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The Journal Register

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HALLOWEEN

Gearing up for spooky season

Events planned in several communities

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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REGION – Area kids have plenty of options for displaying their costumes and picking up candy this Halloween season.

In Monson, the town departments will host kids for an early trick-or-treating program on Friday, Oct. 30. From 1-4 p.m., individual departments and offices will welcome families into their buildings for the special festivities.

Votes will also be collected for the employee pumpkin contest.

"We are asking our local businesses on Main Street

SPOOKY ❙ page 8



Events throughout the area will provide plenty of seasonal fun.

Submitted photo

MONSON

House of Art to be moved to Arts Council

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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MONSON – The Select Board recently announced that it will pursue transferring ownership of the House of Art to the town's Arts Council.

At the Sept. 22 Select Board meeting, the town continued a previous discussion regarding a request for proposal for a lease for the House of Art, and compared it to an alternate proposal by the town's Art Council.

ARTS ❙ page 14

MONSON

Concert celebrates America's 250th anniversary

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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MONSON – Despite a rainy afternoon, guests showed up in big numbers for a celebratory concert at First Church of Monson.

On Sept. 27, the church held a special patriotic concert, "Celebrate America's 250th with Music."

The event drew a large crowd eager to see a program led by Music Director Kiel Krommer and the church's Music Committee.

Each 50-year segment of time throughout the nation's history was celebrat-

CONCERT ❙ page 6



Submitted photos

Several instruments were featured at the concert.

Election letters must be received by Oct. 20

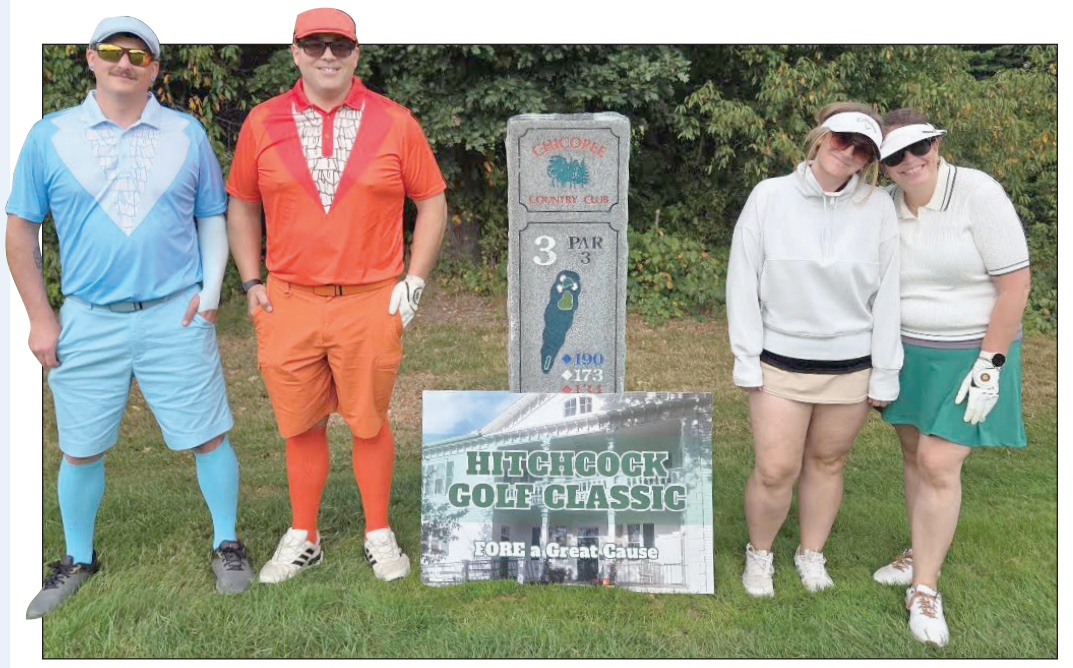
The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

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 by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 20 to be published in the Thursday, Oct. 22 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

BRIMFIELD



Local golfers bring a little fun to the course with special attire.

Submitted photo

Golfing 'fore' a great cause

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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BRIMFIELD – Area residents and businesses recently teamed up at the annual Hitchcock Golf Classic to raise funds for community programming.

For the sixth straight year, Hitchcock Academy hosted its annual golf tournament. Held on Sept. 19 at Chicopee Country Club, the event welcomed 84 players for lunch, 18 holes of golf, and dinner.

Established in 2021, the tournament offers a scramble format. Participants also enjoy a variety of contests and a raffle featuring prizes donated by local businesses.

"Host Chicopee Country Club – with its rolling terrain, tree-lined fairway, and fast, sloping greens – is generally regarded as a fine championship course by area golfers," read a statement released by Hitchcock Academy. "It has been touted as among the best public courses in Massachusetts – and one of New England's top 100 golf courses."

Business supporters of the tournament included Apple Barn Café, Cornerstone Bank, Servpro of Hampshire County, Red Collar Mobile Dog Grooming and Safety Trainers, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc., Noonan Energy Corp., and Southbridge Credit Union.

"We are so grateful to the businesses – small and large – who recognize the importance of our mission and work," said Hitchcock Academy Executive Director Cindy Skowyra.

The tournament featured several groups of friends and families. Local participants

GOLFING ❙ page 6



Superintendent announces goals for new school year

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – At the recent School Committee meeting, the district's representative members discussed goals for the new school year and responded to correspondence received from members of the public.

Superintendent Matthew Francis began his report, which involved proposed goals for the school year of 2026-2027, by reiterating the school's mission statement.

"Our mission is to educate, inspire, and empower – creating a supportive environment where students learn, grow, and thrive through shared values of respect, kindness, and community," Francis read.

The report outlined three proposed goals for the new year, centering on student learning, professional practice and district improvement. Francis explained that administration from each of the district's schools also submit three proposed goals for the year.

"The first thing that we have to do prior to proposing three goals is do a self-assessment," Francis said. "You're looking at a variety of different data points, your own professional growth needs and/or deficiencies, along with any trends throughout the district."

Francis said that, following that assessment, he presents the goals to the executive team, made up of Director of Finance and Operations Sara Menard and Director of Student Services Monique Dubuc, for feedback and input. This is followed by a presentation to the district's leadership team during the all-administration meeting for further feedback.

"The first one is very similar to one that I had last year," Francis said. "The student learning goal was centered around evaluation calibration exercises."

Francis recalled wanting to propose modifications to the exercise last year, for which he attributed not meeting the written goal at the end of the summative evaluation.

"This one is very similar, but specifically written to the individual needs of all the evaluators we have throughout the district," Francis said. "It's written a little bit differently than the one that was written last year, because it's still centered on those individual needs."

Francis said that he has started the calibration meetings with the evaluators, and had held four at the time of the meeting. Though the goal is to have more opportunities for classroom observations, Francis said the evaluators are not at the same point, and tailored the goal to the district's needs.

"With the reorganization of the district, I took over overseeing our English Language Learner department across the district," Francis said.

Francis said that, in addition to getting to work in the field that he had missed working with, this gave him the opportunity to attend a meeting with other new EL directors about the Office of Language Acquisition Leadership Network.

"They hold network meetings throughout the year, centered around English Learner Education, Bilingual Education, World Language Education, and the Seal of Biliteracy," Francis said. "In all of my previous responsibilities with EL, I have not taken part in this OLA Leadership Network, so I felt it was a good professional practice to be involved in this year."

Francis said that there will be four half-day sessions, and that he will share information with the ELL department, as well as building administration and staff when appropriate. Lastly, Francis said that he would like to administer a culture and climate survey as this year's district improvement goal.

"We have worked very diligently throughout the district through professional development of entire staff," Francis said. "To really center in on the work done to create a climate and culture that is conducive for everybody, that is built around respect, built with collaboration, with kindness and a sense of belonging."

Francis proposed a baseline survey with the student body of grades five and up, centered around 10 topics, ranging from school climate, safety, relationship with staff, inclusion and student voice. Francis said there will also be an end-of-the-year survey to compare with the baseline survey, as well as a climate and culture survey for the staff.

"Both surveys are unidentifiable to individuals, other than if you are saying what grade you are in," Francis said. "Or what subject you are teaching or what office you work out of."

The School Committee began its Sept. 16 meeting with a discussion of communications they had received from the community. Committee Chair Bonny Rathbone addressed comments regarding the district's decision not to hold its annual football games against nearby rivals.

"I keep hearing from people who have lived in this town for a long time how disappointed they are that there will be no Ware/Palmer football game this year, and no Thanksgiving game against Ludlow," Rathbone said. "We just don't have the numbers."

Fortunately, the district hopes to keep the tradition going in coming years by building up its number of athletes.

"We have a [junior varsity] team and we're trying to build that up so that we can, hopefully, for next year," Rathbone said. "If we don't have the numbers, we don't have the numbers."

Rathbone said she received positive comments about the fields, and mentioned observing Lavoilette Field and Duke Field during games.

"A special thanks to the parks department and Jeff Pardo," Rathbone said.

Committee member Anthony Braden thanked Francis and school administration for taking care of the Duke Field sign.

Braden said some suggestions he received included posting directions on getting to the field on the school's Arbiter page, or placing a second sign. Committee Member Joseph suggested "affordable stencil paint" as another solution.

"We placed one today at the bottom of the Old Mill Pond entrance, by the preschool, pointing up in that direction," Francis said. "I'll look at additional signage."

Braden, along with committee members Sandra Noonan and Matthew Lovell, mentioned an email from a former employee who reached out with concerns about the library being used as the Central Office.

"I tried to explain to her that it was extremely tastefully done, it didn't take away," Noonan said.

Noonan compared the school library to one that she saw on a tour of a school in the Cape Cod area, and concluded, "This is the trend of school libraries."

Early voting hours

PALMER – Early voting hours are available on several upcoming dates for the Nov. 3 State Election.

Early voting will take place at the Palmer Town Clerk's Office (4417 Main Street, Palmer).

Early voting dates and times are as follows: Saturday, Oct. 17 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Monday, Oct. 19 (8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 20 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 21 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 22 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Saturday, Oct. 24 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Monday, Oct. 26 (8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.); Tuesday, Oct. 27 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Wednesday, Oct. 28 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Thursday, Oct. 29 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Residents are reminded that Saturday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 3 election.



Quilt with Ray Beaudette, Diane Marhelewicz and Merry Mombourquette. Submitted photos

Quilt to be raffled at Amvets event

THREE RIVERS – The Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild presented a quilt to the Amvets Post #74 for their upcoming Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle Night. Ray Beaudette accepted the quilt on behalf of the Amvets.

The Amvets will be holding the Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, Nov. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. located at 2150 Main St. The event offers great food, a band, raffle prizes and a 50/50 raffle. The cost of the tickets are $15 and kids under 10 are free. Tickets availble for purchase at the Amvets.



The quilt is called 'Crossroads To The Stars' and was crafted by Bob Rozzen for the upcoming Amvets raffle.



The beautiful quilt on full display.

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Town approves seed funding for Athletic Booster Association

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – The Select Board recently approved a donation to the Athletic Booster Association at its Sept. 22 meeting.

"The ask, tonight, is for seed funding to help a long-standing volunteer organization to restart and become financially stable again," said town resident and association member Jessica Allen.

The town received a Gifts to the Town request from the Athletic Booster Association. Allen, a new member of the association and a parent volunteer, spoke on behalf of the group.

"I would like to give a slight nod to the group of parents back in the 1980s that started this organization to help kids going back that many years," Allen said. "They've raised a lot of money to help our student athletes as they've gone through school."

Allen described her own family history with the group, dating back to her mother's involvement when her brother was in the seventh grade.

"She was a proud president of the Boosters for an approximate 25 years," Allen said. "The Boosters have a very successful, proud background even since my mother retired."

Allen said that she joined recently because her daughter has entered the seventh grade, and that the association is in a transitional period.

"We're finding ourselves at a time where this group is really starting over," Allen said. "There is a new group of parents, including myself, that has stepped forward to keep the organization going."

Allen said that she was speaking on behalf of the association to request a $4,000 gift from the town to help in rebuilding the group. These funds would be used as working capital necessary to restart concessions, support fundraising efforts, and begin generating revenue that can be reinvested into the town's student athletes and athletic programs.

"The enthusiasm of this new group of parents is there, we're ready to do the work," Allens said. "But the truth is, we're starting over from scratch with a balance of just over $300 in the Booster account."

The handbook of the association described expenditures of the latest leadership, which included athletic equipment, scholarships, athletic awards, banquet, senior gifts, scoreboards, signage, bleachers, AEDs, goals and nets, pitching machines and other athletic needs.

"This last group, as I understand it, was a very, very successful group in their own right," Allen said. "It's just that, by the time we all stepped in this year, that leadership is now gone."

Select Board Chair Pat Oney thanked Allen and the new parents who stepped in to take over the association, and the board unanimously voted to donate $4,000 to the Athletic Booster Association.

If you'd like to get involved with the association, you can visit their Facebook page at Monson Athletic Booster Association, Inc.

Hitchcock Academy offers sound therapy sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of the Poor Walk Oct. 18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MCC seeking grant proposals

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.

All events and projects covered by the grants must take place between Jan. 1, 2027, and Dec. 31, 2027.

Monson priorities can be found online at: www.MassCulturalCouncil.org, along with the link to the online application.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 15, 2026.

Flu clinics available across local region

Mill Towns Public Health will provide several flu clinics in local communities this fall.

Ludlow Veterans Services, 487 Holyoke St., Ludlow, will host a pair of clinics on Oct. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., as well as Oct. 13 from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

The West Brookfield Senior Center will offer a clinic on Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer, will hold a clinic on Oct. 22 from 1-4 p.m. To schedule your appointment, call Erin McMurray at 413-750-8386.

Lastly, Ludlow Town Hall (488 Chapin Street) will be the site of a clinic on Nov. 2 from noon-3 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred.

Annual water quality report available

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

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

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

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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Auditor identifies $10.6M in public benefit fraud

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released a Bureau of Special Investigations report examining the periods of Jan. 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026.

The report summarizes BSI's work and initiatives to help make government work better by investigating fraud, abuse, and illegal acts involving public assistance benefits throughout the Commonwealth.

During these periods, BSI investigated a total of 2,223 cases and there were overpayment calculations in 402 cases with identified fraud. Further details regarding these 402 cases may be found below.

Investigations with fraud identified: MassHealth/Medicaid, $6,051,185; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, $3,854,119; Personal Care Attendant, $538,332; Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children, $130,483; and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children, $38,463.

The total amount of fraud identified totaled $10,612,582

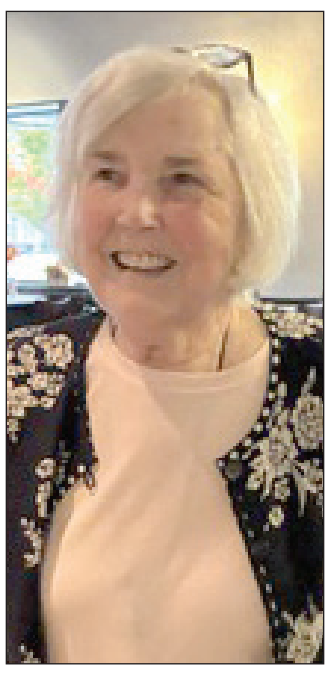
"These important programs are meant for the people who need them - not for those looking to game the system," said DiZoglio. "When someone commits fraud, they're taking resources away from the people these programs were created to serve. Our office will continue to work with our partners to identify fraud because taxpayers deserve to have their hard-earned money protected."

The public can report potential fraud to BSI by dialing the hotline at 617-727-6771 or by visiting the website at https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-public-benefit-fraud-to-the-office-of-the-state-auditor.

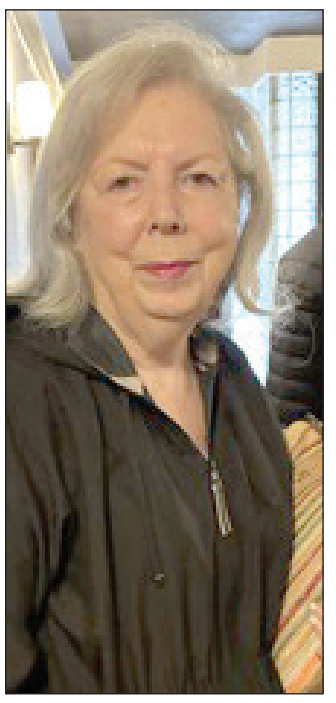


Submitted Photo

The Palmer High School Class of 1961 recently held its 65th reunion. Classmates in the back row from left are Thomas Gilman, Beverly (Bradlenski) Soltys, Matthew (Matt) Valley, Darlene (Naglack) Tallman, John Toton, Ted Bacyk, Ralph Robak, Carol (Nowakowski) Marek, John Wegiel Jr., Robert Peritz, Anthony Koziol and Leslie Bonneville. Front row from left are Frances (Sabourin) Ogren, William Griswold, Diane (Grabowski) Baldina, Patricia (Lisowski) Libucha and Marilynn (Hebert) Cole.



Mary Kathleen (McLaughlin) Beynor attended the Palmer High School Class of 1961's 65th reunion.



Joyce Murray attended the Palmer High School Class of 1961's 65th reunion.

Class of 1961 celebrates 65th reunion

PALMER – It was a rainy day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the classmates of Palmer High School's Class of 1961, as they celebrated their 65th class reunion on Sept. 28.

An afternoon of reminiscing and camaraderie was held at Ernestina's in Three Rivers and the buffet consisted of salad, pasta, chicken Francais, seasonal vegetables and sausage with peppers and onions, with a dessert of cannoli and cake. The Class of 1961 thanks its hosts at Ernestina's, Amanda and Paulo.

There were several scrapbooks showing their journey through reunions, birthday parties and gatherings. A memorial list of classmates stood in tribute with candles and a current contact list of remaining classmates was available for distribution. None of this would be possible without the reunion committee and those who stepped in when the Class of 1961 lost one of its committee members.

DEADLINE

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

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

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:

I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about $69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

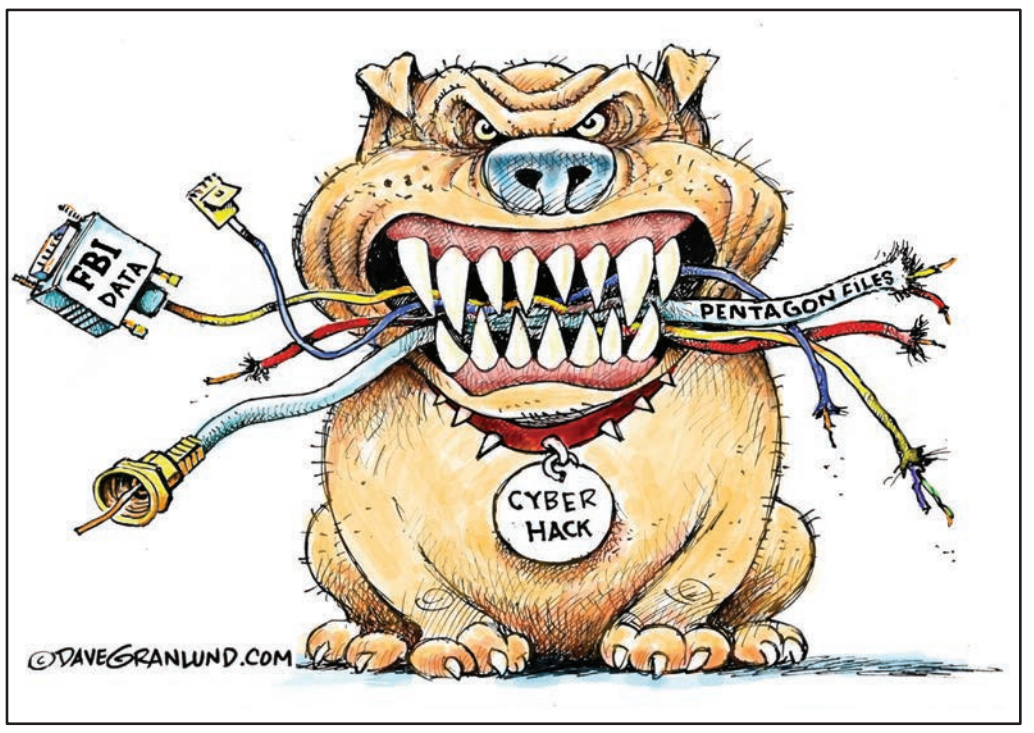
So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security

SECURITY | page 5



Friends with more questions

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (Azadirachta indica), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide for both indoor and outdoor plants. You can buy it ready to use or in oil form which needs to be mixed with water and a small amount of dish detergent right before use. This will help it blend nicely and disperse evenly.

Neem is effective against spider mite, white flies, scale, mealybug and aphids – all of which are typical houseplant pests. It kills them by disrupting their reproductive cycles and feeding patterns.

My advice would be to spray in the shade or when skies are overcast since sometimes neem can cause a phytotoxic effect and it can kill bees if sprayed directly. Always spray a small area of the plant first as a test, and if no damage is visible a day later, coat the surface and undersides of the leaves as well as the stem.

Using this approach, clean plants will delight my friend's window sills this fall and winter.

My coworker kept joking with me that a plant that she was gifted would never, ever bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress. About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (Nipponanthemum nipponicum). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Common Nighthawk

EBird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, there mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sandhill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

The Journal Register

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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:
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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

BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE
October Vendors
Oct. 13 - Heart Arts Crafts
Oct. 14 - How Charming
Oct. 20 - Wicked Good Treats
Oct. 22 - Jewelry For Diane
Oct. 27 - Geriations & Sew On

ONGOING

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

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Road, Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the AMETS Post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are $55 a year. Follow them on Facebook for more information.

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

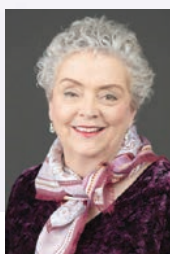
GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No registration required. For more information call 413-283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.



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



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

When caregiving becomes a full-time job



Family caregivers are the backbone of our long-term care system, usually working without compensation and keeping many family members out of facilities. A recent study by AARP found that 63 million Americans consider themselves caregivers, a 50% increase since 2015.

Some people become caregivers all of a sudden, after an unexpected illness or accident. For others, it's a gradual taking on of more and more responsibilities, until you find yourself with a full-time job, perhaps in addition to a day job. It's what experts are calling "caregiver creep."

And it can be an open-ended responsibility, especially when caring for an elder or a spouse with physical or cognitive decline. Some people even make room in their homes for a family member, or move across the country to be nearer, which can cause family turmoil and financial stress.

How does caregiver creep start?

It's not uncommon for adult children to run errands for their parents, accompany them to the grocery store and take them to doctor's appointments – especially when elderly parents have to give up driving. These are tasks that you can generally fit around other responsibilities. You can pay someone to do these things, but many families don't have the resources for that.

When doctor's appointments increase in frequency or when you notice that your parent isn't able to perform their ADLs (activities of daily living, such as preparing food and bathing), the demand for caregiving kicks into a higher gear. You find yourself stopping in every day or two, bringing groceries, doing laundry and cleaning. If you're lucky, there are siblings who can help.

Then there may come a time that you feel your parent needs eyes on them 24/7, such as when a diagnosis of dementia is made. Maybe the parent moves in with you. Some caregivers find themselves caring for a spouse and a parent at the same time, draining their energy, well-being and pocketbooks. A growing body of research has shown that caregivers contemplate suicide at higher-than-average rates, according to a 2025 study.

As a patient advocate, I've observed caregivers in many types of situations, and occasionally I've stepped in if I suspected the caregiver may be mistreating or even abusing the person they are caring for.

I think it's important, in a caregiving situation, to have self-awareness of our circumstances and recognize when it's becoming too much. That said, it may be hard for us to acknowledge our limitations because, after all, we're caring for a parent who cared for us or a spouse we love.

I've known so many caregivers whose automatic response to offers of help is, "Nope, I've got this," even if they don't "got this." There are things you can do to manage caregiver creep, and one of the main ones is to ask for, and accept, help.

I read in a recent article how a woman caring for her husband made a list of tasks that could be done in 10 minutes, an hour or two, half a day or overnight. Then, if someone said, "Let me know what I can do," she could say, "You can stay with my husband while I go to the gym for an hour." Brilliant.

Your list may include things like helping organize medical information, making doctor appointments, researching care facilities, grocery shopping, even doing laundry or bringing over dinner.

Though it doesn't alleviate all the concerns of caregiving, recognizing caregiver creep and taking action to lessen its effects may help you maintain your physical, mental and emotional well-being.

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

SECURITY | from page 4

purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about $2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about $2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

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.

POETRY CORNER

The Sleeping Generation

Before niore of the world breaks apart,
And the country less, for the toll,
Upon the sleeping generation: Awaken! young hearts -
For nearer the crimson drums call:
(From a runaway axle?) faster it moves,
In its frenzy - and, harder wheels roll.

There's not time to wait for the roosters song -
For they're too few, in the farmers dying land;
Or from henhouses that line the many streets;
Nor to rise once more to the old routine.

No! Now, to take on the great task that's there -
Which others, too much divided, neglected
Into two sides, far as a half-shut eye.
It's yours to waken the land into a new union:
To see, by sun - and dream by moon. And, sure
As you're born - Romance leads to a higher reality.

– Charles Barnes

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CONCERT | from page 1

ed with music from that period. Guests enjoyed pieces from the American Revolution era, the Civil War period, the rousing 1920s, and modern tunes, both religious and secular.

The program included such pieces as "Yankee Doodle," "This Land Is Your Land," "America the Beautiful," "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and "Picardy."

Karen LaFayette (trumpeter), Joseph Farr-Wholley (flutist), an ecumenical choir, and Krommer on piano and organ kept guests entertained throughout the program.

"Who would have thought that so many people, around 100, would brave the weather to share the afternoon in celebration," said church member Gay Paluch. "Following the concert, people gathered in the fellowship hall to share stories and visit with one another for at least an hour."

An additional event highlight featured speakers from each of the four cornerstone Monson churches – First Church of Monson; United Methodist Church; St. Patrick Parish; and the Unitarian Universalist Parish. Speakers shared slices of history from their respective churches over the 250 years, including important milestones.

The following speakers are thanked for their contributions to the program: Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick (First Church); Ellie Matrow (St. Patrick); Mary Gelezunas (Unitarian Universalist Church); and Debi Mahar (United Methodist Church).

Speakers also recounted challenging events and hardships, such as the 2011 tornado, that saw the community come together in response to adversity.

The concert was dedicated to Mary Newland, a longtime member of First Church and the Music Committee.

"As a member of the First Church choir, she sang three parts – soprano, alto, and tenor," read a statement released by event organizers. "Mary served on the Music Committee for over ten years, and was instrumental in planning many concerts, including Celebrate America's 250th with Music."

A reception in the newly renovated fellowship hall followed the concert.

The program was supported in part by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

"Thank you to everyone who made this concert possible," read the statement issued by organizers.

To learn more about upcoming activities at First Church of Monson, visit www.FirstChurchMonson.org.

Additional information on programs and services can be obtained by calling 413-267-3312.

The church is located at 5 High Street.



The event was a celebration of music and history.



Guests enjoy the concert.

Submitted photos



Choir pieces were performed throughout the concert.



A new song begins.



Several patriotic songs were performed.



Speakers were all smiles at the celebration.

GOLFING | from page 1

always enjoy the opportunity to have a fun golf outing while supporting community programming.

"There were foursomes composed of siblings, fathers and sons, even grandsons and cousins, balancing competitiveness with congeniality," read the statement issued by Hitchcock Academy.

Winners of this year's tournament include, in first place, with a score of 57 (14 under par): Dan Rice, Glenn Slade, Ryan Slade, and Jack Cookish.

In second place, with a score of 59: Kyle Libiszewski, Lou Masse, Josh Mulligan, and Kevin Fall.

Finishing in third place, with a score of 60: Drew Caronna, Dave Deraleau, Les Skowyra, and Andy Hayward.

Special contests included Closest to the Line, sponsored by Michael Wales Painting. Contest winner John Mitchell landed directly on the line to clinch the title.

Meanwhile, the Closest to the Pin contest, sponsored by Bank of America, saw John Roach emerge as the winner.

The tournament is one of several annual fundraisers that support Hitchcock's operating budget, allowing it to continue to serve the community with affordable educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Next year's golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 26, 2027.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield. To learn more about upcoming programs and activities offered at Hitchcock, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.



First-place finishers Dan Rice, Glenn Slade, Ryan Slade, and Jack Cookish.



Golfers enjoy a fun day at the tournament.

Submitted photos

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Editor
10/08/26

Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of Sept. 20-26, the Palmer Police Department responded to 63 building checks, 37 motor vehicle stops, eight motor vehicle violations, 74 informational calls, 39 medical emergencies, six animal complaints, 19 calls for officers wanted, 16 alarms, 26 silent, accidental, abandoned or hung up 911 calls, seven fire calls, six theft or fraud calls, seven investigations, seven motor vehicle accidents, seven motor vehicle releases, 11 general services, three out of jurisdiction reports, 10 assists to other agencies, four transports, 26 traffic posts, 11 school resource officer calls and seven assists to citizens

Sunday, Sept. 20

12:37 a.m. Noise Complaint, Palmer Road

1:09 a.m. Noise Complaint, Palmer Road

1:56 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Springfield

2:20 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Main Street

2:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Main Street

Arrest: Patrick Da Silva Pederneira, 26, Ludlow

OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Alcoholic Beverage, Possession/Consumption in Open Container (Ordinance)

2:34 a.m. Officer Wanted, Off Lariviere Street

3:40 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beech Street

4:08 a.m. Unwanted Person, Off Lariviere Street

9:13 a.m. Officer Wanted, North Main Street

9:37 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

11:43 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

1:06 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, State Street

1:16 p.m. Officer Wanted, Beacon Drive

1:26 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

2:40 p.m. Fire – Smoke, State Street

3:43 p.m. Medical-Mutual Aid, Palmer Road

3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Old Warren Road

4:48 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, State Street

5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

6:53 p.m. Noise Complaint, Walnut Street

11:11 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Griffin Street

Monday, Sept. 21

1:54 a.m. Hazard-Other, Stewart Street

3:18 a.m. Investigation, Griffin Street

3:29 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree

6:29 a.m. 911 Silent, South Main Street

6:30 a.m. Investigation, River Street

7:02 a.m. Investigation, Third Street

7:04 a.m. Medical-Emergency, Beacon Drive

8:42 a.m. Investigation, Main Street

8:52 a.m. Officer Wanted, Summer Street

9 a.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, Park Street

9:05 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Main Street

9:36 a.m. Investigation, Main Street

10:14 a.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Pine Street

10:21 a.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Thorndike Street

10:49 a.m. 911 Accidental, Wright Street

10:52 a.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

10:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shearer Street

1 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street

1:09 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Springfield Street

1:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Ware Street

1:54 p.m. 911 Silent, Sykes Street

2:09 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Springfield Street

3:39 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, North Main Street

4:04 p.m. Officer Wanted, Church Street

5:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street

6:52 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

6:57 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Springfield Street

7:03 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Depot Street

8:25 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Walnut Street

8:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Main Street

9:05 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, High Street

Tuesday, Sept. 22

1:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

1:50 a.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, Memory Lane

4:08 a.m. Alarm Medical, Fletcher Street

7:56 a.m. Vandalism, Main Street

10:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

10:46 a.m. Officer Wanted, Wright Street

Arrest: Andrew L. Chaput, 60, Homeless

Warrant

10:50 a.m. Assist Citizen, Calkins Road

11:09 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street

11:51 a.m. Medical-Lift Assist, Beacon Drive

12:11 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, South Hadley

12:16 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Ware Street

2:42 p.m. Officer Wanted, State Street

2:42 p.m. Disturbance, Converse Street

2:44 p.m. Investigation, Main Street

3:57 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Ludlow

4:19 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree

4:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Three Rivers Road

4:34 p.m. Investigation, Center Street

5:56 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

6:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Boston Road

6:46 p.m. Medical-Lift Assist, Burlingame Street

6:51 p.m. Theft, North Main Street

7:49 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street

9:01 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

9:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street

9:53 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Palmer Road

10:58 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Palmer Street

Wednesday, Sept. 23

7:04 a.m. Medical-Emergency, River Street

8:11 a.m. Hazard-Other, Church Street

8:22 a.m. Suspicious-Person, Bond Street

8:56 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, High Street

9:03 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Sykes Street

9:38 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Ware Street

9:56 a.m. Assist Other Agency, State Street

11:24 a.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

11:30 a.m. Medial-Emergency, Overlook Drive

12:01 p.m. Drug/Narcotics Violation, Wilbraham Street

2:46 p.m. Disturbance, Wright Street

3:47 p.m. Disturbance, Wright Street

4:39 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street

4:44 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Elizabeth Street

5:05 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Belanger Street

5:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memory Lane

6:03 p.m. 911 Silent, Water Street

6:06 p.m. Medical-Mutual Aid, Hovey Road

6:26 p.m. Officer Wanted, Shearer Street

7:46 p.m. Investigation, Springfield Street

8:35 p.m. Water Leak/Hazard, Front Street

8:42 p.m. Noise Complaint, Sykes Street

9:24 p.m. Medical-Mutual Aid

9:46 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

10:04 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, South Main Street

10:09 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wright Street

10:17 p.m. Officer Wanted, Walnut Street

10:40 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wright Street

Thursday, Sept. 24

1:42 a.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, First Street

1:45 a.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, South Main Street

5:55 a.m. Medical-Lift Assist, Main Street

7:37 a.m. Investigation, Bourne Street

8:48 a.m. Vandalism, Thorndike Street

9:44 a.m. Fire-Smoke, Maple Street

10 a.m. Investigation, Wilbraham Street

10:37 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Main Street

12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street

12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street

Arrest: Mark St. Martin, 60, Three Rivers

OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle

1:13 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Easthampton

3:03 p.m. Drug/Narcotics Violation, Sykes Street

3:32 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Wilbraham

3:56 p.m. Investigation, Springfield Street

4:32 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Stewart Court

5:14 p.m. Officer Wanted, Converse Street

5:40 p.m. Theft, Palmer Road

6:02 p.m. Investigation, Springfield Street

8:58 p.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, Mt. Dumplin Road

9:46 p.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, Beacon Drive

Friday, Sept. 25

12:03 a.m. Vandalism, Ware Street

12:23 a.m. 911 Abandoned, Flynt Street

1:50 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Breckenridge Street

9:05 a.m. Investigation, Main Street

9:11 a.m. Officer Wanted, Wilbraham Street

9:13 a.m. Vandalism, Thorndike Street

10:05 a.m. Medical-Emergency, Park Street

10:21 a.m. Investigation, North Main Street

11:56 a.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

12:01 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Boson Road

12:28 p.m. Fraud, Sasur Street

1:17 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Main Street

2:33 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

2:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Stone Street

2:57 p.m. Officer Wanted, State Street

3:55 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Barker Street

4:09 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Oak Street

4:52 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Park Street

4:56 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Palmer

5:01 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Springfield

5:16 p.m. Investigation, Springfield Street

5:44 p.m. Theft, South Main Street

5:50 p.m. Suspicious-Person, Old Warren Road

6:02 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Beacon Drive

6:27 p.m. Disturbance, Springfield Street

6:56 p.m. Fire-Explosion, Mt. Dumplin Road

7:50 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street

7:59 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

11:46 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Cedar Street

11:50 p.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, North Street

Saturday, Sept. 26

12:18 a.m. Vandalism, River Street

12:21 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, State Street

6:20 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Central Street

7:48 a.m. Fire-Mutual Aid, Westfield

8:13 a.m. Medical-Emergency, Flynt Street

8:17 a.m. Officer Wanted, South Main Street

8:21 a.m. Theft, Flynt Street

8:47 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, South Main Street

8:50 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Thorndike Street

9:18 a.m. Medical-Emergency, Breton Street

9:54 a.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Main Street

10:57 a.m. Alarm Medical, Thorndike Street

10:58 a.m. Medical-Emergency, Beacon Drive

10:59 a.m. Investigation, State Street

11:14 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, East Palmer Park Drive

11:29 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Rondeau Road

11:35 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Baptist Hill Street

11:58 a.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Belchertown Street

12:50 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Front Street

1:12 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, North Liberty

1:26 p.m. Officer Wanted, Main Street

1:34 p.m. Medical-Mutual Aid

1:47 p.m. Hazard-Road Condition, Emery Street

2:01 p.m. Officer Wanted, North Main Street

2:04 p.m. Officer Wanted, Walnut Street

2:14 p.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street

3:03 p.m. Disturbance, Ford Street

3:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Main Street

4:08 p.m. Medical-Emergency, Beacon Drive

4:49 p.m. Trespass Complaint, State Street

5:06 a.m. Medical-Emergency, South Main Street

5:27 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO

6:21 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree

6:43 p.m. Medical-Emergency, South Main Street

6:47 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Church Street

8:05 p.m. Officer Wanted, Dublin Street

8:30 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Old Warren Road

9:42 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer

9:52 p.m. Alarm Medical, Quaboag Valley Co-Op

10:47 p.m. Hazard-Wire/Pole/Tree, Rondeau Road

11:12 p.m. Suspicious-Person, Palmer Road

11:54 p.m. Suspicious-Vehicle, Main Street

Monson Police Logs

During the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 4, the Monson Police Department responded to five miscellaneous calls, 31 administrative calls, seven property checks, 14 traffic assignments, seven traffic violations, three safety hazards, five investigations, six assists to other agencies, 42 police vehicle checks, 24 motor vehicle stops, nine directed patrols, 18 details/overtimes and nine phone calls.

Monday, Sept. 28

1:30 p.m. Fraud/Deception

5:19 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance

Tuesday, Sept. 29

10:55 a.m. Animal Complaint

1:10 p.m. Fraud/Deception

6:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency

6:43 p.m. Assist Other Agency

8:38 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

10:40 p.m. Domestic Disturbance

Wednesday, Sept. 30

6:25 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

9:34 a.m. Assist Other Agency

3:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

3:47 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

4:48 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

6:35 p.m. Sexual Assault

7:39 p.m. Domestic Disturbance

8:57 p.m. Missing/Runaway/Found Person

Thursday, Oct. 1

8:27 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up

1:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

1:56 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance

2:34 p.m. Investigation/Follow Up

4:35 p.m. Safety Hazard

4:41 p.m. Safety Hazard

6:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency

Friday, Oct. 2

10:23 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

10:36 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up

12 p.m. Assist Other Agency

1:01 p.m. Safety Hazard

3:10 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

Saturday, Oct. 3

10:35 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call

12:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

1:08 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

3:04 p.m. Animal/Injured/Hunted

3:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call

11:04 p.m. EMS Mutual Aid

Sunday, Oct. 4

2:43 a.m. Assist Other Agency

9 a.m. Investigation/Follow Up

3:13 p.m. Animal Complaint

9:02 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted

Monson Fire Logs

The Monson Fire Department responded to 18 EMS calls and three fire calls for the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 4.

On **Friday, Oct. 2** at 7:05 a.m., the department responded to 65 Bradway Road for a fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 8:22 a.m.

On the same day at 1:56 p.m., the department responded to 13 Circle Drive for an illegal burn. The department returned to service at 2:10 p.m..

At 11:20 p.m., the department responded to 31 State St., apartment 12B, for an odor investigation. The department returned to service at 11:40 p.m.

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.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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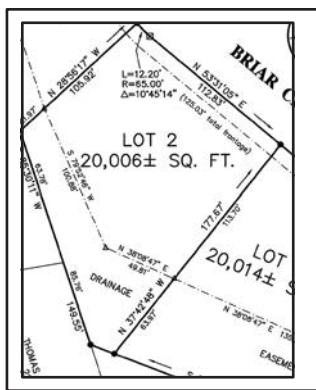
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Palmer Senior Center

PALMER – As we move into the heart of autumn, the Senior Center has plenty of activities and programs this month.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., the Senior Center Friends Group is sponsoring a Loaded Bake Potato Dinner at the Center. Advance purchase is required and open to the public.

To purchase a $10 ticket, please call 413-283-2670 (Extension 6) and leave a message, or stop by the Center and see Andy Vance, Jack Randolph, or Kathy Fitzgerald for a ticket.

Fuel Assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps eligible households challenged by the high cost of home heating fuel pay a portion of their winter heating bills. This program through Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., provides fuel assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat.

Sources include oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal. Additional potential benefits included are utility discounts, homeowner heating system repair, and weatherization.

The Palmer Senior Center is a local site for seniors, 60-plus, to apply for fuel assistance. Please call Cindy at 283-2670 (Extension 2) to schedule an appointment to complete an application. If you applied last year, Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., sends fuel assistance renewal applications to the address on file.

Friday, Movie Matinee

12:30 p.m.

Oct. 9: "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage" – A harrowing tale of real-life American heroes shipwrecked in shark-infested waters in the waning days of World War II.

Oct. 16: "Cast Away" – A FedEx systems engineer whose ruled-by-the-clock existence abruptly ends when a harrowing plane crash leaves him isolated on a remote island.

Oct. 23: *"Hocus Pocus"* – Three outlandishly wild witches who return from 17th century Salem for a night of zany fun and comic chaos. After they're accidentally conjured by some unsuspecting pranksters, the tricky trio sets out to cast a spell on the town and reclaim their youth – but first they must outwit three pesky kids who are determined to foil their scheme.

Monday Evening Programs

4:30 p.m.

Oct. 19: Henry Quinlan will present "Fifty Years in Publishing." Henry will share experiences and stories from the world of celebrities and book publishing.

Oct. 26: Pilgrim and Turkey Shelf Sitters with Kim. Cost free. See sample at center.

Volunteering

Join RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and help to support nonprofits in your community. If you are over 55 and have hours available each week or month to volunteer your time, we have dozens of opportunities with area organizations that need you. RSVP offers free liability insurance to all volunteers, mileage reimbursement if needed, and other benefits.

Party planning

The Center will hold its annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Ludlow Elks this year. Like in the past, tickets will be available at the Center (we will have exact days and times to sign up and pay). We will serve family style, have door prizes, giveaways, and entertainment. More information to follow in the November Newsletter.

The Senior Center is located at 1029 Central Street. For more information about programs, please call 413-283-2670.

Roots and Relics to bring Celtic music to church

STURBRIDGE – Roots and Relics, a central Massachusetts ensemble celebrating traditional Irish and Celtic music, will perform in concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, 8 Maple St.

Admission is free of charge, but a free will collection will be taken during the concert.

Formed at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitinsville, Roots and Relics grew out of a shared love for traditional Irish and Celtic music, as well as Celtic-inspired music from around the world. The musicians bring backgrounds in classical, jazz, rock and traditional American music to their performances, creating a distinctive sound that remains rooted in Celtic musical traditions.

The members of Roots and Relics are: Jillian Martin (violin), Bert Baldarelli (percussion and bodhrán), Christopher Bilodeau (guitar, piano and vocals), Katrina Ireland Bilodeau (vocals, bass guitar and ukulele) and Matthew Reilly (penny whistle).

Collectively, the musicians bring extensive experience in classical and contemporary performance, music education, church music, musical theater and traditional American and Irish music. Their backgrounds range from study at Berklee College of Music and the Longy School of Music to decades of performance in churches, theater productions, community ensembles and traditional music groups.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. All are welcome.

Join them for worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. For additional information, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org, or contact the Church office at 774-304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

SPOOKY from page 1

near our offices to participate as well," said Rebecca Morse, Executive Assistant to Town Administration.

Meanwhile, the Monson PTSA will hold its 13th annual Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4–5:30 p.m. at Monson High School (55 Margaret Street).

The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 25.

Admission is one bag of candy per child (approximately 50 pieces or a $5–$10 value).

There will be games, activities, and prizes for the top three decorated trunks. Overflow parking will be available at Quarry Hill Community School.

"As reigning champions of the Monson PTSA Trunk-or-Treat, we will be defending our winning record," said Monson Police Chief Nicholas Gasperini.

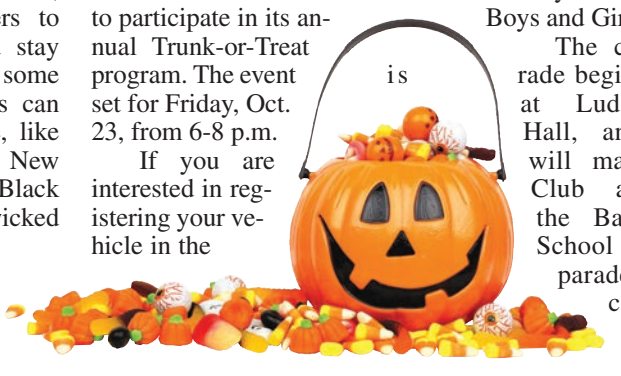
To learn more about how to get involved in this event, or to obtain volunteering information, please send an email to: MonsonPTSA@gmail.com.

On Oct. 31, during Monson's official trick-or-treating hours, MPD officers will be on patrol handing out candy to kids. Drivers are urged to reduce their speed and use caution.

"Trick-or-treating is a great time for the kids, and we want to make sure everyone has a safe and fun Halloween," added Chief Gasperini. "There will be a lot of kids and families out there walking through our neighborhoods, so we're asking drivers to please slow down and stay alert. Keep in mind that some of the scarier costumes can be very difficult to see, like sneaky ninjas outfits, New York Jets alternative 'Black Out' uniforms, and wicked witches' cloaks."

Added Gasperini, "Give yourself some extra time to get to where you are going and drive a little slower, as a few extra seconds of caution can help make sure everyone gets home safely after trick-or-treating."

In Palmer, the Old Mill Pond School PTO is looking for residents who would like to participate in its annual Trunk-or-Treat program. The event is set for Friday, Oct. 23, from 6-8 p.m.



If you are interested in registering your vehicle in the event, please send a text message to 413-219-6678.

The school is located at 4107 Main Street in Palmer.

In Ludlow, this year's Rag Shag Parade and Trunk-or-Treat event will be held on Friday, Oct. 30, at the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club.

The costume parade begins at 6 p.m. at Ludlow Town Hall, and children will march to the Club along with the Baird Middle School Band. The parade will be escorted by the police and fire departments.

Following the parade, youngsters can make their way to the trunk-or-treat area sponsored by local businesses and town organizations.

"Rag Shag is a great way for families and neighbors to come together and enjoy Halloween," said Haylie Calver, the Club's membership and outreach director. "We have the parade, trunk-or-treat, games, activities, and spooky stories, so there's something for everyone. It's really about having fun, meeting people in the community, and giving families a safe and welcoming place to celebrate Halloween together."

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Abigail Gunagan heads the ball forward.



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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Mackayla St. George lifts a pass away.



SOCCER

Warriors even record with wins

FISKDALE – Last week, Tantasqua Regional High School girls soccer evened up their record with wins of Leicester 3-2 at home and then on the road at Doherty High School 3-1 to improved to 3-3-1 for the regular season. Coming up, the Warriors will host Ludlow High School on Friday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m.





Madeleine Bachand makes a stop on defense.



Isla Czub looks to get the 50/50 ball.



Maeve O'Neil tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.

Tessa Shelden is pursued by a defender.

Emma Peasturo tries to get the ball around an opponent.

SOCCER

Mustangs score first win

MONSON – Last Friday night, the Monson High School girls soccer team had a big game to get into the win column, scoring a 5-1 win over Lee. Audrey Gregoire and Jordyn Szado had two goals each in the game. Chelsea Hull added a single goal and Monson improved to 1-9. Despite the sub-.500 record, Monson is in prime position to make the state tournament thanks to a very difficult regular season schedule consisting of most games against teams in larger schools and higher divisions. Monson faces Granby on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. at home.



Lylia Ellis sends a pass toward midfield.



Scarlett Lomme fights to keep possession of the ball.



Emma Maziarz takes on a pair of defenders.



Jordyn Szado takes the goal kick.



Owen Marion goes for a header.



Gianni Holland tries to play the loose ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

William Wright defends against an opposing player.

Brody Wetnicka looks to settle the ball and turn play around.



Owen Pear sends a free kick up the field.

SOCCER

Pioneers fall at home, but rebound with pair of wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys soccer had a 5-1 loss at home against Southwick Regional, but rebounded to defeat Smith Vociational 2-1 and then Monson 2-0 last Friday night to improve to 7-2-1 overall on the season. The Pioneers were then off for six days before returning action on Thursday, Oct. 8 against the High School of Commerce at 4 p.m.



Elijah Hodge punts the ball away.

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Audrey Gregoire
Monson High School

In Monson girls soccer's first victory of the regular season, Gregoire helped out with two goals scored last Friday against Lee.

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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Lady Panthers take rematch

CHICOPEE – After batting to a 4-4 draw earlier in this season, Palmer High School girls soccer rematched on the road with Chicopee High School in a league game. This time, it was all Palmer as the Panthers scored a 2-0 win over the Pacers.

Palmer got single goals from Aria Nompleggi and Anabelle Ladue. Cora LaChance had a huge game in the goal, coming up with 12 saves and a shutout for the Panthers. Palmer's win brought the Panthers to a 4-4-1 record, bringing the team to .500 for the season. Palmer did lose to Southwick last week and defeated Greenfield last Tuesday 5-2. The Panthers had another three-game week this week, ending with a matchup on the road at Hopkins Academy at 4 p.m. The Panthers visit Granby next Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 4 p.m.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – After four weeks of league candlepin bowling Spare Parts remains in first place in the Bondsville League.

The team leads in both the league and the west division with a record of 20-8. Their division rival Zeke's Freaks are in second place with a record of 18-10.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Night Hawks during week four of the season. In game one, Zeke's Freaks won by one pin, 495-494. Kevin "Kras" Krasnecky of Zeke's Freaks started the match with 114.

Krasnecky's teammates, Ryan Breen and Steve Orszulak, had scores of 105 and 104. Game two was decided by two pins and was also in favor of Zeke's Freaks, 504-502.

Breen improved to 113 and Krasnecky scored 110. The leader of the team, Zeke Sicard, broke the century mark with 104.

In game three, Night Hawks won by a score of 493-492. Jim Niquette of Night Hawks finished with 104.

The match was close all evening and Zeke's Freaks won total pinfall with a final score of 1491-1489. Krasnecky finished with 129 and a three-game series of 353.

The Slow Burners bowled against Ironmen during week three of the season. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Ironmen by a score of 478-452.

Three of the four Slow Burners broke the century mark with scores of 107, 102 and 101. Jason Swistak of Ironmen started the match with 114.

In game two, Ironmen defeated Slow Burners with a score of 491-440. Swistak led his team to victory with 124 while Pete Swistak scored 119.

In game three, Scott Radisic scored 114 while Slow Burners won the last game 475-453. J. Swistak had a three-game series of 335 and P. Swistak scored 320.

Ironmen won total pinfall and three points with a final score of 1396-1393.

Cannonballs bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls during week four. Game one went to Flaming Bowling Balls with a score of 446-441.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again with a score of 494-440. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls scored 114.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls defeated Cannonballs with a score of 447-423. The team won all seven points with a final score of 1387-1304.

The Rollies bowled against P&J Meats during week four. In game one, Rollies combined for 484 to beat P&J Meats' 444.

Brandon Lane, Rich Picotte and Ron Gouin of Rollies bowled scores of 118, 111 and 109.

In game two, Rollies won again by a score of 487-454. Lane scored 113, Gouin scored 116 and Sue Horton scored 122.

In game three, P&J Meats won by a score of 457-448. Shaun Midura of P&J Meats finished with 117 to help his team secure two points.

Picotte ended with 111 and Horton scored 105. Rollies won total pinfall with a final score of 1419-1355.

Fire Mountain bowled against Spare Parts during week four. Game one went to Spare Parts with a score of 463-451.

Jared Demitri of Spare Parts began the match with 107. Gary Delisle of Fire Mountain began with 110.

In game two, Fire Mountain defeated Spare Parts by a score of 459-428. Shawn Ross of Fire Mountain scored 113 and his teammate Rick Trott scored 106.

The third and final game was won by Spare Parts with a score of 461-445. Demitri finished with 117 and a series of 324. Trott finished with 121 and a series of 328.

The final score was 1355-1352 in favor of Fire Mountain, who won three points. Spare Parts won four points and moved to a record of 20-8.

The Pincesses bowled against Spare Tires during week four. In game one, Pincesses won by a score of 459-401.

In game two, Pincesses won again by a score of 523-474. Kevin Trott of Pincesses scored 124, his best game of the season. Pat Burke of Spare Tires scored 111 in a losing effort.

In game three, Spare Tires prevent the three-game sweep by winning 433-432 over Pincesses. The final score was 1414-1308 in favor of Pincesses.

Railers begin training camp

WORCESTER – The first week of Worcester Railers Training Camp at the DCU Center is closed to the public. The first week of practice culminates in two preseason games, including one at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center on Saturday, Oct. 10 7:05 p.m. Fans can secure their $5 tickets for the event here.

For the full schedule, check below:

- Thursday 10/8 – 11:40 a.m. – Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center
- Friday 10/9 (PRESEASON GAME) – 7 p.m. @ Harold Alfond Forum (Biddeford, ME)
- Saturday 10/10 (PRESEASON GAME) – 7 p.m. @ Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center (Lamacchia Realty Rink, Worcester, MA)

The Worcester Railers HC 2026-27 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 17 and Sunday, Oct. 18 vs. the Maine Mariners and Trois-Rivières Lions. Get access to games this season, exclusive events and additional benefits by calling the Railers front office at 774-436-6904 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Lowinski-Loh dominates Rafferty late model showdown at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – Following plus/minus qualifying handicap, Manny Dias and Thompson Speedway point leader Matt Lowinski-Loh led the Late Model field to green for the 50-lap Eden Rafferty Showdown. Shawn Kekacs brought out the first caution coming to the green flag, loose off turn four and taking Justin Hall hard into the frontstretch wall across the line. Back under green it was all Matt Lowinski-Loh at the front of the pack as fans watched Woody Pitkat back behind the wheel of the Hartwell Motorsports #91CT on Sept. 17.

Pikat was relegated to last in the lineup after mechanical issues parked his primary ride and the team turned to their backup mount and was battling for third against Dias by the halfway point. Sophomore campaigner Jarod Roy called out the second caution with 29 laps complete after spinning in turn four to re-rack the field. The restart had little effect on Lowinski-Loh's hold on the field as he took down the $3,000 Eden Rafferty winner's bonus ahead of Jacob 'Rowdy' Burns and Woody Pitkat.

The Crown Vics started Wednesday's feature racing action with Ethan Williams quickly taking over the top spot from polesitter Ty Mello. Mello battled back on the outside of Alex Quarterly in his Crown Vic debut with Quarterly mastering the outside groove early. Quarterly took over the top spot on lap 8 as Williams grew looser on exit in turns two and four. Alex Quarterly would nail down the win in his first ever Crown Vic venture followed by Ethan Williams who held off Chase Curtis for second at the line.

Al Stone III and Mike Viens brought the Street Stocks down to the green flag for their 20-lap showdown on Eden Rafferty night. Stone put the power down on the outside groove to lead the way as Viens fell under attack by Ryan Lineham, Jarrod Soucy and Ryan Waterman. Lineham powered under Stone for the turn three crossover and took the lead on lap 8 as the field stretched to a single-file line to chase him down. With time running out, Ryan Lineham took down win number three on the season followed across the line by Al Stone III and Jarrod Soucy.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds were led to green by Rob Schultz and Nate Pytko under the initial green flag with 40-laps on the board. Danny Cates and point leader Keith Rocco quickly launched to the front with Todd Owen making his way under Pytko to take third. Rocco made the turn-three crossover under Cates to lead lap 6 with their intense battle only allowing Owen to join in the fight as the three ran nose-to-tail. Owen made his way under Cates in turn two to run second on lap 10 and followed Rocco for a chance at the top spot.

Paul Arcari brought out the lap 14 caution with his spin to the turn two grass, cooling the battle between Rocco and Owen just for a moment. Owen was next to use the turn three slide-job, taking the lead on lap 24 after contact with Rocco took away the momentum from the #09. Rocco settled back in and tried for the dive on lap 30 but stalled side-by-side back at the line. From then on the two veterans put on a master-class at the front with Rocco strong in turns one and two but Owen with the advantage in turns three and four. In the end it was Keith Rocco at the line ahead of Todd Owen with Danny Cates holding on for third ahead of Pytko.

Todd Douillard kept the early edge at the front of what would become a melee 20-lap feature for the SK Light Modifieds with Austin Goff and Leo Nunes following behind. Lap six brought contact between John O'Sullivan and point leader Kevin Davis with Davis piling into the turn one wall to end his day early after trying to fight through the pack. After another caution that ended the day for rookie Milania Shilosky, Austin Goff took control at the front and survived two green-white-checker restarts to take the win over Dylan Houghton and Douillard at the line.

Thompson Speedway is ready to rumble the Quiet Corner of Connecticut for the grand-daddy of them all for the 64th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 9 through Sunday, October 11.

All Thompson Speedway track champions will be crowned along with special visits from the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series, Modified Racing Series, New England Supermodified Series, NEMA, Pro Trucks, R&R Street Stocks and Pro-4 Modifieds along with the championship event for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on Sunday.

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Business

Long-awaited expansion project begins at Palmer Healthcare Center

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – It's been a long, winding road toward expansion for the Palmer Healthcare Center leadership team, which recently celebrated a groundbreaking many years in the making.

Plans for an addition to the nursing home and physical therapy center (250 Shearer Street) date back to 2007, but a series of obstacles stood in the way. The highest hurdles were delivered during the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, causing years of further delays – but CEO David Cavalier never gave up on his vision.

On Sept. 29, Cavalier and his team celebrated the groundbreaking for the addition, joined by local officials and the Timberline Construction staff.

"Today's groundbreaking is a proud moment for Palmer and a testament to the determination and resilience of the team behind the Palmer Healthcare Center expansion," said Town Manager Brad Brothers. "After years of planning and overcoming challenges, it's inspiring to see this long-awaited project become a reality."

Added Brothers, "This investment will not only expand access to quality long-term care and rehabilitation services, but it will also strengthen the fabric of our community by helping residents stay close to family, friends, and the support networks that matter most."

As the baby boomer generation continues to climb into their seventies and eighties, local families are increasingly finding themselves in search of options for reliable care close to home. During the groundbreaking ceremony, officials discussed the critical need for the Palmer Healthcare Center expansion.

"A tremendous staff makes it all possible," said State Representative Todd Smola, just before joining fellow guests and the leadership team in pitching their shovels into the earth for the groundbreaking. "When families are facing some of their most difficult moments, there are places like Palmer Healthcare that planted their flag in this community."

The center provides short-term care, long-term care, and rehab services to area residents.

Once complete in the late summer of 2027, the expansion will add 35 beds to the center's 41 existing beds. Most importantly, the project will enable even more local residents to stay close to their loved ones.

"Today is much more than a groundbreaking – it's an investment in our future," said Palmer Healthcare Center Executive Director William Cavalier, David's son. "We're incredibly excited about what this means for our residents and staff."

With the national healthcare industry suffering from ongoing staffing shortages at all levels following the pandemic, Palmer Healthcare Center remains a local stalwart for families. The center continues to rely on a dedicated, compassionate team of specialists – which will prove immensely valuable amid growing need, officials said.

For area families struggling with the demands of caring for aging loved ones while balancing job obligations, Palmer Healthcare Center will soon provide expanded relief.

"Healthcare is at a crossroads. We have a rapidly aging population, and it is so important to have a reliable place with caring staff members," said State Senator Jake Oliveira.

A trusted community resource for more than 50 years, the center maintains a low staff-to-resident ratio, ensuring that each resident receives the necessary attention and support.

Officials congratulate the leadership team for its determination to continue serving western Massachusetts. Despite the many challenges faced over the past two decades, Cavalier and his team never lost sight of the importance of local care.

"We are grateful for the Healthcare Center's commitment to Palmer, and excited about the positive impact this expansion will have for generations to come," Brothers said.

Added Smola, "They are a great team for Palmer and the entire region."

To learn more about the center and its offerings, visit www.palmerhc.com.



Local officials celebrate a groundbreaking event at Palmer Healthcare Center. Turley photos by Kevin Flanders



State Senator Jake Oliveira addresses guests.



Palmer Healthcare Center staff members celebrate a major accomplishment.

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The Journal Register

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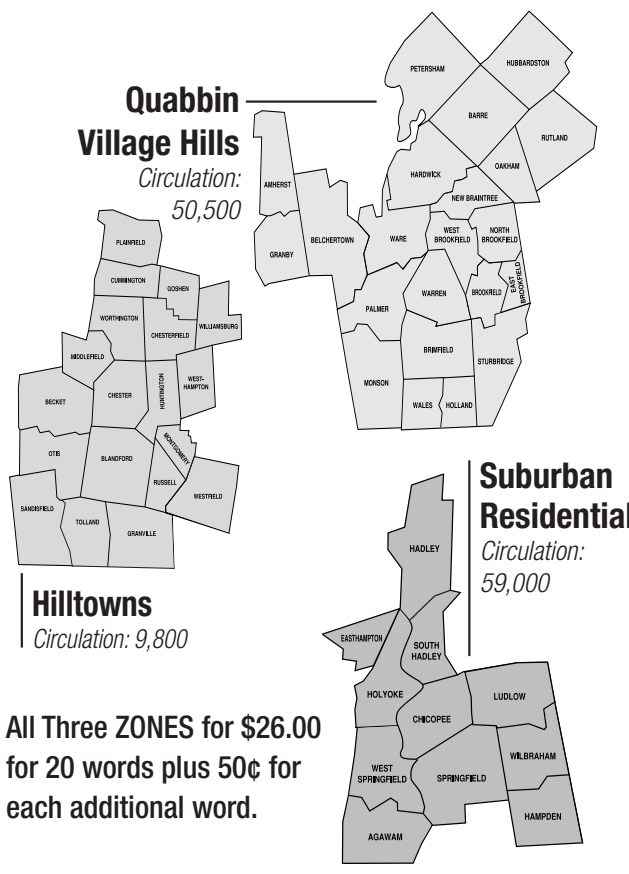
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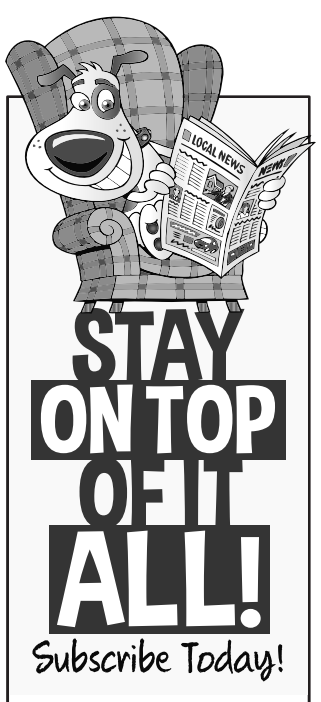
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Public notices

Town of Monson
Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts, on the application of Shahani Inc. for Site Plan Approval under Section 7.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws, a Special Permit under Section 4.2.6.C(1) of the Monson Zoning Bylaws for the enlargement or alteration of a nonconforming use within the Water Supply Protection District, and a Special Permit for Stormwater Management under Section 6.19.4 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes the redevelopment of an existing gas station through the construction of a new convenience store, installation of gasoline pumps, and the repaving and regrading of the existing parking lot at 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112, Parcel 90. The property is located in the General Commercial District and the Water Supply Protection District. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Kevin Haley, Chairman
10/01, 10/08/2026

Town of Monson
Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts, on the application of Shahani Inc. for a Special Permit for Site Use under Section 3.3.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws and a Special Permit for Advertisement Signage under Section 5.3.4.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes the redevelopment of an existing gas station through the construction of a new convenience store, installation of gasoline pumps, and related site improvements at 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112, Parcel 90. The property is located in the General Commercial District, the Water Supply Protection District, and the Riverfront Area of Chicopee Brook.

A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

David Beaudoin, Chairperson
10/01, 10/08/2026

PALMER
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 5 M.G.L. the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, October 26th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Police Department Meeting Room 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

To consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Map for a change of zoning districts from the Town Residential District to the Highway Business District. The parcel affected by this zoning amendment, is 1280-1292 Park St. (Map 56 Lot 77).

A copy of the map may be inspected on the Planning Department website at www.townofpalmer.com/planning or at the Planning Department office at Town Hall Monday through Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman
10/08, 10/15/2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003124
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Gerald S. Boudreau
a/k/a Gerald S. Bourdeau

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):

U.S. Bank National Association

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Monson, numbered 8 Fern Hill Road**, given by **Lynette C. Serrato and Gerald S. Bourdeau to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for U.S. Bank, N.A.**, dated **February 16, 2007**, and recorded at **Hampden County Registry of Deeds** in **Book 16514**, **Page 287**, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 9, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 28, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
10/08/2026

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lynne Haney to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loan Corporation, dated September 12, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16202, Page 313, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on March 24, 2022, and recorded with said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24465, Page 333, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A., recorded on November 8, 2011, in Book No. 18987, at Page 357 MetLife Bank, National Association, also known as MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on November 20, 2013, in Book No. 20106, at Page 445 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on May 12, 2014, in Book No. 20277, at Page 112 Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on September 8, 2025, in Book No. 26018, at Page 108 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction** at 10:00 AM on October 26, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 9 Laflame Road a/k/a 9 Laflamme Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land with the buildings thereon located in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, southerly of Green Pond, on the northerly side of Laflamme Road leading westerly from the East Brimfield-Holland Road as relocated in 1959, to the former location of said Road, being the generally southerly portion of Lot 28 on plan of building lots at Green Pond by J.G. Clarke, Engineer, dated December 1939 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book of Plans 20, Page 35, bounded as follows:

BEGINNING by the land now or formerly of the United States of America next to Green Pond used for the East Brimfield Dam and Reservoir project 85 feet, more or less;

THENCE easterly by lot 27 on said plan 288 feet more or less;

THENCE southerly by Laflamme Road as relocated in 1959, 85 feet more or less;

THENCE westerly by lots 29, 30, and 31 on said plan, 308 feet more or less;

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 11597, Page 59.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand ($5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
S/B/M NATIONSTAR
MORTGAGE LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES,
P.C. 150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28272
10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
HAMPDEN, Division
Docket No. HD26P0432PM

To all persons interested in the estate of **Anita M. Helliwell** of Palmer, in said County,

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction certain real estate of said Anita M. Helliwell 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 in the forenoon on the **30th day of October 2026**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **CLAUDINE T. STOUDEMIRE**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 25th day of September, 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
10/08/2026

Town of Monson
Zoning Board of Appeals
REVISED
LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. §11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Public Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts, on the application of Shahani Inc. for a Special Permit for Site Use under Section 3.3.2 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws and a Special Permit for Advertisement Signage under Section 5.3.4.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws, and a Variance from the required setbacks under § 3.1, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations. The applicant proposes the redevelopment of an existing gas station through the construction of a new convenience store, installation of gasoline pumps, and related site improvements at 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112, Parcel 90. The property is located in the General Commercial District, the Water Supply Protection District, and the Riverfront Area of Chicopee Brook.

A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and available for viewing during regular office hours.

David Beaudoin, Chairperson
10/08, 10/15/2026

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. HD26P2063EA
Estate of:
Robert A Wemyss
Also known as:
Robert Wemyss
Date of Death: 07/09/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tina Wemyss of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Tina Wemyss of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 25, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/08/2026

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. HD26P2071EA
Estate of:
Martial Racine Westburg
Date of Death: 08/04/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ingar Westburg of Belchertown, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Ingar Westburg of Belchertown, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 28, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/08/2026

Town of Palmer
Department of Public Works
Snowplow Contractors

The Town of Palmer Department of Public Works is seeking snow removal contractors for the 2026–2027 winter season. Contracts are available on the Town website and at the DPW office. Interested contractors should submit a completed contract and copies of the required insurance forms to the DPW office at 1015 Bridge St., Palmer. Rates have increased for the 2026–2027 season. For questions, call (413) 283-2615, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or email edeterman@townofpalmer.com for more info.

Plowing Rates

DESCRIPTION – ALL PLOWS MUST BE POWER ANGLE	RATE
Pickup, minimum size ¾ ton, 4x4, 8' plow	$100/ hour
Small six-wheeler (1 ton), 4x4, 9' plow	$104/ hour
Large six-wheeler, 10' plow	$108/ hour
Large truck, 11' plow at least 3' high	$128/ hour
Skid steer with attachments	$100/ hour
Front end Loader with bucket/snow pusher/plow	$183/ hour







ARTS | from page 1

During public comments, Arts Council Vice President Reed Coles spoke on behalf of the council to request that the board invite him to speak during discussion of a proposal regarding the acquisition of the House of Art.

"I think they should invite me to the table so I can explain more in depth exactly why I feel that my proposal is a great proposal to solve a problem," Coles said. "We are at a point right now where we – the Arts Council, the House of Art – need a boiler in order for us to continue our operation in full stride."

Coles said he felt he had unique knowledge and expertise regarding what the Arts Council is and does, and described it as "ludicrous" that the board would not invite him to field questions on the issue. At the start of the discussion, Select Board Chair Pat Oney thanked Coles for the work of the council on putting the proposal together.

"I appreciate very much that [Coles] took the time to think this out and to present it to us," Oney said. "He did give us the proposal in writing, so we've had a chance to take a look at it."

Oney said that the issue with accepting the proposal was that it would prohibit the town from putting a lease on the House of Art.

"Really, the predominant issue here is that we want a lease with whoever is using that building so that we can know who is going to be responsible for what aspect of everything, so that we can have everything in writing," Oney said.

Oney cited state law as requiring that the town put out a RFP in order to obtain a lease on the property, and that the town would need that definition to be able to project costs that the town will be responsible regarding maintenance and upgrades, defining and limiting use of the building, determining rental amount, and discussing insurance requirements.

Committee Member R. Keith Valley asked if there were ways to reconcile the two proposals, in order to transfer ownership to the Arts Council while retaining a lease. Oney said that transferring ownership to the Arts Council, even for the council to take on expenses, the town will still be the owner and will remain liable for budgeting for its responsibilities for the building.

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz said she confirmed with town counsel that the town was required by law to put out the RFP, and added that the amount of conversations with a specific group – the Arts Council – already threatened to violate the law.

"That's part of the reason we haven't really gotten into a discussion, more specifically, about either one of the Municipal Arts Councils," Oney said.

Select Board Vice Chair John Morrell said that he was interested in collaborating with the Arts Council to discuss combining the proposals, but acknowledged Oney's point. The discussion turned to the building's need for a new boiler to resolve its heating problems, which quickly presented as a pressing issue.

The discussion turned over to the possibility of transferring the building to the town's Arts Council, which would allow the town to maintain ownership of the property while the council maintains the building, as it has for over 30 years. Arts Council President Alan Morin was called on to speak on the issue, and thanked Coles for his passion and work writing the proposal.

"If we can keep it to a situation where we're not paying a prevailing wage for future expenses," Morin said. "it benefits the council, it benefits the town, and benefits everybody."

Oney asked Morin if the council would be financially able to take care of the building, and Morin said that it was.

"If we can get grants, and we have ongoing projects, it doesn't bring in a lot of money, but it brings in enough for us to continue to function," Morin said.

The board moved to pursue transferring the building to the Arts Council.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH

Meet JJ

He's a rescue and has adopted Rob, Aileen and Samantha Terzi as his forever family. He loves us and we love him right back! JJ loves his green ball, his yellow duck and walks in the neighborhood. He does NOT like anyone touching his feet, don't do it!



ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.

Porter Road Pet Care
141 Porter Road
East Longmeadow MA
413-525-3532
www.porterroadpetcare.com

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Save $5 on Daycare, Grooming or Boarding Services
Limit 1 coupon per pet. Expires 10/31/26



EVERY SUNDAY BELCHERTOWN PACK WALKS!
behind the Police Dept. at 10 a.m.
All Ages And Breeds Welcome - $20 Each - Weather Permitting

Every Wednesday Night at 5:30 p.m.
Non-Commital Obedience Socialization Group.
Find us at Belchertown State School in front of Christopher Heights and Belchertown Day School.

WILBRAHAM GROUP HIKES!
Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.
All Ages and Breeds Welcome.
$20 Each - Weather Permitting.
Weekly locations will be announced on our Facebook page.

413-246-0859 • AKC Certified

ELDOTC
East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club
Classes held at
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Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings



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Call (413) 355-0553
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WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital
Andrew R. Hersman, DVM
William D. Anderson, DVM
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
Nicholas Schipper, DVM
Madison Harris, DVM
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM
Leah Guidry, DVM
Caitlin Vaugh, DVM



Wilbraham Animal Hospital
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA
413.596.8395
wilbrahamanimalhospital.com
East Springfield Veterinary Hospital
525 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA
413.739.6389 • esvhospital.com
(Less than 1 mile from Rt. 291)
Open Evenings & Saturdays

Pets and Halloween

Halloween can be a festive and fun time for children and families. But for pets it can be a nightmare.

1. Trick-or-treat candies are not for pets!

All forms of chocolate can be dangerous, even lethal, for dogs and cats. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning may include vomiting, diarrhea, rapid breathing, increased heart rate, and seizures.

2. Don't leave pets out in the yard on Halloween.

Vicious pranksters have been known to tease, injure, steal, and even kill pets on Halloween night. Black cats are especially at risk. In fact, many shelters do not adopt out black cats during the month of October as a safety precaution. Make sure your pets are safely housed indoors around Halloween.

3. Keep glow sticks away from pets.

While glow sticks can help keep people safe on Halloween night, they can be a problem for pets. The liquid inside glow sticks is non-toxic, but it does taste awful. Pets who get into a glow stick may drool, paw at their mouth, become agitated, and sometimes even vomit. If your pet does chew on a glow stick, offer some fresh water or a small meal to help clear the material out of the mouth.

4. Don't keep lit pumpkins around pets.

If you are using candles to light your jack-o-lanterns or other Halloween decorations, make sure to place them well out of reach of your pets. If they get too close, they run the risk of burning themselves or causing a fire.

5. Use caution & common sense with pet costumes.

If you do decide to dress your pet in a costume, make sure it isn't dangerous or simply annoying to your pet. Costumes should not restrict movement, hearing, eyesight, or the ability to breathe. Consider just tying on a festive bandana.

6. IDs, please!

If your dog or cat should escape and become lost, having the proper identification will increase the chances that he or she will be returned. Collars and tags are ideal if a Good Samaritan is able to collect your escaped pet, but microchips offer permanent identification should the collar or tag fall off.

