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MONSON

Excitement and new programs mark first day at MHS

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The first day of school brought a wave of excitement, energy, and optimism to Monson High School, where both students and staff kicked off the year with new academic and technical pathways, expanded course offerings, and a strong sense of community.

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Mary Zurawka, who joined the school this year, said the day ran smoothly and set a positive tone for the year ahead.

“It was fabulous,” Zurawka said. “The kids were great, the staff was great and energized. We had some awesome group meetings going over expectations, and even lunch went well. It was smooth sailing.”

Principal Chris Fontaine, now in his second year leading the high school, said the excitement stems not just from a new academic year but also from innovative opportunities being offered to students.

“There’s a sense of energy throughout the building.”

MHS | page 5

MONSON

New principal takes helm at Quarry Hill

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – Quarry Hill Community School welcomed both a new school year and a new principal this fall, and students were treated to a sweet surprise along the way.

Principal Penny Manteria, who officially began her role on July 1, is already introducing creative traditions and community-building activities. Her first idea, “Pop-sicles on the Playground,” gave children and families a chance to connect outside the classroom, despite a brief drizzle of rain at the

beginning. “This is the first time Quarry Hill has done something like this,” Manteria explained. “I came up with it because we did it in Palmer, and it was such a success there. Sometimes the best ideas are worth bringing with you.”

Manteria is no stranger to education. With 27 years of experience, she spent 24 years working in Chicopee schools before serving as vice principal in Palmer for three years. Now, as the leader of Quarry Hill, she says her transition has been

QUARRY | page 12



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Young Nicholas, age 4, draws a bright sun in chalk on the sidewalk.

PALMER



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Assistant Principals Amy Herring and Enrique Sanchez, with Principal Susan North.

New school year begins at PHS

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The start of the 2025-26 school year has been one of both excitement and reflection at Palmer High School, as students, staff, and families balance the energy of a new beginning with the grief of losing a beloved educator.

Principal Susan North described the first days of the year as “wonderful, but bittersweet,” following the passing of special education teacher Paul Holloway, who was deeply involved in school life.

“Mr. Holloway was loved by everyone in the school system,” North said. “He was my go-to person for just about anything.

Whether it was organizing an event, supporting a program, or stepping up to help where needed, he always said, ‘Okay, I’ll help you, I’ll get it done.’ He was an amazing individual.”

Holloway was not only a teacher but also an active presence in the Unified Program and in organizing activities and ceremonies across the district. His loss has been felt by both colleagues and students, but the school community has rallied together to honor his legacy.

On the first day of school, every student and staff member wore a t-shirt designed by Holloway’s wife, Kristina Dobiacki-Holloway, as a show of unity and support for the

family. The school has also created spaces filled with flags, desks, and memory boards where students and staff can share stories about Holloway. These tributes, North explained, have been a source of comfort not only to Dobiacki-Holloway but to the entire Palmer High community.

“When you walk through the building, you see students and staff writing down their memories of Paul. It’s helping us all move forward while keeping his spirit alive,” North said. Plans are also underway for a Celebration of Life, to be held when Kristina Dobiacki-Holloway is ready, allowing the commu-

PHS | page 5

PALMER

OMP welcomes students back with exciting year



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Principal Holly Riopel with assistant principals Sonia Rodriguez Median and Kerry Lynch.

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The start of the 2025-2026 school year at Old Mill Pond School has brought a wave of excitement, as students and staff return to classrooms filled with new opportunities, upcoming traditions, and creative programs designed to keep children engaged.

Principal Holly Riopel said the staggered start is help-

OMP | page 14

PALMER

Pathfinder showcases major renovations as school begins

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – As students returned to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School this fall, they were greeted not only by new classes and routines, but also by a dramatically refreshed campus that Superintendent Eric Duda describes as “one of the biggest facelifts in the school’s history.”

The school, which has stood for more than five de-

acades, underwent extensive updates over the summer, ranging from classroom upgrades and new lockers to a complete transformation of the cafeteria.

“This cafeteria hadn’t been touched in 52 years,” Duda said while touring the space. The black-and-white

MAJOR | page 14



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Cultural Picnic marks 10th year

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – Unity, culture, and community pride were at the heart of this year's Monson Cultural Picnic, which celebrated its 10th anniversary with a day of food, performances, and local vendors. The free event, held this past weekend, drew a wide range of families, organizations, and businesses together at Veterans Field, reflecting the town's growing diversity and commitment to togetherness.

"This is the 10th year that we're holding the cook-out here in Monson," said Karina Dise, one of the event organizers. "It's a way for the community to come out, relax before the season changes, and spend time with family and friends. Every year it grows a little bigger, and we always welcome new vendors and participants."

Dise is also the founder of Afri(K)que, a nonprofit organization she created after traveling across Africa, Europe, and the United States and observing how poverty was disproportionately affecting women and girls. Many of the women she met knew how to sew, paint, weave traditional fans, or make jewelry, yet still struggled to afford even a single meal. From that realization, the idea of Afri(K)que was born. The name itself stands for Arts and crafts, Finding Reasons In girls and women on a Quest to be United for Empowerment.

Today, Afri(K)que supports women in both Africa and the United States. In Togo, the nonprofit is currently working with three women skilled in sewing batik, bazin, and kente clothing, as well as a fourth artisan who makes handbags from African cloth. Locally, Afri(K)que assists women and girls in Massachusetts experiencing hunger and homelessness by providing handmade jewelry, toiletries, clothing, shoes, and financial support. "Supporting a woman is supporting a whole community," Dise said, explaining that Afri(K)que's work is about more than material aid... it is about building security, confidence, independence, hope, and self-esteem.

To further its mission, Afri(K)que also organizes African jewelry and dance/drum workshops in the United States, offering both cultural enrichment and a means of empowerment for participants. Its products: from jewelry made with African trade beads, scarves, and traditional fans to handmade clothing, wooden carvings, and musical instruments; showcase the skills of women artisans and help fight poverty "one woman at a time." The organization's philosophy emphasizes collaboration with other nonprofits and local groups, a model that Dise says is cru-



Jaw the Artist playing the Alto Sax fills the air with music.

cial for lasting impact.

Throughout the picnic, the theme of empowerment resonated beyond Afri(K)que's booth. Performances included Chinese, Indian, and American dance, along with belly dancing and live music. Food tables offered free cook-out staples, while vendors sold everything from honey and candles to 3D-printed toys and eco-friendly crafts. Nonprofits used the opportunity to share resources and connect directly with residents.

The Monson Police Department attended with kid friendly safety themed coloring books and free Monson Police merch, engaging children and families in a casual, approachable setting. "Events like this give us a chance to engage with the community in a positive way," said Officer Nick Gasperini. "We want kids to know that we're not just uniforms... we're parents, neighbors, people they can approach."

Several nonprofit organizations used the picnic to raise awareness of critical needs. Foster MA staff spoke about the ongoing demand for safe, nurturing foster homes. The Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program provided information on health and food resources for women and children. Representatives from Open Pantry Community Services in Springfield highlighted their housing and food programs, noting their "housing first" philosophy that lowers barriers for people in crisis. The Kidney Advocate LLC, founded by a three-time kidney transplant recipient, shared information about bridging the gap between dialysis patients and healthcare providers.

Local entrepreneurs brought their creativity to the



The owner of It Makes Sense connects with guests.



Local honey, "I'll Bee Back," owned by Mike Kubaska, set up a stand for attendees.

field as well. It Makes Scents showcased massage candles and handmade fragrances, while beekeeper Mike Kubaska explained the importance of pollinators to food systems. Teacher Dan Mimeault from Pioneer Valley Christian Academy displayed 3D-printed fidgets and toys he developed through his small business.

The arts were also well represented. The Monson Arts Council, nearing its 50th year, promoted its wide-ranging programming, from juried art shows and theater productions to youth art camps and innovative exhibits such as the upcoming "Car Art" show. Dance was featured as well, with Gotta Dance Studio of Palmer performing for the crowd. Owner Kelly Jordan Peabody emphasized the studio's focus on community service alongside dance training, with students regularly performing at nursing homes, fundraisers, and local events.

A highlight of the day for many families was a visit from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department Emotional Support Division, which brought therapy dogs to the picnic. Sergeant Patrick Kiendzior described how the dogs support both the community and students in area schools. "These dogs are incredible tools for connecting with kids, especially those with autism or behavioral challenges," Kiendzior said. "One child who had never

spoken before said his first word while interacting with one of our dogs. That's the kind of impact they have."

For Dise, the success of the Monson Cultural Picnic lies not just in the food or performances, but in the connections it fosters. "My hope is that more people hear about it each year and come join us," she said. "Unity is so important, and this event is about building that togetherness."

From its grassroots beginnings to its 10th anniversary, the Cultural Picnic has grown into a celebration of diversity, resilience, and community; values that organizers like Dise believe will carry Monson forward for years to come.



Donna Kimball of Top Floor Learning greets visitors.



Submitted photo by Kelly Jordan Peabody. One of the many Gotta Dance performances.



Submitted photo by Kelly Jordan Peabody. Gotta Dance's tap dancers perform at the cultural picnic.



A henna artist decorates hands with intricate designs.



Members of the Monson Arts Council welcome visitors.



Maggie the Clown paints faces for children.



Representatives from Foster MA share resources with families.



Karen Davis represents Monson Together at the picnic.



Sgt. Patrick Kiendzior poses with therapy dog Chance.



Max Valencourt shows off his skateboarding skills at the local park during the picnic.

ZBA hears excavation request, fence dispute

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Zoning Board of Appeals met Thursday, August 28, to address a full slate of petitions, appeals, and informal discussions ranging from large-scale earth removal on Stafford Road to a neighbor dispute over a fence and concerns about backyard beekeeping.

The board opened the meeting with introductions and a reminder of its purpose: to hear petitions for variances, special permits, and appeals of administrative decisions. With only four members currently seated, all decisions require a unanimous vote. One recent resignation and another expected departure have heightened the difficulty of reaching consensus.

Earth Removal Proposal on Stafford Road

The board spent the bulk of its time revisiting the controversial application by Equestrian Hills Estates, LLC for a special permit to conduct

an earth removal operation on a 12-acre parcel along Stafford Road.

The applicant, represented by Josh Levine and Keith Terry, argued that the work is necessary to prepare the land for a single-family home and barn. The property, they explained, is not currently buildable without significant regrading to create flat areas at the top of the site.

“Without this work, the land is essentially worthless for construction,” the applicants said, noting that the project is intended as a retirement investment, not a commercial gravel pit. They emphasized that the removed material consists primarily of sand, not gravel, and that no blasting or rock crushing is planned. Any boulders uncovered would be repurposed for landscaping.

Board members, however, expressed ongoing concerns. Several highlighted the site’s steep slopes and the history of deforestation in the area between 2006 and 2008, which caused erosion and runoff problems. They also ques-

tioned how the town could ensure the applicant follows through on building the home and barn rather than profiting from sand sales.

“The difficulty here is finding a way to bond or secure the project that guarantees construction, not just restoration of the land,” one member noted.

After discussion, the board voted to continue the hearing to September 25, allowing time for additional site visits and for attorneys on both sides to explore financial assurance mechanisms.

Fence dispute on Cedar Swamp Road

The board next turned to an appeal by Melissa Blackburn, who challenged the validity of a fence constructed by her neighbors, the Lamb family, at 222 Cedar Swamp Road.

Blackburn argued that the base of the fence constituted an illegal retaining wall over four feet in height, which should have required additional permitting. She cited her own past experience when a similar structure on her property had been classified as a retaining wall due to minimal ground contact.

Building Inspector Justin Larivee, however, explained that the permit was properly issued in May 2021 and that the fence met all code requirements. Larivee described the foundation as a “landscape wall” providing a sound base rather than a true retaining wall, which typically involves significant ground-level differences.

Homeowner Shirley Lamb defended the structure, saying it was built with landscape blocks and trap rock for drainage. “It’s not cemented into the ground,” she said. “This is about aesthetics and keeping animals contained. It’s been up for four years without a problem.”

Board members, some of whom had visited the site personally, sided with the inspector. They unanimously voted to deny the appeal, affirming the original permit and noting that the challenge came years after construction was completed.

Beekeeper raises concerns

In an informal session, Roxanne Gunther brought forward concerns about her neighbors’ beekeeping practices on Whitney Avenue. Gunther argued that bees qualify as “livestock” under both state and federal definitions and therefore violate Monson’s bylaw prohibiting livestock within 75 feet of property lines.

She cited a recent incident in which a bear damaged the hives and was seen leaving the area with honeycomb, claiming the situation poses a safety risk. Gunther also alleged the neighbors had previously been ordered to remove bees following a past complaint but had reintroduced them.

Board members clarified that the ZBA is not an enforcement body and cannot act directly on the matter. They accepted Gunther’s comments for the record but took no formal action.

Townwide tag sale draws shoppers

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The streets of Monson were bustling this past weekend as the annual Townwide Tag Sale brought hundreds of shoppers, vendors, and families into town for a day filled with bargains, food, and community connection.

Hosted by the First Church of Monson, the event featured 76 registered tag sale sites spread across all four quadrants of town. A detailed map book guided visitors from stop to stop, helping them plan their routes. The books, sold in advance and the day of the sale, quickly became a hot commodity, with requests coming from both locals and out-of-town visitors.

Pastor Holly Norwick, who experienced the event for the first time this year, called it “an amazing decision” to be part of the tradition. “We had four different maps in the book with 76 different sites,” she said. “We saw license plates from all over and met so many new people. Monson was really hopping today.”

The First Church not only managed its own tag sale but also organized a food court in its parking lot, offering hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. “Fair food, basically,” Norwick said, noting that the church lot was “chock full” of visitors for most of the day. The proceeds from book sales and food helped support the church’s community programming.

The Townwide Tag Sale

has deep roots in Monson. Originally organized by the Boy Scouts, the event eventually transitioned to being coordinated by the church roughly eight years ago. Longtime participants estimate the tag sale itself has been running for at least 16 years, making it one of Monson’s most enduring community traditions.

This year marked one of the largest post-pandemic turnouts, with families walking shoulder-to-shoulder along Main Street and throughout side roads. Traffic slowed in some areas as cars lined both sides of the street, but the overall atmosphere remained festive.

In addition to sales, shoppers could find food, cultural programming, and entertainment throughout town, including live music and lunch offerings at other community stops. “It was wonderful to see so many families out together, just walking up and down, checking out the different sites,” Norwick said.

For Norwick, the day was doubly special, after wrapping up her duties at the sale, she went on to officiate her first wedding in this church sanctuary. “It’s been a full and exciting day,” she said with a smile.

As Monson looks ahead, residents and visitors alike can count on the Townwide Tag Sale remaining a staple event. With its blend of local tradition, bargain hunting, and small-town camaraderie, it continues to bring people together while showcasing all that the community has to offer.

9/11 Remembrance

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

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

Hitchcock Golf Classic seeking golfers to play “fore” a great cause

BRIMFIELD – Hitchcock is proud to bring back for the 5th year its annual Hitchcock Golf Classic “Fore” A Great Cause. This year’s event will take place on Sept. 21 at the Chicopee Country Club.

Established in 2021, the tournament is designed for golfers of any and all abilities who want to support the work of Hitchcock Academy. The day consists of 18 holes of golf and a delicious lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of fun contests - some free, some for an additional fee, and a raffle.

Chicopee Country Club with its rolling terrain, tree-lined fairway and fast, sloping greens is generally regarded as a fine championship course

by area golfers. Through the years, the picturesque golf course has received accolades from publications such as Golf Digest, USA Today, and the New England Journal of Golf magazines. It has been touted as among the best public courses in Massachusetts and one of New England’s top 100 golf courses.

Price is \$120 per player with the option to sign up as a foursome or individual. Registration fee includes entry to the golf tournament, cart, lunch and dinner, contests, snacks, and prizes. Play is in scramble format. Shotgun is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.; registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Players must sign up in advance on Hitch-



Brimfield golfers 2024.

cock’s website or by downloading a form to submit via mail or in person at Hitchcock.

Golf Classic sponsors include Safety Trainers, Collins Electric, The Soggy Dog Spa,

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Morse Engineering

and Construction Industries, LLC, SERVPRO of Hampshire County, P. Remillard Contracting, Inc., Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy P.C., Michael Wales Painting, and JS Mortimer, Inc.

Additional sponsorship opportunities remain. Businesses who wish to support the tournament and Hitchcock can reach out to Cindy Skowyra, Executive Director of Hitchcock at execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Corrections

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



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm in poor health and need to know my Social Security options

Dear Rusty:

I plan to stop working very soon. My health is not good. I am 66 years old, born in June 1959, so my full retirement age is 66 years and 10 months. My wife passed away in March 2024 and she was collecting SS benefits when she died. I have no dependent children. In general, what benefits am I entitled to?

Signed: Unhealthy and Struggling

Dear Unhealthy and Struggling:

Sorry to hear that your health is failing and that you will need to stop working soon. But do not fear, Social Security will be there for you. Here is some info to help you decide your next possible steps:

Since you will not reach your full retirement age until next year in April 2026, your earnings limit for working for this year is \$23,400 or \$1,950/month. The earnings limit will apply only if you decide to claim Social Security early (this year).

If you decide to take Social Security this year, your earnings from before you take SS won't count, but your monthly earnings for the remaining months of this year will be subject to the 2025 monthly limit (\$1,950). If your monthly earnings exceed that amount, you won't be entitled to SS benefits for that month, unless your total earnings for 2025 are less than \$23,400. If you don't exceed the annual limit, your 2025 Social Security benefits won't be affected by your work earnings.

Next year, the year you attain your Full Retirement Age, your earnings limit will be much higher about 2.5 times more or something more than about \$63,000. If your 2026 earnings up through March do not exceed that limit, then you can claim your SS benefits a bit earlier in 2026 before your FRA and your benefits won't be affected, except that your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced by .556% for each month you claim before your FRA.

For example, if you were to claim for your SS to start in January 2026, you would get 98.3% of your FRA amount. So, provided your work earnings won't exceed about \$63,000 between January and March 2026, you could claim effective January 2026 without worrying about Social Security's earnings test.

So, depending upon your health, you could claim SS to start in January 2026, likely without worry about the earnings test and would get about 98.3% of your FRA benefit. Or, health permitting, you could wait to claim SS starting in April 2026 to get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Point is, you just need to be careful not to exceed Social Security's earnings tests prior to reaching your Full Retirement Age or SS will take away some of your benefits.

They "take away" by withholding future monthly payments as long as needed to recover what you owe. Worse case penalty for exceeding the 2026 monthly limit would be no benefits for any month you exceed above (if you claim before your FRA) would also apply to your survivor benefits. So, again, your plans for working enter this decision. If you decide to stop working this year, you could, for example, decide to claim your survivor benefit this year and collect that until you reach your FRA in April 2026 when you would get 100% of your personal SS retirement amount. In fact, you might even decide to collect your survivor benefit longer, allowing your own SS benefit to grow until you are 70, at which time you would get about 25% more than your FRA amount. Indeed, if your survivor benefit is higher than your personal age 70 amount, you can just continue to claim the higher amount.

You do, however, have another option as your wife's surviving spouse: You can claim your benefit as a surviving spouse prior to claiming your own SS retirement amount. But the earnings test described above (if you claim before your FRA) would also apply to your survivor benefits. So, again, your plans for working enter this decision. If you decide to stop working this year, you could, for example, decide to claim your survivor benefit this year and collect that until you reach your FRA in April 2026 when you would get 100% of your personal SS retirement amount. In fact, you might even decide to collect your survivor benefit longer, allowing your own SS benefit to grow until you are 70, at which time you would get about 25% more than your FRA amount. Indeed, if your survivor benefit is higher than your personal age 70 amount, you can just continue to claim the higher amount.

I suggest that when you decide that you must stop working full time, you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to discuss whether it is best to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first and delay claiming your own until a later time to get a higher amount. You can make an appointment to discuss your options with SS over the phone, before deciding when (and what) to claim. And, of course, if you have any further questions, we are always here to assist you with your decision.

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.



How to cure and store for longevity

I harvested my garlic well over six weeks ago. It's been curing in my mudroom stems and all, first with a fan on it to speed the drying process.

Yesterday I cut the stems away and put the garlic fists that were left in mesh bags. Some will be seed garlic, in other words, it will be broken apart into planting cloves. The rest will be used for cooking all through the winter and hopefully into the spring.

It's so important to cure your vegetables well, both for optimal taste and for longevity. As for garlic's cousin, the onion, there is a two step curing process. When three-quarters of the tops have fallen over push down the rest and let them stay in the ground a little while longer. Then, unearth the bulbs and lay them, tops and all, on the ground in the sun, turning occasionally.

When they turn completely brown cut the stems to one inch and spread them on screens single file in a warm and dry, well-ventilated area to cure further. They can rest in that location for up to two months, then store at temperatures close to 40 degrees.

Store apples, bananas, and tomatoes away from onions, these vegetables excrete ethylene gas as they ripen, causing onions to sprout prematurely. Use bulbs that have two centers first, they won't store well.

It is interesting to note that the same compound that

starts the tears flowing when we cut into onions-sulfur, is also a potent fungicide and bactericide. No wonder they store so well!

Potatoes are perhaps the most tricky vegetable to store. Curing them properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh. By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest.

Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process. Never wash potatoes prior to storage!

Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees. Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitch-forked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Harvest winter squash after vines have died back or prior to an impending frost. A pretty New England autumn scene is fields of pumpkins or colorful squash curing under sunny skies.

If you follow the farmers lead, just be sure to lift squash off the ground, and cover if rain or frost threatens. Two weeks in the field or a sunny, well-ventilated space is sufficient for curing, at which point the skin should be hard enough to resist the dent of a fingernail.

Gently washing squash in a 10% bleach solution will help to prevent rot prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees.

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age.

I remember my mom used to store our butternuts up off of the floor in our basement. I've heard of other people storing theirs under the bed in a spare bedroom.

For me, my mudroom serves as an all purpose storage area with mesh bags of onions and garlic hanging from hooks on a shelf, the squash on a small pallet on the floor. I have yet to have enough potatoes to store, but this year might just be the exception and I'll come up with a dark enclosure to store them well.

Get creative and you too will be enjoying the fruits of your labor through winter into spring!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



by Roberta McQuaid

A different kind of concierge medicine



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



The rise of concierge medicine shows no signs of slowing down. Frustrated with long wait times for appointments, waiting room delays and only brief conversations with their doctor, those who can afford it are shelling out hundreds of dollars each month for faster care and attention, 24-hour access and personalized health programs.

It's understandable that, in our fractured health-care system, people would start looking for alternatives. There are some drawbacks to concierge care, however.

Many don't accept insurance, in order to keep their own costs low. You will

still need to pay for insurance in case a serious illness or injury requires hospitalization or a specialist. And not all concierge docs have hospital privileges, which may complicate care coordination - especially important for someone with multiple chronic illnesses.

It's that coordination, or "wraparound care," that sets private patient advocates apart from concierge doctors. Both offer concierge-style service, but a patient advocate goes above and beyond. When you pay for a patient advocate, you can expect them to be there when you need them, anticipate your needs, cut through red tape

and run interference with hospitals and insurance companies.

Here are some scenarios where I think the concierge services of a nurse patient advocate may exceed those of concierge doctors.

When an aging loved one is on their own: Very often, patient advocates are hired by family members trying to care for an elder who lives far away and may not have family close by. We are their boots on the ground, their eyes and ears, and their go-between with the medical professions caring for their loved one.

When you feel the hospital medical staff isn't hearing you: It's not uncommon for patients and patients' families to feel like their concerns are being overlooked or, worse, dismissed. A medically trained patient advocate speaks the language and can build bridges, mediate conflict and dial back the drama.

When your insurance claim is denied: Insurance documents can be wildly

The Journal Register

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Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
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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.

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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

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

Sept. 13

On Saturday, Sept. 13, First Church of Monson, 5 High Street, will hold a dinner and organ recital celebrating the restoration of the Swell Division of the Johnson Organ. Guest organist will be Robert Greene, nationally known composer and organist. The concert will feature works by Bach, Boellmann, and Mendelssohn as well as Greene's original compositions. The baked ham dinner will be served at 5 P.M. followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$20.00 available by calling Gail at 413 267 4818. Concert donations of \$5.00 are available at the door. The concert is supported in part by the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

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

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

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

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

SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS!

MHS | from page 1

Fontaine said. "Students are excited about the new programs and pathways we've launched, including medical assisting and engineering."

The Medical Assisting Pathway, now in its first year, already has 30 students enrolled. Fontaine described that number as "a great start for a small town," noting that the program is expected to grow steadily in the coming years. The school also introduced an Engineering Pathway, which features training in 3D printing, laser engraving, and eventually CNC machining, set to arrive next year. About 25-30 students are enrolled in the engineering track.

Fontaine emphasized that students are not locked

into one direction but instead enjoy flexibility in how they build their education.

"They can still get a normal high school education along with the technical education," Fontaine said. "They can go all the way through a four-year program, or just try it out. It gives them a chance to trial run a job before committing. That's so important because at 17 years old, it's a lot to ask kids to decide what they're going to do for the rest of their lives."

In addition to the new pathways, students expressed interest in the Digital Media Production class, which gives them hands-on experience with green screen technology and film production.

Zurawka said she was impressed by the school com-

munity's warm welcome on opening day. Staff members lined the walkways at 8 a.m. to greet students as they arrived on a crisp, late summer morning. The new superintendent, the school resource officer, and numerous teachers and support staff joined in the welcome.

"It created such a nice sense of community," Zurawka said. "I haven't seen that before in other districts. It really makes an impact on the kids when they see so many adults here, showing up for them."

As the school year unfolds, both administrators said they hope the enthusiasm of opening day carries forward, helping students explore their interests and chart clearer paths toward their futures.

PHS | from page 1

nity to come together formally in remembrance.

While remembering Holloway remains central to the school's opening weeks, Palmer High is also moving ahead with major initiatives and events. This Thursday, September 4, the school will host a presentation titled "Beautiful Tomorrow" from 9:30 to 11 a.m., focused on the school's core values. Flags displayed throughout the building represent those values, which were discussed earlier this summer at the School Committee meeting.

Later that same day, at 6 p.m., families will be welcomed for the school's annual Open House, giving parents and guardians a chance to meet teachers and see classrooms in action.

Principal North emphasized that the school year will be about continuing to build on Palmer High's strengths while honoring the community bonds that make the district unique.

"Our students and faculty have been incredible," North said. "They're supporting each other, lifting each other up, and bringing so much energy into the new school year. Paul's

memory is very much a part of that."

In addition to this week's events, Palmer High is also preparing for the senior class car fundraiser on September 14, which will help support student activities and senior year traditions.

As the year unfolds, the balance between new beginnings and remembrance will remain at the heart of Palmer High School's journey. "It's about honoring Paul, supporting Kristina and their family, and moving forward together," North said. "That's what community is."

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HEALTH | from page 4

confusing. It helps to have someone on your side who can read through the mumbo-jumbo and explain whether an appeal may be successful. A patient advocate can also help prepare an appeal.

When a "simple" medical procedure turns into a nightmare: One of my clients was a 75-year-old gentleman who developed complications after a procedure. Unfortunately, the hospital and

his physicians didn't meet the standard of care, leading him to have a stroke, internal bleeding, dehydration and a host of problems. He became delusional after days in the hospital and was given antipsychotic drugs. I was able to intervene with the care team, and his condition improved.

When a patient isn't ready for discharge: Hospitals very often want to get chronically ill patients out of their beds and into a nursing facility. Sometimes this is the

right thing to do, but sometimes it isn't. A nurse patient advocate can evaluate a patient and work with the care team to make sure it's the proper course, and then help with the transition.

When a college student with a medical condition is away from home: It's unlikely that the typical 18- or 19-year-old has the maturity to advocate for themselves in a medical crisis. Parents may not be there to give their student the personal attention

they may need to understand their treatment, speak with medical staff and schedule tests and appointments. A patient advocate in the student's location can help.

When there's no one to go with you to a doctor appointment: Doctor appointments these days can feel rushed, and often patients are confused about what they're supposed to do next, what medications are changing and what prescriptions need to be filled. Anyone can accompany

you to an appointment to take notes, but if you're on your own, a patient advocate can explain the details.

The most important aspect of a patient advocate's "concierge service" is that they work for the patient, their client – not the hospital, not the insurance company. If you need help, find a board-certified patient advocate in your area by visiting Greater National Advocates (gnanow.org) or the National Association of Healthcare Advocacy

(nahac.com).

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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Saturday, September 6th
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Business

Community, cannabis, creativity come together at Dazed event

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Dazed dispensary at 399 Boston Rd, Monson, on Rt. 20, brought together local businesses, cannabis brands, and community members for a lively event blending retail, recreation and local flavor.

The gathering, which featured food vendors, golf simulators, and pop-up collaborations, highlighted both Dazed's role as a community hub and the growing presence of locally owned businesses in the region.

Yahaira Pagan, Head of Retail Operations at Dazed, said her focus has been on creating experiences that bring people together while showcasing what the dispensary has to offer. Pagan, who has been with the company for four years, explained that Dazed frequently organizes special events to attract new customers and engage the community.

"Our goal is always to bring people in, whether they're longtime customers or newcomers," Pagan said. "We want them to see the fun environment we're building."

Recent Dazed-hosted happenings have included a car and motorcycle show earlier this month and a rotating lineup of food trucks and pop-ups at various locations. For this event, Pagan helped coordinate attractions ranging from a golf simulator to ice cream vendors.

Among the participating businesses was CZP's Frozen Treats, Popsicles, and Ice Cream, a Monson-based shop owned by Elias and April Acuña. The couple opened

their Main Street storefront last year and have since expanded with a mobile cart for events and festivals.

"We make everything ourselves," Elias Acuña said. "A lot of it uses local ingredients, like maple syrup from Bryson's Farm in Monson. One of our most popular items is our Oreo ice cream bar, though our fudgsicle made with local maple syrup has really taken off, too."

The shop operates seasonally, closing in the winter and reopening in March, and has quickly become a staple for families and ice cream lovers in town.

Adding a recreational twist to the event was Let's Par-Tee, a mobile golf entertainment company co-owned by Dave LaFemina and a group of longtime friends. Based in New York but traveling throughout the region, the business provides golf simulators for weddings, corporate functions, and community events.

"We wanted to bring the golf to you," LaFemina said. "Whether it's a party, fundraiser, or festival like this, it's about creating a unique experience that people remember."

The simulator proved to be a highlight of the day, drawing both casual players and golf enthusiasts eager to test their skills.

The event also featured Rove, a California-based cannabis brand with a strong presence in Massachusetts. Shayla Cruz, Rove's Western Massachusetts account manager, explained that the company is known for its high-potency vape products, including distillates, live resins and diamond vapes.

"Everything we produce is high quality, and our products consistently test among the highest in the market," Cruz said. "That's one of the reasons we've been able to grow into 15 states."

Cruz also introduced her own brand, Shacee Stoner, a cannabis lifestyle label created through her licensing partnership with Dazed. In addition to cannabis products, the brand features a merchandise

line inspired by Cruz's appearance on the MTV reality show "Ex on the Beach."

"This is about building a lifestyle brand," Cruz said. "Through my relationship with Dazed, I've been able to expand into dispensaries across Massachusetts while also creating something that connects with people beyond just cannabis."

For Pagan and her team, the event was another step in

Dazed's effort to establish itself not just as a dispensary, but as a gathering place. With ice cream, golf, music, and a mix of vendors, the day reflected the blend of community and creativity Dazed hopes

to cultivate.

"Events like this are about more than just retail," Pagan said. "They're about creating connections and giving people a reason to come together."



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Elias Acuña of CZP's Frozen Treats, Popsicles, and Ice Cream handed out treats.



Shayla Cruz of Rove Cannabis greeted attendees.



One of the co-owners of Let's Par-Tee, Brandon Porro, shows off how to swing.



Guests tried their hand at the golf simulator.



The Rove official event tent where people could hang out and check out other products.

Check fraud is surging - here's how businesses can protect themselves

By Heather Arbour,
Monson Savings Bank VP,
BSA/Fraud Officer
& Compliance Manager

MONSON – In an era dominated by digital payments, it's easy to assume that check fraud is a relic of the past. But the reality is far more alarming: check fraud is not only alive - it's thriving, and it's evolving to span both physical and digital realms. As someone who has spent over two decades in banking compliance and fraud prevention, Heather Arbour, Monson Savings Bank's VP, BSA/Fraud Officer & Compliance Manager, has seen the damage firsthand. Check fraud isn't just inconvenient, it can be devastating.

"We've helped business customers who faced losing tens of thousands of dollars in a single incident," says Heather Arbour, Monson Savings Bank VP, BSA/Fraud Officer and Compliance Manager. "And what's most frustrating is that many of these losses are preventable with the right tools and awareness."

The Mechanics of Check Fraud

Check fraud is no longer confined to forged signatures and stolen paper checks, it has evolved into a complex, tech-enabled threat. Criminals are using both traditional tactics and digital tools to exploit vulnerabilities in business payment systems.

Classic forms of check fraud include forged signatures, altered payee names, counterfeit checks, and check washing, where stolen checks are chemically altered and rewritten. These methods remain prevalent, especially when checks are sent through unsecured mail channels. "Fraudsters aren't just individuals, they're organized networks," says Arbour. "They use social media and encrypted messaging apps to share techniques and sell stolen check images. It's a whole underground Economy."

Digital check fraud is also on the rise, and it's often harder to detect. Fraudsters are increasingly using mobile banking apps to commit Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) fraud, depositing the same check multiple times across different platforms. Synthetic identity fraud is another growing concern, where criminals create fake personas using a mix of real and fabricated data to open accounts and deposit counterfeit checks.

Business Email Compromise (BEC) schemes are also becoming more common, with scammers impersonating vendors or executives to reroute legitimate payments.

"We're seeing just as many cases involving digital manipulation as we are with physical theft," Arbour explains. "Fraud is a risk whether it involves traditional paper checks or digital deposits." This

evolving landscape demands that businesses stay informed and proactive. Understanding the full spectrum of fraud tactics is the first step toward building effective defenses.

Integrating Critical Lines of Fraud Defense and Loss Mitigation

Fraud detection solutions are crucial. There are few as effective and proactive as Positive Pay when it comes to protecting against check fraud. Whether fraudsters are targeting traditional paper checks or digital deposit channels, Positive Pay offers businesses a critical line of defense.

This service allows businesses to submit a list of issued checks to their bank. When a check is presented for payment, the bank compares it against the list. If there's a mismatch in amount, check number, or payee, the transaction is flagged for review. "Positive Pay is like having a second set of eyes on every check," says Arbour. "It's proactive, not reactive. You're catching fraud before the money leaves your account and potentially saving yourself from major losses. We strongly encourage our business customers to implement Positive Pay at Monson Savings Bank."

Why Businesses Should Act Now

The urgency to adopt fraud mitigation tools has

never been greater. According to industry data, check fraud attempts have increased by over 40% in the past year, with small and mid-sized businesses being disproportionately affected. "Many business owners think, 'It won't happen to me,' until it does," Arbour warns. "And by then, it's often too late to recover the funds."

Beyond Technology: Building a Culture of Vigilance

While tools like Positive Pay are essential in the fight against check fraud, Heather Arbour emphasizes that technology alone isn't enough. Businesses must adopt a multi-layered approach that includes strong internal controls, employee education, and daily operational vigilance.

Daily reconciliation of accounts is critical to catching anomalies early, before they escalate into major losses. Employees should be trained to recognize red flags, such as suspicious payment requests or unexpected changes in vendor information and empowered to question anything that seems off. Verifying vendor payment instructions through a secondary channel can prevent Business Email Compromise (BEC) scams, and secure mailing practices, like using locked mailboxes or dropping checks directly at the post office, can help reduce the risk of physical

check theft.

"Fraud prevention isn't just about tools, it's about culture," says Arbour. "Everyone in the organization needs to be part of the defense. Train your staff to recognize red flags. Reconcile accounts daily. Limit who can issue checks and who can approve payments. Fraud prevention is a mindset."

Monson Savings Bank offers a comprehensive Business Security Center on its website. This resource hub provides curated information on fraud prevention strategies, scam recognition, cybersecurity best practices, and secure operations. Whether you are a small business or a growing enterprise, the Business Security Center is designed to help you stay ahead of threats and build a resilient, fraud-resistant organization.

Looking Ahead

As fraudsters continue to innovate, businesses must stay vigilant. The rise of AI-generated synthetic identities and deepfakes means that fraud will only become harder to detect. "Fraudsters are evolving. So must we," Arbour concludes. "The bottom line is that the cost of prevention is always less than the cost of recovery. As a local community bank, we are happy to help our customers be successful, and that includes offering solutions to help them stay one step ahead and reduce risk of harmful finan-

cial loss."

To learn more about Positive Pay and Monson Savings Bank's other business banking solutions, contact their Business Banking experts at 413-893-3524 or BusinessDevelopment@monsonsavings.com.

About

Monson Savings Bank

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

In the classroom

Pathfinder offers meals at no cost for students

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional VTHS participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit

a household application.

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leged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

9/11 Tribute Service offered in partnership with Home Base

Wishlist drive at Palmer High School to support our heroes in need

PALMER – Palmer High School will hold its annual Project 351, 9/11 Tribute Service donation drive, in partnership with the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund at Home Base from August 28 – Sept. 10 during school hours and/or after (when announced). Our school and broader community are welcome to serve with our troops, and serve for our veterans by supporting our Tribute

Service. At Project 351, our Tribute Service provides care and comfort to bereaved 9/11 families, military families, veterans experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges, First Responders, and troops deployed abroad.

Our service mission is motivated by the heroism and selfless sacrifice of our military, veterans, and First Responders since 2001 and beyond!

Project 351 Alumni, Jan-nat Khan of Palmer, reflects on her purpose or "why" for leading 9/11 Tribute Service:

"Veterans and First Responders have risked their lives on the frontlines for our safety, now it's time to help

our heroes in need!"

We honor and remember through unifying service which recalls the spirit of love and hope that helped heal our nation after the devastating losses in 2001. You can join our mission by donating resources such as gum, chapstick, granola bars, fidget toys, and more to contribute to the distribution of our care packages across the nation! Thank you.

Project 351 is a state-wide, nonprofit organization which unites ambassadors from all 351 cities and towns across Massachusetts for years of unison, action, and leadership through services elevating our communities.

PHS Hall of Fame Ceremony set to take place on Oct. 18

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

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

Mass Division 3 Champions and State Finalists.

Individual inductees are chosen after the Hall of Fame Committee receives nomination papers for an athlete, deliberates on the credentials, and then votes on the merits. Individual teams are selected on the basis of achieving a Western Mass Championship and beyond. All individuals and teams must have graduated more than five years ago.

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

Tickets are \$45/person and can be ordered by contacting Walt Reynolds at (413) 552-9716 or emailing nipmuck77@gmail.com.

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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fairly large

6. Barrels per day (abbr.)

9. Cover the entirety of

13. Leafy appetizer

14. Showy ornament

15. Norse personification of old age

16. Athletes

17. Closes tightly

18. Attack via hurling items

19. Where the reserves stand

21. Sword

22. Begat

23. Damage another's reputation

24. Northeast

25. Turf

28. For each

29. Hours (Spanish)

31. Western state

33. One who offers help

36. Flanks

38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

39. Free from drink or drugs

41. Tunnels

44. Mature

45. More dried-up

46. News organization

48. Steal something

49. Forms one's public persona (abbr.)

51. Female fish eggs

52. Small petrel of southern seas

54. Edible starches

56. Historical

60. In a place to sleep

61. Horse grooms

62. Off-Broadway theater award

63. Chinese dynasty

64. Resembling a wing

65. Small projection on a bird's wing

66. Of the Isle of Man

67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipers

2. Ancient city in Syria

3. Slog

4. Emits coherent radiation

5. "Pollock" actor Harris

6. Bleated

7. Monetary units of Afghanistan

8. Tooth doctor

9. One who takes apart

10. Commoner

11. Beat poet Ginsberg

12. Cave deposit material

14. Home energy backup

17. Begets

20. Face part

21. Frocks

23. Hill or rocky peak

25. Giving the impression of dishonesty

26. About ear

27. Male parents

29. Popular grilled food

30. Vaccine developer

32. Not conforming

34. Polite address for women

35. 1970 U.S. environmental law

37. Astronomical period of 18 years

40. One who fights the government

42. Center for Excellence in Education

43. Watches discreetly

47. An electrically charged atom

49. Hymn

50. Arabic given name

52. Popular pie nut

53. City in Zambia

55. Species of cherry

56. John ____, British writer

57. Be next to

58. Make angry

59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

61. Unhappy



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Palmer Senior Center

Activity Highlights

Evening Programs
4:30-7:30

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

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

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

Sept. 22 - Spaghetti Dinner with Meatballs, Toss Salad, Garlic Toast and Assorted Desserts from Randall's Farm at 4:30 p.m.

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

Movie Synopsis
Friday, Movie Matinee
at 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 5 - *The Notebook* (is a 2004 American romantic drama film directed by Nick Cassavetes, from a screenplay by Jeremy Leven and Jan Sardi, and based on the 1996 novel of the same name by Nicholas Sparks. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young couple who fall in love in the 1940s. Their story is read from a notebook in the modern day by an elderly man, telling the tale to a fellow nursing home resident.)

Sept. 18 - *Hillbilly Elegy "A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis"* is a 2016 memoir by JD Vance

about the Appalachian values of his family from Kentucky and the socioeconomic problems of his hometown of Middletown, Ohio, where his mother's parents moved when they were young. It was adapted into the 2020 film *Hillbilly Elegy*, directed by Ron Howard and starring Glenn Close and Amy Adams.

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

Senior Portrait Day, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. Remember those days when you had senior pictures taken, you fussed with your hair and the guys were making sure they were shaved, hair neat and so forth. Well it's happening again, we will have a professional photographer taking these pictures,



so bring along your children, grandchildren or special someone and have your picture taken. The only fee is extra copies.

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

Baseball stories from Western Mass

BRIMFIELD - Hitchcock's Brown Bag Speaker Series returns in September with its first installment for the fall: *Baseball Stories From Western Mass* with local Town Historian Mike DeFalco on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Western Mass has a long proud baseball history. Attendees will learn about the minor league teams from the area, the men who played major league ball and surprisingly Brimfield's connections to the sport. They'll find out what players were known as Happy Jack, Leo the Lip, Candy, Rabbit and Bunny, which ones made the Hall of Fame and who reached the pinnacle of their sport for just one brief day. If you're a fan of baseball or just interested in local history, this is a great introduction to the famous and obscure men who came from Western Mass and played America's game.

An optional lunch (\$10) will include a half sandwich,

soup, and beverage. Participants may also bring in their own lunch. Lunch will be served at noon with the talk beginning at 12:30 p.m. The talk is offered for \$10 per person, or \$20 with lunch. Reservations are required (lunch registration closes Sep 16 at Noon).

"I love seeing this program come back to life, and especially enjoy the dialogue that takes place, with attendees sharing their own knowledge - it enriches the presentation, and the experience for everyone in the room," says Cindy Skowrya, Executive Director.

The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Author Dr. Andrew Lam to speak at museum Sept. 7

MONSON - The Keep Homestead Museum located at 35 Ely Road in Monson, is pleased to present surgeon and best-selling author Dr. Andrew Lam on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 1:30 p.m. for an entertaining and informative talk.

Dr. Lam will share riveting stories from his latest book *The Masters of Medicine* where he discusses the mavericks, moments, and

mistakes that sparked some of medicine's greatest breakthroughs that defined and continue to shape modern medicine. He will also talk about his career balancing medicine and literature.

Andrew Lam, MD is a retina surgeon and Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is the author of *The Masters of Medicine* along with his prior books

Saving Sight, *Two Sons of China*, and *Repentance*. Copies of his books will be available for purchase.

All are welcome to this free event in the barn, and donations are appreciated. The museum is open for viewing from 1 - 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments.

For more information about the museum - visit www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org.

St. Paul's Church & Berkshire Hills presents "The Saxy Guys"

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

About the Concert
Audiences can look forward to an uplifting afternoon of lively, feel-good music performed by BHMA students and alumni. The program will include spirited selections from the saxophone ensemble, as well as special features by Wes Hunter.

Wes Hunter is a vocal

teacher at Berkshire Hills Music Academy and also serves as the Minister of Music at St. Paul's Church of Palmer. He holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and is a much-in-demand performer throughout Massachusetts and the Boston area. His artistry and leadership enrich both the Academy and the St. Paul's music program, making his participation in this concert a true highlight.

A Celebration of Talent & Community

Berkshire Hills Music Academy, located in South Hadley, is a unique post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and

developmental disabilities. Through music-infused learning, students develop vocational, social, and life skills while sharing their love of music with the community.

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

About St. Paul's Church of Palmer

Since 1876, St. Paul's has been a beacon of grace, acceptance, and love in the Palmer community.

The church offers Sunday worship at 10:00 AM and is committed to providing spiritual enrichment, outreach programs, and welcoming events for all.

Comedy show in Brimfield featuring Dan Altano

BRIMFIELD - Comedy show featuring Dan Altano on Friday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Brimfield Senior Center located at 20 Main St. in Brimfield. Dan has carved a name for himself in stand-up comedy by blending brutal honesty, sharp wit, and genuine heart into high-energy performances. Whether he's reflecting on fatherhood,

marriage, or the hilarious absurdities of everyday life, Dan delivers every punchline with a storyteller's charm and a Jersey-born edge.

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

to honor top businesses.

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

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

Granite Valley School welcomes new principal, Jordan Wissinger

MONSON - Granite Valley School is proud to welcome Jordan Wissinger as its new principal for the 2025-2026 school year. Wissinger brings a strong background

in instructional leadership, technology integration, and student success, having previously served as an administrator and district instructional technology coach in Hartford. A passionate advocate for innovation in education, Wissinger has led districtwide initiatives in esports, STEM, and AI integration while also championing equity, wellness, and family engagement.

"I'm so excited to join the Granite Valley community," Wissinger shared. "This is such a tight-knit district, and I

look forward to bringing positivity, innovation, and joy for learning-for both our students and adult learners alike."

Wissinger, a Women of Innovation finalist in Academic Innovation and Leadership, is dedicated to supporting teachers, empowering students, and building strong school-community partnerships. Outside of school, she enjoys cheering on her sons in sports, playing board and video games, and spending time with family.

Monson water notice

MONSON - The Monson Water Department will

be flushing fire hydrants beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2 and continuing throughout the month during the day and evening hours.

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

Bargain clothing sale Sept. 6

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

At Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church located at corner of Main St. & Cushman St.

The cost is \$1.00 per bag, Clothing for the entire family, men, women and children.

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FOOTBALL

Panthers get ready to start season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer High School football team began the 2024 campaign by winning their first four games. The Panthers would then only win one of their final seven games.

Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac is hoping this year's squad plays well from start to finish.

"We did get out of the gate quickly last season, but we then lost a couple of games at the end of the season," said Marciniac, who's entering his sixth season as the varsity football head coach. "We do have a bunch of seniors, who I'm looking forward to watching play."

Palmer 2024 victories came against Pathfinder Tech (40-7), Quaboag (27-26), Easthampton (36-30), Mahar Regional (36-6) and Greenfield (28-12). They finished the season with a 5-6 overall record.

The only players that the Panthers lost to graduation are Guillermo Rodriguez Rivera, Julien Valentin, and Luis Rivera Alicea, who were all linemen.

Rivera was selected as the 56th annual Leonard J. Bailey

PANTHERS | page 10

FOOTBALL



Dustyn Cook extends for a catch.



Cassion Kowalik looks for an opening to go on a long rush.



Pathfinder scrimmages against Chicopee last week.



Trevor Alexander hugs the football as he goes on a run.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Anthony Arventos heads up the field.

Pioneers scrimmage as season nears

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder Regional football had a scrimmage with Chicopee High School as the regular season approaches. The Pioneers are scheduled to open up the regular season against neighboring rival Palmer High School next week. Pathfinder did have one final scrimmage on Sept. 5 against Bishop Guertin before facing the Panthers at Legion Field on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.

SOCCER

Mustangs scrimmage with Pacers

MONSON – Last week, Monson girls soccer matched up with Chicopee in scrimmage action. With recent league changes, Chicopee and Monson are no longer scheduled to meet in the regular season, making a scrimmage a good matchup for the two teams. Monson's season opener is on the road at Southwick Regional at 4 p.m. Their home opener is against Amherst on Friday, Sept. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Aubrey Hemm sends a pass up the field.



Emma Maziarz dribbles up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jordyn Szado clears the ball away.



Lylia Ellis gets the touch and keeps the ball moving.



Hannah Murphy focuses on the loose ball.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Anthony Arventos
Pathfinder



Arventos is set to be a big part of Pathfinder's offense coming up this season. He recently tuned up in a scrimmage against Chicopee.

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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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Summer Edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Summer Retirees league concluded this past week at Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield.

After 14 weeks of league candlepin bowling a champion has been crowned. The CB's, consisting of Leo Doucette, Frank Kehir, Ron Moreau, and Dick Lindsay, finished in first place with a record of 67-45. In second place was the Army team, Nancy Landry, Elaine Lengowski, Carol Christiansen, and Tina Como, with a record of 65-47.

Air Force finished in third place with a record of 57-55. Coast Guard finished in fourth place with a record of 56-56. Green Berets finished in fifth with a record of 49-63 and Jar Heads finished in sixth with a record of 42-70.

This league took place

every Thursday afternoon for 14 weeks during the summer. The league enjoyed coffee every week provided by Bogey Lanes.

In the final week, Army bowled against Coast Guard. In game one, Army defeated Coast Guard by a score of 388-379. In game two, Coast Guard won by a score of 398-366. The final game of the season was won by Coast Guard, 401-357. The final score was 1178-1111 in favor of Coast Guard.

The next match was Air Force bowling against the CB's. In game one, C.B.'s won by a score of 415-366. In game two, it was a close match, but CB's won again by a score of 398-397. In game three, The CB's won again for a three-game sweep over Air Force, 409-400.

With eight points won in the final week, the CB's pull ahead and take first place to win the summer league. The final score was 1222-1163 in favor of CB's, the 2025 Summer Retirees league champions.

Green Berets bowled against the Jar Heads in the final week of league. In game one, Jar Heads were victorious by a score of 416-399. In game two, Jar Heads won again by a score of 432-382. Jim Messier of Jar Heads, who is supporting an 85 league average, broke the century mark with 100 in game two.

In game three, Green Berets won the last game by a score of 412-408. Jar Heads won total pinfall with a final score of 1256-1193.

Individual high scores

For the women, the top three high single games were Pat Bacon with 107, Linda Bonnayer with 105, and Doris Kingsley with a 104. For the men, Marc Vinciulla had the highest single game with a 144 and the highest series of 356.

Ron Moreau had the second highest single with a 123 and Dick Lindsay had the third highest single game with a 122. The high series for the women goes to Doris Kingsley with a 280.

Panthers, Pioneers lock up in scrimmage

PALMER – Last week, both Pathfinder and Palmer girls soccer got together for scrimmage action with both teams preparing for the regular season. The Panthers opened against Greenfield,

and next face SICS on the road Saturday, Sept. 6 at 1 p.m.

Their home opener is Sept. 12 against Easthampton. Pathfinder faced off with Lee High School earlier this week

in the season opener for both teams. Coming up on Friday, Sept. 5, the Pioneers have their home opener on Commerce at 4 p.m. They will face Renaissance on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.



Anabelle Ladue socks a long pass away.



Shiloh Kibbe heads up the field.



Harper Brouillette heads up the field.



Addyson Petraszewicz sends a pass.



Aria Nompleggi is pursued by the opposing defense.



Evelyn Wood goes after the ball.



Megan Clark tries to clear the ball ahead of pressure.



Makaela Tourville sends a pass away.



Evelynn Ladue passes out of traffic.



Addison Doktor attempts a save.



Taylor Allen holds possession.

Turley photos by David Henry



Sarah Parson goes for the loose ball.

Warriors take part in Tigers jamboree

SOUTH HADLEY – As has become tradition in recent years, Tantasqua Regional High School girls soccer took part in the South Hadley High School’s annual girls soccer jamboree. Tantasqua had a few short scrimmages at the event held on Saturday, Aug. 23.

The Warriors opened up their regular season at Ludlow earlier this week, and have their first home game on Thursday, Sept. 4 against Auburn at 3:30 p.m.



Kina Demears dribbles up the field.



Kayle Roy-Pina guides the ball up the field.



Hayden O'Malley tries to steal possession.



Tess Alexander passes ahead of pressure.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

PANTHERS | from page 9

Award winner. He received the award during a ceremony held at halftime of the final regular season home against rival Ware.

The Bailey Award ceremony is scheduled to return to Thanksgiving morning this year.

The Panthers will be facing the Ludlow Lions for the 78th time on November 27 at historic Legion Field.

“Playing on Thanksgiving morning is very special,” Marciniac said. “We’ve been playing Ludlow on that day for many years. We’re looking forward to hosting this year’s game.”

The Panthers senior night ceremony will probably take a little bit longer than it did last season. The ten seniors listed on the varsity roster are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Theo Haley, Jordan Jones, Hunter White, Brecken Gilman, Kodah Laviolette, Jared Perry, Gavin Smola, and Landon Couture.

“All of the juniors from last year’s team have returned, which is huge for us,” Marciniac said. “Most of them have been starters since they were freshmen. They already know what playing high school football is all about. We also had a large senior class in 2021.”

The Panthers 2021 squad posted a 7-1 regular season record and qualified for the inaugural Division 8 state tournament. After defeating Brighton High School, 45-18, in a first round home game, the Panthers suffered a 16-13 loss to Oxford High School in the Elite 8 game, which was also held under the lights at Legion Field.

White and Gilman, who were eighth graders that sea-

son, are the only remaining players from the playoff team.

Santos, who played several games as a freshman, returns as the Panthers starting quarterback.

“Matt has been our starting quarterback since his freshman year,” Marciniac said. “He has grown a lot during the past couple of years. One area where he has improved is his passing game. He’s the leader of our offense.”

Doherty, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a junior, is another offensive threat for the Panthers.

“Dylan is probably one of the toughest kids that I’ve ever coached,” Marciniac added. “He’s very difficult for a defense to tackle.”

Doherty is also a line-backer.

White is also a running back.

Junior Dylan Holbrook is a wide receiver and T.J. Smola, who’s an eighth grader, is listed as a tight end. T.J.’s older brother, Gavin, is both an offensive lineman and defensive end.

Laviolette is expecting to be the starting center and Couture, who had previously been a tight end, will switch to a guard position. Perry is a tackle.

Another lineman is newcomer Kaleb Hayes, who’s a junior.

Perry and Couture, along with sophomore Kayden Harvey, and freshman Dustin Knoulton, attend Monson High School. They’re able to play football for the Panthers as part of a co-op.

Palmer is scheduled to open the 2025 season with a non-league contest against cross-town rival Pathfinder Tech at Legion Field on September 12. Kickoff is slated for 7pm. The Panthers will also be

playing their home games at Legion Field this fall.

The Panthers didn’t have much trouble celebrating a season opening victory against the Pioneers last year.

“It’s always a lot of fun whenever we play Pathfinder,” Marciniac said. “All of the kids know each other.”

The Panthers will also be playing another non-league home game against David Prouty Regional of Spencer in week two before making a bus ride to historic Snot Park in Chicopee to battle the Pacers in another non-league matchup.

Palmer will then play five consecutive games against Intercounty North League foes Greenfield, Athol, Franklin County Tech, Mahar Regional, and Ware.

Palmer and Ware are scheduled to meet each other on the gridiron for the 99th time. This year’s contest will be taking place on November 1 at Ware High School.

“I want to make sure that every game that we play is special for the players because we only play eleven of them,” Marciniac said. “But rivalry games are always a little more exciting. I always tell my players about the history of the Ware game. It has been a few years since we’ve beaten them, but the past couple of games have been very competitive.”

Ware, who squeaked out a 7-6 road win last November, will enter this year’s contest with a 50-43-5 overall lead in the series.

If the Panthers don’t qualify for the Division 8 state tournament, they’ll be playing a couple of non-playoff games before hosting rival Ludlow on Thanksgiving morning.

The Panthers assistant coaches are Jason Talbot, Jeff Pardo and Maurice Payne.



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Teachers head outside to set up for Popsicles on the Playground.



Children run across the playground and enjoy time on the swings.

QUARRY | from page 1

smooth thanks to the support of both staff and students. "My experience so far has been wonderful. The staff has been amazing... everyone's positive and collaborative," she said. "All the classrooms look bright and beautiful. I feel like it's going to be a great school year."



John Lenahan, age 4, plays with chalk while families gather nearby.

Beyond popsicles, Manteria is already focused on long-term improvements. She and the school counselor have updated the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system with colorful icons and visuals to make it more engaging for young students. Plans are also underway for a new mural, designed by a teacher who is also an artist, to bring more color and creativity into the building. "We're brightening things up, putting bulletin boards out, and really working to make the school environment more welcoming for kids," she noted.

Looking ahead, Quarry Hill families can expect familiar favorites like the annual Fall Festival and open houses, but Manteria also hopes to introduce more creative events that give students something to look forward to beyond academics.

"School should be about learning, of course, but also about joy," she said. "We want kids to have fun, to connect with one another, and to feel proud of their school."

As Quarry Hill students finished their popsicles and the drizzle gave way to sunshine, Manteria's first event as principal set the tone for a year of both tradition and fresh energy.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Public notices

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the repair of a tile drain within Riverfront Area for the property located at 61 Wales Road, identified as Assessor's Map 117, Parcel 049, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The owners of the property are Diana & George Roberts.

Monson Conservation Commission
09/04/2025

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Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD25E0028PP**

To John M Arooth, of Westfield, Dena M Plante and William Plante of Monson, and James E. Arooth of Monson, Hampden County, representing that they hold as **tenants in common and tenants by the entirety**, in an undivided part or share of land lying in Monson, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jill M. Arooth, of Monson, Hampden County, representing that they hold as **tenants in common and tenants by the entirety**, in an undivided part or share of land lying in Monson, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either

at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **twentieth day of October 2025**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 12th day of August 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
09/04, 09/11, 09/18/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:20 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request for Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the removal of trees within Riverfront Area for the property located at 109 Lakeshore Dr., identified as Assessor's Map 003, Parcel 045, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The owners of the property are David Henry and Cheryl Menzies.

Monson Conservation Commission
09/04/2025

**PALMER
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Theodore Bon-

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

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

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
08/28, 09/04/2025

**PALMER
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:10 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

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

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30

AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
08/28, 09/04/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25PI753EA
Estate of:
FRANCIS C BRONSON**

**Date of Death: JULY 30, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **LORI-ANN DYER of FEEDING HILLS, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

LORI-ANN DYER of FEEDING HILLS, 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 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.

09/04/2025

08/21, 08/28, 09/04/2025

the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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

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

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

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **twenty-third day of September 2025**, the return day of this citation.

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

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

**Legal Notice
Public Hearing
Town of Wales**

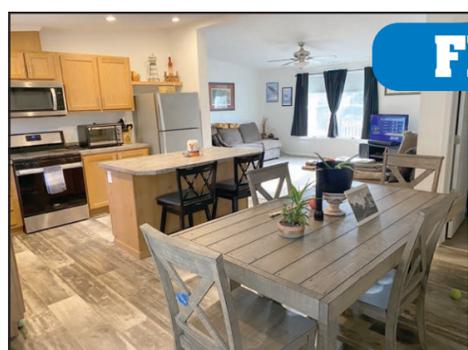
The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **September 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National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

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

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:10 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions issued for DEP File# 228-372 for dam maintenance and repairs to include both dams and spillways for the property located at Assessors Map 005, Parcel 034Q. The property owners are the Pulpit Rock Pond Preservation Trust.

Monson Conservation Commission
09/04/2025



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Obituaries

Paul R. Girard

1969-2025

MONSON – Paul Romeo Girard, 56, was born on August 12, 1969, in Southbridge, Massachusetts. He grew up in Belchertown and attended Pathfinder Tech where he found his passion for machining and later developed a love for tool making.

Paul was dedicated to being fit, eating healthy, and most of all working out. Healthy eating and staying in shape were a way of life for him. He approached life with intense energy and curiosity like no other, always ready to learn or try something new.

Paul was a man of many talents and endless determination. He opened his first business, Granite Mfg., in 2000 and in 2006 acquiring Vulcan Metal Products both Monson. He had a gift for envisioning anything that needed to be built and the skill to bring it to life. There wasn't anything Paul couldn't do, from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, building, designing and everything in between. If something needed to be created, Paul could build it.

But beyond his work, what truly defined Paul was his heart. He was caring, generous, and deeply loyal. He was the kind of man who would give you the very shirt off his back without hesitation. Always social, Paul loved connecting with others. He carried both intelligence and compassion, and he never turned away from someone in need.

Paul truly cherished his time with his grandchildren. He enjoyed taking them to visit some of his favorite places. Such as a nearby lake to go swimming, or Flynt park to go sledding in the winter. Spending time with his grandchildren teaching and playing filled his heart.

Paul loved his wife deeply and with all that he had. They built their home together over the past 3 years into a sanctuary for family and friends to gather. Paul and his wife traveled as much as they could to places like Jamaica, Dominican, Florida, Montana, Texas, Maine, California, Las Vegas, Arizona, and his favorite place



of all, the beautiful White Mountains of NH where he got married.

Paul is survived by his cherished and deeply loved wife, Susy (Cadioux) Girard. His sons Benjamin and Logan Girard, and daughters Tarrah Girard and her partner Nate

Madell and Tonya Blanchard and her husband Joshua. He also had a special place in his heart for his stepdaughters Emily Smith, Sarah Durao and her husband Christopher. Siblings Ray Girard and Patrick Poirier, Robert Poirier, Aline Madden, Cathy Alicea. He leaves his cherished grandchildren Joshua Jr., Jaxon, Marilyn and Madelyn Blanchard, along with his step-grandchildren Oliver and Juniper Durao. Paul's long-time employees, Jacob Foisy, Joel Sherman and his best friend, Andre Cadioux. His parents Roger and Alice Girard, Robert and Claudette Poirier. Paul truly cherished his family, friends and community.

Paul will be remembered for his strength, kindness, and the way he always made people feel supported and cared for. He truly could do anything, and his memory will live on in the countless lives he touched.

Family and Friends are invited to gather for a Celebration of life at Paul and Susy's Home on 18 Elm Street Monson, MA 01057 Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 from 2 p.m. till everyone goes home. We will be celebrating his memory with food, activities he loved, and invite anyone who wants to say something in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Paul's name can be made to:

Paul Girard Memorial Scholarship Fund, Pathfinder Tech Vocational High School, 240 Sykes Street, Palmer, MA 01069

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with Paul's arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Donald A. Plantier

1948-2025

PALMER – Donald A. Plantier, 76, born on Aug. 26, 1948, in Springfield, MA, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 24, 2025.

Donald worked as a machine operator at Pierson Industries in Palmer, MA, for over 30 years, before moving on to Ideal Kitchens in Chicopee, where he worked for an additional 10 years until his retirement. His commitment to his career was matched only by his passion for his hobbies. He loved watching NASCAR, wood-



working, playing pool, fishing, and riding motorcycles.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Marjorie (Tassinari) Plantier; his son, Tony Garceau and Lisa; his daughter, Kellen Benway; his step-brother, Scott

Plantier and sister-in law Lucille Tassinari; He also leaves his grandchildren, Nickole Goding, Owen Benway, Merisa Garceau, Tyler Garceau, and Joseph Garceau, along with his great-grandchildren, Ariana Goding and Jayden Medina.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Dorothy (Burns) Plantier; his brother, Norman Plantier; and his granddaughter, Abigail Benway. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. For those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Donald's memory please consider Second Chance Animal Rescue 111 Young Road East Brookfield, 01515 or to Dakin Humane Society PO Box 6307 Springfield, MA 01101. For on-line condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Sarah A. Arnold
Died Sept. 1, 2025
Services Sep. 9, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Paul R. Girard
Celebration of life
Sept. 6, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Donald A. Plantier
Died Aug. 24, 2025
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

Robert P. Raymond
Died Aug. 23, 2025
Services were private
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Phyllis A. White
Died Aug. 30, 2025
Services Sept. 7, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Robert P. Raymond



PALMER – Robert P. Raymond, 95, passed away on August 23, 2025, at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer.

Born in Ware, Massachusetts, on Dec. 22, 1929, he was the son of the late Percy and Germaine (LaBelle) Raymond.

Robert grew up and spent his entire life in the Three Rivers section of Palmer.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later worked for many years at the former Monsanto Company, from which he retired. He was a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

In his leisure time, Robert enjoyed golfing, visiting the ca-

sino, bowling, and square dancing. Above all, he cherished time spent with his family.

In 2014, Robert was predeceased by his beloved wife, Corrine E. (Bradway) Raymond, and in 2009 by his daughter, Donna Goudreau. He was also predeceased by his brother, Paul Raymond, and his parents.

Robert's memory will forever be treasured by his two sons, Fr. David Raymond and Steve Raymond and his wife, Chris, along with four grandchildren: Katie and Josh Raymond, and Sarah and Colby Goudreau.

Services were held privately at Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home.

Phyllis A. White

Phyllis A. White, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, died at home in Ludlow, Massachusetts, on Aug. 30, 2025, at the age of 78. Born in Paterson, New Jersey she was the daughter of Herman and Dorothy (Streelman) Hoffman, both of whom predeceased her.

She is survived by her husband, Attorney Joseph R. White, with whom she shared 40 wonderful years of marriage and her daughter, Susan Murphy and her husband Daniel of Belchertown, her two stepchildren Elizabeth L. Chouinard and her husband Robert of South Hadley, MA, and Peter White of New Hampshire. She was predeceased by her brother Glenn Hoffman but is survived by

his wife Donna Maurice-Hoffman of Ludlow. She embraced her role as Mimi, a loving grandmother to eight cherished grandchildren, who brought her immense joy and pride.

She was raised in New Jersey and then lived in Belchertown for 47 years until recently moving to Ludlow in 2004. Phyllis's educational journey culminated in a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her career was marked by significant achievements, including her role as Programs Director at the Franklin/Hampshire Ca-



reer Center in Northampton, from which she retired in 2016 after 16 fulfilling years. Her earlier work as the Assistant Ombudsman at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was notable as well.

Phyllis was an active participant in her community, serving on the Town of Belchertown Finance Committee from 1976 to 1982 and as Vice Chair and Chairman of the School Committee from 1987 to 1993. She was also a proud member of the Order of Eastern Star Belchertown/Amherst Chapter.

Beyond her professional

and civic engagements, Phyllis found joy in gardening, baking, and exploring tag sales, hobbies that reflected her nurturing spirit and creativity.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects during calling hours on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Monday at 12:15 p.m., followed by burial at 2 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Phyllis's memory to the Belchertown Senior Center for the Grief Support Program.

Sarah A. Arnold

1943-2025

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Sarah A. Arnold, 81, born on November 29, 1943, in Springfield, MA, passed away peacefully on September 1, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She dedicated many years to her career as a direct care attendant at Monson Developmental Center, where she touched the lives of many.

Sarah attended Monson Schools until she moved to Brattleboro, VT, where she

graduated from Brattleboro High School. She will be remembered for her loving personality, always enjoying family gatherings and listening to the stories and happenings in her loved ones' lives. Growing up on a farm, she had a lifelong love for animals, keeping numerous cats and dogs throughout the years. Her hobbies included crocheting beautiful



afghans for her family, tending to her beloved garden, and being an enthusiastic Red Sox fan.

Sarah is survived by her daughter, Pamela A. Gustafson and her husband Frank of Monson; her son, Daniel R. Arnold Sr. and his wife Brooke

L. (Warren) of Worcester; her sisters, Margaret R. Sullivan and her husband Phillip

of Monson, and Florence M. Dupuis of Ludlow. She leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Elizabeth, Geno, Wesley, and Daniel Gustafson, Oliver, Daniel Jr., and Eleanor Arnold, and great-grandchildren Lorraine and Preston.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Armand J. Arnold; her son, Andrew J. Arnold; her brother, David W. Isham; and her parents, Wesley N. and Lillian M. (Hill) Isham.

Visitation will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025,

from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home, located at 3 Bridge St. in Monson, MA. The funeral service will take place the following day, Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the same location, followed by burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Monson Open Pantry, PO Box 566, Monson, MA 01057.

For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Chagnon Jr.

SEPT. 4, 1969 - APRIL 13, 2012

Happy 56th Birthday



"You will always be my beautiful Irish boy."

Love, Mom & Carly

Job Connection

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

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

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

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

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MAJOR | from page 1

tile floor that generations of students knew is gone, replaced with a sleek new grid pattern design that creates a more modern and welcoming atmosphere. "The kids love it already. We've had so many comments about how incredible it looks, and we're really pleased with the response."

The cafeteria overhaul complements a student-created mural installed last year with the help of a local artist. "It's become a centerpiece of the space," Duda noted, adding that the updated look ties together the sense of history and innovation that Pathfinder represents.

Beyond cosmetic improvements, the school has invested heavily in its technical programs. The electrical shop alone is receiving nearly \$1 million in renovations, with brand-new tools, benches, paint, storage, and updated classrooms. Duda estimates the project is already 85 percent complete and expects it to be fully finished within weeks.

"It's pretty impressive," he said, gesturing to the new workstations and Milwaukee tool sets lining the shop. "We've invested about \$800,000 into this space, and it's going to make a huge difference for our students' hands-on

learning experience."

Much of the work has been supported by grant funding. Pathfinder has secured \$1.25 million in awards to date, including a \$100,000 grant specifically for technical program upgrades.

Other updates around the building include freshly painted walls, new flooring, and fully replaced lockers. The gymnasium has a finished floor and new doors, while the school's on-site restaurant now boasts new carpet, a refurbished window graphic, and an updated dining space for the community.

One change that may seem small but carries symbolic weight is the addition of a new sign over what is now officially called the Panek Street entrance. "For five decades, there was never a sign out here," Duda said. "People coming in the back way for events always felt a little lost. Now, it feels like a true entrance where guests and families are welcomed."

Duda, who is beginning his 20th year in the Pathfinder district and fifth year as superintendent, reflected on the timing of the renovations. "August 20 was the first day of my 20th year here. I came as a student, I worked as a principal, and now as superintendent it's incredible to see how far we've come," he said. Duda added that the start

of the new school year has been especially strong. "I think it's one of the best starts I can remember. The response from kids and parents has been uplifting. We're off to the races in a good way."

With renovations nearly complete and students settling in, Pathfinder's refreshed campus reflects both its history and its commitment to preparing the next generation. As Duda put it, "When you improve something that already has good bones, it's better than new."



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Above, Superintendent Eric Duda of Pathfinder Technical High School. Left, The brand new Panek St. entrance sign.



The electrical classroom is still a work in progress as students start their classes.



The brand new mural that was added to the cafeteria's current mural at the beginning of August.



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
The book vending machine that is in conjunction with their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program.

OMP | from page 1

ing ease students into the year. Grades 1 through 6 began last week, while kindergartners arrive this week and preschoolers will join next week. "It has been a great start," Riopel said. "The kids are in place and everything's looking good. We're very excited for a new school year."

Several highly anticipated events are already on the calendar. The school's Open House will be held on September 18 from 4 to 6 p.m., and this year it will once again be paired with the Scholastic Book Fair. Last year's book fair raised a notable sum for school programs, and Riopel said she is hopeful this year will build on that success.

Other early-year highlights include kindergarten orientation this week, preschool orientation next week, and the school's annual grandparents' breakfast for third grade students, a tradition cherished by families.

Riopel was especially enthusiastic about the school's

growing band program, now entering its second year. Students in grades 4-6 make up the junior band, designed to prepare young musicians for the high school program.

A particularly exciting opportunity lies ahead this spring: the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey team has invited the OMP band to perform on the ice in April. "The kids will be down on the ice playing," Riopel said. "We are super excited."

To support the band's new ventures, students will soon launch a Krispy Kreme fundraiser to help cover costs for uniforms and trips. "Now that we're going on some important little trips to highlight our band, we need to get shorts," Riopel explained.

This fall, the school is also expanding its after-school enrichment programs. Along with familiar offerings like yearbook and newspaper clubs, students can look forward to an introductory Spanish class and a hiking club.

"These programs really give students the chance to ex-

plore new interests outside of the regular school day," Riopel said.

Another unique feature at Old Mill Pond is its Inchy book vending machine, part of the school's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program. Each month, students who are recognized as being "safe, respectful, and responsible" receive a special token they can use to select a book.

"It's a big highlight here," Riopel said. "It encourages kids to be on their best behavior, and they love having the chance to pick out a book of their own."

As the year unfolds, Riopel said families should stay connected through the school's Facebook page and newsletters, where updates on upcoming events, fundraisers, and new programs are shared.

"We are so excited," she said. "We have our traditional events returning, but we're also bringing in some new things. We've got some great community activities coming, and this is going to be a wonderful year."



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ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DEADLINE

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

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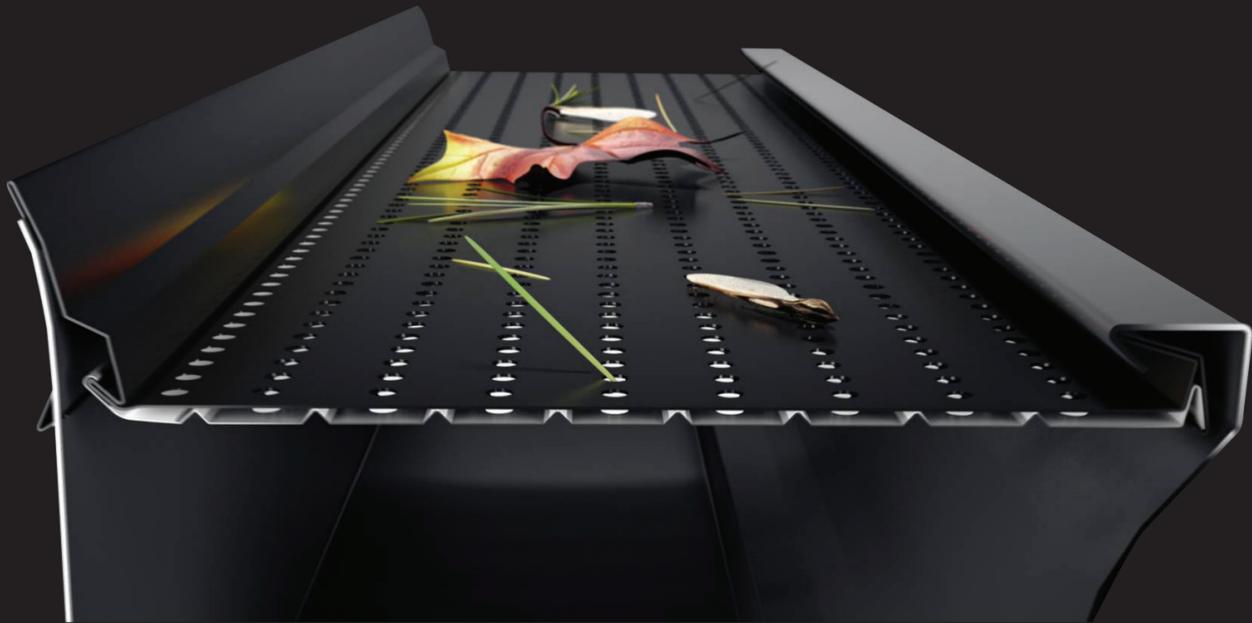
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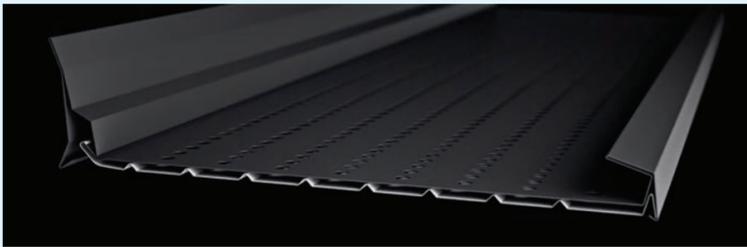
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