

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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MONSON

Support those who serve

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – Local residents and business owners are invited to once again join forces to help brighten the holiday season for servicemembers far from home.

Main Street Tavern (218 Main Street, Monson) will host a fundraising night on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 4–8 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Monson Military Care Package Drive.

To further support this year's care package drive, organizers will sell donation raffle tickets for a variety of prizes, including a Pit Boss Grill. Winners will be drawn at the packing event on Nov. 22, but you don't need to be present for the drawing.

Also, the organizing committee is selling special T-shirts this year that not only recognize Monson military members, but also the nation's 250th birthday.

T-shirts are \$20 each. For Karen King Turgeon, who founded the care package drive 13 years ago, it's been a thrill to see consistently strong community support for the mission.

This year, 22 servicemembers from Monson – representing the Navy,

Coast Guard, Army, National Guard (deployed), Marines, and Air Force – will each receive two gift boxes.

"It means everything to know that the people and businesses of Monson are supporting the military year after year," King Turgeon told The Journal Register.

As community support for the program continues to increase each year, the fundraising goals have lifted as well.

"The organization's goal is to raise \$7,000 this year so that we can additionally send Visa gift cards to each member," read a statement released by the organization. "Also needed are snacks and personal items for the boxes, including small homemade crafts and cards."

Local servicemembers always appreciate the strong support they receive from home each year. Even the smallest items can make a big difference for those defending freedom far from western Massachusetts.

"We have found that they love anything to do with their hometown," added King Turgeon, who also helps spread awareness each year by discussing the importance of the program with local students.

The organization

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MONSON



Area kids display fire department gear.

Turley photos by Kevin Flanders

Families enjoy Public Safety Night

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – Despite a chilly, windy evening, families from throughout the area attended the town's sixth annual Public Safety Night.

Held on Oct. 17 at Veterans Field, the event enabled guests to meet several first responders and members of local organizations.

Guests also enjoyed free

food during the annual BBQ Smoke-Off between the police and fire departments. The friendly rivalry once again came down to a close vote from guests, with the fire department emerging victorious.

"Public Safety Night is always one of the highlights of the year, and we're thrilled to be celebrating our sixth annual event," said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. "It's a great opportunity for our police, fire, and other town

departments to come together with residents in a fun, relaxed setting and strengthen those connections within our community."

The event also included appearances from school leaders and nonprofits; fun activities and goodies for kids; educational materials from community organizations; and even a tour of an Army National Guard helicopter that landed on the field.

And despite their yearly

BBQ rivalry, members of the police and fire departments always enjoy teaming up to support the community.

"Our Monson Public Safety Night event was a great reminder of what makes the Town of Monson special," said Police Chief Nicholas Gasperini. "Despite the wind and the cold, we had a great turnout for the event. We're proud to have such a close-knit community,

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PUBLIC SAFETY



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Members of the Ware High School Domestic Violence Task Force led the 11th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and Community Gathering through downtown Ware this past Sunday.

Walk brings safety, justice, peace for domestic violence survivors

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force has been a voice for survivors of abuse for over 25 years, and this past Sunday, its members sent a clear message to the community – we must stand to-

gether.

On Oct. 18, the task force held its 11th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and Community Gathering at Veterans Park. The ceremony and walk were led by members of the Ware High School Domestic Violence Task Force.

Acting as master of cer-

emonies was student Reese McKeever, who thanked everyone for supporting the walk and she recognized local and state officials in attendance.

McKeever drew attention to a table that was set up at the park, carefully set with

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PALMER

Palmer secures MassWorks grant

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER – The Healey-Driscoll Administration has awarded the town \$5 million through the 2027 Community One Stop for Growth MassWorks Program.

The grant funding will support Palmer's major sewer improvement project, specifically the replacement of a critical sewer siphon on Thorndike Street.

"This siphon was originally installed in 1969 as a temporary solution. Its replacement is crucial for our community," said Town Manager Brad Brothers. "This investment will modernize essential wastewater infrastructure, improve long-term system reliability, and remove a significant barrier to economic growth in our community."

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike exit, the project will support development opportunities for underutilized properties in the immediate area, officials said.

"On behalf of the Palmer

community, I want to thank the MA EOED (Executive Office of Economic Development) for their partnership in helping us invest in both our infrastructure and our economic future," Brothers added.

The sewer upgrade project will provide benefits to both residential and commercial users, in addition to fostering economic development.

"The location of this siphon provides access to major development opportunities south of Palmer's Massachusetts Turnpike exit, which leads to the potential development of 152-acre 43D priority development site, as well as other undeveloped parcels around the downtown Depot Village District," read a statement released by the Town Manager's Office.

The MassWorks grant award is part of a \$330 million package supporting more than 400 economic development and housing projects in communities across Massachusetts.

"The sewer siphon proj-

ect has been a priority of the town for several years, and the town has continued to pursue state funding to help move the project forward," said Town Council President Barbara Barry. "Securing this grant is a significant step toward addressing this long-standing infrastructure need. This funding will help the town advance the project while reducing the financial burden on ratepayers."

The MassWorks award represented the second major grant announcement for town officials this month.

Palmer previously received \$150,000 through the state's Community Planning Grant Program, administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC).

These funds will support the Planning Board's vision of creating standards that promote walkability and economic development downtown.

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SPORTS

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Elijah Hodge takes the goal kick.



SOCCER Pioneers secure tourney berth

PALMER – Under the lights at Legion Field, the Pathfinder Tech boys soccer team defeated Ware 7-1, and the Pioneers are now headed for the state tournament with a 9-4-1 record. Cayden Bousquet had a hat trick and Owen Pear added two goals for the Pioneers. Pathfinder had one final game this week against Southwick before learning if it makes the Western Mass. tournament.



Brodey Williams turns to play the ball.



Mason Ostrout tries to overcome pressure from an opponent.



Mason Kilham makes a play on defense.

SOCCER

Mustangs still in tourney contention

GRANBY – Last Saturday, the Granby High School girls soccer team battled the cold and win and defeated Monson for the second time in two weeks, winning 3-1 at home. Kalli White, McKenna Cudworth, and Marcela Tapia all scored goals for the Rams, who now an impressive 10-0-3 on the regular season. With that record, not only are the Rams headed for the state

tournament, they are currently seeded No. 1 in Division 5. Despite a 1-13 record now for the Mustangs, Monson actually holds the No. 5 position due to having a significantly more difficult schedule than many other teams in Division 5.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Chelsea Hull sends the goal kick away.



Mackayla St. George makes a stop.



Ada Wojcik sends a pass forward.



Grace Berry sends a punt away.



The Mustangs try to make a play on defense.

SOCCER

Pioneers offense rolls to pair of wins

SPRINGFIELD – Last week, Pathfinder Tech girls soccer picked up two more wins, defeating Putnam Voke and Sizer of Central Mass. The offense scored 14 goals in the two games, starting

by a pair of goals in 30 seconds to help get Pathfinder going against Putnam. That would lead to a 9-1 win over Beavers, followed by a 5-0 shutout of Sizer. The Pioneers are now 5-2-1 on the regular season.



Megan Clark makes her way past midfield.



Callie Hawk tries to make a pass ahead of a defender.



Abigail Carmody makes a play on defense and heads up the field.



Gwen Ruis tries to steal the ball.



Josephine Boyko heads up the field.



Evelyn Wood makes a pass to her left.