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PALMER
A night at the library

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PALMER – Local kids celebrated a successful summer reading program with a sleepover at Palmer Public Library. Held on Aug. 21-22, the Library Lock-In event provided a night of fun for youth participants who read a minimum of 40 hours this summer.
Submitted photo
Students bring sleeping gear to the library.
Kids between the ages of 10-17 were invited to attend the party. The overnight portion of the event was available to students ages 12 and older who achieved the reading goal. “This was our first year running a lock-in party. We had thirteen kids for the event, and nine stayed overnight,” said Teen Services Librarian Olivia Chartrand. All participants enjoyed pizza, games, a pinata filled with treats, and s’mores in the parking lot. After participants under 12 went home, older kids stayed over-
LIBRARY | page 11

MONSON
Maggie the Clown is all smiles with festival guests.
Turley photo by Kevin Flanders
Festival brings community together
By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – Area families and community leaders didn’t let a little rain spoil their fun at the annual Monson Cultural Picnic. The celebration was held on Sept. 5 at Veterans Field. Activities and entertainment included a free cookout; multicultural performances; programs for kids of all ages; appearances from local organizations and businesses; and several vendors and crafters. Proceeds will benefit community assistance efforts led by Afri(K)que Limited, a nonprofit organization that helps women and their families facing homelessness, food insecurity, or displacement from fires.
“If we get contacted about a need for something, we work to make it happen. We have provided everything from toys around the holidays to backpacks with school supplies,” said Karina Dise, the organization’s founder and executive director, in a previous interview. Additionally, members of the Monson Police Department, Monson Fire Department, and the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department were thrilled to attend the event.
“The Monson Police Department is always excited to be invited to the Monson Cultural Picnic. It is a great community event that brings residents of all ages and backgrounds together to hang out,
FESTIVAL | page 8

MONSON
Zoning Board of Appeals denies new cell tower

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, the town voted to deny the construction of a new cell tower in a residential district. On Aug. 27, the ZBA met for a continuance for the application by Vertex Tower Assets, LLC to construct a communications tower on Woodhill Road. The construction requires a vote from the board to grant a variance to the applicant, as the tower would exceed the maximum height and encroach on the required setback for the town’s Rural Residential District. The issue was previously discussed on July 23. Through conversations with town counsel, Board
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PALMER
Local students support heroes

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER – In partnership with American Veterans Post 74 (Amvets) and the Home Base nonprofit, two local students are supporting active military personnel, veterans, and first responders. During a community event held over the weekend at the Amvets Post, Project 351 student-ambassadors Jannat Khan and Olivia Drewnowski led several activities to give back to heroes
Submitted photo
Local students support those who served.

MONSON
District Director Amanda Hellyar, of Senator Ryan Fattman's office; Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz; State Representative Angelo Puppolo; and State Representative Brian Ashe.
Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

Bringing history to life

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – In celebration of the nation’s 250th anniversary, local legislators recently presented town leaders with an official reprint of the Declaration of Independence. During an Aug. 24 ceremony held outside Monson High School, State Representatives Brian Ashe and Angelo Puppolo were joined by District Director Amanda Hellyar, of Senator Ryan Fattman’s office. The legislators presented Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz with the framed document. “This handmade copy, printed using 18th century techniques, is part of a statewide partnership with Revolution 250 to provide
HISTORY | page 7

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
2001-2026
25 YEARS
NEW YORK CITY - WASHINGTON, DC - SHANKSVILLE, PA
HONORING THE 2,977 LIVES LOST
NEVER FORGET
THE MONSON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

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SPORTS

Several young players are looking to make this year's team.



Audrey Gregoire goes after the ball.

SOCCKER

Final tune-up for Mustangs

MONSON – After participating in South Hadley's play day, Monson High School girls soccer returned home to host Chicopee in a preseason scrimmage last Friday. The Mustangs opened the regular season against Southwick Regional earlier this week. Coming up, the Mustangs are scheduled to face Frontier Regional on Friday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.



Jordan Szado corral the ball.



Avery Beaudoin advances up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry



Chelsea Hull is pressured.



Emma Maziarz reaches out to get a touch.

SOCCKER

Mustangs look to head back to tournament

MONSON – Last Thursday afternoon, Hopkins Academy visited Monson High School for preseason action in boys soccer. Monson was scheduled to start the season against Granby, then travels to SICS on Friday, Sept. 11 at 3:30 p.m. Next week, the Mustangs on a road trip to Orange for a matchup with Mahar Regional.



A member of the Mustangs advances the ball up the field.



Monson High School boys soccer was in action last Friday against Hopkins.



Turley photos by David Henry



The Mustangs are hopeful to make it back to the state tournament.



The Mustangs were scheduled to open up the regular season this week.

SOCCKER

Pathfinder Tech girls soccer gets season going

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer had its preseason scrimmage, taking on cross-town rival Palmer High School. The two teams are both

gearing up for the regular season. Pathfinder was set to open the season on Thursday, Sept. 10, taking on Lee at home. The Pioneers are on the road Monday afternoon, Sept. 14 at Commerce at 4 p.m.

Ellyana LaValley keeps play moving up the field.



Eudyn Wood takes a free kick.



Taylor Allen is pressured by an opponent.



Aubrey Ortiz sends the goal kick away.



Kayleigh Peters is closely pressured.



Abigail Carmody gets ready to make a big kick.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com