

The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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MONSON

Annual Monson Memorial Classic marks 29th year

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Runners and spectators filled downtown Monson on Sunday afternoon, October 26, for the 29th annual Monson Memorial Classic Half Marathon and 5K, a cherished

community tradition that continues to blend athletic challenge with heartfelt remembrance and charitable giving.

The event was first organized in 1996, held in memory of sisters Kelly Waldron and Kathy Wal-

CLASSIC | page 8

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Motion to shrink Select Board fails

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Over 400 of Monson's residents filled the Granite Valley Middle School auditorium Monday night as voters tackled a 32-article warrant at the Oct. 27 Special Town Meeting, with most financial items passing easily and extended debate reserved for two issues: the powers of the police chief and the size of the Select Board.

Moderator Laurent "Larry" MacDonald opened the evening by reminding residents that town meeting "is the purest form of democracy still practiced today," urging participants to speak respectfully and follow parliamentary procedure. He thanked town officials, Finance Committee members, and volunteers who helped organize the session, noting that "we form the town's legislative body and act on matters important to all of us."

BOARD | page 8

PALMER



Madam Celestara Moonwhisperer gave many tarot readings to many of the patrons of the magical night market.

Magical Night at the library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Public Library was transformed into a whimsical "magical night market" on Thursday, October 24, as teens filled the building for an evening of costumes, crafts, fortune-telling, and festive fun during the library's second annual Halloween Party.

The event, hosted by Youth Services Librarian Olivia Chartrand, drew dozens of families for an evening of hands-on activities, games, and creative performances that brought a sense of magic and imagination to the library's community space.

"This isn't our first-ever Halloween party, but it's the second one I've hosted," Chartrand said. "We used to have someone else run it a few years ago, and when they moved on, I picked it back up last year. So this is the second in a row and we're really proud of how it's grown."

Chartrand credited the event's success to her Youth Advisory Board, a group of local kids aged 10 and up



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
The primary games and seating for the party were in the community room and the dim lighting with the addition of colored string lights gave the area a very magical feel.

who meet regularly to help plan programs, advise on youth collections, and brainstorm new ideas.

"They really helped create the concept for the party," Chartrand said. "They came up with activities, helped decorate, and brought so much energy to

the whole thing. It's their creativity that really shapes what we do here."

This year's event adopted the theme of a magical night market, introducing new experiences for attendees. Stations were set up

MAGICAL | page 9

PALMER

Fire District allocates funds to help with ambulance deficit

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – At a special district meeting held earlier this month on Wednesday, October 22, Palmer Fire District 1 voters approved two financial transfer articles aimed at closing a state-defined spending deficit tied to

the department's transition to a full-time ambulance service. Officials emphasized throughout the evening that the actions were strictly procedural and required to comply with state Department of Revenue (DOR) rules.

District Moderator Steve Marhelewicz opened the meeting by clarifying that the

\$357,975.44 deficit reflected an accounting requirement rather than an operational shortfall. "These are state rules, and they don't make any sense," he said, urging residents not to interpret the articles as a sign of mismanagement. "We're not spend-

FUNDS | page 9

PALMER

Korzec named 2024 Massachusetts State Field Hockey Coach of the Year

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Palmer High School's longtime field hockey coach, Heather Korzec, has been named the 2024 Massachusetts State Field Hockey

Coach of the Year, an honor recognizing her leadership, perseverance, and dedication to a program that has weathered years of challenges while continuing to build a foundation for the sport's future in town.

Korzec, who first began coaching in 2001, said the rec-

ognition came as a surprise. "I believe I was nominated by [athletic director] Matt Marciniaik, and then it goes to a board within the MIAA," she said. "I was notified about three weeks ago. I don't really know the whole process, but I'm very grateful."

Despite receiving the

award for a season in which Palmer did not record a win, Korzec's impact was felt far beyond the scoreboard. The 2024 season was one of rebuilding and reflection, as she worked to sustain the program and advocate for changes that could keep smaller teams like Palmer's competitive.

"In the last few years, I've seen several Western Mass programs dissolve," Korzec explained. "We used to play Pioneer Valley Regional and Athol, but both dropped their teams. I've probably seen five programs disappear since I started coaching. When you don't have a feeder program and you're playing against schools that do, you can get beat up every game and kids lose interest."

Determined to prevent that from happening in Palmer, Korzec analyzed the five-year records of field hockey programs across Western Massachusetts and developed a realignment proposal aimed at balancing competition among schools. Her plan, which gained support from other coaches and was ultimately adopted by athletic directors, took effect for the 2025 season.

"It really worked out," Korzec said. "It's made a huge

difference. The upper-level teams now face stronger competition, which helps them in the state tournament rankings, while programs like ours get the chance to play more competitive, balanced games."

That shift has already shown results. Although Palmer's 2025 season has been marked by injuries, the Panthers have earned their first win since 2019 or 2020 and posted a record of 2-11-2 heading into the fall's final stretch.

"Our team is learning how to win," Korzec said. "They haven't had that experience in so long, but now they're playing full games and fighting until the end. We've had several one-goal games and come-from-behind ties.

COACH | page 9



Heather Korzec, winner of the 2024 Field Hockey Coach of the Year.



Heather Korzec with the 2025 Palmer Field Hockey team.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



MHS hosts annual 'TRUNK OR TREAT'

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson High School parking lot was filled with laughter, costumes, and candy on Saturday evening as families gathered for the 12th annual “Trunk or Treat,” hosted by the Monson High School PTSA.

The event, which has become a cherished autumn tradition for local families, brought together roughly 30 decorated trunks. Each trunk is hosted by community members, parent volunteers, and local organizations including the Monson Police and Fire Departments.

“This is our 12th year doing Trunk or Treat,” said Denise Newland, president of the Monson PTSA. “We’ve held it at the high school for the last three years now. Before that, we were up at Quarry Hill for several years, but this location is definitely bigger and much easier for parking and access.”

The high school’s large parking lot allowed families to spread out, creating a safe and festive environment for children to collect candy, admire costumes, and participate in the event’s signature activity, voting for their favorite decorated trunk.

“We usually get somewhere between 200 and 300 kids coming through,” Newland explained. “We hand out voting tickets so they can pick their favorite trunk. That gives us a good idea of how many people attend each year.”



Matthew, little Mason, and Megan Walch all enjoy the trunk-or-treat festivities.



Fran Jacques shows off as a vampire with a sick blood red ride.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



The Monson Police Department brought Santa and his elves to hand out candy.



The Grinch was “locked up” in the police cruiser, delighting trick-or-treaters.

This year’s top three “Best Trunk” winners received donated gift certificates to local favorites: The Better Bean, Adam’s, and

Maria’s Pizza.

Beyond the candy and costumes, Newland emphasized that Trunk or Treat plays an important role in

strengthening community ties, particularly in a town like Monson, where homes can be spread far apart.

“Trunk or Treat is great for the little kids, and it’s especially good for families who don’t live in a central neighborhood,” she said. “It gives everyone a safe,

welcoming place to trick-or-treat...and it’s a way for people who might not get any trick-or-treaters at home to still take part in the fun of giving out candy.”

She added that the event also helps connect new families with the local schools and educators. “A lot of the

trunks are run by preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers,” Newland said. “It’s a really good community-building event, a chance for young families to get to know the schools, the staff, and each other.”

As parents mingled and children dashed from trunk to trunk in creative costumes, the evening highlighted what Newland described as the true spirit of the event: community connection, childhood joy, and safe, inclusive fun.

“It’s a smaller step for the little kids before Halloween night,” she said with a smile, “and it’s also a safe area where parents can let them explore a bit more freely. That’s what makes it so special.”

The PTSA plans to continue the tradition next year, keeping Monson’s Halloween spirit alive and welcoming for all.



The Monson Fire Department invited kids to spray a hose to knock over a mini skeleton.



A Beetlejuice-themed trunk stood out among the displays.

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

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BRA marks decade of 'TRUNK OR TREAT'

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – The Brimfield Recreation Association celebrated more than 10 years of festive Halloween tradition on Saturday evening with its annual Trunk or Treat event, held once again at the Brimfield Winery. What began as a small community gathering in the Brimfield Elementary School parking lot has since grown into one of the town's most anticipated seasonal celebrations, now drawing hundreds of families and dozens of creatively decorated cars.

Event organizer Sarah Rogers said the 2025 edition brought in approximately 40 to 45 decorated trunks, each hosted by local families, businesses, and community groups offering candy and seasonal cheer to children from across the area.

"We started out small at the elementary school, and now the winery has been our home for the last several years," Rogers said. "It's a great space, and we love the partnership with Brimfield Winery. We've had as many as a thousand children come through in past years."

The annual Trunk or Treat is made possible through a combination of community support and volunteer effort. Rogers noted that police and fire personnel are on-site each year to help with safety and crowd management, while a local DJ provides music to keep the atmosphere lively.

In addition to trick-or-treating, the event traditionally features a children's costume contest and various Halloween-themed activities. This year's celebration was expect-



Visitors stopped by a mystical trunk where a live fortune teller read their futures.

ed to run for about two hours, with visitors arriving steadily throughout the evening.

"We just try to keep a steady flow going so it doesn't bottleneck," Rogers explained. "It's usually just the beginning that gets a little crazy, but once it starts moving, it's a smooth go."

In previous years, the event included a public voting system for the best-decorated car, but due to limited volunteer availability, this year's winners will be selected informally by a small group of judges; including both adults and children asked to share their favorites.

"We didn't have enough volunteers to manage a full voting system this time," Rogers said. "But we still want to recognize creativity and make sure everyone has fun with it."

Rogers emphasized the ongoing need for community participation to help the event continue thriving.



The Wizard of Oz came to life with a themed doorway and a hidden "wizard" peeking through the "O" in Oz.

"We could always use more volunteers to keep this running," she said. "It's a big turnout every year, and we're so thankful to the winery for letting us use their field and to everyone... our public safety departments, our community partners, and all the families who come out to

make it special."

The evening's festivities included music, costumes, and candy galore; a reminder of how long-standing traditions, even those that began modestly, can grow into signature community events through shared effort and hometown pride.



Glinda the Good Witch, Dorothy, the Scarecrow, and the talking tree joined forces for another Wizard of Oz setup.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



A car-size AT-AT walker, Stormtrooper, and Princess Leia brought Star Wars to this trunk-or-treat.



Anna and Elsa from 'Frozen' sat in a sleigh.



A vintage circus rolled into town, featuring a strongman, jester, and carnival announcer.



The Jurassic Park display was complete with dinosaurs and the iconic movie soundtrack.

Thank you to our Silver Sponsor
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where families save, businesses prosper, communities benefit

Monson Savings Bank is proud to be a Silver Sponsor of the 29th annual Monson Memorial Classic. This event, held in honor of Kelly Waldron and Kathy Waldron Perry, truly demonstrates the values held by the Town of Monson. Monson is a close-knit, family-oriented community with strong principles. We thank the Event Coordination Team and all of the volunteers for organizing this special event. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kelly and Kathy's loved ones.

Daniel R. Moriarty
Monson Savings Bank
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29th Annual



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Do I need to sign up for an Online Social Security Account?

Dear Rusty:

I recently heard the tail end of a radio program, which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account."

I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the SSA to create an online account?

2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.

3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned:

While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity.

It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not manda-

tory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you – you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background?

Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "on-line." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.

2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account?

SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

Nothing will happen, unless you have a need

SECURITY | page 5



Pumpkins of lore and legend

I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids.

Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit (yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate

tassium and fiber, are low in sodium and are fat free. Incidentally, pumpkin seeds when consumed regularly have shown to keep the prostate healthy.

They also contain a healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an the Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcome in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

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

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



that the pumpkin pie may have evolved from the century's long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals. Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat.

When carving pumpkins became more and more trendy, breeders concentrated their efforts on large, elongated, hard-skinned and sturdy pumpkins, in other words, those that would lend themselves best to a spooky face. These, however, may not be the most satisfying to our taste buds.

The smaller, "sugar-type" pumpkin is more appetizing in texture and taste.

Many of you already know that pumpkins are good for you too! The dark orange color of the flesh is a giveaway that, just like carrots, yams and winter squash, the pumpkin is packed with beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A.

Researchers have long been touting the benefits of beta carotene to ward off infection and some types of cancer. It may also slow the aging process.

Besides that, pumpkins contain a healthy dose of po-



"BEEES! RUUUUN!"

It was midafternoon on the fourth day of our backpacking trip through New York State on the Appalachian Trail. A 93-mile hike from the New Jersey border to the Connecticut border in early October.

The first three days had confirmed what others had warned us—the trail through New York would not be easy. Especially this year, when most of the "reliable" streams were bone dry due to the drought. Many days, we were

forced to detour off the trail and hike into towns to procure water. With temps in the 80's, dehydration was an ever-present worry. In addition, the added weight of up to 6.6 pounds of water on our backs made the technical scrambles up steep rock ledges even MORE precarious.

On day 4, we were hustling, intent on hiking as many miles as possible so that we could reach a reliable water source—a water spigot at a pump house—before pitching our tent for the night. We were 12 miles into our day when the unimaginable happened.

Tom was about 75 feet ahead of me, when he suddenly paused and turned back to make sure that I was still behind him. When he saw me a short distance away, he continued on.

Fifteen seconds later, I reached the spot where he had momentarily stopped, and I felt a red-hot sensation on my right arm, followed by another on my left arm. Before I even looked down, I knew that I had just been stung by Yellow Jackets... the most despicable

spawn of satan that has ever inhabited this planet.

Tom must have unknowingly stepped on a ground nest, and they were coming out for vengeance as I walked past.

I screamed in agony as a swarm of them descended upon me—stinging my ankles, thighs, and arms. It felt as though someone was shooting red-hot flaming arrows directly into my skin. A sound that was unrecognizable even to my own ears came out from somewhere deep inside of me. A guttural sound. Like a deep moan intermingled with a high-pitched wail. It bordered on primal. Tom turned at the sound—later telling me that he thought the sound was coming from a wounded animal.

I screamed to Tom to "RUUUUN!" at a decibel that could be heard from miles away, since Tom is deathly allergic Yellow Jacket venom. With adrenaline coursing through my body, I raced along the rock-strewn path like an Olympic medalist, waving my arms to ward off the monsters that were attacking me.

When it seemed as though I was no longer being chased, I finally stopped and bent down to swipe off a dozen Yellow Jackets that were still clinging to my merino wool socks. The pain in my

ankles was excruciating, and I began screaming and crying all at once.

I unclipped my pack and dropped it to the ground so

HIKING | page 5



The Journal Register

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Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

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

journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

**WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AUXILLIARY SHOP**
40 Wright St., Palmer

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 Cookies
- 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

Oct.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 Redeye, 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.

Dec. 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 for more info and to register!

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

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 or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

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

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.

SECURITY | from page 4

to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of

time during which we must "sign up?"

As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affli-

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

HIKING | from page 4

that I could pull out my first aid kit. Within seconds, more yellow jackets were upon me. "They smell the pheromones!" Tom yelled. With no thought of his own safety, he flailed his arms to ward them off and screamed, "RUN Julie!"

Leaving my pack behind, I ran like the speed of light until the wasps finally gave up their chase.

A few minutes later, Tom came barreling up the trail with my enormous backpack in hand. His concerned face was filled with desperation when he saw me. I had been stung over 2 dozen times. Tears were rolling down my face. My arms and thighs were already swelling from the venom, and my ankles were so swollen, they were unrecognizable.

Tom insisted I use his EpiPen, since I had a severe reaction to Yellow Jacket venom in the past. I refused. "We still have 4 more days out here. If YOU get stung, it's life or death. If my throat starts to close, you can inject me. If not, we're saving the EpiPen in case you get stung."

Fortunately, we were only a mile and a half from the water spigot at the next road crossing. Once we got there, I took off my shoes and socks and ran cold water on the stings in a vain attempt to reduce the pain and swelling. I even went so far as to text my kids to ask them to google whether or not urine could reduce the pain and swelling of Yellow Jackets venom. (Desperate times call for desperate measures!) Alas, they responded that it was just a fallacy. Tylenol was my only

option. Needless to say, I spent a pretty sleepless night in our tent that night due to the pain. The intense itching would begin the following morning. Oh, the joys!

Our 7-day hike through New York State was definitely the single most challenging backpacking trip we have ever taken. But each trial made us even more grateful for the blessings we encountered along the way. The sunrises and sunsets. The conversations with fellow hikers around a campfire. The enormous trees. The rare flowing stream. Even the bear encounter while we were brushing our teeth at a primitive tent-site on our second night on trail seemed like a gift. But that's a story for another day. Let the adventures continue!

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at journalregister@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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.

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Editor
10/30/25



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Town collector announces tax bills due on Nov. 3

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

Fiscal Year 2026 2nd quarter real estate and person-

al 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 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 online 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 lockbox 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.

Harvest Fest has crafts, clowns, creativity

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – The Brimfield Public Library came alive with laughter, crafts, and costumed fun during its annual Harvest Fest celebration this past Thursday, October 23, an event that has delighted local families for more than a decade.

Now with more activities than ever before, according to Library Director Rebecca Wells, the fall-themed evening continues to be one of the library's most anticipated traditions. "It's something the whole community looks forward to," Wells said, smiling as children in costume rushed past her with scavenger hunt papers in hand.

Upon arrival, participants received a scavenger hunt sheet challenging them to find hidden items, such as keys, bats, and witches, scattered throughout the building. Those who completed their hunts earned small prizes and pizza coupons. Families also enjoyed seasonal treats like cider and cookies while exploring the festively decorated library.

Several craft stations offered hands-on fun for children, including "ghost crafts" and popcorn "creepy hand" creations topped with spider rings. "It's adorable, seeing how creative the kids get," Wells said.

Adding to the evening's excitement was Maggie the Clown, a longtime entertainer who has been performing for more than 40 years. Dressed in her bright Halloween attire, she mingled with guests,

made balloon animals and balloon swords, and shared laughter throughout the event.

Maggie, whose real name is Nicole Portwood, began her clowning career as a teenager at what was then Riverside Amusement Park in Agawam, now Six Flags New England. "I was 17 when I started," she recalled. "I was working the game booths and saw this clown having the time of his life with a little red wagon. I asked, 'Does he get paid to do that?' When they said yes, I told them, 'Sign me up.'"

That summer job led to something much bigger. After high school, she auditioned for and was accepted into the prestigious Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, an accomplishment she proudly jokes is "harder to get into than Harvard."

Her life eventually came full circle. After decades performing at parties, parades, and local events, Portwood also became an EMT, balancing her clowning career with emergency medical service. "People always say laughter is the best medicine," she said. "Now I get to help people's physical and mental health... sometimes in the same day."

She often finds ways to bring her humor into her EMT work, especially with young patients during calm transports. "I'll take a Kleenex and teach them how to juggle or do a quick magic trick," she said. "It really helps ease their nerves."

Back at the library, laughter filled the air as families admired the pumpkin decorating contest and voted for their favorites, from clas-



Turley photos by
Abigail McCoy

Maggie the Clown entertained families with her bright costume and humor. Inset, Children played with a movable ghost craft, posing it in silly positions.

sic jack-o'-lanterns to more imaginative designs like an axolotl pumpkin.

Outside, Wells greeted each arriving family, welcoming them to the event and snapping photos beneath the spooky outdoor decorations. "It's such a fun way to kick off the season," she said.

The evening also marked the start of the library's annual Best Business Raffle, which raises funds for the Friends of the Brimfield Library. Local families and businesses

donated all the raffle items and gift cards, with proceeds supporting future library programs. Tickets will remain on sale until the drawing on Saturday, December 6.

As the night wrapped up and families drifted out with smiling faces, cider cups, and painted pumpkins, Wells reflected on the event's enduring appeal. "It's all about community," she said. "You can feel the joy in the building...and that's what makes Harvest Fest so special."

Button appraisal to be held 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 donations 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.

Mah Jongg Club offered to all levels

PALMER – Have you ever wanted to learn Mah Jongg? Haven't played in years and would like to? Drop in and join us at the Palmer Public Library for this newly formed, weekly club! Beginners will get help from Joyce, a local Mah Jongg enthusiast and teacher.

The club will primarily meet in the Community Room on Mondays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. If the Community Room has another event, the club will relocate for that day to another area of the library. This club will play the American version of Mah Jongg and follow the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) rules.

Mah Jongg is a 4-person game of strategy and skill that originated in China. There are many versions of this game, with the American version enjoying popularity in the U.S. today. Learning to play involves getting familiar with the tiles, learning the specifics of dealing & play, and especially learning to decipher and become familiar with the official card of playable hands released annually by the NMJL.

Please bring your own Mah Jongg set and current NMJL card if you have them. The library is located at 1455 North Main Street. Questions? Call Amy at 413-283-3330, ext. 121.

Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll

For many people, fall brings open enrollment, the period to choose your medical and workplace benefits for the year ahead.

While it may be easy just to renew last year's choices, that might be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. And your own circumstances might be different.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Many employers offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Check the differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and monthly premiums.

Next, take advantage of flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). These let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses.

And finally, check the insurance options. There may be a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. Make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your family's needs for the coming year.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Lucille Germain, your Edward Jones financial advisor at 1448 Main Street, Palmer MA 01069. Join her Saturday November 1st from 11-2pm at the above address for a free Open House-light refreshments and giveaways provided!

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Join effort to bring justice for Holly Piirainen search

BRIMFIELD — Thirty-two years have passed since 10-year-old Holly Piirainen left her grandparents' home in Sturbridge to see a litter of puppies and never came back. Her disappearance in the summer of 1993, and the discovery of her remains that October in a wooded area off Five Bridge Road in Brimfield, shattered a community and forever changed Western Massachusetts. Decades later, one question still lingers: who took Holly's life?

To honor Holly and continue efforts to solve her case, the Hampden District Attorney's Office will again host a Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) event in Brimfield on Nov. 9, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex, 34 Wales Rd. Any community member is encouraged to take part by providing a simple cheek swab, which could help generate new investigative leads. This marks the second FIGG event the office has hosted in hopes of advancing Holly's case.

Through FIGG, DNA collected from crime-scene evidence can be compared against publicly available genealogy databases to identify distant relatives of unknown suspects - sometimes reaching fourth, fifth, or even sixth cousins. Investigators then use those connections to build family trees, narrow down possibilities, and, in some cases, identify offenders who have eluded justice

for decades.

Participants in this event will not only help expand this critical database but will also receive their own full ancestry and family-tree information free of charge, a service that typically costs up to several hundred dollars.

District Attorney Anthony Gulluni said, "Each new DNA sample has the power to bring us closer to the truth. Holly deserves justice, and her family deserves answers. This effort is about remembering her and using every available tool to find the person responsible."

Holly's case remains open and active. She was last seen around 11:45 a.m. on August 5, 1993, near the intersection of Allen and South Shore Roads in Sturbridge. That day, she told her father she was going to visit a neighboring home to see puppies. About one hour later, Holly was reported missing by her father. A search began, and her father found her sneaker along South Shore Road. Police were notified and a massive search began by local and state police, sheriff's departments, and law enforcement contingents from Connecticut and Rhode Island. The search stretched on for days and weeks, continuing with no results.

On October 23, 1993,



Holly Piirainen

hunters discovered her remains in a wooded area off Five Bridge Road in Brimfield.

The crime scene was photographed and processed by personnel from the Massachusetts State Police, including its Crime Scene Services Section and Crime Laboratory, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Items discovered at or near the location of Holly's remains were documented, seized, and have been maintained by the Massachusetts State Police since that time. Throughout the subsequent investigation into Holly's disappearance and death, evidence has been reviewed, identified for forensic analysis, and subjected to various testing procedures.

Investigators encourage anyone with information related to Holly's murder to contact Holly's Tip-Line at 413-426-3507. You may also use Text-a-Tip by texting the word CRIMES (2-7-4-6-3-7) and typing the word SOLVE into the body of the message, followed by your tip.

Holly's story remains one of heartbreak, hope, and persistence. Thirty-two years later, her community still believes that someone, somewhere, holds the missing piece that could finally bring her family peace.

Football Challenge



Submitted photo

Matt Lemieux, President of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, accepts a friendly challenge from Dan Flynn, Presidents of the Ware Business & Civic Association & Beyond, on the upcoming annual Palmer vs. Ware Football rivalry game. The losing team's respective President will scoop ice cream at Rondeau's Dairy Bar on Sunday, Nov. 2.

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.

Church play on Nov. 2

PALMER — On Sunday, Nov. 2 members of the Second Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ will be performing a play during worship service at 10 a.m. entitled "The New Sandals". All are invited. Join "Eli" a 13-year-old boy in his quest to buy a new pair of sandals.

Discover how a simple shopping trip can lead to changing the life of several people.

Craft fair to be held Nov. 8

THREE RIVERS — Annual Holiday Craft Fair to be held Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is sponsored by the SS Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality of Divine Mercy Parish at 2267 Main Street in Three Rivers.

Beautiful craft items by talented local artists.

Refreshments and lunch available for purchase. Free parking and admission.

Public invited to Button Show

THREE RIVERS — Massachusetts State Button Society's annual meeting and show will be hosted by the Crescent Button Club on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St. in Three Rivers, MA. from 9 am to 3:00 pm.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 am to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There

will be no button sales during the break from noon to 1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and button program "Owls, Magic, and Superstitions" will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting clubs; bring your own brown bag lunch, and desserts will be provided.

There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

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Submitted photos
The Half Marathon Men's Winner: Antonio Lima with a time of 1:15:23.



The Half Marathon Women's Winner: Jenna Gigliotti with a time of 1:22:11.



The 5K Women's Winner: Katie Racicot with a time of 26:15.



The Quaboag Highlanders Bagpipe Band performed to kick off the race festivities.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

CLASSIC | from page 1

dron Perry, who both passed away from cancer within eight months of each other. Kelly battled breast, bone, and liver cancer, while Kathy fought melanoma. The race has since become a lasting tribute to their lives, raising funds for cancer-related charities and other community causes.

"This race is in their memory," said longtime race director Lee Williams, who helped organize the first event nearly three decades ago. "Kelly was in my class, and Kathy was in my brother's. They were wonderful, loving people and this is one way we've been able to keep their spirit alive year after year."

Over the years, proceeds from the race have benefited organizations including the American Cancer Society of Western Massachusetts, American Lung Association, Quaboag Valley Hospice, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This year's proceeds will go to Griffin's Friends, a Springfield-based nonprofit that supports children with cancer and their families.

"Griffin's Friends was

founded in 1994 in honor of Griffin Kelleher, who lost his battle with cancer at just 14 months old," Williams explained. "His father was even here today, volunteering and handing out water to the runners. It really brings the mission full circle."

The event's two certified courses, the 13.1-mile half marathon and 3.1-mile 5K, both finished in front of Monson Memorial Hall, though each started at a different location to ensure official US-ATF-certified distances.

The Quaboag Highlanders Pipe Band once again donated their time to lead runners to the starting lines, a stirring annual tradition that adds both reverence and excitement to the occasion. "They've been doing this for years, and it just wouldn't feel the same without them," said Williams.

Runners were treated to chip timing, live music, and what many call the "best post-race food around," provided by local chef Teri Skinner, owner of Nosh in Springfield. The event also featured prize money, long-sleeve shirts for early half marathon registrants, and finisher medals.

Both of this year's half marathon winners were familiar faces at the top of the leaderboard, and earned an extra \$100 bonus in addition to the \$400 first prize for repeating their victories.

Williams said the event ran smoothly thanks to strong volunteer support, including Tara Slozak, Rachel Meacham, and Sarah Fahey, Williams' daughter, who served as event photographer. "After 29 years, we've really got it down to a science," Williams said. "But it takes an amazing team to make it all come together."

In addition to the charitable proceeds, this year's runners also brought dozens of canned goods for the Monson Open Pantry, reinforcing the event's focus on community service. "We had a great amount of donations from participants... it's so important these days," Williams said.

As runners crossed the finish line under the crisp October sky, the sounds of bagpipes faded into applause, and Monson once again showed that its spirit of remembrance, resilience, and community is as strong as ever.



Half-marathon runners lined up at the starting point, ready to begin the race.



Runners in the 5K made their way up Main Street, staying to the right as volunteers managed traffic.



Jordan Doyle performed the national anthem before the start of the event.

BOARD | from page 1

Routine financial transfers approved

The first portion of the meeting moved swiftly as residents approved a slate of budget transfers and appropriations recommended by the Finance Committee. These included allocations from free cash for stabilization accounts, maintenance projects, and departmental needs such as \$57,214 for the Police Chief's retirement buyout and \$17,000 to fund an Acting Council on Aging Director.

Water and sewer enterprise funds were also used to replace aging infrastructure and equipment, including well pumps, door hardware, and wastewater pumps. All 22 of these financial articles passed with little or no discussion.

Library Director outlines funding challenges

The first extended discussion came with Article 12, a request to transfer \$30,000 from free cash to the Monson Free Library. Library Director Hope Bodwell addressed the town to explain the library's unusual structure; owned and maintained by a private Library Association but operated as a public library.

"The town does not maintain the building or the grounds," Bodwell said. "That is through our endowment and donations." Bodwell detailed the Association's recent expenses, including a \$250,000 window replacement project and previous investments in boilers, carpeting, and parking lot expansion.

Bodwell said the town's municipal appropriation requirement, which funds salaries, electricity, and materials, grew by only 1.4% this year, "enough to cover about two heating bills" Bodwell said. Despite cost-cutting measures such as reduced hours and staff, the library still faces a \$27,600 deficit. She noted that library services account for just 1.13% of the town's overall budget, yet the facility logged over 17,600 visitors, 50,000 checkouts, and 343 programs last year.

"We do a lot with a little," Bodwell told voters. "We're here for every person in this community."

Debate Erupts Over Police Chief Authority

The most contentious discussion of the evening centered on Article 15, a proposal to grant the Monson Police Chief "full and absolute



The Joint Committees sat on stage as more than 400 residents filled the auditorium to vote.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Community members filed into the auditorium as the Special Town Meeting began.

authority" over department administration, including the power to appoint officers and issue regulations.

Resident Delores Scott urged voters to reject the measure, calling it "an absurd request for unchecked power." She said the article appeared on the warrant without prior public discussion and was first mentioned as part of police chief contract negotiations held in executive session. "Once this

power is ceded from us to the police, it will be nearly impossible to take it back," Scott warned.

Resident Gretchen Negers also objected, filing an open meeting law complaint over the article's origin. "Things shouldn't just morph from executive session to town meeting without a stop at a public Select Board meeting," she said, arguing voters were being asked to act "on blind faith."

Town Counsel Kate Federoff explained that the article would bring the Police Chief's authority in line with the Fire Chief's existing "strong chief" model, noting that state law treats the two positions differently. "This really just gives the same power to the Police Chief that exists for the Fire Chief," Federoff said, adding that it would clarify existing practice and create a "balance of power" between departments.

But resident Matt Cranham opposed the change, arguing, "Fire and police are apples and oranges. One has arresting authority. We want more accountability, not less."

After lengthy procedural clarification from the moderator, voters approved a motion to pass over the article, effectively tabling it without action.

Secret ballot rejects move to shrink Select Board

The meeting's final major debate centered on Article 23, a citizen's petition from Bob Lamb seeking to reverse the May 2025 decision to expand the Select Board from three to five members. Lamb's proposal would direct the town to petition the legislature to restore a three-member board.

Select Board member Pat Oney attempted to amend the article to require a future

ballot vote, but the moderator ruled the amendment out of order, stating it exceeded the warrant's scope.

Resident Sean Crooks spoke against the article, citing poor timing and flawed language. "The petition to expand the board to five members is still pending at the State House," Crooks said. "The cleanest, most responsible path is to vote this down."

Lamb countered that expanding the board "benefits the few, not the many," adding that Monson's population has dropped 5% since the last census. "Bigger is not better," he said. "I'm calling on everyone to end this toxic division in Monson and coalesce as a community."

After a motion to close debate passed by two-thirds vote, residents cast their votes by secret ballot. The article was defeated 276-146, keeping the five-member Select Board structure in place.

Final Actions: Preservation and Zoning

Voters approved the remainder of the warrant without controversy, including Community Preservation Fund appropriations for projects such as:

- \$21,093 for the Silver Street Chapel,
- \$68,100 for HVAC replacement at the Keep Homestead Museum,
- \$34,147 for Quarry Hill softball field improvements,
- \$86,951 for Veterans Field rehabilitation, and
- \$100,000 for continued restoration at Memorial Hall.

They also authorized a \$284,515 land acquisition of the James A. Richmond parcel for conservation and recreation, and adopted several zoning bylaw amendments addressing large-scale solar arrays, battery storage systems, and updated stormwater management standards to comply with state regulations.

As the meeting adjourned, Moderator MacDonald thanked residents for "showing up to form the town's legislative body," and the audience gave an appreciative round of applause to the Finance Committee for its preparation and diligence.

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MAGICAL | from page 1

throughout the library offering everything from slime "potion-making" to gnomed games and glow-in-the-dark glitter tattoos courtesy of an "elf artist."

"We wanted to give teens something that felt immersive and new," Chartrand said. "It's a mix of fantasy and fun that everyone, no matter what they're into, could enjoy."

Guests could also pose for photos at a dedicated picture station, decorate cupcakes, and enjoy an array of snacks, candy, chips, and cool drinks. Pizza arrived just before 7 p.m. while cupcake decorating and games carried the energy late into the evening.

One of the most popular additions was a costume contest, improved this year with a simple numbering system to make judging easier. "Last year, people were trying to guess who each entry was supposed to be," Chartrand said. "Now everyone just gets a number. It made things so much smoother."

The evening also featured an interactive Hallow-

een bingo, where children introduced themselves to fill out their cards and win king-sized candy bars.

Adding to the magical atmosphere was a fortune-telling station, run by a seasoned tarot reader named Madam Celestara Moonwhisperer, she has practiced for over two decades

"I've been reading tarot for about 20 years," she said. "I actually know someone who works here at the library, and when they mentioned they were hosting a Halloween event, I thought why not?"

Madam Celestara, as she introduced herself to each person who stopped by her table for a reading, used a classic 78-card tarot deck. A typical 78-card deck includes 22 Major Arcana cards, such as The Chariot, The Strength, and The Fool, along with four suits of Minor Arcana: Swords, Pentacles, Wands, and Cups.

Each reading involved three cards representing a person's past, present, and future. "I ask them to think about something they really want to know... they don't have to tell me what it is," she

explained. "Then we interpret what the cards say, based on how they're facing. Sometimes it's amazingly accurate, sometimes it's just fun and reflective."

While October's festivities stole the spotlight, Chartrand hinted at an exciting event planned for November, a K-Pop Demon Hunters singalong movie night.

"It's still in the works, but we're planning a fun watch party with themed snacks and a singalong version of the movie," she said. "Keep an eye on the Palmer Public Library website for



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
A young teen goes all out in a full storm trooper outfit.

details."

As the night wound down, kids left with sticky fingers, full treat bags, and big smiles; a testament to the community spirit and creativity that has become a hallmark of the library's youth programming.

"We just want to make the library a fun, welcoming space where kids can be creative and curious," Chartrand said. "If we can mix learning with laughter, and a little Halloween magic, then we've done our job."



One of the games was spin-the-gourd against Bramblebud the gnome and if your mini gourd spun the longest then you won a prize.

FUNDS | from page 1

ing new money. We're just following the process they tell us to follow."

State Accounting Creates "Paper Deficit"

The deficit stems from the district's rapid pivot from a planned part-time to a full-time ambulance service during fiscal year 2024. At the October 2023 special meeting, voters had appropriated \$95,850 to fund a part-time operation. But within weeks, the private Palmer Ambulance Service ceased operations, forcing the Palmer Fire Department to step in full-time to maintain local emergency coverage.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the district collected approximately \$415,000 in ambulance revenue, about \$320,000 more than initially budgeted, but incurred \$453,825 in expenses, creating a \$38,000 net deficit. Despite that modest shortfall, state rules require the district to offset the entire \$357,975.44 difference between the approved appropriation and actual spending.

"If we don't make these two transfers," Marhelewicz explained, "the state will make us add that \$357,000 to the tax rate. This is purely procedural. The money's already there...it's just being held differently."

Residents Emphasize Confidence in Local Service

Several residents took the opportunity to voice support for the department's handling of the transition to a full-time ambulance service. One longtime resident said the district "did a favor to the community" by stepping



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Prudential Committee members Dan Belanger and Anthony Arventos along with Fire Chief William Bernat helped lead the meeting and give out information.



A large amount of the community came out during this meeting to have some of their questions and concerns answered.

in when Palmer Ambulance shut down. "You need to realize that this department went above and beyond," she said. "I'd rather put my trust in the firefighters I know than in strangers from another town."

Another resident questioned whether the changes would leave the district with limited reserves. Marhelewicz confirmed that after the transfers, free cash would stand at about \$7,000, with an additional \$75,000 in stabilization. "It's not ideal," he acknowledged, "but it prevents a tax spike for residents."

Broader Discussion Turns to District Consolidation

After the warrant articles were approved and the

meeting formally dissolved, discussion turned to a broader issue; whether Palmer's four fire districts could, or should, consolidate. Several Prudential Committee members and residents expressed frustration that fragmentation has long hindered efficiency and access to grant funding.

Prudential Committee member Dan Belanger voiced his personal support for the idea. "Frankly, we're already acting like the fire department for all of Palmer," he said. "We've got full-time staffing and ambulance coverage. But consolidation would come with challenges...different debt loads, budgets, and histories."

Belanger, along with Fire Chief William Bernat, explained that merging districts would require dissolving and recreating district entities under state law. He added that such a move could initially raise the tax rate before long-term savings materialized through shared equipment and staffing.

Prudential Committee Anthony Arventos agreed that consolidation would take time but said the conversation should continue. "It's something we all know needs to happen eventually," he said. "It's just not easy...it was set up 150 years ago this way, and we're still living with that."

COACH | from page 1

They're growing with every match."

One of the year's highlights came during Senior Night, when Palmer celebrated a 3-0 shutout victory. Senior Hannah Roy, who typically plays defense, scored her first varsity goal, while fellow senior Scarlett LaRose anchored the net with a standout performance.

"I wanted to cry," Korzec said. "Hannah scored her first goal, Scarlett had an amazing game... it was everything you hope for on Senior Night. Those two have been through the hardest times with this program. They've stuck by it, worked hard, and deserved that moment."

Looking ahead, Korzec's focus is on long-term development through youth engagement. She plans to launch a feeder program for fifth- and sixth-graders next year to help introduce younger athletes to the sport before they reach high school.

"I've already spoken with former players Noel

Melnick and Ellie Serra, who both agreed to coach if we can get the kids," she said. "Even if we can't form a full team right away, we can at least teach skills and do some small scrimmages. Just getting kids started early is the key."

Korzec said she intends to work with Palmer's new recreation director and the local youth organization to get the program running by next fall.

"Winning this award is awesome," she said, "but what really matters is what I can do with it... using that visibility to grow the sport and keep field hockey alive in Palmer."

For Korzec, whose coaching philosophy centers on effort and resilience, the recognition serves as both validation and motivation. "I love coaching this team," she said. "They just don't quit. The reason I won this award is because I've tried to make things better for them. The future's bright; we're still young, but I think the next few years are going to be really good."

Monson Police Logs

Here is the fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of Oct. 20 thru Oct. 26, 2025. The department responded to 24 EMS calls and 3 Fire calls.

On Monday, Oct. 20 at 9:44 p.m. the department responded to 294 Stafford Road for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 10:27 p.m.

On Tues., Oct. 21 at 1:37 a.m. the department responded to 35 Bolles Road, Wilbraham for the structure fire. The department returned to service at 1:43 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 24 at 11:51 a.m. the department responded to 304 Main Street for the fire alarm sounding. The department returned to service at 12:07 p.m.

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'Monson Moves Together' to help food pantry

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Conant Brook Dam in Monson was bustling with energy this past Saturday, October 25, as local residents gathered for “Monson Moves Together,” a family-friendly hiking event that combined outdoor fun with a heartfelt mission: to raise awareness and donations for the newly established Monson Cupboard food pantry.

The initiative was led by Courtney Senquiz, a Monson resident and community volunteer who wanted to combine her love of hiking with a meaningful cause. “We wanted to raise awareness that the pantry is available to all Monson residents, as well as collect food for the holidays,” Senquiz explained. “With the economy and the recent government shutdown, food insecurity is at an all-time high. We thought this would be a great way to bring the community together.”

The two-mile trail at Conant Brook Dam was transformed into a lively scavenger hunt, complete with hid-



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Volunteer Courtney Senquiz who helped set up the trail and keep track of all the donations and raffle prizes.

den pumpkins, small prizes, and signs of encouragement placed along the route. Each family that participated was encouraged to bring nonperishable food items, and for every donation made, participants received a raffle ticket

for a chance to win prizes donated by local residents, teachers, and businesses. “All the raffle prizes came from people right here in the community,” Senquiz said. “We have contributions from local teachers, Pam-

pered Chef consultants, sports organizations, and others who wanted to lend a hand. It’s really a community effort.”

Senquiz, who also runs a hiking and wellness group aimed at helping women connect through outdoor activity, said the idea for “Monson Moves Together” came naturally. “I love hiking...it’s good for the mind, body, and spirit,” she said. “I started my group to make hiking more accessible and safe for women who might not want to go alone. Then I thought, why not make it a family-friendly event and use it to raise food and awareness for the Monson Community Cupboard before the holidays?”

The Monson Community Cupboard, organized through Monson Together, provides food support for residents in need. It is stocked through donations from the Western Massachusetts Food Bank, local organizations, and individual community members.

Senquiz noted that the event’s turnout was strong, with several families taking to the trail early in the day. “So far, we’ve had about

five families out on the trail. [Town Clerk] Mary Watson and her husband brought their dogs and have been helping with setup, and my family is out here too,” she said with a smile.

Beyond raising donations, Senquiz said her goal was to remind residents that resources exist for anyone struggling with food insecurity. “Get active in your community and know that help is available,” she said. “If you’re food insecure, reach out. Monson Together and the Monson Cupboard are here to support you. We’re all in this together.”

She also extended a personal offer: “If anyone reaches out to Karen [from Monson Together], I’d love to host one family to go grocery shopping with me for a day to help them prepare for the holidays.”

As families continued to walk the wooded trail, children hunting for pumpkins and adults chatting with new friends, the event served as a reminder of what makes Monson strong: a shared commitment to community, compassion, and connection.

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

Monson priorities can be found online at www.MassCulturalCouncil.org along with the link to the online application. The application will be available starting Sept. 2, 2025, and the deadline is October 16, 2025.

Grant proposals being sought

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

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

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

The application will be available starting Sept. 2, 2025, and the deadline is October 16, 2025.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick honored with statewide recognition for decades of public service and educational leadership

MONSON – Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, a longtime educator and recently retired school superintendent with over three decades of service, has been recognized by two of Massachusetts’ leading educational organizations for his exceptional career in public education and community service.

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents recently honored

Dr. Fitzpatrick with a special career tribute, spotlighting his extensive contributions to education leadership across the Commonwealth. In addition, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators presented him with its highest distinction, the Dr. David F. Cronin Award, named in memory of the former State Commissioner for Vocational Technical Education.

A resident of Monson, Dr. Fitzpatrick is widely known for his deep commitment to community service. During his time as Assistant Superintendent at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, he played a key role in establishing essential transportation and nutrition programs for senior citizens in the area.

Beyond his administrative duties, Dr. Fitz-

patrick was instrumental in securing grant-funded service projects, ranging from educational initiatives to community-focused programs. Notably, he helped obtain major grants from the Bureau of Institutional Services, which supported



Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

the transition of clients from the Monson Developmental Center and Belchertown State School into the community.

His commitment to preserving local heritage also led to a state historical landmark renovation grant that enabled era-sensitive restoration work on the Monson Town Hall, an important civic building.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr. Fitzpatrick remains actively engaged in public life — frequently volunteering as a toastmaster for community events and serving as a public service moderator for local cable television programming.

These recognitions underscore Dr. Fitzpatrick’s lasting legacy as a dedicated educator, public servant, and advocate for both vocational education and community development.

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PALMER vs. WARE



Matthew Santos scrambles around during early season action. Turley photos by David Henry



Jaiden Berthiaume heads toward the right side earlier this season.



Jimmy Sem heads to the side.



Landon Couture and Kenith Brown combine for a tackle.



Troy Jurczyk takes the snap. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Alex Orszulak rushes for the Indians.

Panthers looking to score upset of rival Indians

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer and Ware football game is something that people from both communities look forward to attending every fall. While it's a very import-

ant game, Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac tries to treat the game like any other on his team's schedule. "The game does have a lot of tradition," said Marciniac, who has been the Panthers varsity football coach since 2019. "Once the

game starts, you always try your best to make it as normal as possible. The players always look forward to playing Ware, especially the seniors." The 99th meeting on PALMER | page 12

Ware football team looks for 51st win over Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – It has been ten years since Ware High School has suffered a loss on the gridiron to archival Palmer. The members of the 2025 Indians varsity football

team will be looking to keep the Palmer-Ware trophy, which is shaped like a football, for another 365 days. "We've been fortunate to keep the trophy here at Ware High School for the past nine years," said Ware varsity football coach Mike Fazio. "We have our work

cut out for us this year. I've already watched a couple of Palmer football games on video. They do have a couple of stud athletes. Coach (Matt) Marciniac always puts together good game plans against us. We just need to be WARE | page 13

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PHS Football 2025-2026 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade
1	Matthew Santos	QB/DB	12
3	Dylan Doherty	RB/LB	12
5	Hunter Baird	WR/LB	11
7	Jimmy Sem	RB/LB	9
8	Dakota Natalino	TE/LB	11
9	Griffin Nawrocki	RB/CB	11
10	Tarillo Smola	TE/LB	8
11	Adrian Hernandez	RB/LB	11
12	Hunter White	RB/LB	12
14	Kenith Brown	WR/CB	8
18	Kayden Harvey	WR/CB	10
21	Dylan Holbrook	WR/DB	11
22	Daimyon Marrero	WR/DB	10
24	Emilio Argueta	WR/DB	9
56	Dimitri Nava	C, DT	9
61	Kodah Laviolette-Gonzalez	C, DT	12
63	Maxx Garcia	C, DT	8
66	Kaleb Hayes	OG, LB	12
70	Jared Perry	OT, DE	12
71	Landon Couture	OG, LB	12
77	Gavin Smola	OT, DE	12
78	Dustin Moulton	OT, DT	9
90	Jayden Ryan	OT, DT	11

Palmer Football (3-4)

Week 1 – Friday, Sept. 12 – Palmer 7, Pathfinder 6
 Week 2 – Friday, Sept. 19 – David Prouty 28, Palmer 19
 Week 3 – Friday, Sept. 26 – Chicopee 12, Palmer 7
 Week 4 – Friday, Oct. 3 – Greenfield 26, Palmer 6
 Week 5 – Friday, Oct. 10 – Palmer 30, Athol 0
 Week 6 – Friday, Oct. 17 – Franklin Tech 49, Palmer 0
 Week 7 – Thursday, Oct. 23 – Palmer 41, Mahar 6
 Week 8 – Saturday, Nov. 1 – at Ware 1 p.m.
 Week 9 – Nov. 7/8 – TBD
 Week 10 – Nov. 14/15 – TBD
 Thanksgiving – Thursday, Nov. 27 – vs. Ludlow 10 a.m.



Turley's Amanda Munson asked the captains...

“What do you like most about being part of Palmer football?”



“The connections that you make with your teammates, like we are more than a team, we are more of a family. We are a tight-knit group is what we like to say, we are really close. When we go to practice, it feels like we are hanging out with friends, but we get the work in.”
 – Gavin Smola, OT/DE



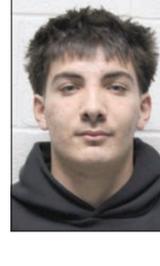
“My favorite part about playing with this team for four years is our positive energy during our games, around the school, and everywhere around Palmer.”
 – Dylan Doherty, RB/DB



“Experiencing the hardships with the team, being able to build as a team and play together. Every game takes everybody, it’s not just one person.”
 – Kodah Laviolette-Gonzalez, C/DT



“The people, I really enjoy my teammates and seeing them every day. I really enjoy football.”
 – Jared Perry, OT/DE



“The culture that is set here, with the coaching staff, we keep a tight ship. Everyone knows everyone, we work really hard together.”
 – Matthew Santos, QB/DB

PALMER | from page 11

the gridiron between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at historic Veterans' Field in Ware at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. The admission price for the football game is \$5 for adults. \$3 for senior citizens 65 and older. The ticket price for students in grades 7-12 is also \$3. Only cash will be accepted at the gate. No credit cards or on-line ticketing. Ware enters this year's contest with a 50-43-5 overall lead in the rivalry series which began in 1925. The two teams didn't face each other in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The last time that the Panthers, who have been coached by Marciniac since 2019, defeated the Indians was in 2015 by the final score of 14-6 at Legion Field. Marciniac was an assistant football coach in 2015 under legendary head coach Peter Farr. “I do recall the names of my former players, but I don't remember specific games very well,” Marciniac said. “The only thing that I remember about last year's game against Ware was the final score was 7-6. We haven't won the Ware game in a few years.” The Panthers' starting quarterback in the 2015 vic-

tory against Ware was Ryan McCarthy, who was inducted into the Palmer Athletic Hall of Fame on October 18. McCarthy rushed for a total of 194 yards and scored a pair of rushing touchdowns in that contest. The Panthers currently have a 2-4 overall record and a 1-2 record against Intercounty North opponents. They began the 2025 regular season by squeaking out a 7-6 win over cross-town rival Pathfinder Tech at historic Legion Field. They also posted a 30-0 win at Athol High School on October 10, which snapped a three game losing streak. Palmer lost at Franklin County Tech, 49-0, in week 6, which pretty much eliminates them from finishing first in the league standings. The seniors listed on

the Panthers 2025 varsity football roster are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Hunter White, Kodah Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Jared Perry, Gavin Smola, and Landon Couture. “The seniors have played a huge role in our program,” Marciniac said. “It would be special if they can win this year's game against Ware. They're working hard to accomplish it.” The Panthers annual senior night game will be against Mahar Regional on Thursday night. Santos is the Panthers starting quarterback this fall. “Matt has been our starting quarterback since his freshman year and he knows the offense very well,” Marciniac said. “He has grown a lot during the past couple of years. One area where he

has improved is his passing game. He's the leader of our offense.” Doherty, who's a running back, rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a junior. He didn't play in the first six games of this season due to an injury. “I'm not really sure if Dylan will be playing in the Ware game,” Marciniac said. “He's one of the toughest players that I've ever coached. We've missed him this year. He has the ability to take over a game.” The duo of Santos and Doherty, along with Perry, Smola, and Laviolette are the Panthers captains. White is a running back. Another running back is freshman Jimmy Sem. Junior Dylan Holbrook is a wide receiver and T.J. Smola, who's an eighth grad-

er, is listed as a tight end. Holbrook also handles the place kicking duties. T.J.'s older brother, Gavin, is both an offensive lineman and defensive end. Laviolette is the starting center and Couture, who had previously been a tight end, will switch to a guard position. Perry is a tackle. Hayes, who a first-year member of the football team, is also a lineman. Perry and Couture, along with sophomore Kayden Harvey, and freshman Dustin Moulton, attend Monson High School. They're able to play football for the Panthers as part of a co-op. Perry, Gavin Smola, and White are three of the Panthers key defensive players. Eighth grader K.J. Brown has also seen some playing time on defense.

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"The tradition and the culture is amazing, Coach Fazio has done an amazing job creating the culture. Year in and year out, he gets kids to try out the sport and they love it. Most people realize it's their favorite sport."
 – Alex Orszulak, TE/LB

"Everything honestly - I love football, I've loved football from a very young age. Going to high school, it's a lot different than the youth program we have. It's a lot tougher, coach makes show up everyday and plays our hearts out. We work for everything we do and that's what led us to being successful."
 – Sean Bernier, WR/DB



"The culture, every day you show up and have to work hard. To win, you all have to buy in and that's what this team is about. Everybody is bought in and we are a big family."
 – Troy Dufresne, WR/DB

"I love the traditions that we all do, it's been going on since the beginning of Ware High School football and it's a great thing we always do."
 – Jadrien Berthiaume, RB/LB



"The family mentality we have here, when we make a play, we celebrate with all of our teammates."
 – Marek Luongo, OL/DL



Turley's Amanda Munson asked the captains...

"What do you like most about being part of Ware football?"

WHS Football 2025-2026 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade
1	Troy Jurczyk	QB/DB	11
2	Sean Bernier	WR/DB	12
3	Mekhai Johnson	WR/DB	11
4	Ian Hogan	WR/LB	10
5	Dalton Marquis	RB/DB	10
6	Jadrien Berthiaume	RB/LB	12
7	Troy Dufresne	WR/DB	12
8	Zachary Safford	RB/LB	10
9	Liam Trench Catala	RB/LB	9
10	Brayden Compton	WR/DB	12
11	Enrique Martinez, Jr.	TE/DL	12
12	Daniel McDonald-Flowers	RB/LB	8
13	Rhys Clark	QB/DB	7
14	Caleb Gorman	WR/LB	10
17	Nathaniel Dionne	WR/DB	7
18	Mason Lugo	WR/DB	8
20	Mason Kalafarski	RB/LB	9
21	Sebastian Schmidt	RB/LB	11
22	Robert Wood	OL/DL	12
24	Dane Dulak	RB/DB	9
54	Cam Grushey	OL/DL	11
55	Jacob McNamee	LB/OL	11
56	Clayten Cortright	OL/DL	10
60	Ethan Corder	OL/DL	12
61	Santino Mirabile	OL/DL	7
62	Philip Dupell	OL/DL	12
63	Joshua King	OL/DL	7
64	Kahmari Crump	OL/DL	11
65	Enrique Burton	OL/DL	11
68	Jayden Diaz	OL/DL	11
70	Jeremiah Simmons	OL/DL	9
71	Jacoby Heredia	OL/DL	12
73	Andrew Bonilla	OL/DL	11
74	Cameron Hickey	OL/DL	7
75	Hunter Briand	OL/DL	11
76	Marek Luongo	OL/DL	12
77	Nathan Kelly	OL/DL	8
78	Sincere McLaurin	OL/DL	9
84	Alex Orszulak	TE/LB	12

Ware Football Schedule (5-2)

- Week 1 – Friday, Sept. 12 – Ware 12, Easthampton 8
- Week 2 – Friday, Sept. 19 – Belchertown 21, Ware 20
- Week 3 – Friday, Sept. 26 – SICS 20, Ware 19
- Week 4 – Friday, Oct. 3 – Ware 27, Franklin Tech 14
- Week 5 – Friday, Oct. 10 – Ware 48, Mahar 6
- Week 6 – Friday, Oct. 17 – Ware 26, Athol 0
- Week 7 – Friday, Oct. 24 – Ware 14, Greenfield 0
- Week 8 – Saturday, Nov. 1 – vs. Palmer 1 p.m.
- Week 9 – Nov. 7/8 – TBD
- Week 10 – Nov. 14/15 – TBD
- Thanksgiving – Wednesday, Nov. 26 – at Quaboag 6 p.m.

WARE | from page 11

ready for everything that they might do against us. I have a lot of respect for coach Marciniac."

The 99th meeting on the gridiron between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at Veterans' Field in Ware on Saturday, Nov. 1. Kickoff will be at 1 p.m.

The admission price for the rivalry football game is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for senior citizens 65 and older. The price for students in grades 7-12 is also \$3. Cash will only be accepted at the gate. No credit cards or on-line ticketing.

A year ago, the Indians squeaked out an exciting 7-6 victory over the Panthers at Legion Field in Palmer.

"It's an old fashion rivalry game and you can throw the records out the window," Fazio said. "Whichever team makes the fewest mistakes usually wins the game."

There are several events that take place leading up to the game on Saturday afternoon.

It's more than just a football game," Fazio said. "The Palmer and Ware senior banquet is an amazing thing. Nobody else does anything like

that. There are also pep rallies and bonfires. I think it's a cool memory for the kids, especially whenever you're playing the game at home."

Prior to last season, Ware had outscored Palmer, 112-28, in their previous three meetings.

The Indians, who have won the last eight games coached by Marciniac since 2019, defeated the Indians in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The last time that the Panthers, who have been coached by Marciniac since 2019, defeated the Indians was in 2015 by the final score of 14-6 at Legion Field.

The Indians, who are members of the Intercountry North Division, have also captured the league title the past eight years.

"If we can win another league title, it would be a great way for the seniors to wrap up their high school career," Fazio said. "It'll also help us set the tone for next year. Winning the league title is always one of our goals every year."

The Ware seniors are Sean Bernier, Jadrien Berthiaume, Troy Dufresne, Brayden Compton, Enrique

Martinez, Robert Wood, Ethan Corder, Phillip Dupell, Jacoby Heredia, Marek Luongo, and Alex Orszulak.

"The seniors are very good football players and they're even better kids," Fazio said. "They're fully invested and are committed to our football program."

Berthiaume, Luongo, Bernier, Dufresne, and Orszulak are the Indians captains.

Ware has a 4-2 overall record and a 3-0 league record.

Following back-to-back one point losses against Belchertown and the Springfield International Charter School, the Indians have reeled off three straight wins against Franklin County Tech (27-14), Mahar Regional (48-6), and Athol (26-0).

Before the Indians can start preparing for the annual rivalry game, they're scheduled to play a road game against league rival Greenfield on Friday night. Ware has won the last five games in that series.

Junior Troy Jurczyk will be the Indians starting quarterback against Palmer for the first time.

"Troy has grown immensely since week one," Fazio said. "He's been doing everything a little bit better each week. He has done a

very good job so far this season."

Two of the Indians offensive threats are Berthiaume, who's a running back, and Orszulak, who's a fullback this season after being a tight-end last year.

"I met Alex for the first time during the summer before his seventh grade year," Fazio said. "I've watched him grow up and he's now a stud. He's planning to play college football next year. Al and Jadrien wouldn't be very successful without having a strong offensive line."

Berthiaume did have a very memorable game against Palmer two years ago. He scored three rushing touchdowns during the first half leading the Indians to 49-7 home victory.

The Indians tight-end this fall is junior Dalton Marquis.

The members of the offensive line are junior Cam Grushey, junior Hunter Briand, junior Jayden Diaz, Martinez, and Heredia.

Dufresne and Bernier are the wide receivers.

The Indians leading players defensively are Berthiaume, Dufresne, Orszulak, Bernier, Dupell, sophomore Ian Hogan, and junior Enrique Burton.



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A look at last year's game



After a rout for the Ware Indians in the 2023 game, Ware won by the narrowest of margins in 2024, with just an extra point helping the Indians grab the win 7-6 over Palmer. Jadrien Berthiaume carried the ball five times during the Indians first offensive series for a total of 15 yards. Brady Dyer also completed a 23-yard pass to junior Alex Orszulak. Orszulak took the snap from center

before throwing a high pass which was caught by Dyer over a Palmer defender with one-hand before he dashed into the end zone with 5:50 left in the first quarter. Dyer also made the extra point attempt.

Following an interception, Palmer took possession of the ball in the second half. On the second play of the series, Matt Santos completed a 24-yard pass to Jones placing

the ball at the Indians 42. Following three Dylan Doherty runs, Santos connected with Doherty for a 31-yard reception at the four yard line. Then Doherty, who left the game briefly in the third quarter with an injury, completed the eight play scoring drive with a four yard TD run with 10:56 left in regulation. The two-point conversion failed and that was all the scoring in the game.



Taydem Haley emerges from the crowd on a run.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Above, Jadrien Berthiaume heads toward the right side on a run. Right, Quarterback Brady Dyer makes a pass attempt.



Troy Dufresne and Alex Orszulak go for a tackle.



Matthew Santos flips a shovel pass away.



Troy Dufresne looks to make a tackle.

Palmer vs. Ware - Past results

With their 2024 win, their 10th in the last 11 years, Ware now leads all-time series 50-43-5.

1925	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1959	Ware 24	Palmer 14	1992	Ware 46	Palmer 0
1926	Ware 13	Palmer 7	1960	Palmer 14	Ware 0	1993	Ware 34	Palmer 27
1927	Palmer 13	Ware 7	1961	Palmer 22	Ware 14	1994	Ware 14	Palmer 7
1928	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1962	Palmer 14	Ware 0	1995	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1929	Ware 13	Palmer 2	1963	Palmer 28	Ware 14	1996	Palmer 21	Ware 12
1930	Ware 13	Palmer 6	1964	Palmer 28	Ware 6	1997	Ware 28	Palmer 6
1931	Palmer 6	Ware 0	1965	Palmer 28	Ware 0	1998	Ware 30	Palmer 0
1932	Palmer 34	Ware 0	1966	Palmer 34	Ware 6	1999	Ware 42	Palmer 0
1933	Palmer 32	Ware 0	1967	Palmer 13	Ware 6	2000	Ware 34	Palmer 0
1934	Palmer 14	Ware 13	1968	Ware 18	Palmer 6	2001	Ware 28	Palmer 0
1935	Palmer 14	Ware 13	<i>(snowstorm moved game to Nov. 23)</i>			2002	Ware 20	Palmer 6
1936	Ware 12	Palmer 6	1969	Palmer 42	Ware 6	2003	Ware 20	Palmer 14
1937	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1970	Ware 12	Palmer 6	2004	Ware 43	Palmer 6
1938	Ware 26	Palmer 6	1971	Ware 6	Palmer 2	2005	Palmer 12	Ware 0
1939	Ware 13	Palmer 0	1972	Palmer 26	Ware 9	2006	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1940	Ware 6	Palmer 0	1973	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2007	Palmer 26	Ware 6
1941	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1974	Ware 14	Palmer 6	2008	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1942	Palmer 39	Ware 0	1975	Ware 18	Palmer 6	2009	Ware 16	Palmer 6
1943	Palmer 62	Ware 0	1976	Palmer 8	Ware 0	2010	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1944	<i>No game</i>		1977	Ware 20	Palmer 0	2011	Palmer 21	Ware 0
1945	Palmer 15	Ware 0	1978	Ware 6	Palmer 0	2012	Ware 29	Palmer 20
1946	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1979	Ware 38	Palmer 12	2013	Ware 20	Palmer 0
1947	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1980	Ware 21	Palmer 0	2014	Ware 14	Palmer 0
1948	Ware 14	Palmer 7	1981	Ware 27	Palmer 0	2015	Palmer 14	Ware 6
1949	Palmer 24	Ware 0	1982	Palmer 12	Ware 6	2016	Ware 26	Palmer 6
1950	Palmer 51	Ware 6	1983	Ware 10	Palmer 6	2017	Ware 41	Palmer 6
1951	Palmer 25	Ware 14	1984	Ware 7	Palmer 0	2018	Ware 19	Palmer 6
1952	Palmer 32	Ware 13	1985	Palmer 26	Ware 6	2019	Ware 34	Palmer 28
1953	Palmer 32	Ware 13	1986	Palmer 34	Ware 14	2020	<i>No game played - COVID</i>	
1954	Palmer 34	Ware 13	1987	Palmer 16	Ware 0	2021	Ware 42	Palmer 21
1955	Palmer 6	Ware 0	1988	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2022	Ware 21	Palmer 0
1956	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1989	Ware 21	Palmer 7	2023	Ware 49	Palmer 7
1957	Ware 54	Palmer 13	1990	Ware 28	Palmer 6	2024	Ware 7	Palmer 6
1958	Ware 10	Palmer 0	1991	Ware 14	Palmer 14	2025	at WHS on Nov. 1 at 1 p.m.	

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SOCCER

Monson girls advance in WMass tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – Prior to this season, the Monson and Lenox girls' soccer teams had faced each other twice in the Western Mass. tournament and once in the Division 5 state tournament since 2021.

The second-seeded Lady Mustangs, who won those three matchups, didn't have very much trouble posting a 9-2 victory over the seventh-seeded Millionaires in a Western Mass. Class C quarterfinal game held at Larry Tassinari Field, last Thursday afternoon.

"I was expecting this to be a lot closer match, but my team came out and played very well," said Monson head coach Larry Pagliaro. "We pretty much dominated the entire 80 minutes of the game. I'm very proud of the girls."

The Lady Mustangs, who entered the Western Mass. tournament with a 6-9-1 regular season record, beat Lenox, 7-2, in the 2021 Western Mass. finals. They've also defeated Mount Greylock in the finals twice in the past three seasons.

Pagliaro was expecting to face McCann Tech in this year's quarterfinals, but the pairings were changed at the last minute.

"We faced Lenox in the semifinals last year," Pagliaro said. "I haven't seen them play this season, but we were familiar with them."

Despite finishing the regular season with a below .500 record, Monson was ranked fourth in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings.

The Lady Mustangs set the tone when senior Hannah Murphy received a pass from junior Emma Maziarz before lofting a shot that deflected into the back of the net off the crossbar 23 seconds into the



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Hannah Murphy sends a shot toward the goal.

opening half.

Murphy, who broke the state's goal record during the regular season, is the Lady Mustangs only senior. She scored two more goals during the first ten minutes of the contest.

"Hannah is the leader of our team this year. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to coach her. She's an outstanding soccer player and is a great kid," Pagliaro said. "We've also had some other players step up this year. It's been a lot of fun coaching this year's team."

Eighth grader Jordyn Szado, who scored only one regular season goal, also recorded a hat-trick against Lenox (4-11-2), who were ranked 20th in the Division 5 power rankings.

"Jordyn scored the game winning goal at Frontier Re-

gional last week," Pagliaro said. "She recorded her first varsity hat-trick in today's game. She always gives 100 percent at every practice. I'm looking forward to coaching her during the next four years."

Szado scored the Lady Mustangs final goal of the opening half and both of her team's goals in the second half.

The Lady Mustangs other two first half goal scorers were seventh grader Lucy Maziarz and junior Chelsea Hull.

Monson held a 7-0 lead before senior Reeva Patel netted a goal for the Millionaires.

Lenox sophomore Jane Elliot also scored a goal with ten minutes remaining in reg-

SOCCER | page 16

SOCCER

Boys soccer advances to WMass finals

MONSON – Last week and early this week, Monson High School boys soccer, the top seed in the Class C tournament, advanced to the finals with wins over Granby and Pioneer Valley Christian Academy. The top-seeded Mustangs defeated their league rivals, the Rams, for a third time this season, edging the visitors 2-1 last Thursday. In the semifinals,

Monson beat PVCA 1-0 on Monday afternoon, also at home. Monson's finals opponent will be Turners Falls. That game will be played at Ludlow High School on turf at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30. From there, the Mustangs will await their seeding in the Division 5 state tournament. Monson enters the Western Mass. finals with a record of 14-1-3.



Brennan Peterson looks at the ball as he receives a pass.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Mason Murphy smothers a shot on goal.



Benjamin Pignone sends the ball forward.



Kreslen Casseus makes the quick pass.

FOOTBALL

Panthers pick up win over Mahar

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – After sitting out the first six games with a left thumb injury, Palmer senior running back Dylan Doherty made his 2025 season debut on senior night.

Doherty and seven of his classmates were honored during a ceremony held before the start of last Thursday night's football game against Mahar Regional.

Doherty scored his first touchdown of the season late in the opening quarter and the Panthers rolled to a 41-6 victory over the Senators in an Intercounty North Division contest held at historic Legion Field.

"I've worked very hard to get back on the field again," said Doherty, who received the game ball from Panthers head coach Matt Marciniac. "Being able to play in the senior night game is the best feeling in the world."

The Panthers head coach was very glad that Doherty was carrying the ball instead of standing next to him on the sideline.

"I did enjoy having Dylan help me coach, but I really love seeing him run with the ball," Marciniac said. "He's one of the toughest kids that I've ever coached. He just runs over you. It was awesome having him back on the field."

The Panthers other seniors are Matt Santos, Jared Perry, Hunter White, Kodah

FOOTBALL | page 16



Angelina Miller wins the race to the ball.



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Jenna McKinney goes after the loose ball.



Megan Clark advances past midfield.



Amber Roman chases down a ball.



Hannah Mellor winds up to clear the ball away.

SOCCER

Pioneers fall at home

PALMER – In its final game of the regular season, Pathfinder girls soccer was defeated by Athol High School. Athol took advantage of a depleted Pathfinder team that did not have a lot of depth on the bench. Athol would finish the game with a 5-0 win as Pathfinder fell to 4-9-2.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

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Athlete of the Week



Anthony Tulloch
Monson High School

In an important Western Mass. quarterfinal game, Tulloch scored one of Monson's two goals in the win over Granby.

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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FOOTBALL | from page 15

Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Landon Couture, and Gavin Smola.

"The year before the seniors joined our football team, we had a successful season," Marciniec added. "These guys have worked very hard during the past few years. I can't say enough good things about this year's senior class."

The five four year players, who are also captains of this year's squad, are

Smola, Perry, White, Santos, and Doherty are the Panthers captains and four year members of the football team.

Couture and Laviolette joined the football team as sophomores. Hayes is a first year member of the team.

"Tonight's game means everything to us seniors. We've been playing on the same football team together since we were in the third grade," said Santos, who has been the Panthers starting quarterback since he was a freshman. "It was a very special night, and we really wanted to win the game."

Couture and Perry attend Monson High School. The duo are allowed to play football for the Panthers as part of a co-op.

Once the game began it took the Panthers (3-4,2-2) less than five minutes to reach the endzone for the first time.

After Mahar (2-5, 0-4) won the coin toss and elected to defer until the start of the second half, the Panthers offense put-together a 10-play

scoring drive.

On the third play of the series, Doherty gained 18 yards which moved the ball to the Senators 47. A couple of plays later, Doherty, who rushed for more than 100 yards in the game, picked up 37 yards down the left sideline. A facemask penalty on Mahar at the end of the play placed the ball at the 7 yard line.

Following a holding penalty on the home team, which moved the ball back to the 15, Santos completed a 10-yard TD pass to eighth grader T.J. Smola with 7:09 remaining in the opening quarter. Junior Dylan Holbrook made the extra point attempt.

After the Panthers defense forced Mahar to punt for the first time, Doherty capped off a quick four play scoring drive, which covered 55 yards, with a 15-yard scamper into the end zone with 2:42 left in the opening quarter.

Holbrook's extra point gave the Panthers a 14-0 lead.

Freshman running back Jimmy Sem took over the spotlight for the home team at the start of the second quarter.

Sem, who also rushed for more than 100 yards, scored his fifth rushing touchdown of the season on a 14-yard run less than a minute into the second quarter giving Palmer a 21-0 advantage.

The Senators were forced to punt for the third time in the first half, but the series would continue when freshman Lee Cruz Jr. recovered a fumble.

The visitors from Orange got on the scoreboard when

sophomore QB Ringer Free-land connected with senior Evan Nason for a 27-yard touchdown reception with 8:26 left in the first half.

The two-point conversion play failed.

Nason would recover a fumble on the kickoff, but Mahar was forced to punt for the fourth time.

The Panthers held a 27-6 halftime lead, as Santos connected with junior Hunter Baird for a 26-yard TD reception with 52 seconds remaining in the second quarter. The extra point attempt was blocked.

Palmer junior Griffin Nawrocki closed out the opening half with an interception.

Sem scored his second rushing touchdown of the game following a 19-yard run with 7:16 left in the third quarter.

After a fumble was recovered by White giving the Panthers offense the ball at the Senators 34 yard line, White capped off the eight play scoring drive with a 12-yard power run up the middle into the end zone with 1:24 left in the third quarter. The extra point by Holbrook gave the home team a commanding 41-6 lead.

Because the Panthers were leading by more than 30 points at the end of the third quarter, the clock didn't stop during the final twelve minutes of the contest.

The Panthers will be looking to celebrate another victory when they face archrival Ware High School on the road at 1pm on Saturday afternoon.

SOCCER | from page 1

ulation. Monson sophomore goalie Grace Berry didn't have to make very many other saves.

The Lady Mustangs were scheduled to host third-seeded Easthampton in the semifinals on Sunday afternoon.



Chelsea Hulls winds up for a shot on goal.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mackayla St. George makes a throw-in.



Audrey Gregoire advances up the field.



Aubrey Hemm heads the ball off on defense.



Lylia Ellis fights to keep possession.



Aria Stevenson sends a pass through her opponent.



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Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

Monday - 6:30 p.m.
TRIVIA NIGHT
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
MUSIC BINGO

BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!



Chunky Blanket Workshop
November 18th
See Website for More Information

Public notices

**Town of Palmer
Town Council
Notice of Passage
ADOPTION OF REVISED
FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT
ZONING ORDINANCE**

On October 23rd, 2025, the Palmer Town Council adopted revisions to Chapter 171 Zoning, Article XIII - Floodplain District. The revised ordinance updates the floodplain regulations to comply with current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps dated June 7, 2023. Properties located in designated flood zones (Zones A and AE) are subject to new permitting requirements. All construction or development in the Floodplain District now requires a Floodplain Permit from the Conservation Agent (Floodplain Administrator). New structures over 300 square feet require an additional Special Permit from the Planning Board. Applications must include engineering certifications, elevation data, and detailed site plans. These regulations protect public safety, reduce flood damage to properties, prevent utility disruptions, and maintain the Town's eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program.

A complete text of the full ordinance revision is available at the office of the Town Manager and Town Clerk, 4417 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Town Council of Palmer, MA
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 6:15PM** 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://mass-publicnotices.org>).

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

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

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The applicant, Jennifer Nicole Anderson, 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.

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10/23, 10/30/2025

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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.

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

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25C0307CA
In the matter of:
Jennifer Nicole Anderson
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name
of Adult has been filed by
Jennifer Nicole Anderson of
Palmer, MA requesting that the
court enter a Decree changing
their name to:**

**Jennifer Nicole Counter
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/06/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/30/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
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Date: October 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/30/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD24P1354EA
Estate of:
Roger A. Julian
Date of Death:
February 29, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tracy A. Julian of Palmer, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Tracy A. Julian of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

10/30/2025

**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, as 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

**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

**Town of Monson
Legal Notice
Public Hearing
Tax Classification
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-
EN IN ACCORDANCE WITH
M.G.L CHAPTER 30A SEC-
TIONS 18-25, THAT THE
MONSON SELECT BOARD** will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Monson Town Offices building, Public Meeting

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
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By Its Attorneys,
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PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
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Room, 110 Main Street, Monson MA 01057.

The purpose of this Public Hearing will be on the issue of determining the percentages of tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2026.

All interested Monson taxpayers are welcome to attend this hearing to present oral or written comments on the matter. In the event a taxpayer is unable to attend the hearing, written comments may be submitted, in advance, to the Office of the Select Board, Monson Town Offices, 110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057.

Peter Warren,
Chair Select Board
10/30, 11/06/2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO.
25 SM 003215
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: **The Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Fred L. Wallace, William E. Wallace, Richard F. Wallace**

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

HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as Trustee for the registered holders of Nomura Home Equity Loan, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE3 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Holland, numbered 13 Collette Drive, given by Fred L. Wallace and Judith A. Wallace to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First NLC Financial Services, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated May 8, 2006, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15900, Page 356, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants Service-members 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 **12/08/2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER
Chief Justice of this Court on
10/22/2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
10/30/2025

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MASSACHUSETTS
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**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate
and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2221EA
Estate of:
Ryan Noga Windyka
Date of Death: 09/03/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Stephen P Windyka of Palmer, MA and Cynthia J Windyka of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Stephen P Windyka of Palmer, MA and Cynthia J Windyka of Palmer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/21/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/30/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate
and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
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Date: October 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/30/2025



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



SCARY-GOOD DEALS!

DON'T BUY 'TILL YOU SEE US- 7 DAYS A WEEK!

1,000'S IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE PICKUP!

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99 (Regularly \$149.99)
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 (Regularly \$249.99)
- 50" HDTV Television..\$229.99 (Regularly \$269.99)
- 55" Samsung HDTV ..\$329.99 (Regularly \$349.99)
- 65" HDTV.....\$399.99 (Regularly \$599.99)
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99 (Regularly \$699.99)

MATTRESS SALE!

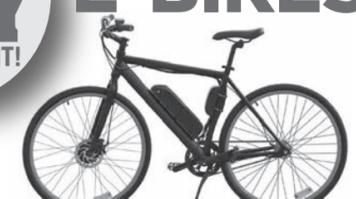
TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

HUGE TOY DEPARTMENT!

HUNDREDS OF E-BIKES!



WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. \$1599.99 \$1299.99 AFTER REBATE!	DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 \$1099.99	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$369.99	21 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$999.99 \$799.99
SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 \$1199.99 AFTER REBATE!	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1399.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$189.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$599.99 \$489.99
LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1199.99	10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$459.99 \$399.99

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

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508.885.9343
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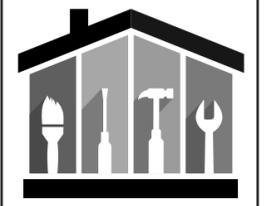
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Obituaries

1948-2025

MONSON – Susan Carol (Asquith) Brown, 77, of Monson, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully at her home on October 22, 2025, surrounded by her devoted family. Born on January 27, 1948, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Susan lived a life defined by love, compassion, and service to others. A cherished mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, teacher, and friend, she touched countless lives through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to those around her.

A proud graduate of Monson High School, Susan went on to earn her degree from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Massachusetts, where her lifelong passion for education took root. For more than

37 years, she inspired generations of students in the Palmer Public Schools, beginning as a fourth-grade teacher and ending as a seventh-grade math teacher. Math was her passion, and she loved helping her students discover confidence and joy in learning it. Even after retiring, her love for children drew her back to the classroom, where she continued to nurture young minds as a paraprofessional. To her students and colleagues, she was more than an educator - she was a mentor, a role model, and a steady presence of warmth and encouragement.

Beyond her professional achievements, Susan's greatest joy came from her family. She was a devoted mother to her daughter, Sarah Presho, and a constant source of strength,

Susan Carol (Asquith) Brown



laughter, and unconditional love. To her four grandchildren - Riley, Ruby, Ryder, and Ryan - she was "Mimi," their biggest fan, cheering from the sidelines of every game and celebrating each milestone with boundless pride. Her family was the heart of her world, and she made every person she loved feel seen, valued, and special.

Those who knew Susan will remember her as a woman of quiet courage and extraordinary grace. After bravely battling breast cancer years earlier, she faced its recurrence with the same strength and dignity that defined her life. Even as her health declined, she continued to inspire everyone around

her - modeling resilience, faith, and gratitude in every moment.

Susan found beauty in life's simple pleasures: the rhythm of her quilting needle, the laughter shared with friends on the golf course at Mill Valley, and the warmth of family gatherings that filled her home with love. Her gentle heart, steady humor, and generous spirit left an imprint that will continue to guide those she loved.

She is survived by her daughter Sarah Presho and her husband Rob Presho of Palmer; her brother Donald Asquith of Sturbridge; and her sister

Judy Lenihan of Westerly, Rhode Island. She will also be dearly missed by her beloved grandchildren Riley Presho, Ruby Presho, Ryder Presho & Ryan Presho, along with her nephews and nieces - Jamie Asquith, Talon Asquith, Delaney Asquith, Olivia Salazar, Henry Stebbins, Amy Doorley - and many cherished family and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, David and Emma (Bennett) Asquith, her brother David Asquith Jr., and nephew Quinton Asquith, whose memories she carried in her heart throughout her life.

Family and friends gathered at Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge Street, Monson, on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for visitation. A funeral was held at the funeral home on

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Susan's memory may be made to Rays of Hope, 280 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor, Springfield, MA 01199, to support breast cancer research and patient care - a cause close to her heart.

Susan's legacy is one of love, perseverance, and the countless lives she uplifted. Her family takes comfort in knowing that her light will continue to shine through every life she touched, every student she inspired, and every heart she held dear.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.Lombardfuneralhome.com.

Gloria Ann LaFlamme

Dec. 17, 1942–
Oct. 23, 2025

Gloria A. (Gelinias) LaFlamme, 82, of Monson, Massachusetts, passed away on October 23, 2025, at the Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst. Possessed of a steely strength, she overcame challenges both without and within to lead a rich, rewarding life. At times introspective and measured, at others joyful and spontaneous, she made sense of the world and of herself through reading and deep conversation. The faith that she found as an adult also anchored her, as she sought a closer walk with God.

Gloria was born on December 17, 1942, to Lionel Gelinias and Cecile (Dion) Gelinias in Holyoke. She was just a year old when her birth mother died, and she was raised by her grandmother Aurore Dion until her father returned from his service in World War II. With his second marriage to Eileen (Kelson) Gelinias, Gloria soon became the eldest daughter of a big, boisterous family. After graduating from Springfield's Classical High School in 1961, she worked her way through college at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also received a master's degree in teaching.

Gloria taught for a year in New Canaan, Connecticut before accepting a job at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, where she taught French and, later, Span-

ish for 37 years until her retirement in 2005. She had a reputation for running a tight ship in the classroom, but not so secretly relished the banter with wisecracking students who kept her young. She continued to develop her craft over time, creating original units on European painting and undertaking a summer of language study in Salamanca, Spain.

In 1966, she met Paul LaFlamme, and they married in 1968. In Paul, she found a partner who accepted her independence without reservation, and she flourished in his love. Once the couple became parents, she poured experiences into their two children, from weekends of theater and people watching in New York to beach vacations in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Yet she also carved out space for dinners with friends and fall foliage drives, modeling the conviction that parenthood need not mean giving up one's own identity.

Like each of us, Gloria had her faults: she could be sharp and stubborn, reflexes that sometimes hid her openness to working on herself and her relationships with others. But she was generous with what she had, and she truly knew how to have fun. A born athlete, she rode her bicycle and played tennis into her seventies, and she often stayed

up too late to watch a ballgame go into extra innings. Upon retirement, she became the owner of a full-size RV and traversed the country with her second mother Eileen, even as she always returned to the refuge of the home she had made in Monson.

It is these twin impulses for adventure and belonging that mark her legacy.

Gloria was predeceased by her parents and husband. She is survived by her siblings, Linda Sotirion of East Longmeadow; Mark Gelinias and his wife Susan Gelinias, of Ware; June McKie of Agawam; Barry Gelinias and his partner Joanne Sullivan, of Agawam; Allison Gelinias of Springfield; and Robert Gelinias and his wife Rachel Gelinias, of Westfield. She is also survived by her son Marcel LaFlamme and his husband Michael Klein, of Greenfield; her daughter Marie-Claire (LaFlamme) Foley and her husband Sean Foley, of Belchertown; as well as her grandchildren Noah and Audrey.

A private burial was held at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware. A memorial service will be held at Faith Baptist Church, 251 Shearer St., in Palmer during the spring of 2026.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware is honored to serve the LaFlamme family.



Norma P. (Jalbert) Russo

PALMER – Norma P. (Jalbert) Russo, 92, passed away peacefully at her son's home. Born in Farmington, Maine on March 5, 1933, she was the son of Rene and Tola (Whitman) Jalbert.



Norma and her family moved to West Brookfield and lived on Ragged Hill Road for a number of years before moving to Breckenridge Street in Palmer.

She worked as a nurse's aid and as a secretary at the Springfield Armory and she was a devoted mother and wife. She was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness in Brimfield.

Norma's green thumb kept her flower gardens beautiful and she also enjoyed nature while watching birds at her bird feeders. Through

the years, she also collected beautiful colored bottles.

In 2020, she was predeceased by her husband, Adney A. Russo. Norma is survived by her four sons, Tony Russo of Tennessee, Timmy Russo of Monson, Thomas Russo of Colrain, and Todd Russo of Ware along with 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness at 133 Old Palmer Road, in Brimfield will be held Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. All other arrangements are private and Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the details.

For those wishing, donations may be made to JW.Org.

DEATH NOTICES

Susan Carol (Asquith) Brown
Died Oct. 22, 2025
Services Oct. 28, 2025
Lombard Funeral Home

Gloria Ann LaFlamme
Died Oct. 23, 2025
Services were private
Charbonneau Funeral Home

Norma P. (Jalbert) Russo
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