

The Journal Register

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MONSON

Cruise for Critters blends classic cars, community, and compassion for animals

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – What began as a modest gathering at the River Hollow golf course in Monson has grown into one of the region’s most unique fundraisers, uniting car enthusiasts, animal lovers, and dozens of small businesses. On Saturday, September 20, the 13th annual Cruise for Critters filled the grounds of Westview Farms Creamery with more than 150 vehicles, 50 vendors, and an estimated 300 dogs, all to benefit Second Chance Animal Services.

Event founder Alan Widlan said the concept was once dismissed as incompatible.

“People told me you can’t have a car show with dogs,” Widlan recalled. “But in 13 years, we’ve

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Leia, the Australian Shepherd, enjoyed the day with her family.



never had a single issue... no dog has ever jumped on a car or bitten anyone. It’s been absolutely amazing, and I think that’s why people keep coming back.”

Widlan launched the show after splitting from an earlier partnership and aligning with Second Chance, a non-profit he

called “absolutely amazing.” He emphasized that the show is about more than trophies. “It’s about making sure the money gets to the shelter,” he said. “A lot of car guys know each other from the circuit... this gives them a way to show off their cars while raising money for a good cause.”

The event now raises an average of \$15,000 annually, funds that go directly toward veterinary care, surgeries, and programs at Second Chance. “Fifteen thousand dollars may not sound like a lot, but it can mean life-saving surgery for an animal whose family can’t afford it,” Widlan explained. “A lot of people don’t have pet insurance, and Second Chance makes sure pets get the care they need instead of being put down.”

Second Chance’s Lindsay Doray, who staffed the organization’s mobile adoption unit at the show, highlighted the

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PALMER



A previous Pastor shared his sermon to the community.

Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Faith Baptist Church celebrates 75 years

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – Faith Baptist Church marked a major milestone this weekend, celebrating 75 years of ministry, fellowship, and outreach with a two-day event that brought together current members, former pastors, and longtime congregants. The celebration began with a casual community picnic at Miller Memorial Park on Saturday, Sept. 20, followed

by a more formal anniversary service at the church on Sunday.

Linda Spelko, a longtime member helping coordinate the festivities, explained the origins of the park gathering. “We decided that since it’s the 75th anniversary of the church starting, we wanted a casual gathering today,” she said. “The park is central, and it’s exciting to see people we haven’t seen in 40 years. We’re expecting about 120 people

here today.”

Founded in the 1950s, Faith Baptist Church has deep roots in the Palmer community. The church initially began construction on a building in the early 1950s, but it was destroyed by the 1955 hurricane. The congregation eventually established a permanent home on Shearer Street, opening officially in 1957. The church is affiliated with the Baptist denom-

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MONSON

Planning Board approves Bethany Road site plan revisions

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Planning Board met on Tuesday, Sept. 16, to review matters ranging from site plan revisions at 132 Bethany Road to larger questions about the town’s future planning and zoning regulations.

132 Bethany Road: Minor Plan Revisions Approved

The evening began with a review of modifications to the site plan at 132 Bethany Road. The changes, described by Planning Board consultant Ken Comia, included a request from the Water and Sewer Department, the repositioning of electric vehicle charging stations to provide safer pedestrian space, and the consolidation of two stormwater treatment units into one. The

town’s third-party consultant, Connor O’Sullivan of CEI, confirmed that the revisions would not affect stormwater quality or downstream elevations. Board members agreed the alterations were minor improvements, and they voted unanimously to approve them as administrative changes.

Master Plan Update Considered

A substantial portion of

the meeting was devoted to the possibility of updating Monson’s master plan. Last completed in 2004 with a limited downtown update in 2012 Comia outlined the typical scope of a modern plan, noting that it must address: housing, land use, transportation, economic development, cultural resources, open space, recreation, and public services. In addition, sustain-

ability and climate adaptation have become key components in recent years, especially for municipalities that participate in the state’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, which Monson does.

The estimated cost of a new master plan could reach \$150,000, but Comia emphasized that grants, including MVP Action Grants and the state’s “One Stop” program,

are often available to cover the expense. He pointed to recent examples in nearby towns where such funding had been secured. The board discussed forming a steering committee, drawing members from multiple town boards and commissions, to oversee the process. Members agreed the next step should be notifying the Select

PLAN | page 6

MONSON

MHS Class of 2026 hosts Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson High School Class of 2026 took center stage on Saturday Sept. 20, hosting a lively Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser that brought out parents, students, and community members for an evening of games, raffles, and camaraderie. The event, organized by the Parents of the Class of 2026, was held at T.J.’s Tavern and drew a strong turnout in support of the students’ upcoming senior year activities.

Class parent organizer Lisa Reynoldson explained that the fundraiser plays an important role in covering the many expenses tied to senior year. “It’s a nice night for the community to come out and play a healthy, innocent game of bingo while raising money for the class,” Reynoldson said. “They need money for their senior week, caps and

gowns, activities, and things that bond the class together and really make their senior year memorable.”

Senior Week traditions vary from class to class, often including trips, bonding activities, and preparations for graduation. While the events are student-driven, parents work behind the scenes to help cover costs through fundraising. Reynoldson said these efforts help ensure that financial barriers don’t prevent students from enjoying milestones such as senior trips, rehearsals, and the graduation ceremony.

The event also offered students an opportunity to take on leadership roles. Class officers and several volunteers were on hand to help run the night’s activities, with about a third of the Class of 2026 pitching in. “We probably had about 10 kids helping out to-



Julia Royce Class Secretary (left) and Olivia Davis Student Council Secretary (right) ran the bingo stand and distributed cards.

Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

BINGO | page 6

PALMER

Supt. reveals goals for upcoming school year

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER – The Palmer School Committee held its regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, covering agenda approvals, student and superintendent reports, financial updates, and the acceptance of several donations. The meeting highlighted a positive start to the school year, new initiatives, and strong community support.

During opening remarks, Committee Chair Bonnie Rathbone relayed concerns from parents at recent sports events who expressed frustration with the continued no-cash policy at games, saying the Go Fan ticketing fees created a hardship for some families.

Student Representative Reports
Palmer High School se-

nior Kelsey Coyle, serving as both Senior Class and Student Council President, gave her first report to the committee. She reflected on schoolwide efforts to honor the late faculty member Paul Holloway, which included memorial shirts and a collection of student and teacher writings that will be compiled into a book for his family. She also described the “Beautiful Tomorrow” presentation that welcomed students back with an upbeat and interactive message, reinforcing Palmer’s five core values of respect, safety, responsibility, community, and kindness.

Coyle provided updates on recent and upcoming

SUPT. | page 8



New Craft Movie Night event at MFL

By Abigail McCoy
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MONSON – The Monson Free Library hosted a new “Craft Movie Night” on Thursday, September 18, offering patrons a cozy evening of creativity and relaxation.

“It’s just a nice, cozy night for crafty people,” said library staff member Rebecca Sawyer. “Any type of arts and crafts are welcome. People can get together, enjoy a movie, talk about crafts, do crafts, and relax.”

The evening featured a

showing of *Pride and Prejudice*, which Sawyer described as “just a good movie that would be a great one to start off with.” If the event proves popular, the library hopes to make Craft Movie Night a recurring program.

In addition to this new offering, Sawyer noted that the library’s adult craft series has already drawn strong interest. The October session, featuring polymer clay ring or incense holder making, is sold out. The November craft night will focus on painting candles.

MHS Hall of Fame set for Oct. 18

MONSON – Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held October 18 at the Country Club of Wilbraham located at 859 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham.

The Social gathering will be at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. and the Inductions begin at 7p.m.

Tickets are \$45 per person, \$75 per couple, children under 12 - \$20. Contact James Duggan for tickets 413.374.7347 or email jamesduggan@com-cast.ne.t

The Induction Class of 2025, 12th Class
Athletes:
1938 Nisio “Muzzy”

Uliana (posthumously) Soccer, Basketball, Baseball & contributor
1956 Edward Robinson: Soccer, Basketball, Baseball

1960 James “Jim” Schetzel: Soccer, Basketball, Baseball
2019 Chris Sisco: 1,000 point scorer Basketball

2020 Logan Gerry: 1,000 point scorer Basketball

Teams:
2016-17 Boys Swim Team
2017 Boys Track & Field Team

Other:
Eric Degnan - Coach

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 along with the link to the online application. The application will be available starting Sept. 2, 2025, and the deadline is October 16, 2025.



Palmer Senior Center

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

Upcoming Events
Boston Harbor Cruise

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

Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church announces milestone anniversary events

MONSON – We joyfully invite all members, friends, and neighbors to join us in celebrating two centuries of faith, fellowship, and service at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church. This special milestone marks two hundred years of Methodism in our community and the 175th anniversary of our cherished church building.

We invite the public to join us on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church, 162 Main Street for this special rededication of our church, led by Reverend Kristin White. Past ministers and church leaders will join to lift in praise the church, its

congregation, its community and its future.

In 1825, Joel McKee from the Brookfield circuit selected young Horace Moulton, a student at Monson Academy, to lead the first organized group of Methodists in Monson. A group of faithful people began meeting to worship together, first in a school, then in a rustic chapel constructed on the corner of Maple and Main Streets. Twenty-five years later in 1850 they built the church on the corner of Cushman Street and Main Street, where it remains active as a place of worship and prayer.

The church and its people have always been a vibrant member of the community,

contributing in many ways, including initiating the first Summerfest in 1979 which inspired the Summerfest Committee, years of church suppers, decades of clothing sales, and an established monthly meals program that is currently providing over one hundred meals a month to those who ask. The church is listed on the National Historic Register and is the northern anchor of the Monson Center Historic District, witness to Main Street and all its activity for 175 years.

Following the anniversary ceremony, we will gather at Moulton Hill Cemetery for a brief remembrance service honoring Reverend Horace

Moulton, whose legacy continues to inspire our church and community.

After both services, light refreshments will be served at the church, offering an opportunity for fellowship and reflection as we celebrate our shared history and ongoing mission.

All are welcome to attend all or part of these ceremonies! Please join us as we commemorate two hundred years of sharing God’s love through worship, prayer, and service. Help us make this celebration even more meaningful as we honor the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to the future together.

Keep welcomes sewing enthusiasts

MONSON – The Keep Homestead Museum on 35 Ely Road in Monson, MA will host the Vintage Sewing Machine Enthusiasts of Pioneer Valley on Sunday, Oct. 5 starting at 1:30 p.m.

The group of vintage sewing machine enthusiasts was founded in 2023 by Danielle McCauley and Mary Gelezunas and is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and celebration of vintage sewing machines. It is an effort to revive the art of sewing and connect people to craftsmanship and heritage.

At 1:30 p.m. Sue Cluff

will share the development of the home sewing machine from the treadle to power. Then various models of machines will be on display, and their owners will share the history and operation of the Singers, Wheeler and Wilsons, and Montgomery Wards they have collected.

This program is open to the public free of charge though donations are appreciated. The museum is open from 1 – 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information about the museum visit www.keep-homesteadmuseum.org.

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine invites community to upcoming faith, healing events

STURBRIDGE – St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine warmly invites parishioners and neighbors throughout the community to participate in several upcoming opportunities for prayer, healing, and fellowship.

The Heart of Prayer Study Group

Beginning Saturday, Sept. 20, for seven weeks from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Center, the parish will host The Heart of Prayer, a reflective study program taught by spiritual educator and fellow parishioner Joseph Krans. This seven-session course offers participants a chance to deepen their spiritual lives by exploring the rhythms of prayer, silence, and scripture in community. To register, contact Joseph Krans at 508-867-8881 or email joseph.krans.presencework@gmail.com.

“The Heart of Prayer Study Group invites us to

slow down, listen, and discover how God speaks in the quiet of our daily lives. It’s a beautiful way to grow in faith together as a parish community,” said Fr. Salvator Musande, pastor of St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish.

Grieving with Great Hope Workshop

Also beginning Saturday, September 20, for five sessions, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Lower Level of St. Anne’s Church, for those who have lost a loved one, Grieving with Great Hope is a Catholic faith-based grief support workshop led by trained facilitators from Good Mourning Ministry. The workshop offers prayerful support, practical tools, and fellowship for those journeying through grief. For more information or to register, call the parish office at 508-347-7338 or email Chris Williams at cwki@charter.net.

“Grief is one of life’s

heaviest burdens, but no one should carry it alone. This workshop offers Christ-centered support and hope for all who mourn,” said Fr. Salvator Musande.

Vendors Wanted for Christmas Craft Fair

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine will host its 1st Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Center, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale. Local artisans, makers, and crafters are invited to reserve vendor spaces, which include tables and chairs. The event will feature crafts, jewelry, home décor, food, and more. Applications are available at <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>.

“The Christmas Craft Fair is about more than shopping—it’s about gathering as neighbors to share joy, creativity, and community as we prepare for the Christmas season,” said Fr. Salvator

Musande. “We encourage all members of the community to join in these meaningful opportunities for prayer, healing, and celebration.”

For more information about these opportunities and St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine, please visit: <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DEADLINE

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

NOTICE

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

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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Haiku Anthology 'Tea All the Time It Takes' launched at library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The quiet ritual of tea and the distilled art of haiku came together last week as poet and editor Denise Fontaine-Pincince introduced her new anthology, *Tea: All the Time It Takes*, during a group launch event at the Palmer Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 16. The book, which features haiku by more than 100 poets from 13 countries, is the culmination of nearly a year of work and a labor of love for Fontaine-Pincince.

The anthology takes its title from a haiku by Santa Fe poet Sandra Burns, whose verse struck Fontaine-Pincince as the perfect encapsulation of the spirit behind the collection. "Tea all the time it takes pretty much sums up how I feel about tea," Fontaine-Pincince explained. "I like to give tea all the time it deserves, because it's fabulous; many different ways of steeping tea, kinds of teas."

The project began in May 2024 when Fontaine-Pincince put out a call for submissions through haiku newsletters and journals. Poets were invited to send up to three tea-related haiku over the summer months. By January 2025, she was deep into the editorial process, selecting, arranging, and shaping the work into a cohesive volume.

"Every bit of it was enjoyable," Fontaine-Pincince said. "Receiving emails from so many people around the world submitting haiku felt like I was sitting down and sharing tea with people everywhere."

Still, there were challenges. Fontaine-Pincince admitted the hardest part of the process was rejecting submissions that didn't quite fit. "When someone sent me their work and I couldn't include any of their haiku, that was the most difficult part of the project. But other than that, it was lovely."

The book officially debuted on April 17, 2025, National Haiku Day. Fontaine-Pincince first offered copies to the contributing poets before making it available to the wider public on Amazon. Last week's event marked



Rick Guimond, President of the Quabbin Art Association, poured tea and offered snacks at the refreshment table.



Author Denise Fontaine-Pincince spoke about her book and shared haiku selections.

the first group launch party, with another planned for November at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown.

The format of the evening balanced author readings with community participation. Fontaine-Pincince read selected haiku from the anthology, while the second half of the program opened the floor to attendees who wished to share their own poetry.

During her talk, Fontaine-Pincince also addressed a common misconception about haiku. While many remember learning the three-line, 5-7-5 syllable structure in elementary school, modern English-language haiku often move beyond that form.

"We're a stress-pattern language, not a syllabic language like Japanese," Fontaine-Pincince said. "People who are serious about haiku no longer write in 5-7-5 syllables. But if writing that way



Community members turned out in strong numbers to support the launch.



A cup of green tea served in a floral China teacup.



Copies of the new anthology, along with Fontaine-Pincince's earlier work *Haiku Thank You*, were available for purchase.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

poignant. One verse describes pouring a cup of Earl Grey on a mother's grave for All Souls Day. Another reflects on the gentle way an elderly couple shares tea.

"Some of these brought me to tears," Fontaine-Pincince admitted. "Tea is a ceremony people enjoy when they're sad, when they're celebrating, when they want to be quiet, or when they gather with friends. It holds so many stories."

The collection also honors the work of late California poet Deborah Kolodji, whose estate granted permission

for the inclusion of two of her tea-themed haiku. Fontaine-Pincince said it was important to ensure her voice was represented.

With one launch behind her and another scheduled in November, Fontaine-Pincince said she is excited to keep sharing the anthology and encouraging others to discover the depth of haiku. "You never know when inspiration will hit you," she told the audience.

"It's part of the fun. One moment you're tearing open a teabag wrapper, and the jagged edge reminds you of the North Shore Mountains. That's haiku...it captures a moment in time."

For Fontaine-Pincince, *Tea: All the Time It Takes* is not just a book but a celebration of community, culture, and connection; one steeped in tradition and poured into verse.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I claim Social Security early because it is going bankrupt?

Dear Rusty:

My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately.

Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible?

Signed:

Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain:

Deciding when to claim Social Security is a sometimes-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a "cash basis" (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone's benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they just currently lack the bipartisan support to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress will soon address Social Security's future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt.

That fear is unfounded. Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one's SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security's Annual Earnings Test will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security "not being there" soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need and marital status.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



A picture is worth a thousand memories

This column was prompted by a picture.

You see, a co-worker got out her phone and showed me a vase on her table that was filled with the most interesting velvet red flowers.

"What are these?"

she asked. "Coxcomb or Celosia," I replied, and I went on to explain how the flower looks like a rooster's comb, hence the plant's name.

Seeing the image brought me right back to the late 1980s and early 1990s where I had a business growing dried flowers and crafting them into wreaths and arrangements that I later sold at area craft shows. It was a fun experience that I shared with my parents.

Read on to revisit some of my favorite flowers for drying.

Celosias make excellent dried flowers. They are available in three distinct types, crested or "Coxcomb," plumed and wheat. Crested types such as "Fireglow," "Prestige Scarlet," or "Big Chief" make quite a statement with their velvety-feeling, brainy-looking heads in rich shades of red, pink, and gold.

Plumed types come in similar colors, but are feathered in appearance. The "Sparkler" series are multi-branching when given ample growing space; just a few plants will provide you with many long lasting stems.

Newer to the catalogs, but really an heirloom, wheat celosia is the most delicate of the three. "Flamingo Feather" has rose tips with a silvery base. Pick often for an abundance of side shoots.

Globe Amaranth is another flower that is popular once dried. Clover-like heads on sturdy stems make great bouquet fillers. Nearly all varieties bloom well in the heat of the summer, producing even more flowers after they

family and grows lush plumes worth of a prominent place in your arrangements.

Smaller side shoots are great for more delicate work.

Colors are typically shades of burgundy.

Plants can grow anywhere from eighteen inches to several feet tall so site accordingly.

Winged Ammobium is a two foot tall, floppy annual that has an abundance of tiny white flowers. It is best picked when the center of the flowers just starts to show its yellow color.

If you wait too long, the centers will turn brown and unattractive. Gather small bunches of ten to twelve stems and secure them with rubber bands. Here too attach a wooden florist pick to tiny bunches for ease in floral arranging- besides giving the stem some strength, it will give it additional length.

An attic or barn loft are the best options in which to hang your harvest to dry. Flowers dried in the dark will retain their vivid colors very well and the heat will dry them out quickly.

Make small bunches of fresh cut flowers, securing them with a rubber band, not string. The rubber band will shrink along with the stems as they are drying. Hang them upside down and you will be rewarded with straight stems and upright heads.

Have fun experimenting with floral arranging or wreath making with these everlasting flowers.

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.

are harvested.

Cut when head reach the size of your thumbnail for best performance.

Lemon Bee Balm or Lemon Bergamot is the most underused of all the flowers mentioned here, but it shouldn't be! Whorls of mauve-pink bracts are best cut when three inches long.

Stems are weak, so mix in with other flowers to keep heads upright or attach stems to a wooden pick for added strength.

Most of us are familiar with the Strawflower, a stiff petaled flower that feels dry even in the garden! To dry, simply insert a 23-gauge wire up through a tiny bit of the stem and into the flower's calyx, just barely into the head itself. This will give the strawflower a strong "stem" for use in floral arranging.

After the flowers have been wired, be sure to let them dry fully, upright and in the dark to preserve their rich hues. You can also simply pluck the heads and dry them on a cookie sheet in the dark for hot-gluing later on.

Love in a Mist or Nigella is an old-fashioned beauty that has light blue, white or rosy pink short-lived flowers followed by really neat brown striped seed pods. When fully dry these look like pepper shakers, dropping their seeds to an fro. The pods are desirable for dried wreaths and arrangements.

Keep picking as soon as the heads are fully developed to keep the plant producing.

Prince's Feather is a member of the Amaranth

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Red-eyed vireo



By Ellenor Downer

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a red-eyed vireo on Sept. 15 at their Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, located on Massasoit Road in Worcester.

The red-eyed vireo has an olive green back and wings, white underparts, gray crown and a white eye-brow and a black line through its eyes. It has a yellow wash on the flanks. Adults have red eyes hence this six inch tall songbird's name. Immature birds have brown eyes.

It builds a cup shaped nest of grasses, bark and spider webs suspended in the

fork of a tree. It sings almost continuously from dawn to dusk with a series of short note phrases, "Here I am, where are you?"

It is frequently parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in other bird's nests.

It feeds on insects, mainly caterpillars and migrates to the Amazon basin for the winter. Vireos are found in the forest canopy, particularly in woodlands and forests.

Other birds at Broad Meadow

Other birds at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary

included a Nashville warbler on Sept. 16, a great blue heron, a sharp shinned hawk and a broad winged hawk, all on Sept. 15.

Helping birds

Bird friendly windows can prevent collisions, which annually kill millions of birds. Birds can't see glass. Instead, they see whatever happens to be reflected in its mirror-like surface. Often, this is open sky or trees, which, for a bird, are appealing and perfectly safe things to fly towards. It's estimated that between one hundred million and one billion birds

die every year in collisions with manmade structures, one of the biggest killers of migratory birds.

Bird-safe glass is specially designed to make glass a visible obstacle to birds. Bird safe glass is visible to birds while transparent enough for humans to look out. People may visit the Audubon Society at <https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean-for-ways-to-keep-birds-safe-from-window-strikes>.

Here are some of the tips they offer. Try placing your bird feeder about 1.5 feet from the window; it will slow them down. Apply a thin film to the outside of the windows. The glass will become visible to birds, but remain transparent to people. As an added bonus for being so eco-savvy, the film will cut down on incoming infrared radiation, so it will also lower summer cooling costs. Keep curtains or shades drawn during the day

to reduce reflection. Place window decals, sun catchers, tape strips, ribbons or anything else in a dense pattern in the "2x4" format, a single decal will not work. Install a screen or net a few inches outside of your windows, to lessen the impact.

Brimfield bird watcher

A Brimfield resident continued watching for migrating common nighthawks in August, but did not have any luck. He has seen them in the past. He had three ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding on jewelweed, cardinal flower and nicotiana last month. He saw a pair of American Goldfinch drinking from the drip he has in his yard. He also saw a female pileated woodpecker on the top of a mountain ash where it ate berries for while.

Bird calls

A reader sent an email about a free bird call app

BIRDS | page 5

The Journal Register

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Letters to the editor policy

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

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to:

journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to journalregister@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to journalregister@turley.com.

UPCOMING

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS On Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m. (2 part program) Clay Ghost Tea Lights located at 77 Main St., Wales. For more information call 413-245-9072

ONGOING

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

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or

both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

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

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

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

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

low 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 Li- brary at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

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

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

Viewpoints



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

All it takes is one kid with measles to infect up to 18 others in their classroom. With school beginning soon, public health and education officials around the country are concerned about new out- breaks.

In the not too distant past, measles was consid- ered "eliminated" in the U.S. because cases were almost unknown and 95 percent or more of Americans were vac- cinated against it or had it in childhood. That herd immu- nity is slowly eroding, and our children are at greater risk of illness because of it.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseas- es out there, even more so than COVID and flu virus. It spreads through tiny droplets when people cough or sneeze, and can live in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours (think school desks, cafeteria

tables, lab stations).

And while today's meas- les is no more dangerous than before, it can still result in pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling) or even death in very young children or those with immunocompro- mised systems. We've seen three deaths in Texas attribut- ed to measles.

In addition, measles can leave someone with a weak- ened immune system, making them more susceptible to oth- er infections.

Illinois generally has experienced herd immunity, with vaccination rates at or above 95 percent. The state has seen 10 cases of measles this year, some in Cook Coun- ty and others in the southern part of the state. There's evi- dence, however, that vac- cination rates are dropping in some Chicago schools and among kindergartners.

Measles are a serious business

Massachusetts hasn't seen a single case – yet – be- cause its citizens maintain a vaccination rate of about 98%. There's evidence, how- ever, that the vaccination rate is not as strong among incom- ing kindergartners.

We all play a role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. The best way to keep the measles away from your child is to make sure they've had two doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-ru- bella) vaccine, which has been proven safe and is 97% effective at prevention. Even if they do catch the virus, the illness is likely to be mild and short-lived.

That said, it's possible there will be children in your child's class who are unvac- cinated and could well bring measles to school along with their homework and lunch- box. It will be easy for them to infect other unvaccinated children, causing an outbreak.

To help stop measles in its tracks:

If you're unsure of your immune status and believe you were exposed to the measles, consult your health- care provider right away. An MMR immunity blood test can show whether you have measles antibodies. (If you

were born before 1957, you likely had measles and enjoy "presumptive immunity.")

Consider getting an MMR booster shot, especial- ly if you were immunized between 1963 and 1967. The vaccine used during those years was less effective be- cause it was made from a killed rather than live virus. A booster is a harmless precau- tion, as long as your doctor says you are eligible to re- ceive a live virus vaccine.

Regularly disinfect sur- faces and common touch- points, like door handles and light switches.

Keep your unvaccinated child home if any of these symptoms show up. It could be a cold or the flu, but it could also be measles. Sym- ptoms usually appear seven to 14 days after exposure.

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- White spots inside the mouth (Koplik spots)
- A red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and spreads downward

Wait four days before go- ing to a hospital to reduce the chance that the disease will be transmitted to others.

As a registered nurse and

someone who's worked in the medical field for most of my life, I advocate for science, not social media or crackpot theories about cod liver oil. (Cod liver oil, by the way, contains a lot of Vitamin A, which can be toxic in large doses, particularly with chil- dren.) Measles, once some- one has it, is incurable – it has to run its course. It is a virus, not a bacteria, so it can't be treated with antibiotics.

Fall is approaching, and with it will come flu season and RSV season. Cases of COVID are already on the rise around the country. We are so lucky to live in an era in which vaccines can keep us and our children safe from some of the most common human diseases. Please take advantage of it.

Teri (Dreher) Fryken- berg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient ad- vocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become suc- cessful private patient ad- vocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becom- ing advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

BIRDS | from page 4

called Merlin. She thought other readers might be inter- ested. She said, "Just enter your location and press re-

cord. I never knew humming- birds chirp. Now I do."

People may report a bird sighting or bird relat- ed 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 Ga- zette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Harvest Fair

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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 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.

PLAN | from page 1

Board and town administrator while simultaneously exploring grant opportunities.

Subdivision Rules and Regulations

Board members then turned their attention to Monson's subdivision rules and regulations, which have not been updated in more than four decades. While the town has seen only two subdivi-

sions during that span, members acknowledged the importance of having current and enforceable standards. Planning Board Consultant Comia recalled that draft revisions had been prepared in 2019 but never finalized. He suggested the town could build on that work with help from state technical assistance grants. The board agreed to revisit the draft materials and determine what additional updates are needed.

Zoning Map Update

Monson's official zoning map, last updated in 1990, will also be brought forward for revision. Comia explained that all zoning changes approved by Town Meeting since then have been tracked and incorporated into an updated map, which will be presented to voters in spring 2026. The project has already been funded through earlier technical assistance, and once adopted, the new map will be integrated

into the assessor's GIS system, allowing residents online access to the updated information.

Bylaw Workshop

A lengthy discussion centered on proposed amendments to the Commercial Recreation zoning bylaw. The amendments, originally crafted by resident Bob Carpenter, are intended to clarify and update permitting standards. A key point of debate concerned which board should oversee

certain approvals, the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Appeals. Members concluded that permitting authority for commercial recreation projects should remain with the ZBA, but language referencing groundwater review by the Planning Board would be revised to reflect that responsibility.

The board also grappled with confusing language about buffer strips, which currently states they "can only be used as

buffer strips." Members agreed that underground utilities could reasonably be installed in buffer areas, provided vegetation is restored to maintain the screening function. They also supported removing a section of the bylaw that seemed redundant with existing Planning Board powers. Comia was tasked with refining the draft amendments and sharing them with staff and the ZBA for additional input before a public hearing later this year.

CHURCH | from page 1

ination and has maintained a long-standing commitment to outreach, helping members of the community who are searching for spiritual guidance or in need of assistance.

"This church has always been about reaching out," Spelko said. "We're always looking for ways to help people and provide support where it's needed."

The weekend's celebration culminated in a formal service at the church, featuring past and present pastors, special music, and reflections on the church's 75-year history. Former Pastor Paul Anderson, who led the church for 35 years, recalled his experience with warmth. "It was a real blessing for us," he said. "The people here are like family. Tomorrow, I'll be challenging the congregation to think about the next 75 years and what the Lord can do through this church."

Current Pastor Matthew McNeil, who has served for three and a half years, shared his excitement for the anniversary celebrations. "It's been a joyous journey seeing the growth God has done in our church and in the lives of our people," he said. "We're remembering the past 75 years of God's faithfulness and looking forward to what He will continue to do."

The Sunday service followed a carefully planned order, beginning with a prelude by Vonnie Green, who taught



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Old photo albums, yearbooks, and memorabilia on display for attendees to reminisce and share memories.



Turley photo by Amanda Munson
Family memories displayed on the walls of the Faith Baptist Church signifying 75 years celebrating their faith.

kindergarten at Faith Baptist in 1981. Hymns, special music performances, and a video highlighting 75 years of God's faithfulness punctuated the morning. Attendees were welcomed by Pastor McNeil and recognized the service of past leaders, including Pastor William McMahan (1969-1977) and Pastor Rick Rush (2004-2013).

A highlight of the celebration was the message delivered by Pastor Anderson, who reflected on the church's history while encouraging the congregation to continue building a legacy of faith. Following the service, members gathered in the fellowship hall to share a meal, reminisce, and explore a photo book chronicling the church's seven-and-a-half-decade history. Spelko noted, "People are having fun just looking at



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy
Community members gather at Miller Memorial Park in Monson to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary with a picnic.

the pictures, remembering the early days, and recognizing themselves and old friends."

With an estimated 230 attendees expected at the formal service, the anniversary offered both reflection on the past and inspiration for the

future. McNeil emphasized the ongoing impact of the church's leadership and congregants: "I'm grateful for the men and women who have continued to make an impact here. We walk on the path they paved, and we hope to



Turley photo by Amanda Munson
During morning worship, the church watched a special anniversary video that had a variety of speakers sharing their experience within the community.

continue their legacy."

For those interested, the church has made a commemorative photo book available for purchase, capturing the rich history and memories of Faith Baptist Church from its

founding to the present day.

The 75th anniversary of Faith Baptist Church stands as a testament to enduring faith, strong community bonds, and a dedication to service that has lasted generations.



Members of the Class of 2026 help set up the bingo area before the event.



A table filled with raffle prizes attendees had a chance to win.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Bartender for the evening, Ella Mae Lavalley, serving guests.



Some of the designer pocketbook bingo prizes, including Kate Spade bags.



A Michael Kors and a Kate Spade bag were among the prizes.



A Coach bag was another of the featured bingo prizes.

BINGO | from page 1

night," Reynoldson said. "It's really wonderful, especially when you consider there are only about 34 kids in the class. To have that kind of participation shows how invested they are."

Guests were treated to a mix of bingo rounds, raffle drawings, and refreshments, creating a festive atmosphere. Raffle prizes included a margarita basket, a Sawdust Coffee House gift set, Big E

tickets, a "lottery tree," a yoga and self-care package, a potted mum, a Barnes & Noble gift card, and a Mexican night out dining certificate. A cash bar operated by bartender Ella Mae Lavalley added to the evening's offerings.

Looking ahead, the Class of 2026 has another fundraiser planned at the Main Street Tavern on October 16, as part of the tavern's Thursday night community give-back program. Reynoldson praised the

support of local businesses in helping the class meet its fundraising goals. "T.J.'s Tavern has been really helpful in giving us this awesome space, especially on a beautiful fall night like this," she said.

As the Class of 2026 continues working toward its senior year, events like Pocketbook Bingo highlight both the dedication of parents and the enthusiasm of students eager to make their final year of high school a memorable one.



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Business

Farm kicks off annual Fall Harvest Weekends

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Silver Bell Farms welcomed families back on Saturday, Sept. 20, for the opening of its annual Fall Harvest Weekends, marking the farm's 11th fall season of autumn celebrations.

Michael Moore, who runs the family farm with his wife Laura, said the event has become a tradition for many in the community. "We offer a lot of the fall staples, like hay rides, pumpkin picking, and a small corn maze with a scavenger hunt," Moore explained. "It's a fun way for families to spend time together outdoors and enjoy the season."

The farm offers a wide variety of children's activities, including a kiddie train ride and bounce houses, which have proven to be popular attractions year after year. Families can purchase bounce house passes that allow kids to, as Moore put it, "bounce around to your heart's desire."

One of the biggest additions this year is a newly renovated gift shop. "We converted an old shop, and it's now like a Santa's sleigh shop with an automotive theme," Moore said. Inside, visitors will find holiday decor alongside seasonal staples outside such as ornamental pumpkins, gourds, carving pumpkins, mums, cornstalks, and straw bales; everything needed for festive fall decorating.



Families boarded the wagon hayride that looped around the farm's perimeter.



Three bounce houses kept kids busy with all-day play passes available.

Food and drink are also a central part of the experience. The farm operates its own Frosty's Tree Truck, a beverage truck selling slushies and handcrafted lemonades. Each weekend also features a different visiting food truck. On opening weekend, guests enjoyed barbecue from Pit Stop Barbecue of Westfield. Looking ahead, Moore said, "Next weekend we'll have Murphy's on Saturday, Sept. 27, and Main Street Tavern on Sunday, Sept. 28."

Silver Bell Farms will continue to host Fall Harvest Weekends through the autumn, with larger themed events planned as the season progresses. Toward the end of October, the farm will hold



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Frosty's Tree Truck served beverages to visitors.

its annual Halloween on the Farm, a family-friendly trick-or-treat trail designed for children.

Once fall winds down, the farm will shift into its holiday offerings. "We'll be selling Christmas trees again this year," Moore said, "and

we'll also be bringing back Silver Bell Nights," the farm's winter event that combines holiday lights with seasonal festivities.

With a blend of traditional fall fun, new attractions, and community-centered events, Silver Bell Farms' Fall



A colorful display of pumpkins at Silver Bell Farms.



The Santa's Sleigh gift shop, decorated with a sleigh hanging from the ceiling.

Harvest Weekends continue to be a cornerstone of seasonal celebrations in Monson and the surrounding region.

Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. celebrates 120 years of excellence

PALMER – Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc., an industry leader of precision cold rolled and cold drawn metal profiles, proudly commemorates its 120th anniversary this year. Since its founding in 1905, the company has consistently helped manufacturers to reduce machining and material costs.

Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. has become a trusted name in metal profiles, known for its dedication to quality, customer satisfaction, and engineering capabilities. Over the last decades, the company has achieved significant milestones: Rathbone pioneered the manufacture of cold drawn, special-shape bar and wire in the United States. Its profile products and markets changed as American industry's requirements changed. In addition to serving American industry, Rathbone's contributions to success in World War II are little known. In fact, Rathbone's metal profile shapes helped the United States industrial base produce vast amounts of a wide variety of material required to win the war.

Today, Rathbone produces thousands of custom metal profile shapes for various markets including water pipe, energy, firearms, automotive, aerospace, and medical prod-

ucts to mention a few. For over 100 years, Rathbone has been a producer of the highest quality cold drawn and cold rolled metal profiles.

"This milestone is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our employees, as well as the support of our business partners and loyal customers," said Ms. Orszulak, President and CEO of Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. To celebrate this significant achievement, Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. is hosting a special anniversary event tonight for our staff. "We are celebrating the longevity of our company and want to honor Mr. Andrew B Rathbone for his vision of this business providing long lasting manufacturing jobs to our local communities. Also, it is very important to thank those people who have worked alongside us throughout the past 120 years as we are grateful for their contributions," said Ms. Orszulak.

Company History:
• In 1905, Rathbone was founded in the garage of Andrew B. Rathbone in Palmer, MA, as a small pinion wire-making manufacturer that serviced the clock industry in central New England. In 1912, Mr. Rathbone was joined by several brothers

shortly thereafter and moved to its current location on Park Street in Palmer, MA where it still resides today.

• Calvi S.p.A., who is a leader in Special Steel Profiles in Europe, purchased Rathbone in June of 2008 to expand their presence in North America and grow revenue worldwide. Over the past seventeen years, Calvi has been a large supporter of the continuous success of the company.

In addition to its focus on business growth, Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. has been committed to Quality and Safety. The company has been ISO 9001 Certified and is working towards its ISO 45001 certification which focuses on standards regarding occupational health and safety management to improve employee safety and reduce workplace risks.

Rathbone is also work-

ing towards its Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) that requires defense contractors and sub-contractors to meet specific cybersecurity standards to protect sensitive government information and ISO 14001 which helps organizations to improve their environmental performance while reducing their impact on the environment.

"Looking ahead, there is a considerable amount

of work to be done to gain further growth opportunity and support our continuous improvement philosophy. Rathbone will continue to forge ahead with these plans with the support of our talented staff, business partners and customers", said Ms. Orszulak.

For more information about Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc. visit rathbone-profiles.com or follow us on LinkedIn.



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SUPT. | from page 1

school activities, including seventh-grade orientation, the eighth-grade Washington D.C. trip information night, a moment of silence for 9/11, ALICE training assemblies, and preparations for the Dominican trip. She also highlighted the success of the Senior Car and Bike Show, which raised more than \$2,000 for senior year activities, as well as a strong start to the fall athletic season. "We really came together as a school this month," she told the committee. "The activities and fundraisers reflect Palmer's values and help us build a stronger community." Looking ahead, she noted a modified ALICE drill, a half-day for teacher development on September 25, and the Unified Basketball fundraiser on September 30, which

will benefit the Paul Holloway Memorial Giving Fund.

At Old Mill Pond Elementary School, Principal Holly Riopel reported that all preschool and kindergarten students are now under one roof following a staggered start. She previewed the Sept. 18 open house, which would bring in local businesses, community partners, and sports groups, alongside the Scholastic Book Fair. Riopel also outlined the process for selecting the new student council, explaining that fifth- and sixth-grade students submit questionnaires anonymously reviewed by her. Twelve students will ultimately be chosen and introduced at the next meeting. "We look forward to welcoming these young leaders and continuing to build student voice in our school," she said.

Superintendent's Report: 2025-26 Goals

Francis presented his proposed goals for the 2025-26 school year, introducing them in the context of the district's new mission statement: "to educate, inspire and empower, creating a supportive environment where students learn, grow and thrive through shared values of respect, kindness and community."

Francis first highlighted a student learning goal that calls for monthly unannounced classroom observations with assistant principals and twice-monthly visits with principals. Each observation will be followed by a debrief session designed to strengthen evaluator consistency. "This isn't a 'gotcha' moment," Francis explained. "It's about calibrating our evaluators and providing real-time feedback

so teachers and administrators grow together."

His practice goal centers on completing the third and final year of the Massachusetts Superintendent Induction Program, shifting from intensive monthly meetings to a more consultancy-based model with in-person collaboration across districts. The district improvement goal focuses on implementing CR24, a process for reviewing curriculum materials for bias. Francis described the initiative as essential to addressing last year's "partially implemented" rating from the state. Training has already begun, with staff learning to examine supplemental resources such as videos, books, and posters for potential bias. A review tool and database will be fully in place by June 2026.

The superintendent also

introduced Officer Josh Wood as the district's new School Resource Officer, thanking Officer Nate Pagan, who was recently promoted to sergeant, along with Sergeant Baer and Chief Burns for ensuring a smooth transition.

Financial Report

Finance Director Sara Menard presented the district's financial report as of Aug. 31, noting \$1.4 million in expenditures, or 21.8 percent of the budget, with the majority tied to transportation contracts entered at the start of the year. Salaries for teachers and paraprofessionals had not yet been charged to this fiscal year, since August payroll applied to the prior year.

Menard fielded questions on several line items. She explained that increased SPED dues stemmed from joining a new collaborative after a

previous group became inactive, that non-professional transportation salaries reflected extended school year bus monitors, and that the bulk of medical services costs were for the school physician, with \$500 remaining in that line. Parent transportation reimbursements were also noted as a cost-saving alternative to hiring private transportation companies. Instructional hardware purchases had been reclassified to the proper state reporting line, while DPW chargebacks for event support, including football games, were billed to whichever school served as the home team.

Committee members praised Menard for her clear and detailed reporting. "How are you this good? Seriously...strong work," one member said with admiration.



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SOCCER

Pioneers, Indians battle to draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – After beginning the regular season with a 4-1 home win over Hopkins Academy, the Ware boys' varsity soccer team were outscored, 22-1, in their next four matches.

Ware was trailing Bi-County East rival Pathfinder Tech, 2-0, in the middle of the first half before storming back.

The Indians, who scored a goal before halftime, netted the tying goal with ten minutes left in regulation. Last

Thursday night's contest, which was held at Veterans' Field in Ware, ended in a 2-2 draw.

"Our past few games haven't been very much fun, but tonight's game was a lot of fun," said Ware head coach Charlene Valle. "All of the players worked very hard, and we played well as a team. Everyone stepped up."

The Indians had a 1-4-1 overall record and a 0-3-1 league mark following the home tie, while the Pioneers made short trip back to

PIONEERS | page 9

FIELD HOCKEY

Palmer shut out by N. Brookfield

PALMER – Last Monday, North Brookfield High School field hockey scored a 3-0 win on the road at Palmer High School. The Panthers are 1-3-2 on the regular season. The Panthers scored their

first win of the season over Holyoke 1-0 and then tied Turners Falls 2-2 to finish out a three-game week. The Panthers next face Quaboag at home on Friday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m.



Brooke Swistak tries to settle the ball.



Anna Wu tries to stop the progress of an opponent.



Neila Lachance gets the backhand.



Ellie Gelinas heads up the field.

SOCCER

Panthers edged by Holyoke

PALMER – The Palmer High School girls soccer team was defeated by Holyoke 4-3 last Thursday afternoon. Harper Brouillette scored twice for the Panthers and Evelyn Ladue added a pair of assists.

Aria Nompleggi scored a goal while Cora Lachance made 12 saves.

Palmer is now 1-4-1 on the season. The Panthers have not won since their first game.

The Panthers had a big matchup with Ware earlier this week and next host Greenfield on Monday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m.



Adelynn Allard gets the throw-in.



Shiloh Kibbe heads the ball away.



Evelynn Ladue goes after the ball.



Cora Lachance goes to make a save.



Jaclyn Swiatlowski attempts to steal the ball.



Aria Nompleggi looks for an open teammate.



Jimmy Sem gains good kedge on this run.



Tarillo Smola dances into the end zone.

FOOTBALL

Panthers fall to 1-1

PALMER – Last Friday night, Palmer hosted its second straight game, entertaining Central Mass. school David Prouty, which is located in Spencer. Prouty scored a 28-19 win and Palmer fell to 1-1 on the season. Palmer beat Pathfinder in its first game of the season.

The Panthers head to Chicopee High School for an independent matchup on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com
Kenith Brown brings down this Prouty runner.

SOCCER

Ludlow offense too much for Monson girls

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Playing on a grass field for the first time this season wasn't a major factor for the Ludlow girls' varsity soccer team.

The Lady Lions scored a season high seven goals en route to a 7-3 non-league victory over the Monson Lady Mustangs at Larry Tassinari Field in Monson, last Wednesday afternoon.

"The girls have been working very hard at practice, and it has carried over to our games," said Ludlow head coach Amanda Nacsin. "We're a well-rounded team offensively, which makes us very difficult to stop."

The non-league road victory improved Ludlow's overall season record to 4-0-1.

"We played very well as a team in today's game," said Ludlow senior captain Juliana Bartolucci. "We're a very close team and we've been having a lot of fun so far this year. We just want to keep our winning streak going."

The Lady Lions, who pulled out a 2-1 home win against Monson a year ago, scored five goals in a non-league home win against Tantasqua Regional in the season opener.

The Lady Mustangs, who lost at Hampshire Regional, 9-2, less than twenty



Turley photos by David Henry
Sophia Leonard makes a run up the field.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Cora Lachance
Palmer High School

The Palmer goalie had a great effort in a match with Holyoke last week, notching 12 saves in the game.

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

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – It is week three of the Wednesday night Bondsville Candlepin League at Roll-A-Way Lanes.

During week three, Ironmen bowled against the Slow Burners. In game one, Ironmen won a close game by a score of 469-466. Steven Swistak of Ironmen bowled his first night of league and started the match with a 114. Jody Orszulak of Slow Burners began the match with a 115.

In game two, Slow Burners defeated Ironmen by a score of 458-444. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners bowled 110 and Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled a 116 during game two.

In game three, Slow Burners won the last game by a score of 475-464. Orszulak finished the match with 112 and Brunk finished with a 123, the highest game bowled in the match. Slow Burners won total pinfall by a final score of 1399-1377.

Cannonballs bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls during week three. In

game one, Flaming Bowling Balls defeated Cannonballs by a score of 513-451. Joe Mullen of Flaming Bowling Balls had a good game with 110.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 514-470. Mullen followed up with a 105 in game two. Keith Marchesalt of Cannonballs bowled a 106 after an opening game of 108.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won for a three-game sweep over Cannonballs, 507-504. Marchesalt finished with a 112 and a series of 326. His teammates Sally Czarnecki and Suzie Czarnecki finished strong with scores of 104 and 105.

Flaming Bowling Balls win seven points and total pinfall by a final score of 1534-1425.

Night Hawks bowled against Sandri in week three. In game one, Night Hawks were victorious by a score of 452-436. Bob Hutchinson of Sandri bowled well with a 122 and Lee Robinson of Night Hawks had the highest score on his team with a 112.

In game two, Night Hawks won by a score of 402-375 (scratch totals). Robinsons bested his second game with a 120.

In game three, Sandri won by a scratch score of 422-373. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks finished strong with a 120 and a series of 333. Rich Picotte of Sandri finished strong with a 116. The official scores of this match will be determined soon once handicap is configured.

Fire Mountain bowled against Spare Parts in week three. In game one, Fire Mountain defeated Spare Parts by a score of 348-310. In game two, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 394-335. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain had the highest game of the week with a 137.

In game three, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 350-325. Trott finished with 102 and a three-game series of 335.

Fabulous Four bowled against Zeke's Freaks in week three. In game one, Zeke's Freaks won by a score of 463-429. In game two, Zeke's Freaks won again by a score of 499-448. Steve Orszulak of Zeke's Freaks bowled a 107 and his teammate Pete Ducharme bowled a 103.

In game three, Zeke's Freaks won for a three-game sweep over Fabulous Four, 455-445. The final score was 1417-1322.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

PIONEERS | from page 8

Palmer with a 2-2-1 overall record and a 1-2-1 league record.

Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson wasn't as excited as the Ware head coach was following the match.

"I'm not very happy with this result," Wilson said. "We dominated the first half and had plenty of scoring chances. It's very frustrating, but you have to give a lot of credit to Ware. They fought very hard and played with a lot of heart."

It was the first meeting on the soccer pitch between the two squads since the 2022 regular season. The two meetings that season also ended in ties.

One of the Indians key players in last Thursday's match was senior goalkeeper Jack Gaudreau, who made a total of 22 saves.



Owen Pear heads the ball during play.

"I think Jack has a chance to finish his varsity career with more than 700 saves, which will be a new school record," Vallee said. "He always keeps us in every game even when we're losing. He's a fantastic goalie."

Gaudreau was aided by a strong defense led by senior Kyle Kaczuwka, sophomore Jaedon Warren, and sophomore Levi Ramirez.

The Pioneers did take a 1-0 lead during the 13th minute of the opening half when senior Adonis Dupre put a shot into the right corner of the net for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, junior Cayden Bousquet fired another shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gaudreau made an outstanding diving save.

Bousquet assisted on the Pioneers second goal, which was scored on a tap in by senior Jaleel Roman in the 24th minute.

The Indians got on the scoreboard two minutes later following a free kick goal from about 30 yards out by sophomore Matt Skutnik. The ball sailed into the back of the net past freshman goalie Elijah Hodge.

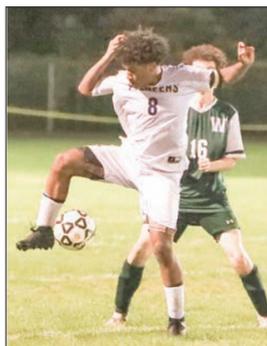
"Whenever Matt takes free kicks closer to the goal, they usually go over the crossbar," Vallee said. "I knew that he could score a goal from that distance. It also set the tone for the rest of the game."

The Pioneers had eight more shots on goal during the final 15 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2 to 1 at the break.

Hodge, who made three saves in the first half, was replaced by junior Gavin



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com
James Vulpe leads the charge as he brings the ball down field.



Jaleel Roman knocks the ball down to gain control.

Peters (5 saves) at the start of the second half.

Ware senior Ryder Cahalan had several scoring chances in the first twenty minutes of the second half.

Another shot by Cahalan struck off the right post with ten minutes left in regulation. Then senior Kaleb Kanozek passed the ball to freshman Raymond Kularski, who scored his first varsity goal tying the score at 2-2.

"Ray is a first-year member of the boys' soccer



Cayden Bousquet focuses on bringing the ball into play.

team," Valle said. "His tying goal pumped up the rest of the team. Everyone was very excited for him."

Ware had a corner kick and a free kick during the final five minutes, but the match ended in a tie.

The second meeting of the regular season between the rivals is scheduled to take place at Pathfinder Tech on October 10.

Owls get conference win over Dean College

WESTFIELD – Sophomore RB Aidan Patterson (East Lyme, Conn.) scored three touchdowns to lead Westfield State University to a 48-6 win over conference newcomer Dean College in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game on Saturday in Franklin, Mass.

Westfield snares its first win of the season to go to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 in the league.

Patterson scored on runs of 18 and 10 yards in the first half, and caught a short pass and ran it into the end zone for a 11-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

Westfield jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the game, and led 20-6 at the half, the lone blemish on the scoreboard coming on a 71-yard scoop and score fumble recovery by Dean's K-Vorn Pemberton with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Westfield held huge edges in nearly every statistical category, outgaining the Bulldogs 405 yards to 60, posting 24 first downs to Dean's 8, and had a 40:02 to 19:58 advantage in time of possession. Westfield held Dean to -53 yards rushing.

Westfield was 11-12 (92 percent) on third down conversions.

Owls QB Miles Foerster (Amherst, Mass.) was a perfect 10-10 passing for 137 yards and three TD's, connecting with Patterson, Casey Tang (Cambridge, Mass.) and Will Brewster (Westfield, Mass.) for the three scores. Foerster's perfect passing day sets a school record for completion percentage in a game with the perfect 1.000 mark. Colby Pires was 16-17 for a .941 mark against Worcester State in 2022.

Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) carried 23 times for 126 yards, and Patterson added six carries for 46 yards. Nick Boucher (Dartmouth, Mass.) and JC Pena (Worcester, Mass.) each had TD runs late for the Owls.

Justyn Gardener (East Hartford, Conn.), Landon Andre (Belchertown, Mass.) and Tommy Bean (Stafford Springs, Conn.) each had five tackles to lead the Owls, with Gardener adding a pair of sacks and Andre and Bean recording one apiece.

Da'Qwon Foster caught four passes for 43 yards for the Bulldogs. Sincere Wright led Dean with 13 tackles.

It was the first-ever meeting in football between the two schools.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, Sept. 27, hosting Worcester State at 2 p.m. as part of Family Weekend.



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MONSON | from page 8

ty-four hours earlier, saw their overall record fall to 1-3.

“We had a very difficult game at Hampshire last night,” said Monson head coach Larry Pagliaro. “I thought we battled hard against a very good Ludlow team for most of today’s game. I’m very proud of the girls.”

Monson’s only victory of the regular season came at home versus Amherst by the score of 2-0 on September 12.

Monson seventh grader Audrey Gregoire made her first career varsity start as a goalie against the Lady Lions. She was credited with a total of 14 saves.

Gregoire, who played the second half against Hampshire, replaced sophomore Grace Berry, who suffered a right knee injury.

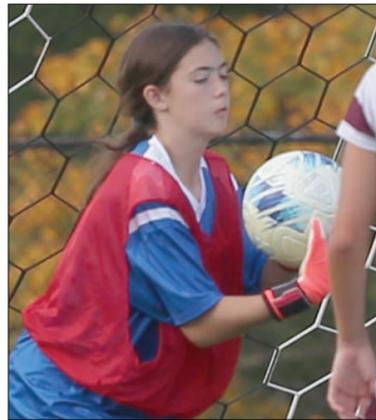
“Grace is out at least two weeks with an injury,” Pagliaro said. “Audrey did her best in today’s game.”

At the other end of the field, Ludlow junior goalie Maddy Riley had to make only one save during the first 40 minutes of the match. Riley was replaced at the start of the second half by senior Kacie Klimek, who also only made one save.

The two teams combined to score three goals during the first ten minutes of the match.

The scoring began two minutes into the opening half with a goal by Ludlow senior captain Ava Friese. Junior Audrey Afonso was credited with the assist.

The Lady Mustangs scored the tying goal two minutes later when senior co-captain Hannah Murphy fired a shot off the left post before deflecting into the back of the net. Murphy has been a member of the varsity soccer team since she was in the eighth grade. She has committed to play Division 1 college soccer at Sacred Heart University and recorded a hat-trick against the Lady Lions.



Elle Somers is pursued.

Audrey Gregoire makes a save in goal.

Emma Maziarz tries to move.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Hannah Murphy advances up the field.

“Hannah is our leading goal scorer,” Pagliaro said. “It’s amazing what she’s able to do on the soccer field. The other teams always put two or three players on her and she still finds a way to score goals. She’s an unbelievable soccer player and is an outstanding person.”

The Lady Lions retook the lead when Afonso poked a shot into the back of the net during the ninth minute, which was assisted by Bartolucci.

During the 23rd minute, Afonso blasted a shot that deflected into the net off the goalie’s hands. Junior Cayden Teixeira was given the assist.

Nine minutes later, junior Emma Maziarz sent a pass to Murphy, who fired a low shot into the right corner slicing the Lady Mustangs deficit to 3-2 at halftime.

The Lady Lions retook a two goal lead again in the 58th minute following a goal by sophomore Geia Guzman, who received the ball from senior Rhiley Comeau.

Murphy responded a minute later with an unassisted goal completing her hat-trick.

The Lady Mustangs couldn’t get any closer than 5-3, as Barros and Comeau scored the Lady Lions’ last two goals during the final 15 minutes of the match.



Avery Beaudoin sends a free kick away.



Makenna Peterson is pressured by an opponent.

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CRITTERS | from page 1

scope of their services. "Our goal is keeping pets and people together," Doray said. "We run four full-service veterinary hospitals and an adoption center. We also operate a pet food pantry that has grown by 500% in the last three years, because so many families need help feeding their pets."

She explained that donated food is divided into smaller portions so more families can be served. "We don't want people to have to choose between feeding themselves and feeding their pets," Doray said. "Events like this make it possible for us to keep pets healthy, safe, and in their homes."

On the show field, every car had a story. Kris Brown proudly displayed his 1976 Pontiac Trans Am, rebuilt after a cracked cylinder left it immobile. "It was supposed to run when I bought it, but it didn't," Brown said. "Now it's pushing about 430 horsepower. I call it a 30-yard car... it looks better from 30 yards away."

Mark Athens of Palmer showcased his 1978 Chevy Malibu, a project he rebuilt "bumper to bumper, chassis up" over 11 years. "It's got a built 355 engine, about 350 horsepower," Athens explained.

For Dick Whippie, the draw was nostalgia and utility. He brought a military M37 Dodge Power Wagon that he rebuilt on a 1999 Silverado chassis. "It was about a four-year build, and it's been on the road two years now," Whippie said.

Other exhibitors, like Dennis Caring with his rare 1967 Chevelle Post, emphasized the joy of participation over competition. "You don't see many post cars around anymore," Caring noted. "I've only had it two years, but it's definitely a favorite."

Dozens of local artisans and small businesses lined the grounds with crafts ranging from jewelry and custom tumblers to handmade pet toys. Elizabeth Handmade offered



Kris Brown stands by his car entry, a 1976 Pontiac Trans Am.

everything from bookmarks to crystal earrings. Michaela Manuel of Clay Chic Designs displayed colorful polymer clay jewelry she's been making for five years. Sabrina Barelli of Cozy Cat Crafting described her booth as "gifts for cats and cat lovers," with toys, blankets, and ornaments.

For some, like Joyce Ahearn, crocheting has been a lifelong pursuit. "I've been crocheting for over 50 years," she said. "It's how I support myself now and how I make Christmas special for my grandkids."

Live music from Eric Ardell and his band kept the energy high, while K9 demonstrations by law enforcement drew large crowds. Widlan said those displays were always a highlight. "People love watching the obedience and the bite-suit demonstrations... it's amazing to see the dogs work," he said.

Among the most heartwarming presences was Addie, a three-legged dog and Second Chance alum who inspired her owner, Graham Cabrey, to write a children's book called Addie's Adventures.

"She had to lose her leg, but she adapted and found strengths she never knew she had," Cabrey said. "When a young girl with Down syndrome told me she saw Addie as happy, not disabled, it made me realize the story could inspire kids to see themselves in a positive light."

With record turnout this year, Widlan said he hopes to see the fundraiser continue to grow. "I'm 60 now and I'll

keep doing this until I can't anymore," he said. "Maybe someday my daughter will take it over. But as long as we're raising money for Second Chance and getting people out here with their cars and dogs, I'll be happy."

For many attendees, the blend of polished chrome and wagging tails was more than a novelty; it was a reflection of community spirit. As Widlan put it, "There's nothing better than seeing a \$70,000 show car with a dog sitting proudly in the passenger seat. That's what Cruise for Critters is all about."



Mark Athens with his 1978 Chevy Malibu.



Owner of Cozy Cat Crafting Sabrina Barelli sells her wares.



Michaela Manuel of Clay Chic Designs displayed her handmade creations.



Dennis Caring with his rare 1967 Chevelle Post posed proudly with his car and his dog, Roxy.



The hay bale ride provided by Westview Creamery to tour the farm land surrounding the ice cream place.



Tripod Addie, accompanied by her owner Graham Cabrey, was a hit with visitors.



Joyce Ahearn of Crochet-Addict presented a giant crocheted squid.



Elizabeth Geerlance of "Elizabeth Handmade" showcased her selection of goods.



Anna Ahearn-Nowicki showed her handcrafted whimsical frog statue.



Alan Widlan, founder of Cruise for Critters, welcomed attendees.



Dick Whippie with his military M37 Dodge Power Wagon that he rebuilt on a 1999 Silverado chassis.

Glenda's

Saturday, September 27th
7pm-11pm

Pure Country

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
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7pm-11pm

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Includes a generous portion of our slow roasted prime rib served with a baked potato and a seasonal vegetable.
While Supplies Last!

Public notices

Town of Wales Zoning Board of Appeals

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch 40A §10 & §11, the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **October 16th, 2025, at the Wales Senior Center at 5:30 p.m.** on the application submitted by Dipika Patel regarding the property at 67 Main St. in Wales. The applicant has applied for a special permit, seeking a change of use. The property is currently permitted for recreational use, the applicant wishes to change the use to a business use for a convenience/package store, in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.2 states "A pre-existing non-conforming use or structure may not be extended, altered or changed except by a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Any person interested and wishing to be heard of this application should refer to October 16th, 2025, agenda on the Zoning Board of Appeals page on the town website (www.townofwales.net). 09/25, 10/02/2025

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. HD25C0277CA

In the matter of:

Meghan Lee Huber

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Meghan Lee Huber of Three Rivers, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Maverick Lee Huber

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 10/06/2025.**

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 08, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani

Register of Probate

09/25/2025

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11

M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 6th, 2025, at 7:20 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Laxmi Narayan LLC., is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to change the use of the parcel to retail sales and construct a 974 sq ft addition on the existing building at 1010 Park Street, Palmer. These parcels are also known as Assessor's Map 58, Lots 30.

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).

Norman Czech, Chairman

09/18, 09/25/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Probate and Family Court
Department
HAMPDEN, Division

Docket No. HD25P0544PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Stephanie Handzel, of Palmer in said County, a person under Conservatorship, single.

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - certain real estate of said Stephanie Handzel, for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 a.m. on the **3rd day of October 2025**, the return day of this petition.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court this fifth day of September 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,

Register

09/25/2025

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, encumbrances, 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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us
Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm
to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

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Town of Warren Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator / Mechanic Position JOB OPENING

The Warren Sewer Department is seeking a full-time Operator/Mechanic. This full-time position is five consecutive days a week, which may include Saturdays and/or Sundays, overtime, holidays, and mandatory paid on-call. A generous benefit package is available including health insurance in which the Town pays 75% of the premium. Requirements: HS Graduate; preferably 3 years' experience in the operation and mechanic of a wastewater treatment facility or any equivalent combination of education and mechanical experience will be considered. Must obtain a Grade 4 or higher Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment. Must possess a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Potential for advancement and growth.

The pay scale ranges from \$24.78 to \$35.00/hour based on relative work experience, educational background, and professional licenses.

Resumes and Cover letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please forward your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrara, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov

or mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083-0609.

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Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 19, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.
 Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,
 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
 *Be sure to indicate "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

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Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwysecretary@newbraintree.org.

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Obituary

Mona May Gibbs

Mona May Gibbs 93, passed away peacefully on Sept. 18, 2025. She was born August 29, 1932 in Mount Pleasant, New York, daughter of the late Russell L. and Mona (Farrell) Prime.

Mona was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Kenneth N. Gibbs Sr., three sons: Charles "Robin", Timothy A., and Joseph N. Gibbs. As well as a sister Joan Prime and a brother, John Howard. Mona is survived by three children, Kenneth N. Gibbs, Jr. of Springfield; Barry Gibbs and his wife Vicki of Knoxville, TN; and Mona Rand of Brimfield, MA, along with two loving sisters, Constance Rocha and Joyce Guzik. She was the cherished grandmother to 14 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren as well as numerous nephews, nieces, extended

family and friends including her beloved church family.

Mona spent most of her earlier years in Springfield, MA graduating from the High School of Commerce, class of 1950. Soon after, she married and devoted the remaining years of her life to her beloved husband and family, including a 50-year career as a special needs school bus driver where she had a profound impact on many young lives. Mona moved to the Palmer area in 1992 where she enjoyed country living and found immense joy tending to a host of barnyard animals over the years, including two adopted wild mustangs that she loved dearly. Foremost, Mona was devoted to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She



was a Beacon of light and grace with a steadfast unwavering faith and hope of an eternal life. The loving and positive effects she had on so many, including multiple generations are real, they are noticeable and endless. His light will forever shine in the lives she has blessed.

A tribute of her life will take place during calling hours on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Beers & Story Funeral Home, Palmer. The funeral service will be held on Monday at 10 a.m. at the New Birth Christian Church 4025 Church St., Thorndike, with burial to follow at Hillcrest Park Cemetery, on Parker St., Springfield.

John S. Jackson, Jr.

John S. Jackson, Jr. passed away on Sept. 10, 2025, at the age of 82, with his family by his side. John was born in Springfield to the late John S. and Esther (Christianson) Jackson, Sr. on March 25, 1943.



He was a lifelong Springfield resident, living in the same home for over 55 years with his wife Susan, where they raised their two daughters. John was the founder of Jackson's Auto Sales and Service in Palmer. He owned and operated the business for 28 years. He recently retired but all who knew John can still picture him behind the counter smoking his cigars. He always had a friendly smile for everyone who came for vehicle service, but also for those who came to visit his beloved Beagle mix "Storm."

John loved his sports. The Red Sox, Patriots, and UConn Huskies Women's Basketball were among his favorites.

In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his wife Susan of 54 years in 2015, as well as his sister Shirley Gauthier. John is survived by his two daughters, Sherry Jackson of Ludlow, Diane (Alan) Murray of Sutton, granddaughter Tiffany (Stephen) Murray-Morella of Holliston, and grandson Christofer Murray of Sutton, and his best friend, sidekick, and constant companion "Storm" his beloved Beagle mix who passed on March 21, 2025.

Services are private and entrusted to Wilbraham Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, consider a memorial donation in John's name to Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104 or online at www.shrinerschildrens.org.

Paul H. LaFlamme

January 12, 1943 – September 13, 2025

Paul H. LaFlamme, 82, of Monson, passed away on Sept. 13, 2025, at the Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst. Gentle and dignified until the very end, he embodied the contradictions that make us human: questioning of orthodoxies yet deeply invested in the way things used to be; a self-described hermit who was somehow at ease in any context; a scientist and a mystic.

Paul was born on Jan. 12, 1943 to Albert LaFlamme and Alice (Bourdeau) LaFlamme in Springfield. He grew up in Ware in a French-speaking home, not far from the mills that brought his forebears to New England from the farms of southern Quebec. After graduating from Ware High School in 1961, he went on to study chemistry at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He also completed a Master's degree in teaching from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Paul started his rich and varied career as a chemistry teacher at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, where he created a

much-loved course on personal development known as Horizons. Restless after more than a decade in the classroom, he took a job as a market researcher at Springborn Laboratories in Enfield, Conn. Later in life he founded his own business, Soquela Group, and pursued opportunities in Haiti with his business partner, Hugo Allen.

In 1966, he met Gloria (Gelinas) LaFlamme, and they married in 1968. Initially unsure if they wanted to have children, the couple put down roots in Monson and spent many summers traveling throughout Europe before deciding to start a family of their own. Paul was a devoted father, husband, and son, tirelessly supporting those he cared about and unblocking the way for them whenever he could.

A lifelong seeker, he wrote a book about the future of the Catholic Church (The Cross and the Chameleon, 1975) and was later ordained a deacon. He served as president of ActFANE in the early 1990s, and held leadership



positions in the Richelieu Club and ACA Assurance. He loved fishing at the Quabbin and getaways to the Grafton Inn, and his pork chops avesnoises were the stuff of legend.

Paul was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife Gloria, who is in memory care in East Longmeadow; his son Marcel LaFlamme and his husband Michael Klein, of Greenfield; and his daughter Marie-Claire (LaFlamme) Foley and her husband Sean Foley, of Belchertown; as well as his grandchildren Noah and Audrey.

A private burial was held at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware. A memorial Mass and celebration of life will be held at Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church, 167 Dunhamtown Palmer Rd., in Brimfield on Sept. 27, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Charbonneau Funeral Homes, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is honored to assist his family with his funeral arrangements. An online tribute page is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Diana L. LaValley

WEST BROOKFIELD – Diana L. (Hall) LaValley, 68, born on May 24, 1957, in Ogdensburg, NY, passed away peacefully on Sept. 19, 2025, in West Brookfield, MA. She was raised in a loving family and appreciated the beauty of nature throughout her life, enjoying walks that connected her to the world around her.



her brother, Phillip C. Hall of Ogdensburg, NY; sisters, June M. Brandshaw and her husband Kevin of Potsdam, NY, and Henrietta L. Hall of Heuvelton, NY. She was aunt to nieces, Amanda, Nina,

Diana dedicated many years of her career to Shaw's in Auburn, MA working in the Deli Department. Recently, she retired in 2024, she valued her time spent with colleagues and patrons, forming meaningful connections that enriched her working life.

Diana is survived by her husband, George J. LaValley. She leaves behind cherished family members, including

April and Jean and nephews, Phillip, Theodore Jr., Matthew and Adam. Additionally, she is remembered by her in-laws: Sandra Danforth of Three Rivers, MA, and Charles LaValley, David LaValley, Danny LaValley, Robert LaValley, Floyd LaValley, Melody LaValley and her husband Clifford, all of Massena, NY, and Angel Lord of Florida. Diana also holds a special place in the hearts of several uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, as well as great nieces and great nephews and many cousins.

She was predeceased by

her parents, Arthur and Jean (Jandreau) Hall; her brother, Arthur Hall Jr.; and sisters-in-law, Alice Page and Marion Hitsman.

A visitation for Diana will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home, located at 3 Bridge Street, Monson, MA 01057. Services will also be held at Donaldson Funeral Home in Massena, NY Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a service being held at 1pm in Donaldson Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Beach Street Cemetery.

Diana L. LaValley will be remembered by her close friends for her kindness, her laughter, and her simple pleasures in life. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to inspire those who knew her. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Richard G. McAvoy



Richard G. McAvoy, 81, passed away on Sept. 1 at Baystate Medical Center surrounded by his immediate family. He leaves his best friend and love of his life, Dianne, his daughter Katie Judge and her wife Eleanor Terrell, his son Jeffrey McAvoy and his wife Dana, and four amazing grandchildren, Chase, Sawyer, Harper McAvoy and Kayleb Terrell. Richard was born in Brookline, MA and is predeceased by his parents and his beloved sister Karen Trudeau. He is survived by his brother-in-law Francis Trudeau. He also leaves behind a number of heartbroken nieces, nephews and in-laws. Richard grew up in Webster, MA and is a graduate of Mary Wells High School, where he developed an exceptional talent for baseball. His skills brought him from high school baseball to the Cotuit Kettleers in the Cape Cod League. At the age of 19, he played for a season with a Dodgers minor league team.



From there he played in the then Global Baseball League in Caracas, Venezuela. At the age of 21 he joined the US Army, became a paratrooper and trained as a combat medic in the 5th Special Forces Group. He spent several months in the central highlands of Vietnam and is a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. He left the service honorably as an E-6 Staff Sergeant. After coming home Richard worked in construction, and one winter day spied a lovely woman with a stylishly short skirt at the bus stop. His warning that she might catch a cold with those legs exposed turned

into a 56 yearlong love affair that serves as "couple goals" for the ages. He spent 30 years with the Springfield Fire Department, serving as a Lieutenant and a force to be reckoned with at a ping pong table. Richard's family was the center of his universe, and he did everything to make sure that they were taken care of. He always had time and energy to play catch in the yard with his children, even after working 2 jobs. He was a near constant presence at baseball and softball games and was full of advice and direction whenever his kids, or nieces and nephews needed it. A celebration of life will be planned for a future date. Those wishing to honor Richard's memory may send donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Pl. Memphis, TN 38105-1942 or to Dana Farber Cancer Institute Attn: Contribution Services, 450 Brookline Ave., Brookline, MA 02215.

Robert Mesheau

MONSON – Robert Mesheau, 94, born on March 22, 1931, in Norwell, MA, passed away peacefully on Sept. 17, 2025, in Wilbraham, MA. He devoted over 30 years of his career to General Motors, notably serving as the service manager at Walker Motor Sales and Gene Mota's in Palmer before retiring from Butler Corporation in Ludlow.

Bob was known for his generous spirit and believed that the greatest gift he could give was helping others. His commitment to others marked his personal and professional life. He cherished the time spent traveling with his beloved wife, Shirley M. (Allen) Mesheau, over their remarkable 72 years of marriage. Together, they created many memories exploring different parts of the world, from England and Hawaii to Europe and various locations across the country, including trips to award ceremonies with Gener-

al Motors.

Bob lived in Monson for many years before he retired and moved to Canada for over 30 yrs., most recently returning to Monson to be closer with family.

After retirement, Bob took up carpentry, a passion that allowed him to craft beautiful keepsakes for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His handiwork will be treasured by them for years to come.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; his son, Michael Mesheau, and daughter-in-law, Roseann, of Monson; grandchildren, Katherine Pariseau, Laura Aldrich, and Andrew Mesheau; and great-grandchildren, Braeden Pariseau, Shamus Pariseau, and Ava Aldrich. He is also survived by his sister, Marie Colpitts, and many loving nieces,



nephews, extended family members, and special friends, including Judy and Glen Williams and Robert and Tina Moriarty.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Beulah Mesheau, along with siblings Dorothy Mesheau, Barbara Kitchen, William Mesheau, Ruth Jackson, Mae Steeves, Shirley Cudmore, and June Morrissey. Bob will be remembered for his kindness, love, and the lasting impact he had on all who knew him.

Services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. All services will be private. If you wish memorial contributions may be made in Bob's name to the Salvation Army at salvationarmy.org. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Harriet Lee Vageline

Harriet Lee Vageline "Harlee", 72, of Palmer, Mass. passed away peacefully on August 21, 2025, at Baystate Hospital surrounded by love and care.



Born on February 28, 1953, in Springfield, Harriet dedicated her life to caring for others.

After graduating from nursing school in 1978, she embarked on a long and compassionate career as a nurse at Monson State Hospital, where she touched countless lives with her gentle heart, tireless dedication, and unwavering kindness.

Harlee had a gift for making people feel seen, loved, and remembered. She never missed a birthday or special occasion, often sending cards, making phone calls, or offering thoughtful gifts-small tokens that carried deep meaning. She found joy in simple pleasures: the color purple, owls, her cherished collections and keepsakes and moments filled with laughter-hers was truly contagious.

She is survived by her son, Eric Vageline of Utah; nieces and nephews Kristopher Bertelli (Debbie) of Connecticut, Amanda Allen (Cary) of New York, Kellie Saunders of New York, Gina Bertelli (Nicole) of Massachusetts, and Victoria Drake of Missouri.

Harlee was a devoted great-aunt to Madison, Joshua,

Kiley, Cameron, Jake, Sarah, Emma, Becky, Monet, Maxwell, and Xavier-children she adored and loved as her own.

She also leaves behind her dearest lifelong friend Linda Tremblay of Palmer, MA, and best friend Denise Rainville of Ware, MA and her devoted caretaker and friend Irina Ukrainets, whose selfless love and constant presence brought Harlee great comfort and peace.

Harriet was preceded in death by parents, Ralph Vageline and Betty and Danny Constantini, her sister Patti Bertelli, and her brother William Vageline.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at 103 Old Poor Farm Rd, Ware, Mass. at 12 noon. All who knew Harlee are welcome to attend and share in honoring the life of a woman whose heart was as big as her laugh.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Top Floor Learning, Inc of Palmer, in memory of Harriet's lifelong dedication to caregiving and kindness.

Harlee's spirit will live on in the many lives she touched, and her memory will forever be cherished by those who were lucky enough to know her.

Williamsburg Funeral Home, Haydenville, was entrusted.

DEATH NOTICES

Mona May Gibbs
Died Sept. 18, 2025
Services Sept. 28, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

John S. Jackson, Jr.
Died Sept. 10, 2025
Services private
Wilbraham Funeral Home

Paul H. LaFlamme
Died Sept. 13, 2025
Celebration of Life Sept. 27
Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

Diana L. LaValley
Died Sept. 19, 2025
Services Sept. 23, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Richard G. McAvoy
Died Sept. 1, 2025
Celebration of Life TBA
Sampson Funeral Home

Robert Mesheau
Died Sept. 17, 2025
Services are private
Lombard Funeral Home

Harriet Lee Vageline
Died Aug. 21, 2025
Celebration of Life Sept. 28
Williamsburg Funeral Home

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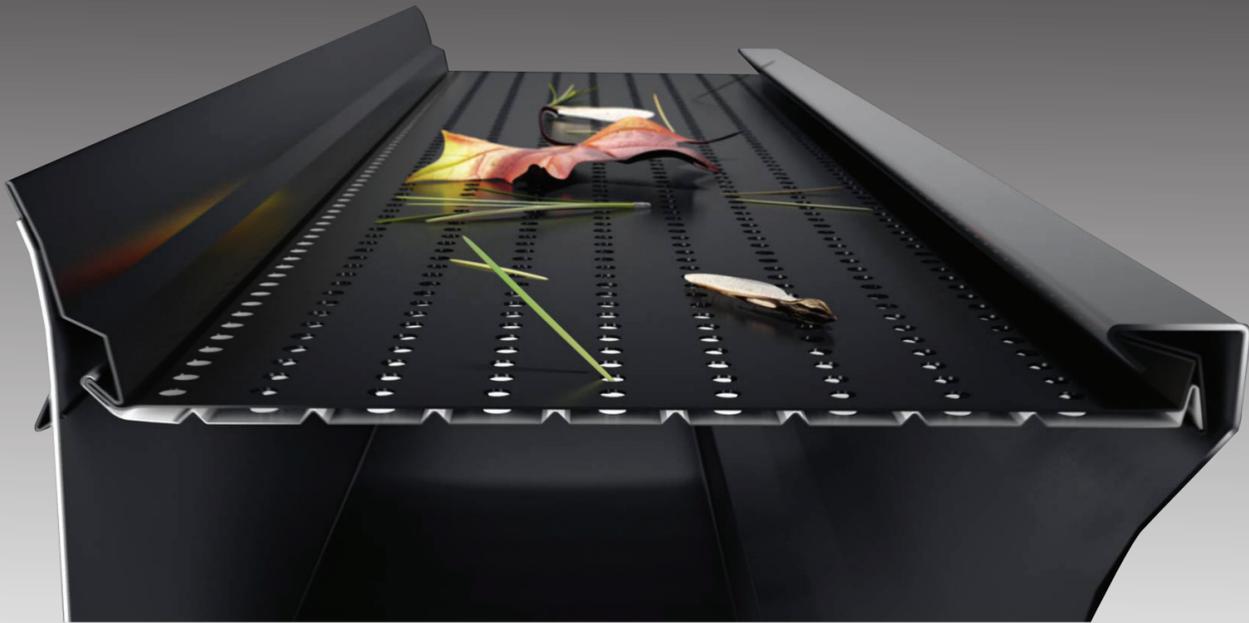
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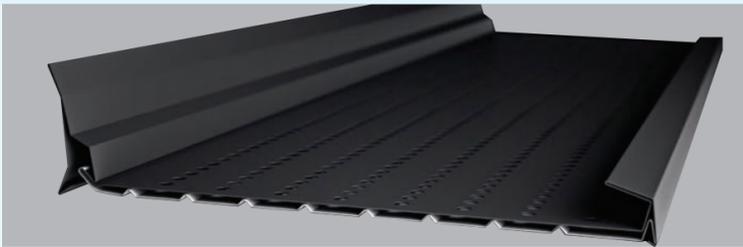
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