

# The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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MONSON

## TRUCK SHOW *Brings a lot of rigs*

By Abigail McCoy  
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MONSON – The rumble of diesel engines filled the autumn air at Westview Creamery on Saturday, Oct. 18, as more than 160 gleaming rigs lined up for the First Annual C.R. Levesque Truck Show, a family-organized event dedicated to raising money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in honor of a loved one lost to breast cancer.

The show, held on the grounds of the popular creamery and farm, offered food, drinks, live music, raffles, giveaways, and a K-9 demonstration, drawing crowds of families, truck enthusiasts, and community members eager to support a meaningful cause.

Organizer Craig Levesque, founder of C.R. Levesque Trucking, said the idea for the event came from his daughter Mia Levesque and the company's social media team, Devin and Nicholas. "They always wanted to do a truck show, so they asked me for approval... and they took it from there," Craig said with pride. "They did a really nice job. It's one heck of an event!"

The turnout was im-

pressive: approximately 160 trucks, not including the company's own fleet of ten. Participants came from across New England, answering an open call posted on C.R. Levesque's social media.

"This is a community of people who love what they do," Craig said, gesturing toward rows of polished trucks, many with custom paint jobs, chrome fenders, and intricate detailing. "Our drivers take pride in their rigs. We let them put a personal touch on their trucks... it makes them feel ownership, and they take better care of them."

Levesque, who's been in the trucking industry since 1995, said the event was more than just a display of horsepower and chrome. It was a tribute to his late mother, who passed away after battling breast cancer.

"We built the pink truck, the pink one with the skeleton on the front, in her honor," he said. "She was treated at Dana-Farber. They couldn't cure her, but they treated her so well. It's a great hospital, and this is our way of giving back."

Craig's daughter Mia Levesque said organizing the



C.R. Levesque's pink rig that Craig said was painted in honor of his mother and her fight with breast cancer.



One of the many rigs in attendance shows off its patriotism.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

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PALMER

## Residents divided over rail stop

By Abigail McCoy  
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PALMER – A spirited exchange of opinions followed the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) October 7 presentation at Palmer High School, where officials unveiled the conceptual design for a future Palmer passenger rail station. The plan, part of the state's larger effort to restore east-west rail service, drew both praise and criticism from residents, local leaders, and longtime advocates.

The meeting, moderated by Nancy Farrell of Regina Villa Associates, marked a milestone in a nearly decade-long community campaign to bring passenger trains back to the "Town of Seven Railroads." After MassDOT officials Andy Kozioł and Natasha Velickovic outlined the preliminary design, Farrell opened the floor to public comment.

Supporters Applaud Progress Toward a Long-Sought Goal

Former Town Councilor and current Conservation Commission Chair Donald

RAIL | page 12

MONSON

## Select Board concerned about rising cable costs

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Select Board's Tuesday, Oct. 14, meeting covered an array of public concerns, departmental updates, and discussions on Monson's fiscal health, from Comcast rate frustrations to the town's ongoing efforts to balance service needs with long-term financial stability.

Residents Speak Out

During Public Comment

The evening opened with a series of public comments focused on accountability, communication, and priorities.

Carolyn Whittemore and Barbara Boudreaux criticized Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz for publicly reprimanding other officials over their response to a September 9 disturbance outside Town Hall, arguing that the Code

of Conduct does not obligate officials to intervene. They urged her to "lead by example of positivity" and issue an apology.

Resident Dolores Scott questioned the inclusion of Article 15 on the Special Town Meeting warrant, which proposes expanding the police chief's authority. "Giving the police chief absolute power just seems like a really bad idea," she warned.

Concerns about fiscal messaging also surfaced when Barbara Boutreau asked why officials had recently described Monson as being in a "financial crisis," despite a reported year-end surplus of over \$500,000.

Resident Bob Lamb voiced strong opposition to any move that would convert elected positions into appointed ones. "Never take from the people their ability and right

to vote their conscience," he said.

Finally, Dominic McCarty urged the town to prioritize essential services over secondary initiatives. "We should be focusing more on the Fire Department and the police, not on voting machines and clickers," he said, citing low voter turnout and safety staffing needs.

Town Administrator Report: Sand for Seniors, Path-

finder Expansion, and an Apology

Wolowicz reported that the Sand for Seniors program, run by the Monson Fire and Emergency Services Department, will again provide free five-gallon sand/salt mixtures for home delivery to seniors starting in November.

She also previewed the Special Town Meeting sched-

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MONSON



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Eric Degnan, center, former longtime Monson High School girls soccer coach, was inducted into the Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday evening. He receives his plaque from James Duggan, left, and Dan Moriarty, right.

## Eric Degnan takes place of honor in MHS Athletic Hall of Fame

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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MONSON – In what he described as a special experience, retired Monson High

School girls soccer coach Eric Degnan was inducted last Saturday night into the Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Degnan, who has a long

list of accomplishments and accolades while leading the Monson High School girls soccer team, added the ath-

DEGNAN | page 13

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTEBOOK

## Superintendent reports gains in student achievement

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer School Committee met on Wednesday, Oct. 15, addressing a full agenda that included student and district updates, budget reports, policy revisions, and community feedback. The meeting highlighted both celebration and analysis, from individual accomplishments to long-term district progress.

### Public Recognition and Community Concerns

Committee member Sandra Noonan opened by recognizing Heather Korzec, recently named Massachusetts State Field Hockey Coach of the Year for 2024. Noonan praised Korzec's impact both within Palmer High and beyond. "She's done so much to promote field hockey and

make play more equitable across the region," Noonan said.

Noonan also voiced concern that the Palmer High Athletic Hall of Fame has stopped funding plaques for inductees. "These kids brought glory to the school and town," she said. "They deserve to be remembered on those walls."

Committee Chair Bonnie Rathbone relayed frustration from parents and fans about the school's Go Fan digital ticketing system, which some say has discouraged attendance due to fees and technical issues. "People want to support our teams," Rathbone said. "We need a system that makes it easy for them to do that."

### Student Reports Highlight a Busy Fall Season

Palmer High School senior and student representa-

tive Kelsey Coyle, reported a packed calendar of activities, from bus evacuation drills to the upcoming "Starry Nights" homecoming dance. Sports teams have seen varied success, with the Monson Golf team awaiting postseason play and Field Hockey concluding with a 3-0 Senior Night win.

Coyle emphasized the school's strong spirit and community engagement. "There's so much happening, from fundraisers to spirit week, it's a really exciting time to be part of Palmer High," Coyle said.

At Old Mill Pond School, student reps Jaden and James

SCHOOLS | page 12



# Community center helps ‘heat up’ and ‘cool down’

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

HOLLAND – The Holland Community Center continues to bring warmth and creativity to the community, quite literally this month, with its free “DIY Heat Packs and Cool Packs” craft session led by Director and Outreach Coordinator Brenda Palmer.

Held as part of the Center’s monthly craft series, the hands-on event invited participants to create rice-filled fabric packs that can be heated or cooled for comfort and relaxation. These simple, reusable packs are ideal for easing sore muscles, keeping hands toasty in mittens, or providing relief from aches and pains.

The session was designed to be accessible for all ages and skill levels. “Don’t worry if you’re new to sewing... we guide you through the process,” the Center’s event description read. Participants were welcome to bring their own fabric or use the wide assortment provided by the Center. A single “fat quarter” of fabric, Palmer noted, is enough to make two long neck or shoulder wraps, while smaller sizes can be tailored for hands, knees, or even pocket warmers.

During an interview before the event, Palmer shared how the monthly craft program first began. “About a year ago, we realized we have tons and tons of supplies,” she said with a laugh. “We offer open crafting, and anybody can use it...but some people get anxious about starting. They don’t always know what to make. So we decided to do a free monthly craft for everybody.”

Since launching the program, the Center has hosted a colorful variety of activities. “We’ve painted rocks, done crayon wax teardrops, paint-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
**Brenda Palmer shows the participants how to measure out the size of your heat pack.**

ings...you name it,” Palmer said. “It’s really about giving people a chance to be creative without pressure. We just go in, wing it, and have fun.”

The Holland Community Center, which serves residents of all ages, offers not just crafting opportunities but also community resources, games, books, and programs for kids and adults alike. Palmer, who has been the Center’s director and outreach coordinator since 2018, and part of the team since 2014, said the crafting events have become a favorite for both newcomers and longtime attendees.

“It’s a community center,” she said. “It really runs the gamut of what people can do here.”

The DIY Heat and Cool Pack workshop is one of many free, inclusive activities designed to encourage creativity and connection among Holland residents. Future crafts are held monthly and are open to everyone; those under 18 are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.

To learn more or reserve a spot in an upcoming session, residents can contact the Holland Community Center or sign up with friends and family for an evening of crafting, conversation, and community.



**Large containers of scrap fabric were set up on tables for the patrons to pick their heatpack fabric.**



**Brenda Palmer goes from person to person helping them through the steps of using a sewing machine.**



**A local resident stops in to the community center and uses her sewing skills to create a heat pack.**



**After 3 out of 4 sides were sewn shut, participants have to fill their creations with rice to create the heatable element of the heatpack.**

## Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Fourth Annual Scarecrow Contest

PALMER – Domestic Violence can be a scary thing; however, raising awareness for it does not have to be. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force invites all residents, organizations, and businesses from Palmer and surrounding towns to join us in decorating their homes, businesses, and common areas with scarecrows of all kinds to raise awareness

about domestic violence.

You are welcome to make your own scarecrow or attend one of our ‘Build a Scarecrow’ events. If you would like to attend one of our Build-a Scarecrow events, join us at the Palmer Public Library on Oct. 11 or Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a FREE event. All materials provided. No registration required.

You do not need to enter the contest to attend a Build-a-Scarecrow event, nor do you need to attend a Build-a-Scarecrow event to enter.

Three amazing cash prizes to be won. 1st Place \$75; 2nd Place \$50; 3rd Place \$25

To enter, send a picture of your scarecrow display outside of your home or business to palmerdvtf@

gmail.com before midnight on Oct. 31.

All entries will be posted on the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Facebook Page on November 1st. The three pictures that receive the most votes by Nov. 30 win.

Visit and like the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force Page for contest and other task force event updates

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**MONSON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025  
7:00 PM GRANITE VALLEY SCHOOL**

PAID FOR BY ROBERT LAMB

## Palmer tax bills due Nov. 3 reminder

PALMER – The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:

Fiscal Year 2026 2nd quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by Nov. 3, 2025.

The Tax Collector’s office is accepting credit and debit card payments for property taxes either on

the town website at [www.townofpalmer.com](http://www.townofpalmer.com) or at the tax office. There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer. The fee structure can be viewed on the town website.

If you are making on-line payments through your bank (EFT’s), please set it up to have the check mailed directly to our office, 4417

Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Do not use the lock-box address for this type of payment as no bill is included for processing.

Please call the Collector’s office at 413-283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday – Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Friday.

## Show Off your Haunted Houses



PALMER/MONSON – Do you go all out for Halloween? We want to see it! Send us photos of your creative, creepy, or fun Halloween decorations to be featured in the paper. Be sure to include a short caption with each photo (for example:

“The Smith family’s haunted porch on Main Street”).

Please submit your photos and captions by 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 to [amccoy@turley.com](mailto:amccoy@turley.com).

Let’s see how our community celebrates the spookiest season of the year.

## Monson Memorial Classic to be held Oct. 26

MONSON – The 29th Annual Monson Memorial Classic 1/2 marathon and 5K will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 12 noon. For more information go to <http://www.monsonmemorialclassic.com>.

Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Monson Open Pantry.

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# Library hosts teen after-hours horror movie night

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Public Library transformed into a spooky cinema on Friday, Oct. 17, for its After-Hours Horror Movie Night; a teen-exclusive event designed to give local youth a thrill just in time for Halloween.

The event, held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room, was organized by Youth Services Librarian Olivia Chartrand, who said the idea came directly from the library's teen advisory board. "I had quite a few kids on my advisory board who were interested in doing a scarier version of Halloween," Chartrand explained. "Our Halloween party tends to be more on the safe side because it's a broader age range, and they wanted something a little more intense."

After some discussion,

the group decided on a horror movie night the week before the library's annual Halloween party. Chartrand provided a list of four films for the teens to vote on when registering: *The Conjuring* (paranormal), *It* (monster), *Scream* (slasher), and *Zombieland* (horror comedy). The teens ultimately chose James Wan's 2013 supernatural hit *The Conjuring*; a chilling story about paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren confronting dark forces in a Rhode Island farmhouse.

Doors opened at 5:30 p.m., giving attendees time to grab snacks before the lights dimmed at 6:00 for the feature presentation. The program was open exclusively to students ages 10 to 18, with registration and a signed permission slip required to attend.

Chartrand said the event is part of a broader effort to keep older kids engaged and

excited about the library's offerings. "We wanted to create something just for them... a space where they can enjoy themselves, hang out with friends, and celebrate the Halloween season in a way that feels age-appropriate but still spooky," she said.

The horror movie night was just one of several youth-centered programs the Palmer Public Library is hosting this fall. On Friday, Oct. 24, the library will hold its annual Teen Halloween Party from 6 to 9 p.m., also limited to ages 10-18. The event will feature glitter tattoos, a slime-making table, games, a fortune teller, a costume contest, and plenty of food. "It's going to be a really fun night for anyone who loves dressing up," Chartrand said. "Once again, it's just for the kids... no parents allowed!"

Later in the month, on Oct. 29, teens ages 14-18 can



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
The flyer for the after hours horror movie night.



The community room was set up with chairs and lots of pillows and cushions if kids wanted to settle on the floor; all the curtains were drawn to give the scariest atmosphere possible.

look forward to Art and Movie Night, where participants will watch the animated miniseries *Over the Garden Wall* while working on autumn-themed art projects and crafts. The event will include refreshments provided by Friends Coffee, a local café in Three

Rivers, which will offer freshly made cider and treats.

Chartrand said she's thrilled to see such enthusiasm from local youth. "We have a really creative group of teens in Palmer," she said. "They're the ones shaping what these programs look like. It's their

library too, and we want to make sure they have events that reflect their interests."

With horror films, costumes, crafts, and community spirit, the Palmer Public Library is keeping the Halloween season lively for the town's young readers.

## Monson Special Town Meeting to be held Oct. 27

MONSON – The Monson Special Town meeting will take place on Monday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at Granite Valley School located at 21 Thompson St. in Monson.

The warrant is available on the Town Website [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov) or copies can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office or on the night of the meeting.

## Town awarded \$58,000 grant

BOSTON – State Senator Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) are pleased to announce that the Town of Palmer has been awarded \$58,000 through the 2025 MassTrails Grant Program to support a feasibility study for the Mass Central Rail Trail. The project also includes a local match of \$14,890.95.

The MassTrails Grant Program is a collaborative initiative coordinated by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB), and the Massachusetts Legislature. The program supports the de-

velopment and enhancement of multi-use trails and pathways across the Commonwealth.

"This funding represents an exciting step toward expanding Palmer's role as a regional hub for recreation and connectivity," said Senator Jake Oliveira. "Investing in trail infrastructure not only strengthens our local economy but also enhances quality of life by creating safer, more accessible ways for residents and visitors to experience the beauty of our communities."

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to explore new ways of connecting our community to the outdoors, which our constituents value deeply," said Representative Smola. "Palmer is uniquely positioned in central Massachusetts as the gateway to New England. Known as the

Town of Seven Railroads, we take pride in our rich transportation history."

The feasibility study will focus primarily on developing walking and biking connections within Palmer while also considering opportunities to integrate car and other transportation infrastructure. The project aims to enhance regional connectivity and expand recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors.

All applications for MassTrails grants are reviewed by the inter-agency MassTrails Team, which includes representatives from MassDOT, EEA, DCR, and MARTAB. Projects that support recreational trails are eligible for up to \$100,000 in funding, while shared-use path projects may receive up to \$500,000.

## Neighborhood Inventory Project launches

PALMER – The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), working on behalf of the Town of Palmer, will be conducting a neighborhood inventory in the Three Rivers area during September and October 2025. This project is part of Palmer's participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and is being completed to meet the requirements for a "Slum and Blight Area" designation under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC).

The Three Rivers Neighborhood Inventory will involve a visual assessment of current conditions throughout the neighborhood, including the state of public and private buildings, streets, sidewalks, and other infrastructure. Residents may see CMRPC staff walking through the area, taking notes or photographs as part of this work. Staff will remain in the public right-of-way at all times and will not enter any private property.

The purpose of the

inventory is to determine whether the Three Rivers area qualifies for the Slum and Blight designation as defined by state and federal guidelines. While the term "slum and blight" is used in official policy, it is not a phrase preferred by the Town of Palmer. However, receiving this designation is an important step in making the neighborhood eligible for funding that can support improvements such as infrastructure upgrades, housing rehabilitation, and other revitalization initiatives.

To qualify for this designation, at least 25 percent of the properties in the area must show evidence of one or more of the following conditions: deteriorating buildings or improvements, abandoned or vacant properties, frequent turnover in occupancy, low or declining property values, suspected environmental contamination, or a general deterioration of public infrastructure.

This inventory will provide important data that the Town can use to plan for future investments in the Three Rivers neighborhood and identify strategies for long-term community development.

## Build-a-Scarecrow event on Oct. 25

PALMER – The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force will once again be holding their annual Scarecrow Contest.

Those wishing to participate in the contest may create their own display, or attend a Build-a-Scarecrow event at the

Palmer Public Library on Saturday, October 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All materials provided at the Build-a-Scarecrow events will be free of charge.

There is no fee to enter the contest or attend the Build-a-Scarecrow events.

## Annual Polish Supper to be held on Oct. 25

MONSON – 13th Annual Polish Supper will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church located at 162 Main Street, Monson from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Dining on the premises and take-out orders are available, limited quantities, so reservations are recommended, deadline for ordering is

Oct. 23.

Call 413-267-5207 to place your order. Meal includes Gołombki (stuffed cabbage), Pierogi, Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, Pickled Beets, Rye Bread, and Apple Crisp.

Price is \$20 for adults and \$9 for children.

Come enjoy some mouth-watering homemade treats.

## Grant proposals being sought

MONSON – The Monson Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. These

grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1, 2026 and Dec. 31, 2026.

Monson priorities can

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

## Keep button appraisal on Nov. 2

MONSON – Button Appraisal Day will be held on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025 at the Keep Homestead Museum on 35 Ely Road in Monson from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with button expert and dealer Betty Korostynski.

She is well-versed in the identification and current pricing of buttons and has

been a button dealer for 35 years selling in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

She will have her new book "Hard White Pewter Buttons of Naugatuck, CT" available for purchase and signing.

There is no cost for the appraisals, however dona-

tions will be accepted.

Visitors are welcome to tour the museum and enjoy light refreshments.

Notecards featuring buttons will be available in the gift shop.

For more information about the museum visit [www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org](http://www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org).

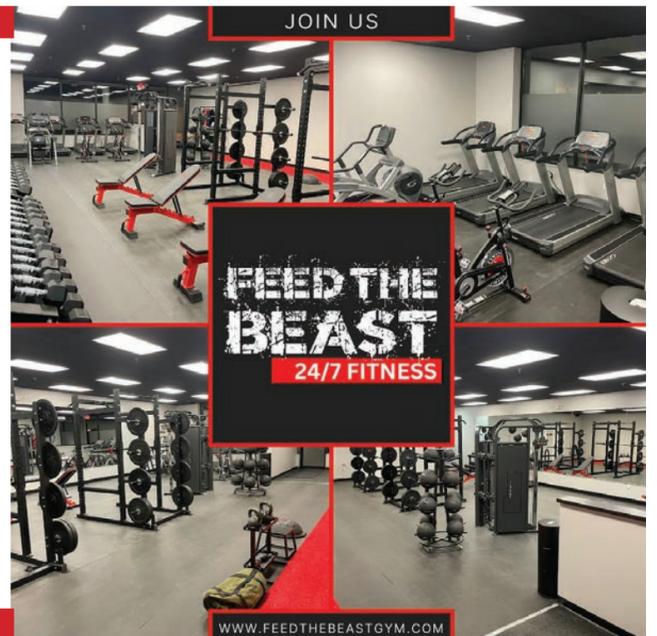
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# Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### How do I navigate the Social Security maze?

Dear Rusty:

I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready:

Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I'll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67 and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement, a permanent reduction. If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your "primary insurance amount" you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

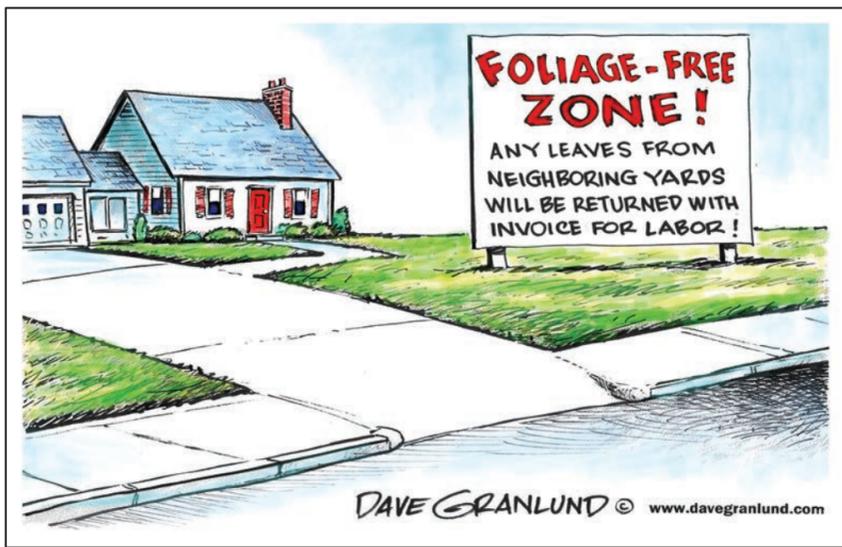
If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your

work earnings are more than \$1,950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won't get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit. FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working and your marital status. If you are or were married, you might be eligible for a spousal or ex-spouse benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Question and Answer section at our website [www.SocialSecurityReport.org](http://www.SocialSecurityReport.org). So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1-888-750-2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org). In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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



### More review; what worked what didn't

Last week I wrote about two new winter squash varieties I grew in this past summer's garden, as well as a Barbie doll sized melon.

According to Mom, it made for a good read. Let's keep the momentum going with more "new to me" varieties in this column.

As dedicated readers may remember, this past summer's garden was to accomplish the goal of growing more food, food that would cut down on the grocery bill and feed the family through the winter. I took my chances growing a hybrid paste tomato by the name of Plum Regal. Its accolades were many: late blight resistance, moderate resistance to early blight, a the promise of a good yield and a tasty outcome.

I typically only grow heirlooms, so this tomato really had to prove itself. My only dilemma was that I sometimes have issues with blossom end rot, and specifically on paste types.

I tried a new fertilizer formulated specifically for members of the Solanaceae family, aptly named "Tomato Sauce." You know what? It worked.

No blossom end rot and a freezer full of sauce, tomato chunks and roasted tomato blends. I will be ordering both the seeds and the fertilizer from Fedco ([fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com)) in anticipation of next year's garden.

With every success comes not quite a success. I'll call Muskmelon "Melonade" one of those adventures. I was intrigued by the description in the Fedco catalog, "firm orange flesh is

be gold, blue, mottled or bronze? I ended up with enough to decorate with and come Thanksgiving I will indeed try and pop some. I've had some experience popping eared corn before.

At our family vacation my sister in law tried it out. She put the dried ear she had purchased in a paper bag and folded it shut, placed it in a microwave on high for about 3-4 minutes and yum!

What else worked out well in my garden this year? The succession planting of green beans seeded immediately after my garlic was harvested worked out superbly. No additional fertilizer required.

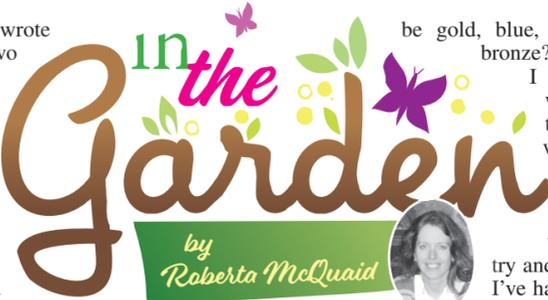
I was able to freeze a lot of beans from that second sowing. I guess I always wish there are more to freeze, so maybe next year the row will be longer.

I didn't utilize the wide row method this year. Two parallel rows with a walking row down the middle made the harvest easy.

I hope you had your share of successes this past summer, and if you are anything like me, you are already scheming next year's veggie garden.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

I grew only eight plants, set out in a four by two pattern. Shucking the corn felt a lot like Christmas morning with the surprise factor involved. Will the kernels



by Roberta McQuaid



Black vulture

## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

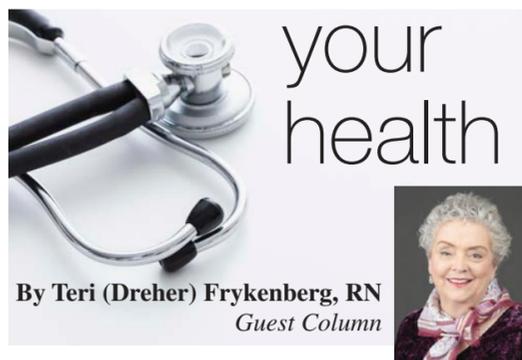
flight. Their cousin the black vultures are compact birds with broad wings, short tails and powerful wingbeats. Turkey and black vultures often associate together. The black vultures have a poor sense of smell, but by following turkey vultures by following them to carcasses. They often soar high in the sky in search of lower soaring turkey vultures. When the turkey vultures descend on a carcass, the black vultures follow them.

Black vultures are highly social and share food with relatives, feeding young for months after they've fledged. In the United States black vultures are more plentiful than turkey vultures. Black vultures lack a voice box and their sounds are limited to hisses and grunts.

The oldest black vulture on record was a least 25 years, six months old when it was found in 1965 in Louisiana. It was banded there in 1940. They may live even longer in captivity.

**Brimfield resident**  
On Sunday, Oct. 5, I received an email from a Brimfield resident commenting about my seeing a moose in Oakham. He said, "Seeing a moose in Massachusetts is exciting. My wife and I saw a moose in Canada, it ran across the road in front of the car and disappeared into the woods. My wife said "look a horse with no rider, similar to your reaction."

**Eagle sighting**  
On Wednesday, Oct. 1,



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

### "Falling back" to a season of change

It's not just the leaves that change in autumn. We do, too.

Our bodies naturally change with the seasons, as the hours of sunlight, temperatures and humidity fluctuate. In our fast-paced modern world, we are tempted to ignore these seasonal signals, enabled as we are by artificial lighting, indoor climate control and the year-round availability of many foods. (Strawberries in January? Really?)

## your health

Let's look at some of the ways our bodies adjust to fall, and a few ways you can perhaps enhance well-being by paying attention to them.

**Sleep disruptions**  
The hours of sunlight gradually become fewer after the summer equinox, and then there's the jarring change when we turn our clocks back in November. The politicians have hag-

## The Journal Register

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@ 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.

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Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:journalregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

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

#### Campaign news

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

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## UPCOMING

### WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILLIARY SHOP

40 Wright St., Palmer  
Oct. 27: Generations of Cookies  
Oct. 28: Geriations and Sew on

### NOVEMBER VENDORS

Nov. 5: How Charming  
Nov. 11: K and H Jewelry  
Nov. 18: Wicked Good Treats  
Nov. 19: Hobbit Hollow Herbs  
Nov. 24: Generations of Cookies  
Nov. 25: Geriations and Sew on  
Nov. 26: Patty Cakes

### DECEMBER VENDORS

Dec. 3: How Charming  
Dec. 4: Jewelry by Diane  
Dec. 9: Crystal Clear Emotions  
Dec. 10: Hobbit Hollow Herbs  
Dec. 15: Generations of Cokies  
Dec. 16: K and H Jewelry  
Dec. 17: Wicked Good Treats  
Dec. 19: Shannon Bacon  
Dec. 22: Generations of Cookies  
Dec. 23: Geriations and Sew on  
Dec. 24: Patty Cakes

### OCTOBER 25

The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force will once again be holding their annual Scarecrow Contest. Those wishing to participate in the contest may create their own display, or attend a Build-a-Scarecrow event at the Palmer Public Library on Saturday, October 11 or 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All materials provided at the Build-a-Scarecrow events will be free of charge. There is no fee to enter the contest or attend the Build-a-Scarecrow events.

### OCTOBER 26

The 29th Annual Monson Memorial Classic 1/2 marathon and 5K will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 12 noon. For more information go to <http://www.monson-memorialclassic.com>. Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Monson Open Pantry.

### OCTOBER 27

The Monson Special Town meeting will take place on Monday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at Granite Valley School located at 21 Thompson St. The warrant is available on the Town Website [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov) or copies can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office or on the night of the meeting.

### OCTOBER 31

Torie Jock & Damage Control are hosting FRIDAY NIGHT ROCKS HALLOWEEN SHOW- A rock band series occurring at PHCC from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. BYOB!!!! \*ID's required!\* \$10 entry fee! Doors open at 6 p.m. Bands are Red-eye, Torie Jock & Damage Control, and Dreamscape, special guest: Raff the Ruler Haunted Village. \$5 entry with all proceeds going towards the theatre program, Magic show, Face Painting and Balloon animals.

### DECEMBER 28

Santa and the Wicked Wazoo Christmas Play and Dance Showcase at PHCC. Let's stay in the Christmas spirit with this festive performance of Santa and the Wicked Wazoo. Some wonderful Christmas dance routines will also be showcased. Event begins at 6 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$8 for children 12 and under and \$10 for teens/adults! Door sales are \$2 more. Pizza and concessions will be available.

## ONGOING

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

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check [brimfieldwinery.com](http://brimfieldwinery.com) for any variations.

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

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be

found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

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

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

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

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

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

*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.**

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



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# Business

## Brimfield Winery closes out concert season

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Brimfield Winery wrapped up its 2025 concert season in spectacular fashion on Saturday, Oct. 18, with the Rocktober '25 finale featuring two powerhouse tribute bands; Refugee, honoring the music of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, and Fleetwood Macked, a nationally acclaimed Fleetwood Mac tribute act.

Gates opened at 5 p.m., and by showtime, the scenic winery was buzzing with music lovers ready for one last night of live entertainment before the venue's seasonal close. With food trucks like Baystate Chews and Fired Up Pizza serving the crowd, the evening had all the makings of a celebration; good food, good wine, and a double bill of classic rock nostalgia.

"It's our final tribute concert for the season," said winery co-owner Kate Corriveau, who was onsite helping coordinate the event. "We've been doing these tribute shows for the past three years, and they've really become a tradition. We always want to go out with a bang—and this one definitely does that."

Corriveau noted that the winery's annual fall concert has evolved into a local favorite, drawing fans from surrounding towns and beyond.

"The first year we had an Eagles tribute band, then last year we hosted an Elvis impersonator along with Creedence Clearwater Revival," she said. "This year, having both Fleetwood Macked and Refugee felt like the perfect finale. These groups are incredibly talented...they tour nationally, and they bring a real concert experience right here to Brimfield."

Ticket prices ranged from \$45 per car in advance to \$60 cash at the gate, with a walk-in option for \$30 per person. Corriveau said the show was expected to sell out, continuing a pattern of growing attendance.

"We've had a very strong

year," she added. "More and more people are finding out about us. Sometimes someone will come by and say, 'How long have you been here?', and they're just two towns away! But it's been great to see people bringing friends, spreading the word, and helping us grow."

Refugee opened the evening with a heartfelt tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, performing a setlist that captured Petty's signature sound and spirit.

"We're all lifelong musicians and good friends," said the band in their bio. "We have a deep love for the music of Tom Petty. What this band is really about is great music, great friends, and paying tribute to one of the greatest songwriters and performers of our time."

The lineup included Mike Epstein on lead vocals and guitar, Dominick Rosato on lead guitar, Andrew Nadien on keys and vocals, Niles Hughes on drums, Hillary Epstein on vocals, harmonica, percussion, and keys, and Kenneth Kearney on bass.

Headliners Fleetwood Macked, based out of New York, brought their signature authenticity to the Brimfield stage. For 16 years, the group has been hailed as one of the most accurate and passionate Fleetwood Mac tribute bands in the country.

Much of that realism comes from the personal chemistry of the band members. Husband-and-wife duo



Refugee, the Tom Petty Tribute band, starts off the night jamming and rocking.

Hillary and Michael Epstein (portraying Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham) perform alongside Caroline, Jay, Phil, and Andrew (as Christine McVie, John McVie, and Mick Fleetwood). Together, they recreate Fleetwood Mac's timeless harmonies and on-stage energy.

The group's dedication to musicianship, Corriveau said, sets them apart. "They're phenomenal," she said. "They play larger venues all over, and we were really lucky to have them here. The tickets for a show like this would normally cost much more anywhere else."

Although Rocktober marked the end of the winery's 2025 concert calendar, Brimfield Winery will continue to host community events into the fall, including the upcoming Brimfield Trunk or Treat for the Recreation Department on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Corriveau expressed deep gratitude to the winery's patrons for their ongoing support. "I really want to thank all of our customers throughout the year," she said. "Without them, we wouldn't be able to grow and bring these kinds of quality acts to Brimfield."

With its blend of music,

community, and small-town charm, Rocktober '25 was more than just a concert; it was a celebration of the season, the winery's continued growth, and the timeless pull of classic rock.



Brimfield Winery put out a few metal barrels filled with fire to keep customers warm.



As it got dark, the lights from the stage lit up the pavilion showing off the large crowd viewing them.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

## Country Bank recognized for charitable giving

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that The Boston Business Journal has once again named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2024 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region's top corporate charitable contributors.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts – companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Mass.-based in charities in 2024. Collectively, they gave more than \$416 million in cash contributions – a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make Boston a stronger and better place for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and

Publisher Carolyn Jones.

During this year's celebration on September 10th, 99 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts based charities last year, as noted above. This year's honorees include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

Country Bank employs 239 staff members in Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. The Bank's team of Difference Makers actively promotes the Bank's mission of making a difference in their communities by volunteering for various non-profits throughout the year.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank's philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others," stated Mary McGovern, President and CEO at Country Bank.

### DEADLINE

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

### Highway Department – Operator II

The Town of Brookfield is hiring an Operator II for the Highway Department. This full-time position involves semi-skilled labor and equipment operation, including road and sidewalk maintenance, snow and ice removal, landscaping, and tree work. Must be available for emergency response during off-hours.

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Business

# Ultimate Alignment hosts cozy craft night

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The soothing atmosphere of Ultimate Alignment, a holistic physical therapy and yoga studio at 130 Palmer Rd in Monson, took on a creative twist recently as friends and community members gathered for a fall-themed craft night. The event, led by local crafter Sue Leighton and hosted by studio owner Lisa Ronaldson, invited participants to unwind and get hands-on with a cozy, seasonal project; making “sweater pumpkins.”

The idea for the workshop grew out of friendship and a shared love for creativity.

“Lisa’s a good friend of mine,” Leighton said with a smile. “We thought it would be fun to have a craft night for ladies... not just moms, but anyone who enjoys creating something. I’m a super crafty person, so I threw out some ideas, and Lisa said, ‘Let’s do it.’ And here we are.”

The project of choice, turning old sweaters into rustic fall decorations, proved to be the perfect fit for the October gathering. Using recycled sweater sleeves, a bit of stuffing, and decorative twine or cord, guests transformed simple materials into charming, no-sew pumpkins.

“They’re fairly easy to make,” Leighton explained. “Each sleeve can make two pumpkins. You just stuff them, tie them off, and decorate them however you like.”

It’s cozy, easy, and fun... the perfect fall craft.”

While Leighton guided the creative side of the evening, Ronaldson provided the welcoming space. As the owner of Ultimate Alignment, Ronaldson has spent decades helping people find balance and well-being through her

holistic physical therapy and yoga practice.

“I’ve been in the physical therapy business for about 25 years,” she said. “I’ve had Ultimate Alignment for around 20, and we moved into this location in April. It’s such a beautiful space, and we really

want to share it with the community.”

The studio now offers yoga classes four times a week, blending physical movement with mindfulness and relaxation. Ronaldson has also begun opening her doors for small community events

like this craft night; chances for people to connect, create, and enjoy the calming energy of the space.

As laughter and conversation filled the room, the evening embodied exactly what both women envisioned; a place where friendship, cre-

ativity, and relaxation meet.

“It’s all about connecting and doing something joyful,” Ronaldson said. “Whether it’s through yoga, therapy, or crafts, that sense of alignment... physical, mental, and emotional... is what we’re all about.”



An example of sweater pumpkin Sue Leighton brought to show off the final product.



The participants and their beautiful sweater pumpkins. Submitted photo



People laugh and talk as they stuff their sweater pumpkins before continuing along with the process.



A large snack table was set for the guests to graze on throughout the night. Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy



Everyone came to the front table to pick out the salvaged sweater sleeves that will be turned into their sweater pumpkins.



Each table came prepped with stuffing, glue guns, twine, and some heavy duty mini elastics.



Two more example sweater pumpkins.

## Janice D. Pirog promoted to Digital Systems Manager at Monson Savings Bank

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank is proud to announce the promotion of Janice D. Pirog to Digital Systems Manager. In her new role, Janice will oversee the workflow operations of digital banking products and services, while also managing and training employees within the eBanking Department.

Pirog brings a wealth of experience to her new position. She has worked in the finance and banking industry for 33 years, including 23 years with Monson Savings Bank. Her deep understand-

ing of banking operations and commitment to excellence have made her a valuable asset to the community bank.

“I’m truly honored to step into the role of Digital Systems Manager and continue growing with Monson Savings Bank,” said Janice Pirog, Digital Systems Manager. “This opportunity allows me to further expand my knowledge of the eBanking Department and strengthen my leadership skills. Being part of a community-focused bank that values

its employees and customers is incredibly rewarding, and I’m excited to contribute to our ongoing innovation and service excellence.”

Like Monson Savings Bank, Pirog is involved in community initiatives. She volunteers her time as a reader in local elementary school classes and Rays of Hope, reflecting her dedication to making a positive impact both inside and outside the workplace.

“Janice has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to our customers

and our team. Her leadership in the digital banking department is invaluable as we continue to innovate and enhance our services,” said Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank. “We are proud to have her join our eBanking Department and look forward to her continued success.”

Monson Savings Bank congratulates Janice on her well-deserved promotion and looks forward to her continued contributions to the Bank’s digital banking success.

### About Monson Savings Bank

Incorporated as a mutually chartered community bank in 1872, Monson Savings Bank has one of the longest tenures of service and stability in its market. Civic leaders chartered the bank with the intent to give working men and women the opportunity to save, which – incredibly, they could not do prior to the bank’s inception. Today, Monson Savings Bank retains its legacy of empowerment through savings, but has expanded to serve its customers with a variety of

innovative financial services, including digital banking, online mortgage applications and business banking, and commercial lending. The bank has expanded on its promise of “where people save, businesses prosper, and communities benefit” by opening offices in Hampden, Wilbraham, Ware, and most recently East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The bank also opened a retail and business loan operations center in Wilbraham in 2020. Member FDIC, Member DIF, Equal Housing Lender. NMLS ID #613363.

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**TRUCK** | from page 1

event was deeply personal. "Our Nana passed away when I was 15," Mia said. "It was a no-brainer that we'd do something for Dana-Farber, the hospital that took care of her. This is a family-owned business, and this show is about bringing the community together and giving back." Mia added that 100% of proceeds from the event would go directly to the Dana-Farber Breast Cancer Foundation. "Not a single dollar is being pocketed," she emphasized. "We're here to give back and have a great day with family, friends, and neighbors." The event's atmosphere was equal parts county fair and car show. Country and rock music played from the main stage as kids lined up for ice cream and visitors strolled past lines of gleaming tractor-trailers; some meant for hauling building materi-

als, others designed for heavy equipment, tankers, and tow trucks. Each truck reflected its driver's personality; from polished chrome and custom murals to pink ribbons and memorial decals. "There's a real sense of pride and craftsmanship here," Craig said. "These guys love their trucks." One of the afternoon's highlights came from a K-9 demonstration led by trainer Shannon and her Belgian Malinois, Sheba. Shannon, who competes in French Ring, a protection sport involving obedience, agility, and defensive routines, showcased Sheba's skills in a live demo. "This breed loves to work," Shannon explained to the crowd. "They're not great house pets, but they make incredible working partners." The demonstration included obedience drills and a controlled bite exercise featuring a member from C.R. Levesque in a padded suit.

The crowd cheered as Sheba dashed forward on command and released instantly at Shannon's cue; a display of power, discipline, and trust. As the sun dipped over the rows of trucks and the raffle winners were called, Craig and Mia looked over the crowd with pride. What started as a family idea had grown into a community celebration, one that raised awareness and funds for breast cancer research while honoring the memory of a beloved matriarch. "I just want to thank everyone who turned out," Craig said. "It's a wonderful day for a wonderful cause... and hopefully the first of many." With plans already forming for next year's event, the C.R. Levesque Truck Show looks poised to become a new fall tradition; one that unites horsepower, heart, and hometown spirit in the fight against breast cancer.



Westview Creamery's hay ride, which they offer when open and during events.



People crowd the alcohol vendor and the band pavilion.



To get an even flying flag, one of the trucks had to be pumped up to level.



Around 160 trucks were in attendance, and they were all lined up so nicely.



Patrons roam the fields looking at the wide variety of rigs, each with their own personality.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
Trainer Shannon and Belgian Malinois Sheba start the dog training presentation with a simple place and stay trick.



Sheba uses her training and following her instructions she jumps at the volunteer without biting to make him back up.



The next step in Sheba's training is if the person isn't backing up to go into bite mode to make sure their owner is safe and protected.

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## SOCCKER

### Panthers win, still in playoff contention

PALMER – Last Wednesday evening, Palmer High School girls soccer picked up a big road win at Holyoke High School 5-0. Evelyn Ladue and Anabelle Ladue had two goals each in the win.

The victory over the larger school really helped the Panthers in their pursuit of a state playoff spot. As of last Friday, Palmer was ranked No. 27 out of 32. With the sub-.500 record, Palmer will need to finish in the top 32 to qualify for the state tournament this year.



Adelynn Allard sends the ball back in play.



Harper Brouillette looks to pass midfield and avoid the opponent.



Jillian Holbrook sends a throw back in.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Aria Nompleggi advances up the field.



Anabelle Ladue eyes the goal.

## SOCCKER

### Mustangs put up strong effort in win

MONSON – Last week, Monson put up another win, defeating Pioneer Valley Regional 7-1 to improve to 12-1-3 for the regular season. The Mustangs are certainly headed for the sectional and state tournaments. Monson currently holds the No. 9 spot in the state Division 5 power rankings. The Mustangs will first face a team in the sectional quarterfinals late this week.



Brennan Peterson makes his way up the field.



Anthony Tulloch fights to keep the ball.



Shane Szado sends a pass away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Isaac Somers shoots ahead of pressure.



Brady Ronaldson makes a no-look pass.

## MHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

### Committee inducts MHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025

MONSON – Last weekend, the Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025 was inducted. Inductees included: Nisio “Muzzy” Uliana (inducted posthumously), Edward Robinson (inducted

posthumously), James Schetzel, Chris Sisco, Logan Gerry, the 2016-17 boys swimming team, and the 2017 boys track and field team. Also inducted was girls soccer coach Eric Degnan (see related article)



Coach Tim Gerry inducting son Logan, who is on video chat accepting the honor.



James Schetzel and niece Kathy Finnegan.



Joey Valencourt with Track and Field Coach John Harris.  
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Tony Uliana with John Morrell, who accepts posthumously for Nisio “Muzzy” Uliana

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# Turleysports

*Athlete of the Week*



**Jake Beaupre**  
Monson High School

Beaupre had a huge game for Monson boys soccer in their win over Pioneer. Beaupre scored four goals to lead his team.

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

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# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Bondsville League

WARE – The Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes has reached week seven of the bowling season.

After seven weeks of candlepin bowling, the top team is Fire Mountain in the East Division with a record of 32-17. In the West Division, there is a tie for first place between Sandri and Cannonballs with a record of 28-21. The Snappers are a close behind in the West Division with a record of 27-22.

During week seven, Fire Mountain bowled against the Snappers. In game one, Fire Mountain won by a score of 465-449. In game two, Snappers won a close game by a score of 450-447.

In game three, Snappers won the last game by a score of 462-444. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers finished the match with a 114, the highest game bowled in the match. The final score was 1361-1356 in favor of Snappers.

Sandri bowled against Spare Parts in week seven. In game one, Sandri was the winner with a score of 494-477. Sue Horton of Sandri started off strong with a 135. Her teammate Ron Guoin be-

gan with a 119.

In game two, Spare Parts won by a score of 488-443. Rich Picotte of Sandri had the highest score with a 119. John Jebb of Spare Parts bowled a 104 after starting with a 109.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 468-458. Horton finished with a 111 and a series of 356. Guoin bowled a 120 and bowled a series of 325. The final score was 1423-1405 in favor of Spare Parts.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls in week seven. In game one, Zeke's Freaks won the game by a score of 481-460. Zeke Sicard began the match with a 111 during his team's victory.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 468-460. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls scored 111 and Pete Ducharme of Zeke's Freaks bowled a 107.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won the last game by a score of 455-444. Paulus repeated last game with another 111. It was a close match as Zeke's Freaks won total pinfall by a final score of 1385-1383.

Cannonballs bowled against Ironmen in week seven. In game one, Ironmen were the winners by a score of 500-488. Billy Brunk of

Ironmen started with a 127.

In game two, Cannonballs won big by a score of 520-463. Micah Hinkley of Cannonballs bowled a 111. Ryan Drago of Ironmen bowled a 117 in game two.

In game three, Cannonballs won again by a score of 473-465. Hinkley through a clutch strike in the tenth frame to mathematically secure the last game. Brunk had a chance to match but was unfortunate by leaving the spread eagle for a spare shot.

The final score was 1481-1423 in favor of Cannonballs.

Slow Burners bowled against Night Hawks in week seven. In game one, Slow Burners won by a score of 523-477. Jody Orszulak of Slow Burners began the match with a 124.

In game two, Slow Burners managed to win a close game against Night Hawks by a score of 501-498. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners bowled a 121. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks bowled well in game two with a 132.

In game three, Night Hawks won by a score of 496-481. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners finished the match with a 126 and a series of 342. Sinclair had the highest series on his team with a 346. Slow Burners won total pinfall by a final score of 1505-1471.

## Panthers scores shutout of Turners

PALMER – The Palmer High School field hockey team scored its second win of the season, grabbing a 3-0 shutout of visiting Turners Falls in a night game held at Legion Field.

The Panthers close out the regular season with a home game against Quabog and await non-playoff games to complete their 2025 season.



Kaedyn Gelinas fights for possession.



Cady Hurd tries to stop her opponent's progress.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Camden Kimball drags the ball into the circle.



Ava Derosiers attacks on defense.



Brooke Swistak takes possession and moves up the field.

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Photo credit: Photography © Robert D. Gaudin. All rights reserved. All other photos by Candace Ouillette Gaumond.



Kayleigh Peters dribbles toward the center of the field.



Addison Doktor punts the ball away.



Destiny Rodriguez intercepts the ball.

## Pathfinder finishes up busy week

PALMER – Due to several postponements, it was a busy week for Pathfinder girls soccer, as they had three games scheduled last week and one more game remaining earlier this week. Last Friday afternoon, the Pioneers hosted Putnam and suffered a 2-1 loss, falling to 4-7-2 on the season. Right now, Pathfinder is on the out-side of the state tournament power rankings, but they still have time to reach .500 for the season to qualify.



Megan Clark navigates through traffic.



Rielly Ireland sends a quick pass away.



Angelina Miller tries to get around a defender.



Aubrey Oretiz takes the goal kick for Pathfinder.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

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**RAIL** | from page 1

Blais Jr. was among the first to speak, expressing pride in how far the project has come. "I've supported this since day one," Blais said. "To see it at this point right now is very exciting. This will be a great economic benefit for the town and the region."

Blais said he remembered the early days when Palmer was barely mentioned in state discussions about rail expansion. "I'm proud to see that we're on the map now," he added.

Ben Hood, a member of the Palmer Redevelopment Authority and the station steering committee, echoed that sentiment, noting that the proposed stop could help reverse decades of economic stagnation. "We're in Massachusetts but underserved," Hood said. "Thanks to MassDOT, they're looking at us now."

Several other residents and regional planners expressed similar optimism, calling the project a potential catalyst for growth in Palmer and surrounding communities. Supporters said passenger service would benefit residents of Amherst, Belchertown, Monson, Ware, Wilbraham, and the Brookfields, who currently rely on long commutes or limited bus routes to reach major cities.

**Grassroots Effort Helped Bring Rail Back Into Focus**

Since its founding in 2015 by Ben Hood and Anne Miller, Citizens for a Palmer

Rail Stop has been instrumental in advocating for restored service through the Quaboag Valley. The group has organized community events, worked with local and regional planners, and pushed for Palmer's inclusion in every state rail study over the past decade.

Hood, who currently serves as the Governor's appointee to the Palmer Redevelopment Authority, also chairs the Palmer Rail Steering Committee and represents the town on the PVRTA Advisory Board. Earlier, he served on the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation committee that created the Quaboag Connector, an on-demand regional bus service.

Together, Hood and Miller helped found the Western Mass Rail Coalition in 2019, alongside Trains in the Valley, The Train Campaign, and the Chester Railway Station & Museum, to advocate for expanded public transit west of Worcester. They also remain active members of the Western Massachusetts Transportation Advocacy Network (WMTAN).

"For ten years, we've been asking for Palmer to be part of the rail conversation," Miller said. "Now it's finally happening, and we need to make sure it's done right."

**Long Path of State Planning**

The current conceptual design follows several years of study and planning by MassDOT. The agency's East-West Passenger Rail

Study, completed in 2021, included Palmer in all three final route alternatives. In January 2024, Rail and Transit Division Administrator Meredith Slesinger announced the selection of consultants to lead the design and environmental review process, emphasizing that Palmer "is a key location identified in every previous study."

MassDOT's FY2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan earmarked \$4 million for the Palmer station's design phase, and the project has since been accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor ID Program, positioning it to compete for future construction funding.

**Critics Raise Concerns About Location and Transparency**

Despite the progress, not all attendees supported the proposed site in Depot Village, near the CSX freight yard.

Bernie Fontaine questioned why the new facility would not be built closer to the historic downtown station. "To me, a train station is a building... like the one we already have downtown," Fontaine said. "If you can't make it work there, then maybe look at Wilbraham or Brimfield."

Blake Lamothe, representing the Central Corridor Passenger Rail Coalition, said his organization was excluded from the site-selection process and has filed a nine-page lawsuit and formal complaint against MassDOT. In the filing, the group alleges lack

of transparency in the design process, argues that key records and deliberations were withheld, and contends that MassDOT's decision-making did not sufficiently consider alternative locations or the possibility of integrating the north-south rail corridor. The complaint calls on the agency to make internal documentation public and pause further design work until a more inclusive evaluation is conducted. (MassDOT has not yet publicly responded to the suit.)

Lamothe asserted that the planning process ignored the town's potential as a rail hub. "We were never consulted," he said. "This planning process has lacked transparency, and it ignores the north-south corridor that could connect Palmer to Vermont and Connecticut." He argued that a downtown station could support both east-west and future north-south service, creating a true regional hub.

His daughter, Scarlet Lamothe, shared that sentiment, saying, "This isn't just about Palmer. It's about the entire region and the missing north-south connection." She also warned of a cautionary precedent: Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where an initially remote station location was later relocated downtown after ridership flagged. "If you build it in the wrong place, you'll end up moving it anyway," she said.

Requests for Amenities and Historical Recognition

Other residents offered practical suggestions. Ste-

phen Nowak of the Palmer Historical Commission urged MassDOT to incorporate signage, public art, and other features highlighting Palmer's rail heritage. "This is the Town of Seven Railroads," Nowak said. "It would be nice to see that history reflected at the station."

Some called for indoor waiting areas, restrooms, and staffed ticket kiosks, while others requested additional parking or shuttle service to downtown. Jeremy Green, who lives near the proposed site, raised concerns about noise and lighting. "We're not opposed to progress," Green said. "We just want it to be safe and sensible for those of us who live right here."

**MassDOT Addresses Questions**

Responding to concerns, Koziol and Velickovic emphasized that the conceptual design is a "feasibility framework," not a final construction plan. Velickovic said additional environmental, traffic, and access studies will be included in the final report due later this year.

"We looked at multiple sites and chose this one because it provides space for parking, bus circulation, and freight compatibility," Velickovic said. "Our modeling shows minimal traffic impact and full ADA compliance."

Koziol reiterated that while renderings showed a small building, most Amtrak stations with fewer than 20,000 annual riders operate as unstaffed facilities with

covered platforms. "That said, we're not ruling out future expansion if demand increases," he added.

**Regional and Educational Connections**

Advocates noted that a Palmer station would serve not only the town's 12,000 residents but also surrounding communities across the Quaboag Valley and beyond. Supporters envision extending PVRTA's Belchertown-UMass bus route to the station, allowing students and staff from the University of Massachusetts Amherst to connect to rail service toward Worcester and Boston.

A similar route could link UConn Storrs students through Stafford Springs, providing new north-south connectivity. "This isn't just about trains," Miller said. "It's about connecting our communities and keeping students, workers, and families mobile."

**Community Response Mixed but Hopeful**

As the evening concluded, Nancy Farrell thanked attendees for their civility and reminded them that written comments could be submitted to MassDOT for inclusion in the final report.

Although divisions remain over the site and process, many residents expressed relief that the project is moving beyond talk. "It's been over 50 years since the last passenger train stopped in Palmer," one resident said. "Whatever happens next, we're finally on track again."

**SCHOOLS** | from page 1

shared that the Scholastic Book Fair raised over \$4,000, and students enjoyed field trips and special events such as Grandparents Day and Custodian Appreciation Day. "We're thankful for all our amazing custodians," they said jointly.

**Superintendent's Report: Academic Growth and Recognition**

Superintendent Matthew Francis presented the annual State of the District report, detailing academic

data, demographic trends, and areas for improvement. Palmer saw gains in student growth and science achievement across grades, countering statewide declines.

Francis also honored Palmer High senior Isabella Chen as the district's 2025 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award recipient. Chen, who came to the U.S. four years ago, excels in multiple AP courses and is applying to RPI, MIT, and Northeastern for computer science. "Isabella embodies our core

values of respect, safety, community, responsibility, and kindness," Francis said. "She's a true example of what makes Palmer proud."

The district's accountability rating rose to 54%, placing it in the top third among comparable districts. Palmer High was designated a "School of Recognition" by the state for improvements in ELA and math. Francis praised staff and students for their progress. "It's a banner we want to keep adding years to... never taking it down," he said.

**HEALTH** | from page 4

gled for years whether "falling back" is still necessary, as it requires students to get up while it's still dark, and sunset comes ever earlier.

The effects on our bodies are profound. With less exposure to natural light, we sleep more, which can affect mood, focus, memory and energy. Later sunrises might make it harder to get out of bed in the morning, and daytime drowsiness becomes more frequent.

**Less physical activity**

Chilly mornings and earlier darkness may make us less likely to get that morning or evening walk in. We sit and watch football, eating nachos and drinking beer, rather than get outside ourselves. All of this can lead to weight gain, which also affects mood.

**More frequent illnesses**

As we are indoors more, we are exposed to more viruses, bacteria and allergens, and that's why flu, COVID, colds and allergies come on more frequently. Drier air also has an impact, as it dries up our nasal mucous, which is designed to trap viruses, and lets those viruses in more easily. Drier noses may also bring on more nosebleeds.

**Other changes**

Researchers have found that people lose more hair in the autumn than in spring or summer, probably having to

do with hormonal fluctuations.

Those hormones may also go to work on the libido – more babies are conceived in November and December than at any other time of the year, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One theory is that sperm quality is better in winter, but of course we're also spending longer nights in bed.

Anxiety can be heightened, associated with the rigors of schoolwork and planning for the upcoming holidays.

And, of course, dry skin becomes more of a problem in the fall, when indoor humidity drops.

**A few tips:**

Get more sunlight: More exposure to sunlight increases Vitamin D, serotonin and dopamine (the feel-good brain chemicals). In particular, morning sunlight helps our bodies sync our circadian rhythms with the season, which in turn helps us sleep better at night. It can also counteract the effects of the blue light emanating from our computers, tablets and phones.

Put your senses to work: Feel the colder air on your cheeks, listen to the leaves crunching under your feet and smell the changes in the air. Smell the crisp air, and perhaps experiment with some aromatherapy scents

indoors – eucalyptus, cardamom, lavender – to elevate mood and tamp down anxiety.

Take care of your skin: Amp up your use of moisturizers, turn off the dehumidifier and avoid long, hot showers and baths. Treating your skin kindly now will help as we head into the even drier winter months.

Try some "fall foods": Eating vitamin-rich vegetables now will help you fight off winter illnesses.

Good choices include squashes (pumpkin, butternut, acorn and the like); green leafy spinach and arugula; and cruciferous veggies like kale, broccoli and cauliflower.

Entertain yourself: Even in the Middle Ages, people enjoyed indoor games like chess, as well as outdoor activities and fall fetes.

As the saying goes, to everything there is a season. Making a few changes in your routines and habits can help you feel better this fall.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to *Turley Newspaper* readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Remark  
5. Upper body part  
8. Expression of dismissiveness  
12. Alternate name  
14. Popular beverage  
15. Swiss river  
16. Step-shaped recess  
18. Rocker Stewart  
19. Bright shade of color  
20. Popular "street"  
21. Wrath  
22. Heat units  
23. Nocturnal omnivorous mammals  
26. Fall back into  
30. Remove from the record  
31. Sound a splash made

32. Popular Dodge pickup model  
33. Jamaican river  
34. Notable event in Texas history  
39. Cool!  
42. Subset of Judaism  
44. Newly entered cadet  
46. Duct in urinary system  
47. Exterminator  
49. Snatch quickly  
50. Have already done  
51. Less healthy  
56. Therefore  
57. What couples say on the altar  
58. Mysteriously  
59. Look angry or sullen  
60. Bird's beak  
61. Taco ingredient  
62. Square measures

63. Google certification (abbr.)  
64. Singer Hansard

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Pubs  
2. Wings  
3. Popular BBQ dish  
4. Small sponge cake  
5. Open-roofed entrance halls  
6. Organize anew  
7. Type of wine  
8. Forums  
9. North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)  
10. Pond dwellers  
11. Large integers  
13. Signaled  
17. Brief  
24. Type of student  
25. Tibetan monasteries  
26. Revolutions per minute

27. NY Giants great Manning  
28. Local area network  
29. Residue from burning  
35. Illuminated  
36. Vasopressin  
37. Notable space station  
38. Wood sorrel  
40. Adhering to laws  
41. Chose  
42. Hovel  
43. Stood up  
44. European city  
45. Works ceaselessly  
47. Mistake  
48. Sun-dried brick  
49. Sicilian city  
52. A steep rugged rock or cliff  
53. Murder  
54. Other  
55. "Deadpool" actor Reynolds

**BIRDS** | from page 4

I received an email from a reader. He said, "I was in my car last evening around 6:30 when I saw a huge, black-winged bird come over Main Street in Barre Plains. When we were kids it was called Canal Road. It was flying low over the street and was trying to gain altitude. The bird appeared just before Rich's Pond and it had what looked like a recent kill in its talons. It accidentally dropped the dead animal, which appeared to be a rabbit, onto the road and what I thought was a vulture turned out to be an adult Bald Eagle."

He said, "Its stark white head and white fanned tail, along with its bright yellow feet and beak were clearly seen and it was startling to be only 25 or 30 feet away from it. The eagle's wing span was

enormous. It made an attempt to recapture its prey by diving quickly back to the road and it had to widely fan out its tail feathers to slow its descent and gain flight control."

He said, "The Bald Eagle then flew high up into a tree along the road near the pond and was waiting for me and all cars to pass before descending on its prey. It was breath taking. We never saw such things as kids."

**Cedar waxwings**

The Barre resident said on recent warm September days he also has been seeing a small flock of cedar waxwings in Gilbertville, along the Ware River, taking bugs in midair over the river and also working trees and bushes that still have some fruit on them.

**Helping birds**

People may also help birds by keeping their cats indoors. Many birds are killed

by cats. It is safer for people's pet cats to kept indoors as they also succumb to predation. If a cat is an outdoor cat, people may put a bell collar on their cat with a quick release mechanism if their pet's collar should get hung up on something.

**Dark-eyed Juncos**

An Oakham resident reported seeing a dark-eyed junco in his yard last week. I saw a small flock of juncos along the road where I live on Oct. 13. Their white tail feathers identified them as they flew up from the side of the road. It was my first sighting this fall.

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

**BOARD** | from page 1

uled for Monday, October 27, noting that department heads participated in a televised overview of warrant articles.

Additionally, she highlighted Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School's expansion into the former Cold Spring School in Belchertown, which will add more than 150 new student seats and new programs including Medical Assisting, Animal/Veterinary Science, and Public Safety.

Wolowicz concluded her report with a public apology for her handling of recent meeting tensions. "I did not mean in any way to create a thought process that any official had ill will," she said. "Sometimes I try to help too much, but I recognize that I need to let people handle things themselves."

**Comcast Responds to Rising Costs and Channel Losses**  
Frustrations over ca-

ble service costs dominated a discussion led by Select Board member John Morrell, who said residents are paying more while losing key Boston stations like WHDH and WCVB.

Eileen Leahy, Comcast's municipal representative, explained that Monson falls under the Springfield Designated Market Area (DMA), which limits access to certain Boston channels. "Programming costs are set by the providers and passed on to us," she said. "We don't control what channels we can carry outside our DMA."

Leahy recommended the company's Now TV service as a lower-cost alternative and confirmed that NECN would remain available to local subscribers.

**School Committee Vacancy to Be Filled by Appointment**

Following the resignation of Colleen Flynn, whose term ran through 2028, the Board opted to fill the School

Committee vacancy through a joint appointment process with the School Committee rather than holding a costly special election.

Town Clerk Mary Watson explained that applications are due October 17 and clarified that the appointed member will serve until the next annual election, when both a two-year and a three-year term will appear on the ballot. "If anyone has questions about the process, please reach out to my office," Watson said.

**Financial Discussion: Cautious Optimism Amid Structural Challenges**

A lengthy discussion centered on Monson's long-term financial outlook. While free cash and revenue projections show short-term stability, the town continues to grapple with rising costs for health insurance, equipment, and infrastructure.

Wolowicz clarified that the positive surplus reported in the Palmer Journal reflects

only a single-year snapshot. "The challenges come from what's ahead...our insurance costs, inflation, and aging equipment," she said, noting that the town's new ambulance cost \$270,000 and a new dump truck roughly the same.

Board members also cited Proposition 2½ as a limiting factor, as the town's allowable tax levy increases cannot keep pace with inflation.

Select Board member John Morrell warned that even substantial state grants can create strain. "That \$5 million bridge grant sounds great, but it's a state-controlled project," he said. "Our highway surveyor shouldn't be burdened by it."

Wolowicz added that Monson continues to pursue regionalization efforts, including shared 911 dispatch, public health, and animal control services, to reduce costs without sacrificing local autonomy.

**Youth United Kick-Off at First Church of Monson**

MONSON – The First Church of Monson invites all youth to join the Youth United Kick-Off event on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. All are welcome to come, connect, and take part in an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

This exciting program offers young people a safe and supportive environment to connect with peers and mentors, explore their faith, and build lasting friendships.

Throughout the year, Youth United participants can look forward to monthly gatherings,

shared meals, engaging discussions, service opportunities, faith exploration, local excursions, and even a mission trip.

The program aims to help youth grow personally and spiritually while making a difference in their community and beyond. It also provides opportunities for young participants to develop leadership skills and strengthen their foundation for the future.

For more information, contact Erin Wallace at 413-668-7284 or Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick at 413-267-3312.

**DEGNAN** | from page 1

letic hall to his list of accomplishments.

Degnan, who retired after the fall 2023 season, which included his final state championship, said he loved being out there every day with the players.

"I never thought of it as a job," Degnan said. "I loved being there and loved coaching the girls."

Following his retirement, he received United State Soccer Coaches Association's Small Public Schools Girls Coach award. Degnan went out to California to receive the honor in early 2024.

The national honor was a fitting tribute for an accomplished coach who won countless sectional titles, along with the state championship.

During the last decade, his teams were particularly dominant, and he was able to lead his group to victories over much larger schools on many occasions. He often sought to play a division above Monson's enrollment in order to challenge his team, and looked to play larger schools in the regular season to help ready his team for the challenges they would face in the new statewide tournament.

Through it all, Degnan always has maintained an even keel temper on the bench, and his teams play with composure and a great deal of precision, showing he gets the most from all of his players.

He said having such great players over the years led to his success.

"I was fortunate to coach so many quality players," said

Degnan.

In many cases, even "rebuilding" years, where he has graduated many seniors the previous season, have been widely successful.

Degnan's selection to the Athletic Hall of Fame was special in that the usual five-year requirement by the selection committee was waived to induct the coach this year. He has only been retired from coaching for two years. The rule is usually that an inductee be at least five years removed from their role whether it be as a player, coach, or contributor. The five-year rule is standard among many halls of fame in existence.

"The committee decided to put him in with his outstanding credentials," said James Duggan of the Hall of Fame Committee.

Degnan said the induction was very meaningful to

him to be among names of people who he admired.

"There are so many people in the Hall of Fame that I respect," Degnan said. "This is really special."

While Degnan has stopped coaching, you can still find him at many games, as he continues to show his support for the girls soccer program. He will have the opportunity to once again watch them host home games in the upcoming Division 5 state tournament in a couple of weeks.

Degnan finished his coaching career after 30 years, a couple of state championships, six sectional titles, 14 leagues titles, and one of the most important things to him, nine sportsmanship awards for his teams. He spent 11 coaching junior varsity and then 19 years coaching varsity.

**Opacum Land Trust announces fall events schedule**

BRIMFIELD – Opacum Land Trust programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Mark your calendars and RSVP now for these upcoming events and help us celebrate 25 years of local land conservation. To RSVP or for information on any events, please visit [www.OpacumLT.org/events/](http://www.OpacumLT.org/events/)

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Woods Walk at Stevens Brook School Community Forest, Holland

Join OLT Executive Director, Laney Wilder, and Holland Trails Association's Dick Haller for a walk to explore a portion of the 150 acres that the Town

of Holland, Massachusetts has acquired for recreation and conservation with support from Opacum Land Trust. We'll hike for about 1.5 hours and explore this beautiful, forested property along Stevens Brook. Due to a few steep sections and uneven footing, this is a moderate walk. Free program, RSVP required.

Opacum Land Trust is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2000, with a mission to protect the land, water, and wildlife of southcentral Massachusetts. We currently protect 4,095 acres of land with the help of our members and supporters. For more information go to [www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org) or find us on Facebook.

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# Public notices

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Town of Holland  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, November 4, 2025  
6:00 PM  
in the Holland Town Hall  
27 Sturbridge Road,  
Holland, MA 01521  
FY22/23**

**Community Development  
Block Grant Remaining Funds**

The Holland Select Board will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Town Hall located at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA** regarding its FY22/23 CDBG grant performance to include the potential use of remaining funds after the completion of the Union Road Infrastructure Improvement Project. During the hearing an overview of the potential projects to include infrastructure improvements or Engineer design for the areas of Over the Top Road, Forest Park Drive, Pinecrest Drive, Knollwood Road, ADA Study on Municipal Buildings and Properties and Other projects vocalized during the meeting. The Select Board will seek public input on the project.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance review will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town several days prior to the hearing date at (413)-245-7108 ext. 101. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Holland Town Administrator, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521, Attn: Stacy Stout.

For further information contact Sarah Maroney at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or smaroney@pvpc.org.  
10/16, 10/23/2025

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

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 6 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 10th, 2025 at 6:15PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Scott Giard, is requesting a Finding under §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to allow for the replacement of an existing shed with a larger shed in the setback. The property is located at 1287 South Main Street, Palmer, MA. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 55, Lot 165.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard

on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

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

Dennis Fountain, Chairman  
Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
10/23, 10/30/2025

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

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

The applicant, Richard Dranka, is requesting a Finding under §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an addition four feet into the setback. The property is located at 3118 South Main Street, Bondsville, MA. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 86, Lot 112.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

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

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

Dennis Fountain, Chairman  
Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
10/23, 10/30/2025

**Palmer  
Conservation Commission  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:40 PM, Tuesday, November 4, 2025** at the Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Notice of Intent** application for the proposed construction of a residential home, domestic well, leach facility, and driveway. Disturbance is proposed in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). No work is proposed to occur within the 50-foot No Disturb Zone to this wetland resource area. The project location is Lot 4 Peterson Road (Map 14, Lot 17-13), Palmer, MA. The applicant making the request is Hampden Homebuyers.

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair,  
Palmer Conservation  
Commission  
10/23/2025

**Palmer  
Conservation Commission  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:50 PM, Tuesday, November 4, 2025** at the Town Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Notice of Intent** application for earth removal operations. Earth removal operations that would impact the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) include site clearing, topsoil stockpiling, earth removal operations, and vegetation restoration. No work is proposed to occur within the 50-foot No Disturb Zone to this wetland resource area. The project location is Ware Street (Map 37, Lot 15), Thorndike, Palmer, MA. The applicant making the request is JT Brown Nominee Trust.

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair  
Palmer Conservation  
Commission  
10/23/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD17P2076PM**

**In the matter of:  
Cooper John Magan  
of Palmer, MA  
Protected Person/  
Disabled Person/Respondent  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR'S  
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **fifth to the seventh** account(s) of Meredith Oliver of Palmer, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/13/2025**. This day is

NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

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

Date: October 09, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccamoni**  
Register of Probate  
10/23/2025

(SEAL)  
**THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE TRIAL COURT  
Docket Number:  
25 SM 003114  
ORDER OF NOTICE**  
To: **May Nsubuga; Ritah Nalunga**

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

**CMG Mortgage, Inc.** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Three Rivers (Palmer), numbered 37 North Street, given by May Nsubuga, Ritah Nalunga to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CMG Mortgage, Inc. dba CMG Home Loans, dated July 17, 2023, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25081, Page 149, 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 **December 1, 2025**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on October 14, 2025.

Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
28304  
10/23/2025

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Bridget K. Sloan and Joseph C. Sloan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns, dated November 16, 2018 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22449, Page 172, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 23042, Page 332 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on November 6, 2025 at 92 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land with buildings thereon in BRIMFIELD, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being further bounded and described as follows:

The land being shown as Lot 4 on the westerly side of Wales Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, on sheet 1 of 2 on a plan entitled "PLAN OF LAND, BRIMFIELD, MA, PREPARED FOR: JEFFREY L. PAULIN", dated March 26, 2004, drawn by Fancy Land Surveying, 3 Hastings Road, Spencer, MA and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 333, Page 53 and Book of Plans 333, Page 54. Said Lot 4 containing 1.532 acres (66,750 +/- square feet) according to said plan. For title reference see Deed Book 22449, Page 128.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes,

tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00)** in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,  
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
22-003513  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2025

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**OBITUARY POLICY**

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

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

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

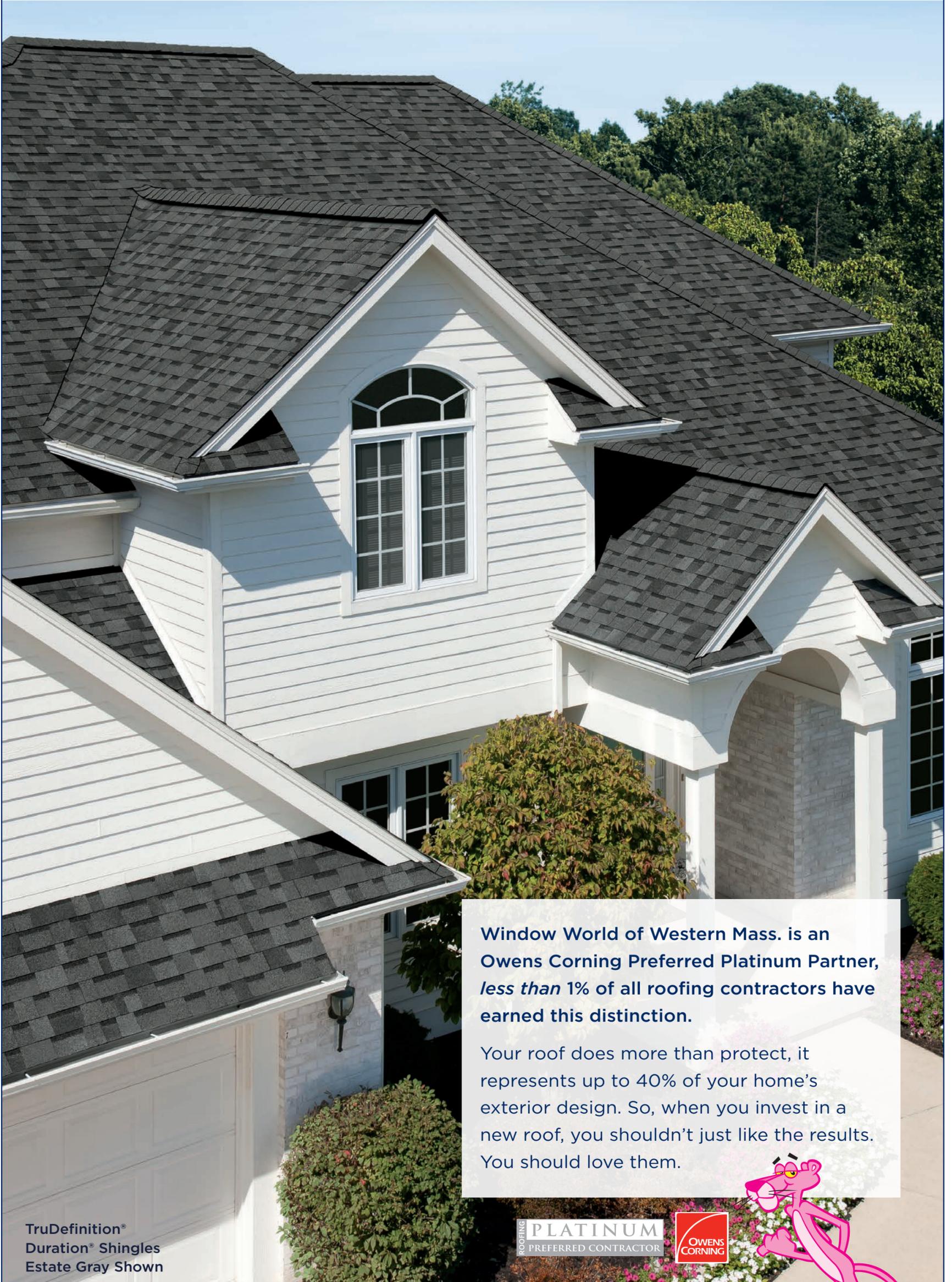
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