

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com
 October 29, 2026 | Vol. CLXXV, No. 40 | \$1.00
 www.journalregister.turley.com

Magical Halloween



Submitted photo
The annual Trunk-or-Treat was held at the Brimfield Winery this past Saturday. Attending were Brimfield residents Brynley as Hermione Granger, Logan as a Munchkin, and Kensie as Glinda from Wicked.

PALMER

New home for DPW

Headquarters moving to Park Street

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

PALMER – The town has acquired 1307 Park Street (formerly Jackson’s Auto and Demore’s Automotive), which will serve as the new Department of Public Works headquarters.

The property was acquired for \$1.3 million, which includes the sale price, engineering, and legal fees.

Officials said moving the DPW headquarters from Bridge Street to Park Street will improve operations and provide increased accessibility.

“The purchase of the Park Street building provides a cost-effective way to address the town’s facility needs for the Department of Public Works,” said Town Council President Barbara Barry. “Acquiring an existing commercial property that meets the town’s needs avoids the considerably higher expense of constructing a new facility.”

DPW | page 5

MONSON



The DiPasquale family, of Monson, shows off spooky costumes. Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

Families treated to fun evening

Trunk-or-Treat a success at MHS

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

MONSON – The community came together last weekend to give local kids an early opportunity to collect candy and show off their costumes.

Held on Oct. 24 at Monson High School, the Monson PTSA’s annual Trunk-or-Treat program drew a large attendance of super-

heroes, sports stars, creepy clowns, and plenty of ghoulish guests.

The event is made possible each year by Monson residents, business owners, and members of town departments who distribute candy from creatively decorated vehicles.

“The Monson PTSA’s annual Trunk-or-Treat event is a wonderful display of what makes our school community special,” said Monson Public Schools Superintendent Paul Foster. “I love seeing families, staff, and community members

create a fun, safe, and memorable environment for our students, along with some friendly competition for the best decorated trunk.”

Members of the Monson Police and Fire Departments once again decorated elaborate setups for the event, while several other community partners welcomed guests to their own haunted worlds on wheels.

“We are so excited to be invited to the Monson PTSA Trunk or Treat every year. Attending events like this

TREATED | page 11

PALMER

Old Mill Pond School hosts Trunk-or-Treat

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Last week, ghouls and goblins were seen roaming the school district as part of Old Mill Pond Elementary School’s annual Trunk-or-Treat.

With Halloween just around the corner, Old Mill Pond celebrated the season with its annual Trunk-or-Treat on Oct. 23. Families were invited to come to the school’s campus in costume to collect candy handed out by local organizers and community members.

“We had an amazing turn out tonight to our annual Trunk or Treat event, we hope everyone had fun,” the school said in an online statement. “We appreciate all those who have donated trunks to this event, we could not do this without all of you.”

TRUNK | page 6



Turley Photo by Marcelo Gusmão
Lion-themed costumes represented the Lions Club, (from left) Natalie Pacheco, Joy Trombly and Brenda Brouillette.

WEST-EAST RAIL

New funding for west-east rail project

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

REGION – Senator Jake Oliveira joined several local leaders at a press conference last week announcing major federal funding for west-east rail projects.

Governor Maura Healey, Senator Edward Markey, and Congressman Richard Neal led the conference at Springfield’s Union Station to celebrate \$130 million in federal funding to modernize rail infrastructure across western Massachusetts.

“Our communities deserve the same access to reliable transportation, economic opportunity, and regional connectivity as the rest of the Commonwealth,” Oliveira said.

Earlier this year, Oliveira secured \$5 million in the Senate’s economic development legislation to advance a passenger rail stop in Palmer. The project

will benefit residents from throughout western Massachusetts, officials said.

The \$130 million federal funding package, allocated for the Springfield Hub Modernization Project, will improve existing passenger rail service along the Connecticut River Line.

“These federal investments will improve service at Springfield Union Station, address longstanding rail bottlenecks, and lay the groundwork for stronger connections between Boston, Springfield, Albany, and communities in-between,” Oliveira added.

The modernization project is part of the state’s Compass Rail vision, centered on Springfield Union Station and building on existing Amtrak Vermonter, Hartford Line, and Valley Flyer services.

“This is a major win for western Massachusetts and a big step forward for

RAIL | page 5

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



MASSACHUSETTS IS
TOO EXPENSIVE.

Lower Electric Bills
 Relief at the Pump
 Lower Taxes

The Legislative Audit
 Lower the Cost of Goods



Peter Warren
 State Representative

East Longmeadow | Hampden
 Longmeadow | Monson | Springfield

Paid for by the Warren Committee



PeterWarrenForMA.com

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

SOCCER

Tough finale for Mustangs

MONSON – Last Thursday afternoon, it was all Chicopee Comprehensive in the regular season finale for the Colts and Monson boys soccer. The Colts took care of Monson 6-0.

In the win, Rodney Blanc three goals while three others had single goals. The loss dropped Monson to 7-8-1 on the season while Comp

improved to 4-12. Monson is in a tough position looking to make the state tournament. Monson is out of the state tournament currently, but had made the Western Mass. tournament.

The Mustangs need two wins in the tournament or a win or a recorded tie in order to make the state tournament with a .500 record.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Defender James Bridges looks to clear the ball.



Goalie Jackson Pignone makes a save.



Brennan Peterson is closely pursued by a defender.



Caleb looks to turn play around.



Niko Matthieu heads up the field.



Kresian Casseus tries to lift the ball over an opponent.

FIELD HOCKEY

Panthers put up great effort against Tigers

PALMER – Last week, the Palmer High School field hockey team has a tough challenge against a one-loss team in South Hadley.

The Panthers were in the game the entire time, only falling to the Tigers 2-0

last Wednesday afternoon. The Panthers would lose 2-1 against Hampshire Regional and finished the regular season 1-12-2.

The Panthers had non-playoff games scheduled this week.



Brooke Swistak guides the ball toward the opposing goal.



Anna Wu tries to navigate through traffic.



Noah Fredette fights for the ball.



Goalie Vinny Govine tries to make a safe.



Isabelle Braden sends a clearing hit away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

SOCCER

Pioneers fight to scoreless draw

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, the Pathfinder Tech girls soccer team had a 0-0 tie against Smith Academy and are 7-2-2 for the regular season. Pathfinder did not qualify for the Western Mass. Tournament, but will make

the state tournament this year. The girls will have non-playoff matchups against Hampden Charter, Cape Cod Tech, and Mt. Everett to close out month before facing an opponent in the state tournament.



Whisper Wagher fights with an opponent for the ball.



The Pioneers face Athol last Monday afternoon.



Amber Roman tries to clear the ball away.



Aubrey Ortiz goes after a loose ball.



Josephine Boyko tries to make a stop on defense.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Goalie Madison Boulrice pounces on a shot.