state of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and southern New Hampshire,” Gomes said. “We’re excited to be part of a working class community with family values and a strong history of industry.”

Skyline Electrical Systems can be found online at: www.skylineelectricalsystems.com.

To learn more about services provided by the business, send an email to: info@skylineelectricalsystems.com.

The Skyline staff can be reached by phone at 413-316-4466.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register 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.

CORRECTIONS The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393.

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Business

Big support for small businesses

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – Small business representatives from throughout the area recently teamed up to promote the importance of shopping local.

Linea Lamothe, the owner and manager of Antique Junction in town, organized an outdoor Vintage Pop-Up Market that was held on Aug. 22.

The event featured dozens of vintage vendors, artisans, makers, crafters, and other local small businesses. Several area communities were represented across an array of specialties.

“As a small business ourselves, we know how important it is to support one another,” Lamothe said. “This event isn’t just about bringing people to one location – it’s about introducing visitors to everything Palmer has to offer and encouraging them to explore our antique shops, restaurants, and local businesses.”

In addition to the market itself, Antique Junction’s sister company, Bygone Excursions, brought guests on a vintage shopping trolley tour throughout the day.

The trolley made its first stop at the market, then proceeded to visit several local antique shops.

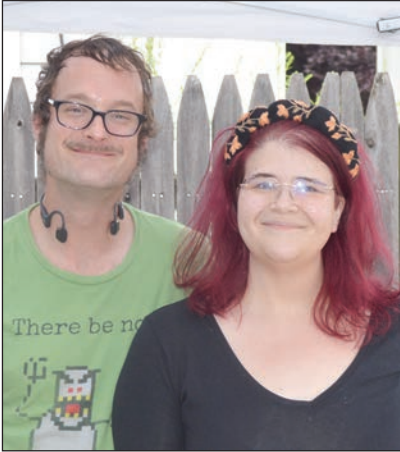
“I come from a family of small businesses, and you can’t survive without getting that support from the community,” Lamothe added.

For event participants, it meant a lot to meet other business leaders and show community solidarity. Amid challenging economic times, every connection and networking opportunity helps bring businesses together.

“I love seeing all of the local businesses come out to support each other. The turnout has been great,” said Brianna Roberts, who represented the Steaming Tender



Sonia Wright, of Monson, represents Cookies by Ray.



Joel Nawskon and Mary Marcil enjoy the event.



The Padykula family, of Palmer, greets guests at the market. Turley photos by Kevin Flanders



Belchertown’s Melissa Hibler introduces guests to Barton Beeswax.



Event organizer Linea Lamothe thanks guests for their support.



Oliver Helliard and Aiden Plant welcome guests to their booth.



The Callahan family, of Ellington, welcomes guests.

Restaurant.

In addition to highlighting individual businesses, the event also provided a great opportunity to promote the town’s overall business landscape.

“We’re excited about the opportunity to showcase Palmer as a destination for antiques, shopping, dining, history, and supporting local entrepreneurs,” Lamothe said ahead of the event. “Our hope is that visitors spend the entire day discovering Palmer, shopping locally, dining at our restaurants, and experiencing the charm of our historic railroad town.”

Residents and business owners said the event was a helpful tool for encouraging tourism and celebrating local history.

Additionally, the Vintage

Pop-Up Market took place on the same day as Palmer’s annual Lemonade Day event. The combination of the two programs helped draw even more guests to town.

At Antique Junction, two young entrepreneurs sold lemonade to guests as part of the Lemonade Day program.

“I think it’s a wonderful addition to the event – and a great way to encourage and support the next generation of small business owners,” Lamothe said.

Additional participating businesses included Cookies by Ray, Barton Beeswax, The Old Crow’s Menagerie, Sweet Amethyst, and Creative Change Glass Creations.

All local businesses and residents who attended the event are thanked by organizers for their support.



Brianna Roberts and Aiden Valley represent Steaming Tender Restaurant.



Beth Montemagni displays her creations.

Simple budgeting tips that fit real life

If you’ve just started managing your own finances, recommitting to doing it well or noticed your spending isn’t making you as happy as you’d hoped, a budget might be exactly what you need. When you know where your money is going, you’re likely to feel more in control and more confident your finances reflect what actually matters to you.

A simple budgeting framework to start: The 50/30/20 rule. One of the easiest ways to structure a budget is the 50/30/20 rule. The concept is refreshingly straightforward: Put 50% of your after-tax income toward necessities (housing, groceries, utilities, transportation), 30% toward wants (dining out, entertainment, streaming subscriptions) and 20% toward savings or paying down debt.

The 50/30/20 rule is a great foundation, but you may need to adjust it a little. If you live in a high-cost city, housing alone might require more than half your paycheck. Or you may have high income and can save more than 20%. Think of the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point you can adjust as your life evolves.

Not sure where your money goes? That’s completely normal. If you honestly don’t know what you spend each month, try a low-pressure approach first. Spend a few months simply observing. Check your accounts without judgment, noting money coming in and going out. Think of it as a financial check-in rather than a report card. You can’t change the past, but you can absolutely adjust for the future.

From there, small steps go a long way. Even spending 15 minutes a week on your budget can make the whole process feel far less daunting.

Make technology your easy button. Some budgeting apps do the routine work for you, syncing with your accounts and tracking spending automatically. Others are more hands-on, encouraging you to map out your spending plan in advance. There’s likely one out there for every style of budgeting. The goal is to find a system you’ll actually use and stick with.

When the numbers feel discouraging. Sometimes looking at spending brings up more stress than relief. If that happens, start by shifting your perspective. Focus on the expenses that brought you real value — a modest gift that meant the world to a friend or how your rent provides a comfortable, stable life. Then look for changes that align your spending with your values. Substituting expenses, reducing expenses or creating more income could all be used to help you keep your spending below your income.

Build a buffer. If you can, consider building a small buffer into your budget for unexpected expenses such as birthdays, minor repairs or spontaneous plans. Adding perhaps 3% of your income or a set dollar amount, like \$200, helps keep those costs from throwing your whole plan off course.

The bottom line. With a few simple steps, budgeting becomes easier to stick with and more meaningful over time. At its core, it’s a way to align your money with what matters while enjoying today and planning for tomorrow.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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BBQ | from page 1

grade. And then, any new student who's in eighth through 12th grade are also here, so that's great."

Besides the barbecue, visitors were also treated to a scavenger hunt that allowed them to walk around the school and talk to the teachers. There was also a presentation, led by Principal Christopher Fontaine and Assistant Principal Mary Zurawka.

"We're excited to start the year," Fontaine said. "We've got two new pathway programs that are officially launching, Advanced Manufacturing and Medical Assisting, so students are excited to get certifications throughout the year."

Fontaine and Zurawka talked about rules and expectations of the school, including a number of helpful slides with information for both students and families.

"It's a great night. The weather's perfect, and we had a good turnout," said Coach Eric Degnan. "It's a nice thing that we've done for a number of years here, just as a good way to welcome the new students, whether they're seventh graders or older kids coming in new to the district. It's a good way to kick off the school year."

The scavenger hunt involved exploring the school and asking teachers questions. Some of the questions were about the teachers themselves, such as the students who tried to guess the music teacher's favorite instrument. In other cases, families were able to ask questions directly to their students' instructors.

"Back in the day, we used to do an open house in October," Foster said. "I don't know, I feel like kids need this, to roam the halls and meet their teachers before day one."

The schools officially opened their doors this past Monday. For more information about what's going on at the school, you can visit their website at MonsonSchools.com.



Assistant Principal Mary Zurawka posed with the Monson High graduate frame.



Mike Tremblay and Eric Degnan fried burgers for the guests who arrived on Thursday.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
Superintendent Paul Foster and Principal Christopher Fontaine greeted new students in front of the school.



Renee Wnuk walked past the school's trophy cabinet with seventh grader Jack.



12th graders Ella and Madelyn and 11th graders Madelynn and Maya stood under the tent at the merch table.



Seventh graders Max and Jacob managed to guess the favorite instrument of music teacher Bronson Pearson (left).



Georgia Perrault caught up with 12th graders Mackayla and Grace in the halls.



Seventh grader Willow and Tracey and Paul Kida stopped by the main offices at the school.



Bear, a local Scout, toured the school with Laura and Matt Lillibridge.



Jeff Lord, Mike Scotton, Anna, age 7, and Lilly, age 8, chatted in front of the cafeteria.

PRINCIPAL | from page 1

uncompromising dedication to students. What works best for students is the compass I bring to instructional leadership," Taylor said. "My leadership style is being visible, being present, interacting with students and being available in hallways. My goal is to be the first person that welcomes every kid into the building."

"It used to be if you didn't fit into this box that the school system expected, then you'd be 'discarded' to a vocational school," Taylor said. "Nowadays, it's the place where everyone wants to be."

Taylor shared a story from his own background as an illustration of what vocational technical schools like Pathfinder are for.

"When I was young, I wanted to be a lawyer forever, everyone knew that," Taylor said. "I went to college as a prelaw student, and organically had a conversation with a professor who said he used to be a lawyer making millions in New York City, but never had time for his family. He said teaching was the best thing."

"At the time, I thought maybe law wasn't for me," Taylor continued. "Sophomore year, coming home for Thanksgiving, I announced I didn't want to be a lawyer

anymore, and would maybe become a teacher someday."

Taylor proceeded to switch majors to political science as an easy way to transfer credits. He was able to obtain a highly coveted internship for Senator John Kerry and worked in his Western Massachusetts office, where he performed clerical duties, ranging from opening letters, responding to emails, writing proclamations and putting everything through Kerry's auto-pen.

"It was awesome," Taylor said. "They actually asked me to stay on even after I graduated."

After graduation, Taylor didn't know what to do with his degree until he happened to run into a friend at a social gathering who was a substitute teacher at Taylor's old high school.

"I absolutely loved it," Taylor said. "I was the substitute everyone requested."

That summer, Taylor encountered another friend, who was in charge of Duggan Middle School in Springfield, and invited him to teach English. After teaching at Duggan for a year and passing his Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, Taylor moved to a middle school in Chicopee, where he taught social studies to seventh and eighth grade.

In Chicopee, Taylor worked as a soccer coach for

the high school, and applied to teach social studies at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, the local vocational technical school. Taylor said this is when people started recommending that he apply to be an administrator.

"I left Chicopee to work in Westfield as the supervisor of social studies, where I supported all the social studies teachers in grades five-12 by doing evaluations," Taylor said. "It was good, but I didn't work with kids anymore. I really wanted to be able to work with kids and also be an agent for change."

This is when Taylor decided to pursue a position as assistant principal, which he filled at Lawrence School in Holyoke after the COVID-19 pandemic. Taylor then moved to Baird Middle School in Ludlow when the principal resigned.

He described being "voluntold" by the superintendent to take on the responsibility of supporting the interim principal.

"I got a lot of pressure to throw my hat in, and was offered the position," Taylor said. "I loved it at the middle school. It was a great learning experience and took a lot of hard work."

Taylor described the early days at Baird as "really dysfunctional and unorganized," but he was able to put

systems in place to support learning and restore calmness to building.

"Through hard work, that building dramatically changed," Taylor said. "Now people go to the building and say it's one of the quietest middle schools. People are smiling when they had never smiled before."

Taylor said he was able to work together with the staff at Baird to improve the culture at the school.

"I really liked that, and the kids were great," Taylor said. "But I had itching to get back into high school and specifically vocational school. Since I taught at Chicopee Comp, I had always enjoyed working there, and I loved that kids were able to see the relevance in their learning through vocational schools."

Besides the increased relevance of technical programs, Taylor also appreciates the strong connections that vocational schools have with their communities. He has said that teaching at the high school level feels more rewarding and impactful for the students.

"Every single place I've worked has been a meaningful experience, but most gratifying for me, personally, has been the high school level," Taylor said. "Vocational schools like Pathfinder provide opportunities to seriously change the trajectory

of someone's life. When you graduate from a school like Pathfinder, you're not just career-ready, but also college capable."

Having worked at multiple vocational technical schools, Taylor said that Pathfinder has a unique advantage by serving nine different communities in the area.

"Chicopee Comp (and other vocational technical schools) all have great instructors, administration, students, and communities they serve, but Pathfinder has a broader availability to service students," Taylor said. "We pull in students from all different towns, so we have more diversity economically and socially. We have the opportunity to create these cultures and bring people together, that's something I'd say Pathfinder has an advantage in that sense."

Taylor also spoke about the cutting-edge equipment at Pathfinder, saying that the school "offers the best materials and resources for our students."

"I got my first tour of the building with the Head of Maintenance, and I felt like a kid in a candy store going through the tech programs and seeing the tools," Taylor said.

Though he said talking about himself was "the most uncomfortable part" of his

day, Taylor shared a little bit about his home life. His wife, Dr. Elizabeth Taylor, also works in education, in the field of school psychology.

"I absolutely love her, she's the best," Taylor said. "The best Professional Development I get is at dinner table, talking with her."

The Taylors live in Feeding Hills with their two children, Catherine, age 10, Matt, age 8, and their black Labrador, Shep. Taylor said Matt, who shares his name with his father but goes by his middle name, is an athlete who plays hockey, lacrosse and soccer, and Catherine, nicknamed "The General," seems to have inherited his drive to be a lawyer.

"I'm deeply affected by my family and take any chance I get to spend time with them. They're the anchor in my life, and I love them more than anything," Taylor said.

Pathfinder Tech is about to start offering classes in medical assisting at its Cold Spring Campus in Belchertown. Taylor mentioned the school is considering expanding its offerings to include things like veterinarian studies and criminal justice.

If you'd like to know more about what Pathfinder Tech has to offer, you can visit their website at Pathfinder-Tech.org.

of education.”

“Palmer is fortunate to be represented by legislators like Senator Oliveira and Representative Smola, who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to supporting local communities,” Brothers said. “Events like today highlight the strong partnership between our community

"It was especially great to celebrate alongside the stu-



Several new pieces of equipment were installed.



Officials present the check to school leaders.

School officials thank everyone who came together to make the project possible.



The new playground is ready for use.



Monson school and town officials showcase the new Chromebooks. Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

Added Puppolo, "These

The event was also attended by Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz, who

Following the check presentation, local legislators enjoyed an opportunity to meet Monson's new teachers as they prepared for the school year.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

The Journal Register ~ November 5, 2026

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 ddfynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to

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Please submit your photo no later than
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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.

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SOCCKER

Girls soccer back on the turf

SOUTH HADLEY – It was not their own home field at Dr. Rogers, but Monson High School girls soccer was back on the field last Saturday afternoon. The Brownies participated in multiple short scrimmages in a play day at South Hadley High School. The Mustangs are getting ready to open the regular season on Tuesday, Sept. 8 against Southwick Regional at 4 p.m. They also had another scrimmage scheduled against Chicopee this week.

Right, Chelsea Hull navigates up the field.



Audrey Gregoire makes her way up the field.



Avery Beaudoin brings in a pass.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ema Mazare tries to corral a header.



Makayla St. George sends a quick pass away.



Lila Castonguay makes a quick touch.

SOCCKER

Familiar face takes helm of MHS girls soccer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – A little bit of history will be made when the Lady Mustangs kick off the 2026 regular season with a home matchup against Central Division foe Southwick on Sept. 8.

On that afternoon, Brooke Murphy, who was one of the most prolific scorers in Monson High School history, will become the first woman to coach the Lady Mustangs soccer team.

“It’s a very special honor to be the first woman to coach the girls’ soccer team,” said Murphy following a recent preseason practice. “I played for this team for six years, so it feels good to give something back. I was an assistant coach last year, and it’s a great group of girls.”

Murphy joined the varsity soccer team when she was in the seventh grade.

That year, the Lady Mustangs defeated Sabab, 5-3, in the Western Mass. Division 3 finals at Snot Park in Chicopee. It marked the first time that the Monson girls’ soccer team took home the Western Massachusetts championship title.

“Being a member of the first girls’ soccer team to win the Western Mass. title in school history was a cool experience,” Murphy said. “The boys team played before us and they also won, so it was a very memorable night for our school and community.”

Five years later, the Lady Mustangs celebrated a thrilling 1-0 victory over Gateway High School in the Western Mass. Division 4 championship match, which took place at Westfield State University.

MHS | page 11

FOOTBALL



Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.



Cassian Kowalik lumbers through the crowd on a carry.

Pioneers set to represent Palmer for 2026

PALMER – The Palmer High School football team is not fielding a varsity team this season due to lowering numbers.

The team hopes to have a JV team this year and rebuild its varsity roster for next season.

Meanwhile, Pathfinder will be representing the town in the varsity ranks by itself this year. The Pioneers were scheduled to be in scrimmage action this week, but rain threatened that matchup. Pathfinder’s schedule was

slightly changed by some of the matchups being moved around this year.

The season opener for the Pioneers will not be far away, however, as Pathfinder will make a very short trip to Ludlow to take on the Lions

on Friday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Their season opener will take place on Friday, Sept. 18 against Commerce.

The Pioneers will be using Legion Field as their home field once again this season.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop during last year’s final game with Belchertown on Thanksgiving



Aiden Girard makes a great block.



Trevor Alexander makes a carry for the Pioneers.

UA awards scholarship



Submitted photo
Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer Sean Krol. The umpires’ association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying its important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year’s scholarship will open up early in 2027.

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Athlete of the Week

Avery Beaudoin

Monson High School

Beaudoin is one member looking to help bring Monson back to the state tournament this year.

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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WSU girls volleyball ranked second in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – 2025 MASCAC Volleyball regular season and tournament champion Bridgewater State are the preseason favorites to win the 2026 crown as voted on by the coaches around the league.

The Bears received seven first place vote to land in the top spot. Back-to-back tournament MVP Lily Welch returns after she helped the Bears to their first MASCAC Regular Season title since 2008. Last season, she led the team in kills with 234, hitting percentage (.313) and digs (262). Welch was also second with 46 total blocks and fourth with 31 services aces.

Westfield State is up next in second. The Owls were 7-1 in league play and bring back All-Conference honoree Lauren Carnes who earned first team honors as an outside hitter, racking up 185 kills while playing in just 17 matches after missing nine games during the middle of the season. Carnes per set numbers reflect her impact on a match-by-match basis with her 2.89 kills per set ranking third in the MASCAC. The Owls lost three of their top four hitters to graduation, but return a steady back line with Erica Majka (Agawam, Mass.) (266 digs) and Zurielys Rivera (264 digs) tops among the Owls’ defensive specialists a year ago.



Westfield will tip off the 2026 season with a non-conference match at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sitting in third place is Framingham State with the final first place vote. Looking for her third straight MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year award is Natalie Reynolds. In 2025, she led the conference with 438 kills, 3.71 per set and 1,085 total attacks. She was second in hitting percentage at .279, fourth in solo blocks with 16 and fifth with 51 total blocks while adding 85 digs and 34 service aces. The Rams upset the Owls, 3-2 to eliminate Westfield from the conference tournament in 2025.

MCLA comes in fourth in this year’s poll. The Trailblazers were 5-3 with the help of reigning MASCAC Rookie of the Year Kaelynn Greeley who closed out her first year with the Trailblazers fourth in the conference with 221 kills, seventh in kills per set with 2.63 and 10th in hitting percentage with .217. She also tallied

36 service aces, 167 digs and nine total blocks over 25 matches.

Up next in fifth is Worcester State. Last season, the Lancers were also 4-4 in league play. During the 2025 season, Katherine Croteau finished second in the MASCAC with 477 digs and 654 receptions with third-most digs per set at 4.54. She also recorded 95 assists and 36 service aces to earn MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Salem State is in the sixth spot. Returning for the Vikings is Celia Carbone who dished out a career-high 512 assists, averaged 6.10 assists per set, and set a new career-high in digs (222) last season.

Rounding out the 2026 poll is Fitchburg State in seventh and Mass. Maritime in eighth. For the Falcons, Madison Keohane returns after averaging 3.38 assists per set, 284 total assists, 171 digs and 25 service aces last season. For the Buccaneers, Holly Sanders is back after grabbing All-Conference honors in her first season. She led the MASCAC with 577 digs and 6.63 digs per set while tallying 25 kills, 89 assists, 48 service aces.

The volleyball season gets underway the first week of September with the MASCAC teams in non-conference action.

Bay State Games announces three inductees to 2026 Hall of Fame

WALTHAM – Representative Patricia Haddad (legislative leadership), Representative John Barrett (legislative leadership), and Ryan McCarthy (baseball coach) have been selected for induction into the 2026 Bay State Games’ Hall of Fame. The inductees will receive their award at a pre-game ceremony at Fenway Park on Sunday, June 14 prior to the Red Sox game against Texas.

The Bay State Games Hall of Fame was created to recognize past participants who have gone on to prestigious and successful athletic careers, as well as former and current coaches, officials,

sports organizers, and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the organization throughout its 38-year history. Past inductees among the over 60 previous honorees include the NBA’s Dana Barros (’06), Pat Connaughton (’25) and the late Reggie Lewis (’02); WNBA’s Rebecca Lobo (’03); Major League Baseball’s Rich Hill (’13); Olympians Nancy Kerrigan (’07), Ada Korkhin (’25) and Samantha Livingstone (’18) and US Paralympic Gold Medalist Joe Lemar (’15).

“The Bay State Games is proud of the many athletes who have participated

ed in the program and gone on to achieve success at the collegiate, professional, and Olympic levels. We are equally proud of the coaches, sport organizers, community leaders, and supporters whose dedication, expertise, and generosity have helped make the Bay State Games possible.” Said Kevin Cummings, the Bay State Games Executive Director. “We are honored to recognize this year’s Hall of Fame class and celebrate the significant contributions each inductee has made to the Bay State Games. Their commitment, leadership, and lasting impact have strengthened the organization

and enriched the experience of countless athletes throughout the Commonwealth.”

Rep. Patricia Haddad - Legislative Leadership
Massachusetts State Representative Patricia Haddad championed state support for the Bay State Games for over two decades. She has supported the recreation, health, and education-based programs of the organization that benefit thousands of Massachusetts participants each year. A former teacher for 14 years, Rep. Haddad represented the 5th Bristol District for 25 years and served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Massa-

chusetts House of Representatives for ten years.

Rep. John Barrett - Legislative Leadership
Massachusetts State Representative John Barrett from Berkshire County has been a strong supporter of the Bay State Games since the mid-1980s. Rep. Barrett was instrumental in bringing the Winter Games to Berkshire County, where they have been held for over 35 years. He has served as State Representative for Berkshire County since 2017 and was formerly Mayor of North Adams for 26 years. Rep. Barrett is also a leading advocate of the statewide Summer Games.

Ryan McCarthy - Baseball Coach
Ryan McCarthy from Portsmouth has served as volunteer baseball coach at the Bay State Games for over two decades. He has led the Northeast team to numerous championship medals. Ryan has devoted more than 25 years to coaching high school student-athletes in both baseball and football at Triton Regional High School, Newburyport High School, and Dighton-Rehoboth High School. He has had a positive impact on countless Massachusetts high school student-athletes.

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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

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

September Vendors

Sept. 8 - Heart Arts Crafts
Sept. 9 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
Sept. 15 - Wicked Good Treats
Sept. 16 - How Charming
Sept. 21 - Geriations & Sew On
Sept. 23 - Crystal Clear Emotions

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET: Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. The farmers market

is open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m.-noon beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running until Labor Day weekend. Offerings include homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

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

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 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 Road, Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@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 AMETS 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. Follow them on Facebook for more information.

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.

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at 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. For more information call 413-283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson is held every Tuesday from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

OVERDOSE | from page 3

covery Center of HOPE and its peer recovery coaches, as well as community allies such as Town Manager Stuart Beckley and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance.

One person that Gratton gave support to, even when it took numerous attempts just to receive a text back of "OK," was resident Sean O'Connell.

O'Connell said he had over 20 years in recovery back in 2019, when the pandemic hit. It was then that he became exposed to fentanyl, which he said was like the "bogeyman" of substances.

O'Connell said overdose can impact any substance user,

especially when fentanyl is often mixed with other substances.

"It can happen the first time you use," he said. "Sometimes the person doesn't know what they're taking."

O'Connell said it takes a combination of community, recovery networks and mental health support for people to break the cycle of addiction. The availability of Narcan, and efforts to reduce the stigma around addiction have helped save lives.

"We're showing that in numbers," he said.

O'Connell said educating people on proper medication storage is also important to prevent substance use. He said

the first time he tried a drug was from a family member's medicine cabinet.

O'Connell encouraged people to carry Narcan in their vehicles and keep it in their homes. He said it can be picked up for free from recovery supports and from Walgreens.

"Narcan is not a solve-all," O'Connell said. "But it saved my life twice."

O'Connell, who moved here from the Boston area, said he is grateful for the community of Ware. He asked people to "stay connected" to each other and not to give up on someone that is struggling.

"People that use are typically broken and trying to fix

something with a substance," O'Connell said. "I've been welcomed...Randy wouldn't leave me alone."

Gratton led a prayer, which was followed by a moment of silence.

Lutz then invited those in attendance to say the names of loved ones they lost to overdose, or to recognize those who survived.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Photos of those who lost their lives to overdose were displayed.



Left, Randy Gratton led the vigil attendees in a prayer. Below, Purple candles were lit for International Overdose Awareness Day.



MHS | from page 9

Murphy netted the only goal of that contest. She finished her high school career with more than 200 goals and points.

"When I was a junior, there weren't any seniors on the soccer team," Murphy said. "It was very nice playing with the same girls two years in a row. All of us were very good friends."

Degnan, who retired from coaching after winning the Division 5 state title in 2023, coached Murphy all six years that she played for the varsity soccer team.

"Coach Degnan always made practice challenging," Murphy said. "He always made sure that we were ready for every game. It was a great experience, and he was a great soccer coach."

Brooke's two younger sisters, Bee and Tennessee were also coached by Degnan on the soccer pitch.

After graduating from high school, Brooke Murphy continued her soccer career at the University of New Hampshire.

"When I was a freshman at U.N.H. we won the American East championship title for the first time," Murphy said. "We earned the automatic bid to the NCAA Division 1 tournament. We lost at UConn in a first round game. It was a cool experience, and it was almost like a home game for me."

Pagliaro asked Murphy to be his assistant coach last year.

"It was so much fun to coach with Larry last year," Murphy said. "I really enjoyed coaching the team. The players really wanted me to come back this year."

The Lady Mustangs finished last season with a 12-11-1 overall record, but they played in both the Western Mass. Class C finals and the Division 5 state finals. It wasn't a story book ending like it was in 2023, as Monson lost to Hull, 3-1, in the state finals.

"We lost a close game to Mount Greylock in the Western Mass. finals," Murphy said. "Then we made it all the way to the state finals. We had an outstanding season."

After losing four games

to Hampshire Regional, Ludlow, Granby, and Southwick at the beginning of last season, things began to change for the Lady Mustangs.

"We had a very difficult regular season schedule," Murphy said. "We went through a tough stretch, and we told the girls to refocus after that. We quickly turned things around."

Pagliaro decided to retire from coaching following last season and Murphy decided to apply for the position.

Monson High School has always been known to have one of the best soccer programs in Western Mass., along with Ludlow High School, Minnechaug Regional, and Belchertown High School.

"All of the players on the varsity team began playing soccer at the youth level," Murphy said. "The youth coaches have done an outstanding job of developing the players during the past twenty years."

There are twenty players listed on Monson's varsity roster and Murphy didn't have to make any cuts.

"We don't have a j.v. team," Murphy said. "We have a good mix of players on this year's team."

Hannah Murphy, who isn't related to Brooke, is the only player the Lady Mustangs lost to graduation.

"Hannah was a very special soccer player here," Brooke Murphy said. "She always found the back of the net and it's a big loss for us. We do have a bunch of girls who are ready to step up."

The seniors listed on this year's roster are Emma Maziarz, Makayla St. George, Lyllia Ellis, Avery Beaudoin, and Chelsea Hull.

The Lady Mustangs are members of the Central Division, along with Southwick, Granby, Hampshire Regional, Frontier Regional, and Amherst.

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Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of Aug. 16-22, the Palmer Police Department responded to 39 building checks, 62 motor vehicle stops, 13 motor vehicle violations, 87 informational calls, 16 medical emergencies, 12 animal complaints, 31 calls for officers wanted, 30 alarms, 17 silent, accidental, abandoned or hung up 911 calls, six fire calls, six theft or fraud calls, nine investigations, three motor vehicle accidents, four motor vehicle releases, 16 general services, four out of jurisdiction reports, 10 assists to other agencies and two transports.

Sunday, Aug. 16
4:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Shearer Street
4:16 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Anderson Street
7:43 a.m. Found Property, Sykes Street
7:59 a.m. Vandalism, Springfield Street
8:49 a.m. Medical Emergency, Bourneside Street
10:24 a.m. Medical Emergency, Chestnut Street
12:37 p.m. Animal Complaint, Main Street
2:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shearer Street and Thorndike Street
3:13 p.m. Medical- Lift Assist, Burlingame Street
4:17 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Old Farm Road
6:13 p.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Boston Road
6:45 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, North Main Street
9:17 p.m. Missing/Runaway, Beech Street
9:33 p.m. Suspicious Person, Ware Street

Monday, Aug.17
3:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Disabled, Main Street and Thorndike Street
8:41 a.m. Animal Complaint, Wilbraham Street
9:52 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Bennett Street
10:24 a.m. Found Property, South Main Street
10:52 a.m. Theft, Wright Street
11:13 a.m. Animal Complaint, East Palmer Park Drive
11:17 a.m. Animal Complaint, Sykes Street
11:51 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Palmer Road
11:53 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Vaile Street
11:57 a.m. Check Well Being, Fairview Street and Wilson Street
12:12 p.m. Medical Emergency, Ware Street
12:21 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Thorndike Street
1:19 p.m. Vandalism, Pine Street
1:20 p.m. Medical Alarm, Beacon Drive
3:00 p.m. Investigation, Simonds Street
3:17 p.m. Theft, High Street
5:50 p.m. Theft, Main Street
6:03 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Mt. Dumplin Road
6:29 p.m. Missing/Runaway, Pleasant Street
7:02 p.m. Fire Mutual Aid, Wilbraham
7:08 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street
7:25 p.m. Check Well Being, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
10:20 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, North Street
10:46 p.m. Unwanted Person, Belchertown Street

Tuesday, Aug. 18
1:25 a.m. Water Leak/Hazard, High Street

5:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, High Street and Ware Street
Arrest: Steven A. Barlow, 57, Bondsville
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vechiel With; Inspection/Sticker No; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit; War-rant
6:11 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Mt. Dumplin Road
6:53 a.m. Unwanted Person, Thorndike Street
8:42 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Riverview Parkway
8:43 a.m. Medical Alarm, North Main Street
8:56 a.m. Missing/Runaway, Palmer Road
11:15 a.m. Civil Complaint, Wilbraham Street
11:17 a.m. Missing/Runaway, Main Street
11:35 a.m. Medical Alarm, Beacon Drive
11:35 a.m. Medical Mutual Aid, Boston Road
12:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
2:07 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sylvia Street
3:05 p.m. Animal Complaint, Thorndike Street
3:08 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Randall Street
4:18 p.m. Investigation, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
5:07 p.m. Missing/Runaway, Main Street
5:15 p.m. Disturbance, State Street
7:20 p.m. Medical Emergency, Fox Street
7:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Repossession, Park Street
7:55 p.m. Investigation, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
10:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Boston Road
10:33 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Park Street

Wednesday, Aug. 19
12:10 a.m. Investigation, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
3:06 a.m. Suspicious Person, North Main Street
4:42 a.m. Investigation, Sykes Street
6:27 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, North Main Street
7:11 a.m. Animal Complaint, State Street
7:39 a.m. Breaking and Entering Residence, State Street
8:06 a.m. Missing/Runaway, Bondsville Road
8:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Bacon Road
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Repossession, Thorndike Street
10:38 a.m. Missing/Runaway, Springfield Street
11:01 a.m. Animal Complaint, Stimson Street
1:39 p.m. Fire Gas Leak/Odor, Main Street
2:07 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
2:18 p.m. Theft, Fieldstone Drive
2:30 p.m. Property Return, Main Street
3:13 p.m. Check Well Being, Baptist Hill Street
3:55 p.m. Investigation, Baptist Hill Street
4:47 p.m. Disturbance, North Main Street
6:00 p.m. Animal Complaint, Thorndike Street
6:47 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Geraldine Street
7:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Main Street and Vaile Street
8:18 p.m. Medical Lift Assist, Mason Street
9:18 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, North Main Street

Thursday, Aug. 20
7:11 a.m. Check Well Be-

ing, Beacon Drive
8:14 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Main Street
8:22 a.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
8:32 a.m. Suspicious Person, High Street
10:13 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Cabot Street
10:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Center Street
11:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Thorndike Street
11:51 a.m. Trespass Complaint, Mt. Dumplin Road
1:51 p.m. Theft, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
2:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Maple Terrace
2:37 p.m. Medical Alarm, Beech Street
2:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Boston Road
3:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Thorndike Street
4:12 p.m. Investigation, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
4:18 p.m. Investigation, Wilbraham Street
5:23 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Fairview Street
11:41 p.m. Check Well Being, Boston Road

Friday, Aug. 21
6:22 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Thorndike Street
8:54 a.m. Suspicious Person, Park Street
9:21 a.m. Fraud, Gates Street
11:11 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Wright Street
11:28 a.m. Check Well Being, Beacon Drive
11:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Thorndike Street
11:40 a.m. Property Found, Main Street
1:37 p.m. Medical Emergency, Wright Street

3:02 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, River Street
3:10 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Lariviere Street
3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Church Street
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Old Warren Road and Peterson Road
5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Main Street
5:25 p.m. Fire Mutual Aid, Old Poor Farm Road
6:46 p.m. Check Well Being, Depot Street
7:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Meadowbrook Lane
9:36 p.m. Disturbance, Springfield Street

Saturday, Aug. 22
3:14 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Thorndike Street
5:45 a.m. Breaking and Entering Vehicle, Main Street
8:42 a.m. Animal Complaint, Pleasant Street
9:54 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
10:36 a.m. Weapons Violation, Katie Lane
11:10 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Robinson Street
11:48 a.m. Breaking and Entering Vehicle, Lariviere Street
12:19 p.m. Animal Complaint, Old Farm Road
1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street
2:41 p.m. Animal Complaint, Palmer Road
3:27 p.m. Medical Emergency, Maple Terrace
4:01 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Breckenridge Street
7:08 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Summer Street
9:38 p.m. Unwanted Person, Lariviere Street

Monson Police Logs

During the week of Aug. 24-31, the Monson Police Department responded to eight miscellaneous calls, 34 administrative calls, 18 property checks, 23 traffic assignments, five traffic violations, two safety hazards, nine investigations, two thefts/larcenies, 34 police vehicle checks, 30 motor vehicle stops, three directed patrols, 22 details/overtimes, four animal calls and eight phone calls.

Monday, Aug. 24
7:33 a.m. Animal/Injured/Hunted
8:47 a.m. Safety Hazard
9:38 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
9:42 a.m. Missing/Runaway/Found Person
11:25 a.m. Investigation/

Follow Up
12:59 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
1:16 p.m. EMS Mutual Aid
1:48 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
3:45 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted
6:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
7:42 p.m. Theft/Larceny

Tuesday, Aug. 25
2:23 a.m. Safety Hazard
8:39 a.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
2:56 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
3:15 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard
3:53 p.m. Theft/Larceny
4:18 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up

Wednesday, Aug. 26
7:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
8:20 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief
12:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
4:40 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard
11:42 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted

Thursday, Aug. 27
12:21 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
5:45 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
12:22 p.m. Animal Complaint
4:27 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted

Friday, Aug. 28
1:49 a.m. Suspicious/

Wanted
2:08 a.m. Suspicious/ Wanted
8:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
8:18 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call
11:49 a.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
12:26 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
12:40 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted
1:27 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard
1:28 p.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
3:02 p.m. Animal Complaint
4:52 p.m. Disturbance/ Nuisance
6:42 p.m. Disturbance/ Nuisance
9:38 p.m. Disturbance/

Nuisance
Saturday, Aug. 29
9:17 a.m. Investigation/ Follow Up
12:12 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard
3:05 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call
3:08 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted
9:22 p.m. Disturbance/

Nuisance
9:54 p.m. Animal Complaint
Sunday, Aug. 30
12:33 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard
1:19 a.m. Suspicious/ Wanted
4:54 p.m. EMS Mutual Aid

Monson Fire Logs

The Monson Fire Department responded to 16 EMS calls and eight fire calls for the week of Aug. 17-23.

On **Monday, Aug. 17** at 4:17 p.m., the department responded to 110 Main St. for a fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 5:30 p.m.

On **Tuesday, Aug. 18** at 10:59 a.m., the department responded to 60 Upper Palmer Road for an oil tank leak. The department returned to service at 1:16 p.m.

On **Wednesday, Aug. 19** at 8:33 a.m., the department responded to 105 Main St. for a fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:50 a.m.

On **Thursday, Aug. 20** at 12:25 p.m., the department responded to 105 Main St. for a fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 12:33 p.m.

On the same day at 2:43 p.m., the department responded to 240 Cedar Swamp Road for alarms sounding. The department returned to service at 3:21 p.m.

On **Friday, Aug. 21** at 2:43 p.m., the department responded to 21 Washington St., Apartment #3, for a gas odor. The department returned to service at 3:24 p.m.

On **Saturday, Aug. 22** at 1:37 p.m., the department responded to 117 East Hill Road for a CO alarm sound-

ing. The department returned to service at 3:23 p.m.

On **Sunday, Aug. 23** at 1:44 p.m., the department responded to 31 State St., Apartment #14A, for a lift assist. The department returned to service at 2:08 p.m.

The department responded to 18 EMS calls and six fire calls for the week of Aug. 24-30

On **Sunday, Aug. 23** at 1:44 p.m., the department responded to 31 State St., apartment 14A, for a lift assist. The department returned to service at 2:08 p.m.

On **Tuesday, Aug. 25** at 7:38 p.m., the department responded to 30 Cedarhurst Drive for a faulty detector. The department returned to service at 8:10 p.m.

On **Wednesday, Aug. 26** at 8:21 a.m., the department responded to 40 Carpenter Road for a lift assist. The department returned to service at 8:47 a.m.

On **Friday, Aug. 28** at 8:31 a.m., the department responded to 3 Heritage Drive for a faulty detector. The department returned to service at 8:48 a.m.

On **Saturday, Aug. 29** at 2:47 p.m., the department responded to 294 Stafford Road for a fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 3:20 p.m.

On the same day at 7:51 p.m., the department responded to 59 Bradway Road for a faulty detector. The department returned to service at 8:21 p.m.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG

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USDA INSP. FROZEN HEAT & EAT LATTICE TOP APPLE PIE 5 LB.....

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1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call **413-284-0005**.

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENING

Part-Time Custodian
The Town of Ware is seeking applicants for the position of custodian. Duties include cleaning restrooms, sweeping, vacuuming, and mopping floors, cleaning windows, taking out trash and restocking supplies. Part-time, non-benefitted, \$17.50 per hour, 12 hours per week.
Job applications can be found on the Town of Ware website <https://www.townof-ware.com> under Human Resources, at the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your application or resume to resumes@townof-ware.com. AA/EEO

REAL ESTATE

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FOR RENT


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

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

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Public notices

Town of Palmer Request for Proposals

The Town of Palmer is seeking respondents to an RFP for the sale of property at 24 Converse Street, Palmer, MA. The parcel is approx. 2.66 acres and includes a school building of approx. 84,749 sq ft. The Town Council has declared the building available through surplus. The RFP requires a minimum bid of \$750k and is now available by emailing bbrothers@townofpalmer.com or for pickup in the Town Managers office. The Town Manager shall select the most advantageous Proposal from a responsive and responsible proposer, taking into consideration the price and all other evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. **Bids are due on October 1st, 2026 at 3:00PM and will be opened immediately after.**

08/27, 09/03/2026

Town of Wales Zoning Board of Appeals

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch 40A §10 & §11, **the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on September 24th, 2026, at the Wales Senior Center at 5:30 p.m.** on the application submitted by Mark & Christina Lloyd of 123 Union Rd. in Wales. The application is being reviewed by the ZBA due to proposed work taking place on a non-conforming lot, specifically the applicant is requesting a 16x35x12 car port structure be installed. Any person interested and wishing to be heard of this application should refer to Sept.24th, 2026 agenda on the Zoning Board of Appeals page on the town website (www.townofwales.net). If you have any questions or concerns, please email planning@townofwales.net

09/03, 09/10/2026

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **September 21st, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Administrative Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corp. (PPC) is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials for a one-year term, on the property located at 863 Ware Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map 31 Lot 28.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administrative Building Monday-Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

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
09/03, 09/10/2026

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 21st, 2026, at 6:10 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Palmer Paving Corporation, also known as JJC Materials Sand and Gravel Pit, is seeking a Special Permit as

required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove earth materials for a one-year term from the property located at 1312 Park Street, Palmer MA, also known as Assessor's Map 7, Lot 13 & Map 56, Lots 78, 79, 80, 83.

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

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
09/03, 09/10/2026

Palmer Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **7:15 PM, Tuesday, September 15, 2026** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a Notice of Intent for activities associated with this asset condition refurbishment project (ACR) project on NEP's existing 015N overhead electric transmission line right-of-way in Palmer. This utility maintenance project will include vegetation management, access improvements, and replacement of all structures and wires in the existing ROW between Ware Substation #501 on Gilbertville Road and Palmer Substation #503 on Blanchard Street in Palmer. The Palmer portion of the 015N line is approximately 8 miles long. Work is proposed in Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Isolated Vegetated Wetland, Bank, Land Under Water Bodies, Riverfront Area, and buffer zone. The applicant making the request is VHB on behalf of New England Power Company. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Elizabeth O'Connor, Chair
Palmer Conservation Commission
09/03/2026

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

Docket No. HD26P1793EA
Estate of:
Lawrence E. Befford
Date of Death: 11/14/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Rebeka L. Befford of Three Rivers.**

Rebeka L. Befford of Three Rivers has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribu-

tion of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/03/2026

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD TREASURER-COLLECTOR OFFICE

Invitation for Bid FY27 Real Estate Brokerage Service

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, for real estate brokerage services will be received by **Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 10:00AM.** Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 10:05AM in the Brimfield Select Board Office, Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. Contract(s) will be awarded by the Brimfield Select Board on Monday, October 5, 2026 at their duly posted meeting.

Bid packets will be available for pickup beginning August 31, 2026 at the Brimfield Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA from 9:00AM to 5:00PM Monday-Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. All questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer. All questions/answers and addendums will be distributed to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked **IFB2026TRREB01 FY27 Real Estate Brokerage Services and include the bid opening date.** All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield bid form (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Corporate Authority, Non-Collusion, and Tax Compliance must be included in all bid submissions.

Contracts will be awarded based on the commission rate of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for each category of real estate. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield, and/or waive any minor informalities on bids received.

Chris DeFalco
Chief Procurement Officer
Town of Brimfield, MA
selectboard@brimfieldma.org
09/03, 09/10/2026

Trial Court of Massachusetts The Superior Court Worcester County Superior Court

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**
Dennis P. McManus,
Clerk of Courts
Docket Number 2685CV00616 B
ORDER OF NOTICE
BY PUBLICATION
M&T Bank
VS.
Siarhei Chumasau

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by **M&T Bank**

Wherein it is seeking: Breach of contract of the Defendants regarding a loan from M&T Bank

We **COMMAND YOU** if you intend to make any defense, that on **09/23/26** or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and re-

ceive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20-days before said return day in the:

Newspaper: Journal Register
City/Town: Holland, Ma
Date Issued: 08/12/2026

Eric Thuotte
Assistant Clerk of Courts
08/20, 08/27, 09/03/2026

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 26 SM 002742 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Camilla C. Matthieu
Roberto G. Botta
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Monson, numbered 32 Green Street**, given by **Camilla C. Matthieu and Roberto G. Botta to Aura Mortgage Advisors, LLC**, dated **March 13, 2025**, and **recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25790, Page 381**, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **10/12/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER
Chief Justice of this Court on 8/26/2026

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
09/03/2026

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

East Hill Road
Reason: East Hill Rd - National Grid to install 3 SO Poles on East Hill Rd beginning at a point approximately 4,180 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Brookfield Rd and continuing approximately 300 feet in a south direction. Approximately 4,180' southeast of the centerline of Brookfield Rd, install Pole # 65 continuing 150' south, install Pole # 64 continuing 150' south, install Pole # 63.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School cafeteria, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly
Select Board, Chair
Town of Brimfield
09/03, 09/10/2026

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

Docket No. HD26P1710EA
Estate of:
Marie Anne Pike
Also Known As:
Marie A. Pike
Date of Death: 04/11/2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christina Pike of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Christina Pike of Palmer, MA and Kermit J Pike, III of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings

and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/03/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P1593EA

Estate of:
Marc Edouard Rondeau
Date of Death:
February 08, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Elizabeth L Rondeau of Woonsocket, RI.** **Elizabeth L Rondeau of Woonsocket, RI** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/27/2026

Monson Conservation Commission Legal Notice

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday September 16, 2026 at 7:10 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street on a Notice of Intent for a proposed access driveway and associated stormwater management within a Bordering Vegetative Wetland and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone for the property located at Wood Hill Road, identified as Assessor's Map 032, Parcel 010. The Applicant is Vertex Towers, LLC. The property owner is the Springfield Sportsman Club Inc.

Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
09/03/2026



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