

# The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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**PALMER**

## PHS welcomes students' families, highlights programs

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER—Palmer High School opened its doors to families this week for the first open house of the year, giving parents and guardians an inside look at academics, student supports, and community resources.



Principal Susan North

Principal Susan North, now in her tenth year leading the school, greeted families in the auditorium. "Welcome to our first open house of this school year. We are extremely excited to see all of you here this evening, so thank you," she said.



Asst. Principal Enrique Sanchez

North explained that the district's five core values: respect, safety, responsibility, community, and kindness, would be emphasized throughout the year in presentations and events.

North noted that safety is the foundation of all learning. "If students and faculty feel safe, then learning can happen," she said. North explained that the building opens at 7:15 a.m. and that visitors must sign in at the front desk using the Raptor security system. She added that new emergency management tools are being purchased and that cameras are in use throughout the hallways, stairwells, and cafeteria.

"We practice drills. Last week we did a fire drill, which was phenomenal. Next week, we are going to be doing ALICE training," North said. She added that the school is "very lucky" to have two school resource officers, Sgt. Pagan and Sgt. Baer, who will conduct fac-

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**NOTEBOOK**

## Concerns over tax bills

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The Palmer Town Council's Sept. 6 meeting covered a wide range of issues, from residents' concerns about rising property tax bills to the establishment of a potential special education stabilization fund, as well as new appointments, infrastructure planning, and upcoming community events.

### Residents Question Rising Tax Bills

The meeting opened with a question from a resident about property tax increases and how they relate to Proposition 2½. The resident noted that recent tax bills appeared to increase by 7–10 percent, far above the expected 2.5 percent cap.

Town officials explained that the first two quarters of a bill are simply estimates based on the previous year's rate. The true adjustment does not appear until the third and fourth quarter bills, which will not be set until November when property values and the tax rate are finalized. "The bill that you just got is 50 percent of your

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**PALMER**



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Isabella Howe shows off her handmade bracelets and lemonade stand.

## Second Congregational Church revives tag sale tradition

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – The Second Congregational Church in Palmer reopened its doors to a long-forgotten tradition this past weekend, hosting its first tag sale in more than ten years. The event, which drew a steady crowd of bargain hunters and community members, was hailed as a success by organizers, who hope it may become a more

regular fixture in the future.

Brenda Brouillette, a lifelong member of the church and one of the key organizers of the sale, explained the decision to bring the event back after such a long pause.

"It's been over a decade since we've done it, so this is the first time we've done it in a very long time," Brouillette said. "We don't have the same attendance that we used to have, and we're try-

ing to do new things with the people that we have. So we thought we'd try some of the older events that we used to have and see if we could make them work."

The church has long been known for its community-focused events, such as the popular "Lent Lunches" once held on Fridays during the season of Lent. Those gatherings featured home-

SALE | page 11

**BRIMFIELD**

## Friends of Brimfield Library host fall bake sale

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – For two decades, the Friends of the Brimfield Public Library have turned the town's seasonal flea markets into a haven for baked-good lovers and community supporters alike. Mary Wells, a longtime member of the Friends, shared insights into the group's mission and the



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Mary Wells and Ellen Sussman of the Friends of the Brimfield Public Library help with the bake sale.

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**MONSON**

## Dr. Lam tells stories of medical breakthroughs

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Visitors to a recent presentation at the Keep Homestead Museum at 35 Ely Rd, Monson, were treated to riveting stories from Dr. Andrew Lam, a retina surgeon, author, and Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts



Dr. Andrew Lam

Medical School. Lam, who lives in Longmeadow, has made a second career of bringing medical history to life through his books, including *The Masters of Medicine*, *Saving Sight*, *Two Sons of China*, and *Repentance*.

Lam began the program by introducing himself as both a practic-

LAM | page 12

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# Palmer Motorsports Park joins Member Track Network

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – Since last December, a group representing various racetracks across North America has been working together to create an incredible opportunity for their members.

The Member Track Network is a not-for-profit organization that connects private club racetracks through a standardized reciprocal member agreement, allowing club members to experience close to a dozen different tracks in the U.S. and Canada.

“So, our members can go to their track, and their members can go to our track,” said Al Sandy, Club Director at Palmer Motorsports Park.

Sandy said Palmer Motorsports Park was developed as a private club for members, and each year, members travel to Indianapolis, Indiana for a conference and tradeshow. Here, various track owners get together and network, as well as share ideas.

Sandy said every year he introduces himself and proposes a reciprocal member agreement with the other track representatives. At last year’s conference, the owner of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona approached Sandy about forming a not-for-profit network across the U.S. and Canada.

“Being not for profit, at present, my members can go to nine different tracks across

the county and Canada and drive for free,” Sandy said.

Sandy said the Member Track Network will help to bring tourism to the communities surrounding Palmer Motorsports Park, and boost the local economy as network members will utilize restaurants, lodging and more while visiting the Whiskey Hill track.

“We’re going to be pulling people in with this,” Sandy said.

Sandy is joined on the Member Track Network board by Jayson Citron of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona and Shawn Hayes of Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia.

Currently, the Member Track Network includes access to the following tracks: Palmer Motorsports Park in Palmer; Rocky Mountain Motorsports in Alberta, Canada; NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky; Motorsport Ranch in Cresson, Texas; MSR Houston in Texas; Lime Rock Drivers Club in Connecticut; Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia; The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona; the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Illinois; and Calabogie Motorsports Park in Ontario, Canada.

For more information, visit [www.membertracknetwork.com](http://www.membertracknetwork.com).

“It’s been a lot of fun, but it’s been a lot of work,” Sandy said of the organization’s creation. “I feel satisfied that I

helped to form something that I hope will stick around.”

## About Palmer Motorsports Park

Palmer Motorsports Park has been rated “One of the top 10 road courses in North America” by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course draws club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

Palmer Motorsports Park hosts a variety of events, including Porsche on the Mountain on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Porsche on the Mountain features everything Porsche from show cars to track cars, to race cars and project cars. Show car entry is \$35 (preregistration required) and \$10 general admission.

Proceeds from this event benefit Homes For Our Troops. For more information and to register, visit [www.porscheonthemountain.com](http://www.porscheonthemountain.com).

The annual Trunk or Treat Car Show to benefit food pantries in Palmer and Ware will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 and the popular Mustangs on the Mountain event is also set to take place in October to benefit the Central New England Equine Rescue.

For more information about Palmer Motorsports Park, visit [palmermsp.com](http://palmermsp.com) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

# BHN expands Mobile Methadone Program with second location

*BHN's Ware Mobile Methadone Program marked First in Western MA*

PALMER – As part of the organization’s ongoing commitment to transforming care to meet the evolving needs of the community, Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (BHN) has expanded its Mobile Methadone Program with a second location in Palmer, Massachusetts, a timely development during National Recovery Month, which celebrates the power of recovery and the importance of accessible treatment.

BHN’s Mobile Methadone Program delivers methadone treatment via a 35-foot mobile unit. Launched in summer 2024, its Ware program, parked at 75 Main Street, marked the first of its kind in Western Massachusetts. With the addition of Palmer, the program will now serve two communities and will be parked at 24 Converse Street, Palmer. The unit will be available at the following locations and times:

**24 Converse Street, Palmer**

**Dosing Hours:** Monday to Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**New Client Intakes:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**75 Main Street, Ware**  
(Entrance via 15 Bank Street behind the building)

**Dosing Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

**New Client Intakes:** Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Intakes for both locations can also be done Monday to Friday at BHN’s Springfield OTP, 395 Liberty Street, Springfield, MA

For more information about the Mobile Methadone Program, call 413-272-1333. Most insurance plans are accepted.

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and the HEALing (Helping to End Addiction Long-Term) Communities Study, BHN’s Mobile Methadone Program provides methadone to individuals ages 18 and older, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, offering a holistic approach to treatment.

Methadone is a medication that has been used for 60 years to treat opioid use disorder. When taken as prescribed, methadone is safe and effective and helps individuals achieve and sustain recovery and reclaim active and meaningful lives.

BHN’s President and CEO Steve Winn said, “BHN continues to explore innovative solutions to reach people in need in rural com-

munities. We are excited to pilot this new location for mobile methadone evidence-based treatment in Palmer.”

BHN has Medication Addiction Treatment Program clinics located in Attleboro, Brockton, Greenfield, Haverhill, Holyoke, Hyannis, Lawrence, Orange, Somerville and Springfield and offers a full continuum of care and services for those in addiction recovery. Programs include inpatient acute treatment services, clinical stabilization services, residential recovery homes, transitional support services, outpatient treatment, recovery coaching, and driver alcohol education services through the Massachusetts Impaired Driver Program.

About BHN: Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (BHN) is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children, and families. Originating from the Child Guidance Clinic established in 1938, BHN has grown into a network that serves communities across Massachusetts. BHN offers a wide range of community-based services, including innovative, integrated whole-health models, traditional clinical and outpatient care, therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention, and residential supports.

# Faith Baptist Church celebrates 75th anniversary of God’s faithfulness

PALMER – Centering around the theme “Celebrating 75 Years of God’s Faithfulness,” Faith Baptist Church, 251 Shearer St., Palmer, will be celebrating the church’s 75th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21.

Returning to Faith Baptist as keynote speakers will be Pastor Paul Anderson who pa-

stored the church from 1980 to 2015, and Pastor David Shoaf, who served as an interim pastor for nearly two years before our present pastor Matt McNeil began his ministry in 2022. Pastor Anderson is now retired and is living in Lewiston, Maine; and Pastor Shoaf continues his ministry in helping churches as interim pastor and is living

in Bolingbrook, Illinois. Other pastors who will be attending the celebration include Alan Thresher, who served as assistant pastor from 1985 to 2004, and Rick Rush, who served as assistant pastor from 2004 to 2013.

The celebration will begin with a Men’s Breakfast on Saturday morning, and a pic-

nic at Miller Park during the afternoon. On Sunday during the Sunday Morning Sunday School Hour, Pastor David Shoaf will be speaking. Pastor Paul Anderson will be preaching in the Morning Service. Other past pastors who will be attending the celebration include assistant pastors Alan Thresher and Rick Rush. The Morning

Service will also include special music from past staff members of the Church and Faith Baptist Church and Academy. A celebration will be held after the morning service.

Former pastors and staff members of Faith Baptist Christian Academy will be coming from other states including Illinois, Maine, New

Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

We would love to have the public join us for our Morning Service on Sunday at 10:45 AM. The service will also be live-streamed on YouTube.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church at 413/283-7560.

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# QHSUA reviewed youth health survey findings

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

During the September meeting of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, members heard a presentation about the findings of the Spring 2025 Youth Health Survey, which was administered to students in five school districts across the region.

At the Sept. 8 meeting, Lead Epidemiologist for the QHSUA, Emma Berthiaume, said surveys were administered to eighth, 10th and 12th grade students at Ware Public Schools, Monson Public Schools, North Brookfield Public Schools, Palmer Public School District and Quabbin Regional School District. "We conducted our survey in March and April of 2025," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said while there was less response to the survey from older students, roughly two-thirds of the 1,051 students enrolled in the various school districts participated. Almost 80% of eighth grade students returned surveys.

## Use of illicit substances

Overall, 82% of students reported no substance use in the past 30 days. Almost 90% reported that they have not used alcohol, 92.5% said they have not used cannabis, 92.8% said they have not used e-cigarettes/vape pens, and 97.3% have not used nicotine pouches.

Berthiaume said 97.7% of students reported they did not use cigarettes, and 95.7% said they did not misuse prescription medication. Misuse of inhalants (97.1% said they do not misuse inhalants) has also shown a decrease from previous survey data.

"Most students reported no illicit substance use," she said.

While 12th grade students reported less use of cigarettes (down from 6% to 1%), the survey showed that 3% of both eighth and 10th grade students still use them.

"The need for prevention is younger. Because we're

seeing the behaviors increase in the younger grades," Drug Free Communities Program Director Rebecca Edwards said.

Berthiaume said there is no trend data for the use of nicotine pouches among students, but they are increasing in popularity and commonality.

After reaching an all-time high in 2021, alcohol use continues to decline according to the survey results except for an increase from 4% to 9% among eighth grade students.

Cannabis use has also seen a downward trend in all age groups surveyed, Berthiaume said, going from 19% to 9%. This trend was also seen with the use of e-cigarettes/vape pens.

"A drop from 19 to 9% is pretty significant," she said.

The survey data showed that the misuse of prescription medications and inhalants has remained the same after increasing from 2021 to 2023. Medications used to treat ADHD, benzodiazepines and opioids were all listed as being "easily accessible" to students.

"That's definitely something to keep an eye on," Berthiaume said. "Even though they're comparatively low, due to their seriousness."

## Access to illicit substances

The percentage of students who reported access to illicit substances noted that alcohol, cannabis vape pods and pens, and nicotine vape pods and pens were the easiest to get. Access to cigarettes also came in high, but most students reported not using them.

"Almost 50% of students reported it would be easy to access alcohol," Berthiaume said.

Students who reported some substance use reported they primarily gained access from friends. Students also reported getting access to substances (both knowingly and unknowingly) from family members.

"Very small amounts

reporting buying it online or asking a stranger to buy it for them. Very few reported using fake IDs. The time of that is largely over," she said.

In talking to school administrators, many students reported getting substances from their coworkers who are over 21 years old and legally able to purchase alcohol, nicotine and cannabis.

Policies that raise the age of purchase (such as the Nicotine Free-Generation) could help to reduce the amount of friend to friend exchanges of substances. The town of Belchertown is one of 13 towns in the commonwealth to adopt such a policy.

## State and national comparison

Berthiaume said national and state data was not available yet for the 2025 survey, but compared to previous data, the region remains comparable to those numbers.

For eighth grade students, the regional data reported less alcohol use compared to both national and state data. The 10th grade students were slightly higher than the state average but still below the national average.

Students in 12th grade reported less alcohol use than the state average and were comparable to the national average.

## Student demographics

"For many of the categories, we see pretty consistent with all students," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said substance use rates are higher with LGBTQ+ students and students of color. These students also reported higher levels of feeling negative emotions.

## Emotions and mental health

Berthiaume said the students surveyed were asked about the following emotions: anxious/nervous, happy/content, depressed/sad, angry/upset, really stressed and physical symptoms of emotions.

"The major question we

asked was 'how often do you feel these emotions?'" Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said the eighth grade students reported higher levels of these emotions, and LGBTQ+ students reported feeling more negative emotions regularly.

Female students were twice as likely to experience negative emotions than their male peers, but had similar levels of happy/content every day.

Students of color also reported more negative emotions than white students.

"The overall data of feeling negative emotions is trending downward compared to 2021 and 2023," Berthiaume said. "During COVID, negative emotions were at an all-time high."

When the students were asked how they coped with these negative emotions, only 27% reported that they would talk to their family, but almost 70% will go on social media to manage difficult emotions.

"The impact social media has on youth is not good and it's going to exacerbate those feelings," she said.

Talking to friends to help cope with negative emotions was listed by 42% of students, which is lower than expected. More than three-quarters of students said they would focus on something else or do an enjoyable activity to cope.

Berthiaume said one in 10 students reported engaging in self-harm in the past 12 months (11%), which is a drop from the 16% reported in 2023. She said this is still something to monitor closely as it is "concerningly high."

## Perceptions of harm

Over 80% of students reported there is a "moderate/great" risk of harm with binge drinking alcohol, which is defined as five or more drinks one-to-two times a week.

For cannabis, about half of the students reported it as moderate/great risk of harm for use one-to-two times a week, but 87% think every day use is more harmful than binge drinking. More than

90% of students think every day use of e-cigarettes/vape pens is moderate/great risk of harm.

A large percentage of students recognized the dangers of substance use and saw these behavior as more harmful for someone their age versus just people in general.

"So that was great to see," Berthiaume said. "They really understand that it's harmful for them."

## Parent and friend disapproval

For 10th and 12th graders, there's a drop in the percentage of students who think their parents would disapprove of the use of alcohol and cannabis.

"One to keep an eye on is the cannabis in particular," Berthiaume said.

Looking at friend disapproval rates for 10th graders, trends are bouncing back from what was seen in the 2023 data. Berthiaume said she would like to see the results for e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis to be higher.

For eighth graders, the friend disapproval rate increased for both e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis.

In 12th grade, the disapproval rate for friends dropped for the use of alcohol.

## Family factors and school culture

Berthiaume said 95% of students reported that their families have clear rules and expectations about alcohol and 96% have the same for drug use. Almost 100% of students said their parents would be aware if they were in school or not.

"Our students know that someone is looking out for them. It's really reassuring to see," Berthiaume said.

The survey showed that the percentage of students who think their peers are using substances is higher than the number actually reported by students.

The survey also looked at bullying, and 50% of students

who reported being bullied said it was for their body size/personal appearance which broke down to weight (90%), hygiene (73%) and clothing (56%). Almost 40% of those bullied said it was because of their race/ethnicity.

Another primary cause reported for bullying was related to a student's physical ability.

## About QHSUA

Established in 2014, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is a partnership of local hospitals, school districts, behavioral health agencies, religious organizations, police departments, town administrations, mental health professionals, fire and rescue departments, businesses, youth groups and organizations, substance use treatment service providers, and community members who care about community-based substance use prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

The alliance began as a program under the auspices of the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition.

In 2015, it was funded with a start-up grant from Baystate Health Eastern Region's Community Benefits Advisory Council. In 2016, the town of Ware and the alliance were awarded a five-year federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant. They have also received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and the Public Health Services Commissioned Officers Foundation.

In 2019, the QHSUA was awarded another federal grant to address underage drinking and the risk of impaired driving.

QHSUA serves local communities that are located in Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties – the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

## Monson Water Dept. 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](http://www.monson-ma.gov) for daily updates as to the location and time we will be flushing.

## Notice of Intent to file for Federal Financial Assistance

THREE RIVERS – Following a vote of approval by the public during the annual special meeting held by the Three Rivers Fire District on June 12, 2024, the District soon intends to file an Application for Federal Assistance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service not to exceed the amount of \$1,980,000.00.

This application for financial assistance will be for funding under the Ru-

ral Utilities Service, Part 1780, Water and Waste Loans and Grants (CFDA 10.760).

This assistance will be for the purposes of remediating and restoring our drinking water storage tank(s).

Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the Three Rivers Water Department, P.O. Box 182, 2031 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080 within fifteen (15) days of this publication.

## Jail & Bail Fundraiser to support non-profit Aida's Food Truck

MONSON – Aida's Food Truck will host a Jail & Bail Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Better Bean Coffee Shop located at 186 Main St., Monson. The fundraiser is being held in conjunction with the Monson Agricultural Commission's Second Annual Farmer's Market.

The event is part of Aida's capital campaign to purchase a larger refrigerated food delivery truck. The new vehicle will allow Aida's Food Truck

to continue and expand its mission of delivering nutritious food to communities in need throughout the region.

As part of the fundraiser, Monson community icon, Arthur Audet, will be "jailed" and held until the fundraising goal is reached. Members of the public are invited to participate by making donations to "bail him out."

Donations can also be mailed to: Aida's Food Truck Inc., PO Box 247, Thorndike, MA 01079.

## About Aida's Food Truck

Aida's Food Truck is a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating food insecurity by providing fresh, healthy, and culturally diverse meals to individuals and families in need. Through community partnerships and outreach programs, Aida's Food Truck has become a trusted resource for addressing hunger and supporting food insecurity across Western Massachusetts.

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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Can I claim my own benefit now and get half of my husband's benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his.

I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later?

Signed: Uncertain Spouse

Dear Uncertain:

As you may know, the Full Retirement Age for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?). The amount of

that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your Full Retirement Age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## Peach pits and preservation

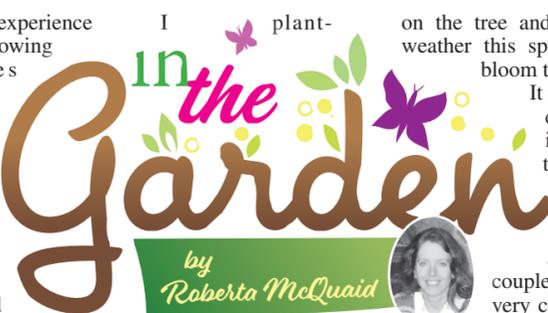
My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed "the tiny place" when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I plant- on the tree and then mild weather this spring during bloom time.



It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit. Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees

ed the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter which helped to break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months. Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate. I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth

GARDEN | page 5



Male Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking.

They like dense brush, forest edges and over-

grown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be attracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink your tea" and a sharp "che-wink" call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United

States, but some may linger in northern areas.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show

BIRDS | page 5



## Levi's first mountain

By Julie Midura  
Correspondent

I knew going into this hike that it would require a strategy. You see, our energetic 3-year-old grandson, Levi, can play outside for hours, but walking uphill for long distances isn't his strong point. Peaked Mountain in Monson is not a long or strenuous hike, but when you're not even 3 feet tall, even 475 feet of elevation gain can feel like Mt. Everest.



Submitted photo

HIKING | page 5

## The Journal Register

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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](mailto: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.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Palmer citizens: stay vigilant

To the Editor,

I was recently reading the Palmer Police Log in *The Journal Register*, and I must admit that I was impressed with the suspicious person and vehicle calls. Not with the actual calls; but with the Palmer citizens that are willing to get involved and call the Palmer P.D. to report what they deem to be suspicious activity. Kudos to you!

These citizens refuse to put their heads in the sand or look the other way. These citizens have a strong sense of community and a certain allegiance to their neighbors, and I am proud to say that I stand with them. We need to take note of unfamiliar suspicious people and vehicles in our neighborhood.

Whether we were born here, just moved here, own or rent, we all have a responsi-

bility to our loved ones and neighbors to look around and pay attention to what's going on. If you suspect someone of selling drugs, let the police know. This criminal element doesn't care about you, me, or our children, so why should we have any qualms about calling on them? They will sell their product to your children and not even blink an eye.

Vigilance is not limited to our neighborhood, but everywhere we go in town and even further. Be aware of your surroundings and if you see something, say something. Do you want to be the person that asks, "Geez, what happened to the neighborhood?"

Palmer Police Department, Thank You, Please keep up the great work!

Al Couture  
Palmer

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# Viewpoints

## HIKING | from page 4

He started strong, making it to the frog-filled pond with ample energy, but about a third of the way to the top, he said, "Memere, pick me up."

Since carrying my 28-pound grandson to the summit was not what I had in mind, I decided to utilize every ploy in my arsenal to ensure that he would hike the trail under his own power. I implemented Ploy #1... DIS-TRACTION.

"Let's look for the red blazes on the trees," I said. Levi inched his way forward in search of the large red painted circles marking the trail. "I see one!" he exclaimed each time he saw a blaze. This only distracted him for a distance of three blazes, so I needed a new distraction.

I asked him if he wanted to be a big boy and use one of my trekking poles like the 'real hikers' do. His eyes lit up. I shortened one of my poles and showed him how to use it. He wrapped his tiny hand around the handle, and for the next 5 minutes, he was so busy staring at the tip of the trekking pole with each step forward that he kept tripping on it.

Whereupon he decided to use the pole for more entertaining purposes. He wielded it over his head like a light saber in order to strike every large boulder he happened upon. Then he transformed it into a javelin to pierce mushrooms with. And finally he turned it into an excavator to dig in the mud and dirt.

In between the trekking pole fun, he found boulders to climb on, rocks to throw, branches to hang from, and

long sticks to drag behind him. With all of the distractions, it was slow going, but at least he was moving upward on his own 2 feet. Until, that is, the trail became steeper, and he suddenly proclaimed, "I can't do it."

It was time for Ploy #2- DISCOVERIES.

"Look, Levi! There's are more mushrooms up ahead. Let's go see them!" "What kind of animal do you think made the hole in that stump?" "Check out this stack of rocks! It's called a cairn." "Oh look! A sign! Do you want me to read it to you?"

With each step, Levi's interest was piqued, his imagination increased, and his self-confidence soared. ALL the way to the very top of the mountain, at 1,227 feet!

Levi seemed less than impressed with the views, but very excited to celebrate his victory with mini muffins and apple juice. Once he had popped the last muffin in his mouth, he was off like a rocket, exploring the summit. We allowed him the freedom to test his abilities. Levi climbed, jumped and scrambled over numerous boulders. He tripped, then righted himself. He learned what his three-year-old self was capable of.

When he asked Tom and I if we could play hide and seek, we happily obliged. Tom and I spent close to an hour taking turns hiding so that Levi could find us. However, I drew the line when he said, "I'm going to hide by myself, and you and grandpa can come find me." Sorry little man, unless you're wired with a tracker, that's not happening!

When it was finally time



Submitted photo

to head down, Levi once again asked me to carry him. So I resorted to Ploy #3... BRIB-ERY. "Levi, if you can make it all the way down to the trail-head on your own two legs, we can stop for an ice cream on the way home."

Needless to say, the vanilla ice cream with rainbow sprinkles sure hit the spot!

Spending time in nature is crucial to a child's physical health, as well as for their emotional and intellectual development. The best way for children to grow up to be healthy, well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of independence and compassion is to get them off of the screens and into nature. The benefits of outdoor play cannot be understated.

A child needs unstructured time to explore their

natural environment. They need to be encouraged to play in a stream, walk through the woods, dig in the dirt, go fishing, or even climb a mountain. Many important life skills that children will need as they grow into teens and adults can be learned through outdoor activities-skills such as multi-tasking, troubleshooting, planning and prioritizing. Outdoor play also helps to build self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. It decreases stress, and increases attention, focus and motivation. I encourage every parent and grandparent to do everything you can to get the children in your life outdoors. Teaching children to appreciate our natural world and all of its wonders is one of the most amazing gifts that you can give them!

## POETRY CORNER

### The Gathering

By Charles Barnes

Wherever two gather, or more -  
Mobs will do: the glint, of before?  
Pretty games now - violent, and soft.  
Don't weep for the past; it cometh.

Time! full of miracles, witness this -  
The age now born - gets between us.  
The sexes along, save where they blur -  
The boundaries of an old world entered; tightening,  
And shaped anew the years whirl around where it seems  
To let human dust stir from under the graven green.

With one eye calmly trust the hands of Progress -  
To keep it all linear, than circular. And not  
Caught again in one more enclosure.  
For divisions sever the trust.  
And hearts full of snow, bleach the blood as any pale  
stream runs.  
Charming pretenders interlope, seeming to cause  
No harm; but further the dead-still clash of arms.

There is nothing greater we do today -  
Than lie. And spin. That leads, to where?  
Things repeat. Except we say: Monolithic now;  
No great rivals - compete for reality; or control our affairs.  
World's lone power, blest by unexpected fortune.  
Let us raise! a deep vessel to this happy hour.

But everywhere, put up barriers - to fear;  
Tho' no great blow all; nor fiery red ball  
Fills the sky - towering above us.  
Nor portent of birds circle, or sing - above surface fellows,  
And some plastic blooming girls bosomed-out  
to provide a rounded  
View of life, - to cheer the earth from what's missing.

Never mind unbalanced without a partner.  
Beliefs fall away, - and only a little, attack  
One another. But men are not made - to fight women.  
Not this way, for they have need of each...  
Children not shaped halflings;  
But they know, more than rebellion burns inside.

Hear the battle sounds ring near an old fire?  
The Iron music, - as the elders sleep, trying to turn over'  
And just outside the wall, where truth seems slain,  
And not so terrible - to shield the eyes from:

It could not be that it was still was all...  
Whether on battlefield, or home-front - would  
Sacrifice life to keep love together. And land,  
For union. Each golden tool could turn.

O.K. men ... its been let in ...  
Like days at Troy? ... and when, and when ...  
The restless rage makes the land move (and it's not! you - )  
Approaching - against all that is held dear:  
under the dawn,  
And the morning sun does not err - ,  
Tho' it has but one eye,  
Nor war - truth's dark idyll,  
The mighty Achilles, waiting for us there.

as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart. 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.

## BIRDS | from page 4

up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

### Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common

nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

### Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant

rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can often save the bird. However, they then need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

### South Hadley resident

A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

Eagles, ravens and more My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street

rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

### Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

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

## GARDEN | from page 4

to encourage new growth. Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the country, prune when the tree is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident. I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the right foot. I am going to get to that later this week. Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide. There are such a thing

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## 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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# Q&A: What residents needs to know locally about West Nile Virus

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

On Sept. 3, the Palmer Board of Health confirmed mosquitoes collected in town tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), marking the first detection in Palmer this season. To help residents understand what the discovery means, how the virus spreads, and the steps that can be taken to reduce risk, Nicole Gauthier, director of the Palmer Board of Health, addressed some of the most pressing questions.

*West Nile virus has now been detected in mosquitoes from Palmer. How concerned should residents be about this finding?*

Residents should be aware, but not alarmed. Most people who are infected do not develop serious illness, but older adults and individ-

uals with weakened immune systems are at greater risk for severe disease. This means residents should take simple, effective steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as using EPA-approved repellents and limiting outdoor activity during dusk and dawn.

*Palmer had no positive mosquito samples in 2024. Does this detection mark a significant change in local risk levels?*

Not necessarily. Year-to-year variation is normal, and detection depends on when and where samples are collected. It also varies depending on weather patterns. In 2023, Palmer did have positive mosquito samples, while in 2024 no positives were detected. The presence of a positive sample in 2025 confirms the virus is circulating locally this season, but it does not indicate a sudden outbreak. It serves as a reminder that WNV is established in Massachusetts, and residents should remain consistent with prevention measures every summer.

*What immediate steps is the Board of Health taking to respond to this detection?*

The Palmer Board of Health immediately shared a public notice and prevention materials with residents. We

went beyond general public communication by distributing them to key community partners including the Palmer Public Library, Baystate Wing Hospital, the Palmer Council on Aging, Palmer Health Care, and Palmer Green Estates via email.

*Are mosquito control measures, such as larvicide treatments or spraying, being considered in Palmer at this time?*

Palmer is involved in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) because the Board of Health has consistently advocated for participation each year. Through PVMCD, the town has access to regional expertise, surveillance, and integrated mosquito management strategies such as larvicide treatments and catch basin management. These measures are considered and implemented at the regional level, which provides a stronger, coordinated response than Palmer could achieve on its own. I reached out to the program coordinator for confirmation on whether treatment will be applied, and I should have a response by today.

I received a call from DPH this afternoon (Aug 9) confirming three more samples came back positive for

WNV. This time in the Three Rivers District. The initial positive sample was located off Thorndike Street in Palmer. In response to these results, we will be treating all catch basins within up to ~1 mile of the positive samples with larvicide. Approximately 100 sites will receive treatment. Additionally, I followed up with Palmer Public Schools and Pathfinder Regional Vocational Tech to ask that they increase awareness among students and staff.

*What specific advice do you have for residents to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites?*

- Use EPA-approved repellents such as DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- \*Remove standing water around homes to eliminate breeding sites. I.e., neglected swimming pools, tarps, bird-baths, buckets, discarded tires, and poorly maintained garden ponds. This is a key step in reducing mosquito vector populations.
- These prevention measures are highlighted in our

flyer and on the MDPH website.

*How is the town communicating updates and safety information to residents, beyond the website and social media?*

The Board of Health has distributed a prevention flyer and our notice to community partners to ensure residents across age groups and access levels receive the information directly. The flyer and notice have also been posted in locations in Town Hall.

*For residents without internet access, what's the best way for them to stay informed about WNV updates?*

Residents without internet access can obtain printed information from the Palmer Public Library, senior center, and local health care facilities. They can also contact the Board of Health by phone for updates or with questions.

*What signs or symptoms of West Nile virus should residents watch for, and when should they seek medical attention?*

Most people infected do not develop symptoms. Some may experience mild flu-like illness, including fever, headache, body aches, and fatigue. In rare cases, especially in older adults, infection can lead to more serious illness involving

the nervous system. Anyone who develops severe headaches, confusion, neck stiffness, or sudden neurological symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

*Are there any groups in Palmer, such as seniors or people with certain health conditions, that are especially vulnerable?*

Yes. Adults over the age of 50, and individuals with weakened immune systems or chronic health conditions, are at greater risk for severe illness from West Nile Virus. That's why we are prioritizing outreach through senior services and health care providers.

*Looking ahead, how will the Board of Health continue monitoring and addressing mosquito-borne illness risk in Palmer throughout the season?*

We will continue to work closely with MDPH to track surveillance data, keep the community informed, and promote prevention measures. The Board of Health will also continue advocating for Palmer's inclusion in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. Prevention remains our strongest tool, and we encourage all residents to take personal protective steps.



## 9/11 Tribute Service in partnership with Home Base

*Wishlist drive at PHS 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 statewide, 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.



## Annual 9/11 dedication to be held

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.

## Palmer High School Hall of Fame ceremony set for 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.

## St. Paul's Church of Palmer & BHMA present '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.

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.

Berkshire Hills Music Academy, located in South Hadley, is a unique post-sec-

ondary 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.

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 a.m. and is committed to providing spiritual enrichment for all.

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## Seeking golfers to play “Fore” A Great Cause event Sept. 21

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 Hitchcock’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 Skowrya, Executive Director of Hitchcock at [execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org](mailto:execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org).

For more information, visit [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://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.

## Hitchcock Academy offers history ‘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](http://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.



## Crafters wanted for Nov. 8 fair

LUDLOW – Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality’s Saint Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Christ the King Church, 41 Warsaw Avenue, Ludlow, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40.00 fee for an 8-ft table which will be provided by the church. To reserve a table/s or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Light refreshments will be available.



## Palmer Senior Center

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

**with drinks and popcorn**

**Sept. 5 - The Note Book**

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

**Sept. 18 - Hillbilly Elegy**  
“A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” is a 2016

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

**Upcoming Events**

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

**Senior Portrait Day, Sept. 19** at 12:30 p.m. Remember those days when you

had senior pictures taken, you fussed with your hair and the guys were making sure they were shaved, hair neat and so forth. Well it’s happening again, we will have a professional photographer taking these pictures, so bring along your children, grandchildren or special someone and have your picture taken. The only fee is extra copies.

**Boston Harbor Cruise –**

**Oct. 9, 2025** — \$110 includes transportation & tips, cruise w/ buffet lunch and three rounds of Bingo, onboard 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.

## Grant proposals being sought

MONSON – The Monson Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1, 2026 and Dec. 31, 2026.

Monson priorities can be found online at [www.MassCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.MassCulturalCouncil.org) along with the link to the online application. The application will be available starting Sept. 2, 2025, and the deadline is Oct. 16, 2025.

## Business

# Kennedy’s Tattoos: A family trade reborn

By Abigail McCoy  
[amccoy@turley.com](mailto:amccoy@turley.com)

PALMER – Tattooing runs deep in the Kennedy family, and for owner Kalen Kennedy, it’s more than just a profession, it’s a lifelong passion.

Kennedy, who has been tattooing for nearly a decade, grew up surrounded by art and ink. His father and two uncles were tattoo artists, and as a child, he spent countless hours in shops, sketching and absorbing the craft. “I’ve always loved art,” he said. “Some of my earliest memories are drawing and painting. Tattoos were a natural transition for me...it became drawing on people instead of paper.”

A few years ago, Kennedy purchased the shop from his uncle Brendan, who left the profession to become a full-time firefighter. Originally known as The Ink Den, the shop was rebranded as Kennedy’s Tattoos and recently relocated to its current 1418 N Main St. space. While longtime customers sometimes still recall the old name, the new location marks a fresh chapter with Kennedy firmly at the helm.

Kennedy’s Tattoos specializes in custom work across a wide variety of styles, but Kennedy himself gravitates toward black-and-gray illustrative and realism tattoos. “I try to do everything,” he explained. “People should be able to come in here and get what they want.”

At present, Kennedy is the shop’s only licensed tattoo artist, but he’s currently training two apprentices. Both are learning the fundamentals of the trade while beginning to develop their own stylistic focuses. Ken-

nedy envisions the shop’s future as a multi-artist space where clients can find specialists in a variety of styles.

The path into tattooing, Kennedy notes, is far more demanding than many realize. Beyond learning to tattoo under an apprenticeship, typically lasting about two years, aspiring artists must complete certifications in: bloodborne pathogens, CPR, first aid, and anatomy and physiology. “People sometimes think tattooing is a low-class job,” Kennedy said, “but there’s a lot of training and schooling involved. You have to stay current every year with your blood work, new safety protocols, and your art.”

Kennedy draws a sharp distinction between “tattooists,” who rely heavily on pre-designed flash art, and “tattoo artists,” who can create original work. “If you want to do custom tattoos, you need to be able to draw,” he explained. “It’s about composition, shading, proportion, and understanding how something will look on the body. What works on paper doesn’t always work on skin.”

Maintaining a sterile, professional shop environment is also central to Kennedy’s philosophy. All reusable tools are autoclaved, while anything else is single-use and disposed of immediately. “It’s incredibly important that clients feel safe here,” he said. “Everything is sterile, clean, and properly labeled.”

Kennedy’s Tattoos is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The shop welcomes new clients and emphasizes custom designs tailored to individual ideas.

For Kennedy, tattooing

is not just a career but part of his family legacy. His uncle Brendan completed his apprenticeship in Ireland, specializing in Celtic designs, while his father trained in Germany. Carrying their experience forward, Kennedy honors those roots while building a business of his own.

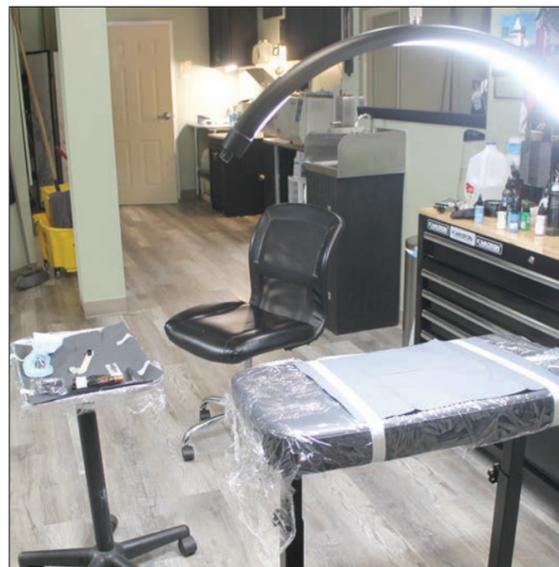
One of his own tattoos, a triskele, an ancient Celtic triple spiral, serves as a reminder of that connection. “It can mean a lot of things,” Kennedy said. “Creation, destruction, preservation; or the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For me, it’s about cycles and the idea of creating something new.”

As Kennedy looks to the future, he sees growth not just for himself but for the shop. “I love having new clients and working on custom pieces,” he said. “This is my passion, and I see Kennedy’s Tattoos only getting stronger in the years ahead.”



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Kalen Kennedy, owner of Kennedy’s Tattoos on Main Street in Palmer.



A tattoo station set up inside the shop.



Fresh, unopened tools prepared for a new tattoo session.

**PHS** | from page 1

ulty training and a student assembly on safety procedures.

Assistant Principal Enrique Sanchez reviewed the continued use of Yondr pouches to store phones during the day. "Our data shows that at school it is much safer and kids are more engaged due to the Yondr pouches," he said. Sanchez noted that the replacement fee for lost or damaged pouches has been adjusted from \$10 to \$30 to be "in line with what other districts in the area are charging."

North also introduced key staff and department leaders, including longtime Assistant Principal Amy Herring, Athletic Director Matt Marciniak, Athletic Trainer Adam Coffin (returning to the school for the first time in years), and Special Education Coordinator Mark Oldenberg.

Guest speakers addressed families as well. Melissa Conlin of MassAbility, a state agency offering free vocational and career counseling, told parents, "As you get closer to the end of high school, if you need help and planning

for what you want to do next, whether that's college, trade school, union work, or going right to a career, that is what we do. We are a free service for the state."

Conlin said her office serves anyone age 14 and up who has an IEP, 504 plan, or medical condition. "You don't have to have it all figured out," she added. "I was supposed to be training dolphins in Florida if I went by what I thought I would do at 17. Do not think that you can't change your mind."

Olivia Chartrand, young adult services librarian at the Palmer Public Library, also spoke. "We do a ton of stuff at the public library. We have book clubs, we're doing 3D printing this month, we're doing faux-bubu making for fans of the Labubus, and all kinds of cool things," she said. Chartrand reminded students that volunteer opportunities at the library can be used to fulfill the school's graduation requirement. "We are here for you, we want to support you in any way possible. Everything we do and offer is free," she said.

The Ware Family Resource Center, also known as



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Informational tables line the entrance, featuring local groups including MassAbility, BHN, and the Palmer Public Library.

BHN, Behavioral Health Network, was also represented. School liaison Eileen Dennis explained, "We offer some different groups, and then we help families to support in any way that we can. We can help with housing applications, MassHealth, DMH (Department of Mental Health), stuff like that. I can be with a parent for any school meetings that they need."

Academics were also a major focus of the evening. North emphasized the school's growing Advanced Placement and dual enrollment opportunities. "Each year we increase our AP

classes based on students' interest," she said. "We do the best we can to provide that opportunity for the students. If you score a three, four, or five on an AP exam, you might be able to cut an entire year off of your college, and that is a significant amount of money."

North highlighted career-focused programs as well. "We have the NC3 program, which is the manufacturing program, and the exciting thing is that this entire program is hands-on," North said. "We also have an EMT program. We fully pay for that for the students. It is their se-

nior year, and it's \$2,000 for each student to go through the course." She added that EMT students can take the national exam and several alumni are already working in the field.

Oldenberg described his role in overseeing special education from grades 7 through 12. "I run all the team meetings here," he explained. "I am the first one in contact for the parents who have children involved in special education. I act as a liaison in the community for transitioning students out of high school."

Students and parents also heard about international travel opportunities. "There

are many different places each year in which the teachers organize and students have the opportunity to go," North said. Past trips have included Spain, France, and Italy, and this year students will visit the Dominican Republic.

North closed the evening by thanking families for their turnout. "We really appreciate all of you being here," she said. Parents then followed their children's schedules in abbreviated ten-minute classroom sessions to meet teachers and hear about course-work.

**LIBRARY** | from page 1

preparations behind their highly anticipated fall sale.

"I've been with the Friends for 20 years," Wells said. "We do three days in May and two days in September. We skip the middle one...it's just too hot!"

The group's bake sales are not simply a display of culinary talent but a carefully organized effort to support the library's programs and services. Wells explained that the sale features a wide variety of items, including gluten-free and vegan options, with all products clearly labeled with ingredients to accommodate allergies. Water is the only beverage sold, and every item is individually wrapped to ensure safety and convenience for attendees.

The proceeds from the bake sales go directly toward funding the library's programs, which range from story hours and summer reading initiatives for children to adult education classes such as Indian cooking demonstrations. "We check in with our library director, Rebecca Wells, and ask what's on her wish list," Mary explained. "Sometimes it's supplies for children's programs, sometimes it's for decorating the library, benches, or garden projects. We aim to meet the needs of the library and the community."

The library's summer



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A variety of different types of Rice Krispies treats available at the fundraiser.



An assortment of homemade fudge for sale.

reading program has been a particular highlight, encouraging children to read with themed incentives. This year's theme is a pirate ship, while last year centered on crowns and treasure. Local businesses, including a bowl-

ing alley and ice cream shop, support the initiative by offering discounts for participating children, further connecting the library with the wider community.

Mary Wells emphasized the collaborative spirit



A dedicated table for gluten-free baked goods.



Gluten-free banana muffins featured at the bake sale.

behind the bake sale. "We have three lists of volunteers: some who bake, some who bring bottled water, and some who bring fruit. We try to offer something for everyone. We also make sure everything is wrapped individ-

ually and clearly labeled for allergens. It's all about being thoughtful and organized so people can enjoy themselves safely."

The upcoming Halloween program, set for October 23, promises to be another

highlight, featuring pizza, crafts, and a performance by Maggie the Clown, a beloved local entertainer. "It's all funded by the bake sales," Wells noted. "Everything we do is made possible by the support of our community."

The fall sale itself is a feast for the senses. Offerings this year include rhubarb raisin muffins, applesauce raisin bread, chocolate zucchini bread, pumpkin cranberry bread, banana bread, cinnamon rolls, scones, coconut macaroons, and an impressive array of Rice Krispie treats, from classic to s'mores and maple bacon. Patrons can also find chocolate chip cookies, coffee frosting cake, Hershey's brownies, and a wide assortment of seasonal desserts.

The Brimfield Public Library may be small, but thanks to the dedication of the Friends group, it thrives as a hub of education, creativity, and community connection. As Mary Wells put it, "We do all different things, whatever the library needs. It's really about supporting the people and the programs that make our library special."

The Friends' bake sale is a reminder of how community involvement can keep local institutions vibrant, providing both tangible resources and a gathering place where neighbors come together to celebrate shared interests, and, of course, great homemade treats.



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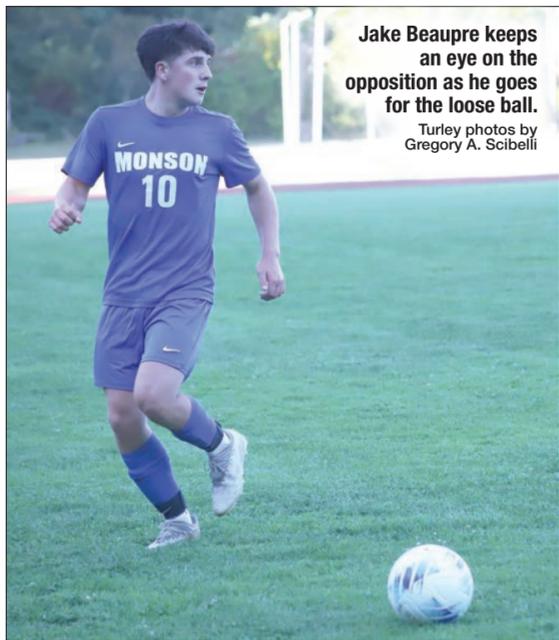
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**SOCCKER**

## Meacham notches two goals in shutout



**Jake Beaupre keeps an eye on the opposition as he goes for the loose ball.**

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

**By Tim Peterson**  
*Sports Correspondent*

**MONSON** – The previous three meetings on the soccer pitch between the Granby and Monson boys' varsity teams occurred during the Western Mass. tournament.

The Granby Rams won the first two postseason matchups before the Monson Mustangs squeaked out an exciting 3-2 overtime victory in last year's Class D semifinals.

The two boys' soccer teams are now members of the same league, and they'll be facing each other twice during the regular season.

While the Rams remained in the Schmid Division, the Mustangs made the move from the Holley Division into the Schmid

Division. The other new Schmid Division teams are Mahar Regional, SICS, and Westfield Tech.

Granby and Monson met for the first time as league opponents at Moriarty Field in Monson, last Thursday afternoon. There wasn't very much drama as the Mustangs posted a 3-0 shutout victory.

"We lost our season opener on Tuesday," said Monson head coach Jared Pignone. "It feels very good to get our first win in today's game, especially against a league opponent."

The Mustangs, who lost at Pathfinder Tech, 3-2, in their first game of the regular season, are hoping to capture the league title for the first time since 2014.

"We were previously competing against Division 1, 2, and 3 teams," Pignone added. "I think we'll be playing a lot more competitive games in our new league. We also lost a couple of playoffs games against Granby before we finally beat them in last year's Western Mass. tournament."

Granby, who has several players sidelined with injuries, tied Southwick, 1-1, in their season opener. Longtime Granby head coach Todd Dorman wasn't available for comment following the road match against Monson.

Granby senior goalie Daniel Santiago suffered an injury early in the first half, but he stayed in the game. Santiago (4 saves) was

SHUTOUT | page 10

**SOCCKER**

## Girls team victorious in opener

**PALMER** – Last Friday afternoon on the road, Palmer High School girls soccer picked up the win against Greenfield High School, going to a perfect 1-0 after the first week of regular season action.

In the victory, Jillian Holbrook and Aria Nompleggi had the goals for the Panthers while Cora Lachance had her first start in goal and made six saves and picked up the shutout.

The Panthers were scheduled to face Chicopee earlier this week and return home later this week to face Easthampton High School. On Tuesday, the Panthers are headed to Hopkins Academy for a matchup at 4 p.m.

**SOCCKER**

## Pioneers wins season opener



**Brody Wetnicka looks for a lane to make a throw-in.**

**PALMER** – Last Tuesday afternoon, three different Pioneers scored for Pathfinder in the season opener as they defeated Monson 3-2. Adonis Dupre, Owen Pear,

and Cayden Bousquet all had the goals as the Pioneers were able to pull out the victory. The Pioneers fell to Smith Vocational 5-4 to make Pathfinder 1-1 to start the season.



**Cayden Bousquet looks to get around a midfielder.**



**Jaleel Roman tries to play the ball high.**



**James Vulpe defends the ball in front of the net with Cayden Bousquet, left, and Goalie Elijah Hodge flanking him.**



**Adonis Dupre sends the ball deep.**



**Gianni Holland goes for the loose ball.**

**SOCCKER**



**Sarah Parson dives for a save.**

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



**Hayden O'Malley gets close to midfield.**



**Eliza Alexander tries to get the ball past a Ludlow attacker.**



**Tess Alexander looks to fake out an oncoming opponent.**



**Maeve O'Neil eyes an open teammate.**



**Alise Quinn sends a quick pass away.**

## Warriors have tough opening week

**LUDLOW** – Last Tuesday afternoon on the turf at Ludlow High School, Ludlow girls soccer scored an independent win over Central Mass.

Tantasqua Regional 5-1. Audrey Afonso had the big game in the opener as

she scored a hat trick along with an assist for four points. Catarina Mazza and Stacy Barros had goals while Ava Friese added two assists.

Tantasqua managed just a late goal in the second half. Ludlow also faced Northampton this week (see

related story) while Tantasqua's tough start continued. The Warriors lost to Auburn 3-0 and Douglas 5-0.

The Lions face Agawam on Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. while Tantasqua next faces Nipmuc on Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.

# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The 2025-2026 candlepin league season has begun for Roll-A-Way Lanes.

The Wednesday Night League consists of 12 teams, with the league being divided into two divisions of six teams. This past Wednesday night was opening night of the fall/winter league. Standings will be announced later in the season after a few new bowlers establish a league average.

Names of teams will be announced later as the season rolls on.

On lanes three and four, Team Seven bowled against Team Four on opening night. In game one, Team Seven defeated Team Four by a score of 455-437.

In game two, Team Seven was victorious again by a score of 473-443. Keith of Team Seven bowled well with a 115 after starting off the match with a 102.

In game three, Team Four won the last game of the match by a score of 468-452. Breno of Team Four bowled a 113 to help his team get the

victory. Keith finished with a 107 and a series of 324. The final score was 1380-1348 in favor of Team Seven.

Team Three bowled against Team Two in week one. Game one results, Team Three defeated Team Two by a score of 457-407. In game two, Team Three won again by a score of 533-444. Nate, Dean, Jody and Scott of Team Three all broke the century mark with scores of 125, 101, 108, and 135.

In game three, Team Three won by a score of 476-459. Sue Horton of Team Two finished strong with a 134, featuring a double strike, and had a three-game series of 356.

Team Ten bowled against Team Eleven in week one. Game one results, Team Ten won by a score of 449-430. In game two, Team Ten won again by a score of 492-442. In game three, Team Ten won the last game by a score of 468-444.

Team Five bowled against Team Nine in week one. The scores are scratch scores due to handicap scores still being determined. Game one results, Team Nine scored 351 and Team Five scored 336. Shaun Midura of

Team Nine began with a 110.

In game two, Team Five bowled a 358 and Team Nine bowled a 399. Midura bested his first game by bowling a 114 in game two.

In game three, Team Five bowled a 357 and Team Nine combined with a 366. Results of who won during this match will be determined on a later date.

Team Six bowled against Team Eight in week one. In game one, the scratch scores are 415-313 in favor of Team Six. Jason Swistak of Team Six started the match with a 119.

In game two, the scratch scores were Team Six with a 474 and Team Eight with a 352. Swistak followed up with a 111 and his teammate Ryan Drago bowled a 144.

In game three, Team Six bowled a 468 and Team Eight bowled a 340. Swistak finished strong with a 132 and a series of 362.

Team One bowled against the Ghost Team during the first week. Lee Robinson had the highest single game in week one with a 145. His teammate, Darryl Sinclair finished with a 121 to go with a 111 and 103 for a series of 335.



Benjamin Pignone advances up the field for the Mustangs.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# Turleysports



## Athlete of the Week

**Cayden Bousquet**  
Pathfinder

Bousquet was one of three goal scorers for Pathfinder boys soccer in their season opening win over Monson last Tuesday.

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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## How to contact the Sports Editor

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releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

### SHUTOUT | from page 9

replaced by junior Gaje Carter with seven minutes remaining in the first half.

Carter finished the match with eight saves.

Down at the other end of the field, Monson freshman goalie Mason Murphy only had to make five saves in posting his first varsity shutout.

The Mustangs took a 1-0 lead during the 18th minute of the opening half.

Senior Shane Szado served the ball to sophomore Anthony Tulloch, who fired a wide open shot into the left corner.

“We’re trying to move the ball a little quicker this year,” Pignone said. “Shane saw that Anthony was open, and he delivered the ball to him. Then Anthony finished the play.”

Tulloch scored his first varsity goal during a 5-1 victory at Mahar Regional last year.

A couple of minutes later, Granby junior Ralph El Aouji fired a shot on goal, but Murphy made the save.

It was the Rams’ only

shot on goal during the first half.

During the 26th minute, a shot attempt by Monson senior Jake Beaupre deflected off the left post.

The score was still 1-0 at halftime.

The home team took a 2-0 lead ten minutes into the second half.

The scoring play began with junior Isaac Somers firing a shot that deflected off the goalie. Senior Austin Meacham was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot for an unassisted goal.

Because one of Meacham’s shoes had a hole in the toe, he had to borrow a pair of old cleats from assistant coach Matt Prior.

“I took a step in the first half, and the toe of my right cleat blew out,” Meacham said. “I had to burrow a pair of cleats from my assistant coach. They helped me score two goals and I’m thankful that he had an extra pair of cleats in his truck.”

Meacham scored his second goal during the 71st minute, which was assisted by Beaupre.

The Mustangs had several corner kicks during the final nine minutes of the match.

The Rams will be looking to even the season series when they host the Mustangs on September 23.



Isaac Somers catches up to a forward pass.



Anthony Tulloch heads past midfield.



Brady Ronaldson looks to pass the ball by an oncoming opponent.



Shane Szado clears the ball away.

**SALE** | from page 1

made soups, sandwiches, and desserts; especially the lobster rolls, which Brouillette recalled as a highlight for many parishioners and visitors. But as membership numbers have declined, hosting such labor-intensive events has become more difficult.

"We don't have the manpower that we used to have, so we can't do the Lenten lunches anymore," Brouillette explained. "We're just trying to think of creative ways to earn money for the church, because we do a lot in the community. We like to support the community."

For its revival, the tag sale exceeded expectations. Organizers had hoped for 10 vendors, but ended up with 16, offering a variety of items to shoppers.

"We feel like for our first try back, it was a pretty good day," Brouillette said. "We appreciate all the people that came out to help us, and we really appreciate the vendors. We thought, well, maybe we'll have ten, so we were

happy that we had 16."

Brouillette, who has been tied to the Second Congregational Church for most of her life, said she was encouraged by the response. "I'm 66, and I started here when I was four," she said. "I moved away, but came back and got involved again. My family has always been involved in the church."

The only drawback came from the weather. After a week of sunny skies, Saturday turned blustery, with winds that made for a challenging setup. Still, organizers said the community turnout and steady sales outweighed the

inconvenience.

Looking ahead, Brouillette hopes that community support continues, and that events like this tag sale might become a regular part of the church's calendar during the warmer months. "Maybe even set something up inside the church," she suggested, noting that organizers are open to ideas for expanding.

For Brouillette and the Second Congregational Church, the tag sale was about more than raising funds: it was a chance to reconnect with the wider Palmer community.



Nancy and Ken Cook showcase their Tupperware tent.



George Hirtle demonstrates his vintage machine.



The Girouard family of Palmer runs their vendor tent.



Scott and Mamie Flowers welcome visitors at their table.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

**BILLS** | from page 1

bill from last year," Council President Barbara Barry clarified. "The adjustment doesn't happen until the third quarter bill."

They stressed that while Proposition 2 1/2 limits the growth of the town's total levy, an individual homeowner's bill can still rise above that amount if their assessed value increases faster than others. "It's the budget that can't grow more than 2.5 percent without a vote," Barry emphasized. "Your individual bill is based on the assessed value of your property, so yes, it can go up more if your home value rises."

The discussion branched into the subject of free cash, which represents unspent funds or higher-than-expected revenues at the end of a fiscal year. Officials noted that free cash disappears each July 1 until the state's Department of Revenue certifies a new balance. "As of today, there is no free cash," Barry said. "It went away on July 1 until it's recertified."

**Floodplain Zoning Ordinance Update**

Later in the meeting, the council opened and closed a public hearing on proposed revisions to the town's floodplain zoning ordinance, the first update in more than two decades. The new language was drafted with guidance from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to bring Palmer into compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Among the revisions are the appointment of a local floodplain administrator who can act on the town's behalf, new requirements that all development within the floodplain receive permits, expanded standards for granting variances, and updated definitions tied to federal flood insurance maps. Councilors noted that the proposal will come to a final vote at their next meeting.

**Debate Over Special Education Stabilization Fund**

Superintendent Matt Francis addressed the council with a proposal to estab-

lish a special education stabilization fund. He argued that the fund would give the town flexibility when sudden, high-cost needs arise, such as out-of-district placements or specialized transportation. "This fund would be a stopgap for unforeseen expenses," Francis said, adding that most communities now maintain such funds.

Councilors, while sympathetic to the idea, expressed reservations about moving forward without a clear plan for funding. "It doesn't make sense to set something up without knowing how we're going to fund it," Councilor Philip Hebert remarked. Another added, "We've always managed these situations as they come up, and I'd like to see how other towns do it before we commit."

Francis agreed to return with more information on comparable communities and their funding sources. The council signaled that the issue would likely be revisited during budget season next year.

**Funding Approved for Thorndike Street DIF**

The council voted to transfer \$40,000 from capital stabilization to cover planning for a District Improvement Financing program along Thorndike Street. The DIF would allow Palmer to dedicate future tax revenues from new commercial development in the area toward infrastructure improvements such as sewer and water lines.

"This is really an investment in ourselves," one councilor said. "We need sewer and water capacity if we want to attract new businesses."

Officials emphasized the importance of approving both phases of planning now, noting that a December deadline must be met to lock in property values before Liberty Plaza and other developments are fully assessed.

**Council Rules Under Review**

Members also spent time reviewing the council's own procedural rules. The council president noted that the written policy requires materials to be submitted five

days before each meeting, but in practice that deadline is not being met. Public comment procedures also do not match the current practice of allowing discussion after questions.

"We need to bring our rules into line with how we're actually doing business... or change our practices to match the rules," Barry said. The town manager was asked to review the inconsistencies and return with recommendations.

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Brad Brothers reported that Palmer had secured an \$88,000 grant for culvert replacements on Bacon Street and West Ware Road. He also highlighted progress on the replacement of the Thorndike Street sewer siphon, which carries a projected cost of \$6-8 million. Brothers said the town may be eligible for grant funding covering up to 80 percent of the project, with a DIF helping offset the remaining cost.

However, he expressed frustration that efforts to implement a more equita-

ble sewer billing system had stalled when the Three Rivers Water District declined to share meter data. "It is not fair for an elderly person who barely uses any water to get charged a full EDU for their house," Brothers said. "The fairest system is one based on actual usage, but we can't do that unless all four districts cooperate."

Brothers also announced that MassDOT has tentative plans to hold an October 7 public meeting at Palmer High School to provide an update on the long-awaited east-west passenger rail stop. He noted that the state recently received \$3.5 million in federal funding to continue planning for the project.

On staffing matters, Brothers introduced Deb Milliken as interim treasurer, welcomed a new recreation director, and announced that Ashley Place will begin in October as director of administrative services. "We've set aggressive goals for this year, and I'm excited to have a strong team to help deliver for the community," Brothers said.

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| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                    | 29. Construction location          | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                    | 28. Former French coin of low value              |
| 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory       | 30. Cow's noise                    | 1. Occur                             | 29. A bag-like structure in an animal            |
| 4. Engine additive                     | 31. Blue                           | 2. Show up                           | 31. Schenectady County Airport                   |
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| 8. Listens to                          | 39. Formula 1 team                 | 4. Ocean                             | 33. Partner to cheese                            |
| 10. Self-righteously moralistic person | 41. Dash                           | 5. Givers and ___                    | 34. Cola brand                                   |
| 12. Made of wood                       | 42. Lifting device                 | 6. Gets ready                        | 35. Stepped on                                   |
| 13. Chinese lute                       | 43. Basics                         | 8. Ad ___                            | 36. Japanese city                                |
| 14. Beginning military rank            | 44. Keyboard key                   | 9. Fit of irritation                 | 37. Type of coating                              |
| 16. Indicates near                     | 45. Old Irish alphabet             | 11. Criminal organization            | 38. A citizen of Yemen                           |
| 17. Ties the score                     | 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface | 14. Exclamation that denotes disgust | 39. Popular breakfast item corned beef ___       |
| 19. Chum                               | 48. Covered stadium                | 15. American state                   | 40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length |
| 20. Long ago                           | 49. Sword handles                  | 18. Sensor hub                       | 44. First responders                             |
| 21. Localities                         | 50. Longing or yearning            | 19. Before                           | 47. Short-term memory                            |
| 25. Midway between northeast and east  | 51. Creators' social network       | 20. The boundary of a surface        |  |
| 26. Make fun of                        | 52. Boxing's GOAT                  | 22. Witnesses                        |  |
| 27. Tennis great Arthur                |                                    | 23. Singular                         |  |
|  |                                    | 24. Type of meal                     |  |
|  |                                    | 27. Music awards show                |  |



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**LAM** | from page 1

ing physician and a lifelong lover of history. "I grew up in Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln's hometown, and I was always the kid in the library pulling history books off the shelves," Lam told the audience. That passion eventually merged with his medical career, inspiring him to write about the discoveries, mistakes, and mavericks that shaped modern medicine.

His latest work, *The Masters of Medicine*, chronicles some of the most transformative medical advances of the past 150 years, many of which were accelerated by the crises of war. "One of my favorite sayings is that the only winner in war is medicine," Lam said. "Time and again, innovations born in desperation have gone on to save countless lives in peace."

He illustrated the point with gripping stories from World War II. One featured Dwight Harken, an American Army surgeon stationed in England. Faced with soldiers whose hearts had been pierced by shrapnel but sealed shut by the lodged metal, Harken devised a bold plan: he would remove the fragment and plug the wound with his finger long enough to stitch the heart closed. Against all odds, the method worked. Harken went on to pioneer early cardiac surgery and paved the way for open-heart procedures, bypass surgery, and even heart transplants within two decades.

Another tale centered on Dr. Charles Bailey, a brash Philadelphia surgeon deter-

mined to relieve patients suffering from rheumatic mitral stenosis, a once-common and often fatal narrowing of the heart valve. Despite multiple failed (and fatal) attempts, Bailey pressed forward.

"Charles Bailey is a genius, because he is not going to quit. He still has operating privileges at two hospitals. Philadelphia General and Episcopal Hospital also in Philadelphia. But he knows that word of his failures is absolutely spreading, and he's pretty sure, if he fails one more time, he'll be finished. Nobody will allow him to operate anymore. So his strategy is to schedule two surgeries on the same day. That way, if he operates at Philadelphia General in the morning and the patient dies, he can jet across town and start the second operation before word spreads and they can stop. This is the mentality of a very confident person, okay?" Lam explained the absurd actions of Dr. Bailey.

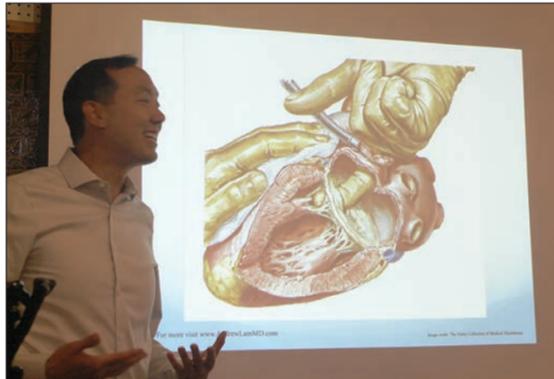
His eventual success in 1948, on a young mother who was soon able to walk and care for her child again, demonstrated that even the heart could be surgically treated. "As much as arrogance can be frustrating in everyday life," Lam remarked, "sometimes we need mavericks like Bailey who are willing to take extraordinary risks."

Lam also recounted the 1943 Luftwaffe bombing of Bari, Italy, where the destruction of an American ship carrying secret mustard gas shells inadvertently led to the birth of chemotherapy. Survivors of the attack exposed to



Community members attend Dr. Lam's lecture on the history of medicine.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Graphic illustrating Charles Bailey's experimental mucosal valve surgery to cure mitral stenosis.

the gas were found to have abnormally low white blood cell counts. That observation spurred research into nitrogen mustard as a treatment for leukemia and lymphoma. By 1949, the first chemotherapy drug had been developed; a breakthrough that remains foundational in cancer treatment today.

Throughout the lecture, Lam balanced the drama of wartime innovation with reflections on the human side of medicine. He described the humility required when surgeries fail, the letters of gratitude patients leave behind, and the moral questions raised by pushing the boundaries of science.



Dr. Lam signs copies of his books for attendees

Looking ahead, Lam expressed optimism about the 21st century as the "biomedical age," driven by breakthroughs in gene therapy, stem cells, AI-assisted diagnostics, and personalized cancer vaccines. "We're on the verge of being able to regenerate nerves, create personalized cancer treatments, and even teach patients' own cells

to manufacture the medicine they need," he said.

Yet, Lam cautioned that with each great advance comes the risk of unintended consequences; a theme he plans to explore in his next book.

For those in attendance, the evening was more than a history lesson. It was a reminder that behind every medical advance are stories of ingenuity, perseverance, and often, sheer courage. As Lam put it, "We give so much attention to athletes and celebrities, but it's these medical pioneers, often forgotten, who truly changed the world."

**Fall luncheon, card & game party Sept. 25**

WILBRAHAM – Fall into Fun at the Luncheon, Card & Game Party sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center located at 42 Main St. in Wilbraham.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious luncheon served at noon.

Bring friends and come to play any game of your choice (dominoes, mahjong, bridge, canasta, scrabble, etc.).

Donation is \$10 and there will be a raffle for cash prizes.

Proceeds help to fund our scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480. Hope you will join us for a fun afternoon.

**DEADLINE**

The Journal Register's deadline for public submissions is Monday. To get your submission in for that week's edition space permitting, email: [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays.

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

**Linda A. Artruc**  
Died Aug. 16, 2025  
Services to be announced  
Callahan Fay & Caswell  
Funeral Directors

**Patricia A. Bogacz**  
Died Sept. 2, 2025  
Services Sept. 14, 2025  
Lombard Funeral Home

## Linda A. Artruc

Linda A. Artruc, 75, passed peacefully on August 16, 2025. Born on October 22, 1949, in Boston, she was the daughter of the late Catherine F. and James O. McNamara.

A graduate of Somers High School in Somers, Connecticut, Linda dedicated many years to working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Most recently, she lent her skills and compassion to the Visiting Angels and the Holland Senior Center, where her gentle spirit and warm heart touched countless lives.

Linda was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. As a faithful member of Holland Congregational Church, she found joy in her service as a ladies' discipler and as a passionate singer in the church choir. Her deep love for her church family was reflect-



ed in the many events, gatherings, and ministries she actively participated in throughout the years.

The bond Linda shared with her late sister, Mary "Bunny" Paquette, who passed away in 2024, was one of profound friendship and joy. Together, they celebrated their shared passions for music, art, and deep conversations, filling their lives with cherished memories.

Linda is survived by her two sons, Jason Cunningham, 46, and Andrew Cunningham, 45, three nephews and one niece. She was preceded in death by her sister Mary "Bunny" Paquette, as well as her parents, Catherine McNamara in 2003 and James McNamara in 1980.

Services will be held at a later date.

## Patricia A. Bogacz

1960-2025

PALMER – Patricia Ann Bogacz ("Patty"), a 28 year resident of western Massachusetts, primarily Three Rivers, entered into rest on Sept. 2, 2025. She was 65.

Daughter of the late Jack McGuire and Agnes and John Sullivan, Patty was born on February 4, 1960 in the Bronx, NY. The family soon moved to Newburgh, NY, where Patty attended school and graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1978; she then studied at SUNY Brockport. She married Mark Bogacz on May 23, 1998. Patty was a long-time employee of FedEx and, after her retirement, became co-owner of Coal Stoves and More with her husband.

Patty truly had a heart of gold and was a friend to everyone she encountered. She possessed a naturally kind and generous nature which was felt by friends, acquaintances, co-workers, family and even strangers. Her innate ability to care for others was evident in the relationships she built and cultivated over the course of

her life.

Patty was the eldest of five children and embraced the role of "big sister" to her siblings; she stood by them, nurtured them and even covered for them at times. This ability to love strongly and without condition was further exemplified when she became an aunt to her three nieces and five nephews; she took such pride in each of them and absolutely adored them all.

Patty was an avid reader, frequenting her local libraries and swapping books with her sisters and friends. She made sure that her home was a place filled with love, particularly doting on her beloved pets over the years - Squeegie, Bailey, Ruffles and Charcoal.

Above all, Patty was the keeper of memories. Whether it was a childhood occurrence, a detail in a story from high school years ago or the birthday of a friend or relative, Patty never forgot. She made sure to reach out to loved ones on special days and always made sure



that those she cared for knew they were remembered.

Patty is survived by her husband, Mark M. Bogacz; her brother, Kevin McGuire; sisters, Mary Weafer and her husband Steve, and Danielle Mummery and her

husband Chris; sister-in-law Ellen McGuire; and her cherished nieces and nephews: Meghan Jarvis, Nicholas and Katie Weafer, Timothy and Tara McGuire, Jack and Conor Mummery and Nicholas Beau-doin. She was also predeceased by her brother, Brian McGuire.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by a prayer service starting at 3 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home, located at 3 Bridge Street in Monson, MA. Services will also be held in Newburgh, New York with a date to be announced. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with Patty's arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

### UPCOMING

#### Wales Public Library Events

77 Main St., Wales, MA 01081, 413-245-9072  
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](mailto: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](http://brimfieldwinery.com) for any variations.

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

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

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

visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://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. Questions: 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto: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 website for details.

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

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### 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.

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## VETERANS DAY SALUTE

The Journal Register ~ November 6, 2025

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

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

**The Journal Register,**  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

All photos will be returned.

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

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

# Classifieds

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**COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE.** Sat., 9/13/25, 9am-4pm. Brookhaven Association Clubhouse, 8 Lakeview Drive, West Brookfield.

We have a TON of items, including new and used clothing, shoes, coats, home decor, kitchen supplies (dishes, serving platters, etc.), chandeliers, laptops, and dog supplies (clothing, collars, etc.), board games, wood, tents and camping gear, and many, many, many other things. FREE chicken coops and misc supplies!!!! Clothing: XS-XXL Female Shoes: 7.5-8.5

20 Burleigh Rd. Hampden, MA 01036  
Sept. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28  
10am-5pm  
Sept. 15-19, 22-26 10am-2pm  
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Call/text Ellie @ 413-531-5026 for questions and appointments.

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**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

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Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

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Please submit resume to:  
**Wilbraham Housing Authority**  
88 Stony Hill Rd.,  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

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Inquire at **Girly's Grill,**  
**1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069**  
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**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! Email: [squieroil@verizon.net](mailto:squieroil@verizon.net). Call **413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

**TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER**

Duties include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.  
**Qualifications:** A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.  
**Submit resume to:**  
**Town of Ware**  
**ATTN: Human Resources**  
**126 Main Street**  
**Ware, MA 01082**

**REAL ESTATE**

**COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE**

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**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**

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

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393

| CATEGORY: |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1         | 2                  | 3                  | 4                  |
| 5         | 6                  | 7                  | 8                  |
| 9         | 10                 | 11                 | 12                 |
| 13        | 14                 | 15                 | 16                 |
| 17        | 18                 | 19                 | 20                 |
| 21        | Base Price \$26.50 | Base Price \$27.00 | Base Price \$27.50 |
| 22        | Base Price \$26.50 | Base Price \$27.00 | Base Price \$27.50 |
| 23        | Base Price \$27.50 | Base Price \$28.00 | Base Price \$28.50 |
| 24        | Base Price \$28.50 | Base Price \$29.00 | Base Price \$29.50 |
| 25        | Base Price \$29.50 | Base Price \$30.00 | Base Price \$30.50 |
| 26        | Base Price \$30.50 | Base Price \$31.00 | Base Price \$31.50 |
| 27        | Base Price \$31.50 | Base Price \$32.00 | Base Price \$32.50 |
| 28        | Base Price \$32.50 | Base Price \$33.00 | Base Price \$33.50 |
| 29        | Base Price \$33.50 | Base Price \$34.00 | Base Price \$34.50 |
| 30        | Base Price \$34.50 | Base Price \$35.00 | Base Price \$35.50 |
| 31        | Base Price \$35.50 | Base Price \$36.00 | Base Price \$36.50 |
| 32        | Base Price \$36.50 | Base Price \$37.00 | Base Price \$37.50 |
| 33        | Base Price \$37.50 | Base Price \$38.00 | Base Price \$38.50 |
| 34        | Base Price \$38.50 | Base Price \$39.00 | Base Price \$39.50 |
| 35        | Base Price \$39.50 | Base Price \$40.00 | Base Price \$40.50 |
| 36        | Base Price \$40.50 | Base Price \$41.00 | Base Price \$41.50 |
| 37        | Base Price \$41.50 | Base Price \$42.00 | Base Price \$42.50 |
| 38        | Base Price \$42.50 | Base Price \$43.00 | Base Price \$43.50 |
| 39        | Base Price \$43.50 | Base Price \$44.00 | Base Price \$44.50 |
| 40        | Base Price \$44.50 | Base Price \$45.00 | Base Price \$45.50 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Circulation: 50,500

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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# Opacum Land Trust holding Annual Bike Ride for Land Conservation

BRIMFIELD – Opacum Land Trust is excited to announce its annual charity bike ride, Southbridge Credit Union Tour Opacum, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Brimfield Winery. The ride benefits Opacum Land Trust and local land conservation. This exciting event offers cyclists of all skill levels the opportunity to ride through scenic landscapes while supporting an important cause.

The ride features four routes: 100-mile full tour, metric century, half-metric,

and the family friendly 10-mile X tour. Following the ride, riders and supporters are invited to a lively afterparty at Brimfield Winery, sponsored by Rapsallion Brewery. The celebration will feature live music, Rapsallion beer and Brimfield Winery wine, food trucks, and fun.

“This event is a fantastic way for our community to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and support vital conservation efforts,” said Laney Wilder, Executive Director at Opacum Land Trust.

All proceeds from the event will directly benefit Opacum Land Trust and its mission to protect local land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. By supporting Tour Opacum, riders and sponsors promote conservation, education, and recreational opportunities right here in your community.

Opacum Land Trust would like to thank Southbridge Credit Union, the lead sponsor of our annual Southbridge Credit Union Tour Opacum charity bike ride, for

their tremendous support of Tour Opacum and local land conservation. Since 1938, Southbridge Credit Union has been a cornerstone of financial support in our region. For the last 8 years, they’ve extended their community commitment by championing local land conservation efforts through sponsorship of this event.

We would also like to thank route sponsors St. Germaine Investment Management and Australian Natural Soap, rest stop sponsors Country Bank for Savings, Baystate

Health, Cancelmo CPA, and Al Smith – Geoarchaeologist, partner sponsors The Centered Place, Guild Mortgage, George and Davis Law and Mediation, Jeas Environmental Services, and Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, venue sponsor Brimfield Winery, afterparty sponsor Rapsallion Brewery, and SAG support provided by Southbridge Bicycle.

For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or to register, please visit [www.TourOpacum.org](http://www.TourOpacum.org) or contact our office at 508-347-9144 or [TourOpacum@OpacumLT.org](mailto:TourOpacum@OpacumLT.org). Online registration closes September 17, but walk-ins are welcome on the day of the event.

Opacum Land Trust is a non-profit, mostly volunteer land conservation organization. Since its founding in 2000, Opacum Land Trust has worked to build resilient landscapes that protect our natural environment so that these special places will be protected for future generations.

## Public notices

### TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Sections 10 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 29th, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Andrey Novenko, is requesting a variance from §171-35 Dimensional and Density Regulations. The variance request is to allow for the construction of a single-family home on a parcel that does not meet the 200' depth requirement. The property is located at 0 Longview Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 61, Lot 91.

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://mass-publicnotices.org>).

Dennis Fountain, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
09/11, 09/18/2025

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. 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, and to all other persons interested.

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

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 64 Washington Road, Brimfield, MA 01010

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph E McLellan III and Renee A Vailancourt to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, and now held by CitiMortgage, Inc., said mortgage dated July 18, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 136, as affected by a Loan Modification dated

January 22, 2018 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22157, Page 559; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans to CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment dated September 21, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 20887, Page 213; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **October 15, 2025 at 02:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, being shown as Lot 2 on a "Plan of Land owned by Andrew E. Shackett, 64 Washington Road, Brimfield MA", Jalbert Engineering Inc., recorded with the Hampden District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 359, Plan 77.

Containing 5 acres of land more or less according to said plan.

Subject to rights and easements as described in Book 17699 Page 367 if same affect locus and are in force and effect.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 19, 2014 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20355, Page 134.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encum-

brances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars** of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for CitiMortgage, Inc.  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
09/11, 09/18, 09/25/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25C0243CA  
In the matter of:  
Willard Pyles, Jr.  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Willard Pyles, Jr. of Holland, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Willard Pyle  
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/02/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 04, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
09/11/2025

### Three Rivers Fire District Notice of Intent to file for Federal Financial Assistanc

Following a vote of approval by the public during the annual special meeting held by the Three Rivers Fire District on June 12, 2024, the District soon intends to file an Application for Federal Assistance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service not to exceed the amount of \$1,980,000.00. This application for financial assistance will be for funding under the Rural Utilities Service, Part 1780, Water and Waste Loans and Grants (CFDA 10.760). This assistance will be for the purposes of remediating and restoring our drinking water storage tank(s). Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the Three Rivers Water Department, P.O. Box 182, 2031 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080 within fifteen (15) days of this publication.  
09/11/2025

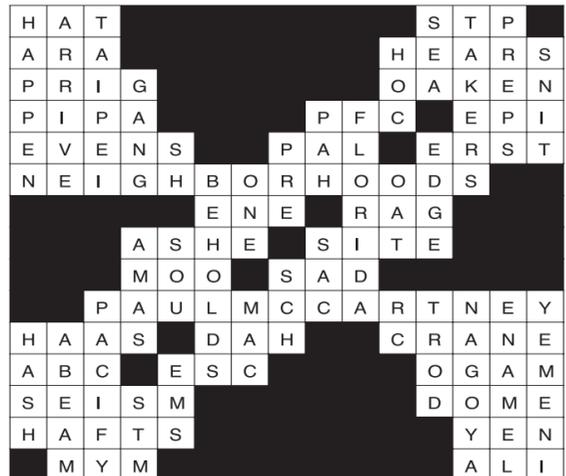
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No.  
HD25P1798EA  
Estate of:  
Carl Henry Otto, Jr.  
Also known as:  
Carl H Otto, Jr.  
Date of Death: 06/27/2025  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Elvera L Otto of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Elvera L Otto of Palmer, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
09/11/2025



# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## Full-Time Police Officer

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](mailto:Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov).

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