

# The Journal Register

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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**PALMER**

## District 1 residents unhappy ambulance service costs

By Abigail McCoy  
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**PALMER** – The Palmer Town Council convened on Thursday, Oct. 23, to discuss a wide range of matters impacting the community, from new staff introductions and property tax adjustments to new revenue sources and ongoing challenges with emergency services.

**Fire, ambulance services under scrutiny**

One of the evening’s most pressing discussions centered on ambulance services and potential fire district consolidation. Town Manager Brad Brothers said his previous attempts to coordinate conversations among the town’s separate fire districts had stalled, leaving Palmer Fire District #1 shouldering

the financial responsibility for ambulance coverage.

Council President Barbara Barry, speaking with evident frustration, said residents in District 1 are increasingly upset about paying disproportionate costs for services that serve the entire town. “District 1 can’t keep footing the bill for ambulance service,” Barry said. “We need everyone at the table...the districts,

prudential committees, and the town...to find a fair, sustainable solution.”

The Council voted to formally invite all fire districts and their prudential committees to a joint public meeting, tentatively set for Nov. 13 or Nov. 20, to discuss the issue and identify possible paths toward cooperation. Brad supported the idea, saying that while each district is an inde-

pendent entity, open dialogue is essential. “This isn’t about blame,” Barry added. “It’s about working together. We owe it to the residents to have this conversation and finally move forward.”

**New Hires Strengthen Town Leadership and Communication**

Town Manager Brad Brothers introduced two new staff members: Rec-

reation Director Ohemeng Kyeremateng and Director of Administrative Services Ashley Place; both of whom bring fresh energy and ideas to Palmer’s municipal team. Kyeremateng, who recently joined from Hartford, Connecticut, expressed enthusiasm for revitalizing Palmer’s recreation offerings. He out-

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**MONSON**

## School Committee recognizes athlete

Health program discussed

By Abigail McCoy  
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**MONSON** – The Monson School Committee met on Wednesday, Oct. 22, for its regular business meeting, covering a broad range

of topics including student achievements, curriculum adjustments, fiscal updates, and a detailed review of the 2024-2025 school year data.

**Athletic Achievement and Student Recognition**

The meeting opened with recognition of Monson High School athlete Hannah Murphy, who set a new Massachusetts state record for girls’ soc-

cer goals. Superintendent Paul Foster commended her accomplishment and dedication, noting that “this is an incredible milestone for Hannah and a reflection of the hard work and pride our student-athletes bring to Monson.”

Students recently inducted into the National Honor Society were also celebrated for maintaining high aca-

demical standards and for their commitment to community service. Foster highlighted the students’ initiative in providing free childcare for staff during parent-teacher conferences, describing it as “a true example of leadership and service beyond the classroom.”

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**PALMER**



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

Lexi Boone shows off her mini canvas of adorable textured ghosts hovering over a pumpkin patch and a starry night.

## SPOOKY SEASON Sip & Art Night

By Abigail McCoy  
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**PALMER** – The Palmer Public Library hosted a festive “Spooky Season Sip & Art Night” for teens on Wednesday, October 29, filling the Community Room with autumn warmth, creativity, and seasonal treats. The event, open to ages 14-18, invited partic-

ipants to settle in with hot and cold cider and cheese-cake brownies donated by Phriends Coffee Shop.

Teens spent the evening crafting fall-themed art projects, including mini canvas ghost paintings, clay ghost figurines, garlands, and decorated masks. Tables were set up with supplies,

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**MONSON**

## Lions Club marks 70 years of service, tradition

By Abigail McCoy  
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**MONSON** – The Monson Lions Club recently celebrated its 70th anniversary; honoring decades of community service, fellowship, and civic pride. The event, held in Monson, brought together

local and state leaders including State Representative Brian Ashe, State Representative Angelo Puppolo, and members of the Monson Select Board to recognize the club’s long history of volunteerism and its enduring impact on the town.

“It was nice,” said club

member Karen Davis, reflecting on the celebration. “We had Representative Ashe, Representative Puppolo, and the Select Board from Monson there. It was a great way to look back at everything the Lions have done since the very beginning.”

The Monson Lions Club

was founded in 1955, around the time of the devastating Flood of ‘55. One of the club’s very first acts of service was helping with post-flood cleanup efforts throughout the town; a spirit of hands-on community support that con-

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Don Vacon, Jennifer Wolowicz, Peter Warren, Abby, Rep Brian Ashe, Rep Angelo Puppolo, and Louie Vacon.

Submitted photo

**MONSON**

## Button appraiser shares the fascinating history

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

**MONSON** – At the Keep Homestead Museum’s Button Room in Monson, where cases gleam with hundreds of intricate buttons; West Springfield resident Elizabeth Korostynski recently spent November 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. appraising buttons for everyone who stopped by the museum, teaching them the value and the history of the buttons they presented to her.

Korostynski, who has been involved with button collecting for 35 years and appraising for 20, has a personal connection to the craft that stretches back generations. Her introduction to buttons began with an unexpected family heirloom.

“I collected regular paperweights,” she recalled,

“and my aunt one day said to me, ‘Do you want Grandma’s paperweight buttons?’ My grandmother died when I was two, but I have a picture of me and her on a bed with buttons all around her.”

Her grandmother’s button collection, she explained, began thanks to her grandfather, who worked for a paper company in West Springfield during the early 20th century. When the company made paper from cloth, workers first had to remove the buttons from the fabric. “He’d bring home jars of buttons for my grandmother,” Korostynski said. “She was an invalid in bed, so she would sew them onto pieces of corduroy. That’s how I inherited her work... five or six panels of her buttons, all carefully stitched.”

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**MONSON**

## Tune into the Treble Makers at the First Church of Monson

By Abigail McCoy  
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**MONSON** – The Treble Makers youth music group is bringing fresh energy and harmony to Monson through

weekly rehearsals and uplifting performances at the First Church of Monson. Formed by local music lovers who wanted to create more opportunities for young people to sing together, the group wel-

comes anyone from grades 6 through 12, regardless of faith background.

This year, members are taking the lead in selecting their own songs, rehearsing an eclectic mix that includes

“Nothing Else Matters” by Metallica, “Iris” by the Goo Goo Dolls, “Look Up” by Lauren Daigle, and “Walk Through Life” by Pinkzebra. They perform at the church every few months and are hoping to expand into community events.

Recent donations from Gay and Mary of the First Church Music Committee provided the singers with new binders, a practical upgrade from last year’s equipment.

For many participants, music is the heart of the experience. “I joined just because I love music,” said member Liliana Aes. “Music is basically my life at this point, and any opportunity to do anything music-based, I’ll take.” Another singer added that it’s about more than performing:

TREBLE | page 11



Turley photo by Abigail McCoy

The Treble Makers Youth Music group along with their adult chaperone Erin Wallace.



# Canning made simple

Workshop helps residents preserve the harvest

By Abigail McCoy  
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BRIMFIELD – In an era when home cooking and sustainability are making a strong comeback, Hitchcock Academy's recent Canning and Preservation Workshop drew nearly a full class of enthusiastic learners eager to roll up their sleeves and learn how to safely preserve fruits and vegetables.

The class was led by Jessica Petrie-Cummings, a homesteader and experienced canner who has been teaching practical food preservation at the Academy for several seasons. Although she humbly insists she's "not a teacher," her approachability and hands-on experience have made her sessions a local favorite.

"This isn't my first canning workshop here," Cummings said. "It's probably my third or fourth this year. The first few sold out completely, and this one has about 16 out of 20 people. We're still figuring out if the season or timing affects attendance, but there's definitely been strong interest."

Rather than lecturing from a textbook or working strictly from recipes, Cummings focuses on simplifying the process and helping participants gain confidence.

"My goal is just to take the fear out of canning," she said. "We don't use recipes...

we can like a busy farm girl would. Some people are nervous because they've heard of botulism or because they've never done it before. But as long as your acidity is correct and you have sugar as a stabilizer, you're not going to poison yourself."

Cummings pointed participants to reliable sources for beginners, including the Ball Canning website and Mass.gov's food preservation resources, which detail acidity levels for common fruits and vegetables. "Those

**"My goal is just to take the fear out of canning... we can like a busy farm girl would."**  
– Jessica Petrie-Cummings

lists are great for beginners," she said. "I've been doing this forever, but if I were just starting, I'd want that information right in front of me."

All materials for the class were provided, including jars, utensils, and locally sourced produce.

"All the vegetables come from local farms we work with," Cummings explained. "They're fresher, so you get a better product, and it lasts longer."

This workshop focused on two items: pickled beets and sauerkraut. The former uses a water-bath canning process, while the latter relies on fermentation; offering participants two contrasting preservation techniques.

"There are different levels of canning," she explained. "Something like bread-and-butter pickles

can be done with a water bath, but dill pickles are fermented. There's no vinegar in a dill pickle, so you can't water-bath can it. I used to make bad dill pickles for years until I learned they're supposed to be fermented. That's why they were mushy and wrong...I love that kind of discovery and passing it on."

Throughout the class, Cummings guided participants through each step; from preparing jars and boiling water to maintaining headspace and avoiding cracked glass.

Her practical tips reflected years of trial and error.

She explained how temperature differences can cause jars to shatter, why headspace matters for proper sealing, and how air bubbles can be released using simple tools like a butter knife. "You don't want cold jars going into hot water...they'll explode," she warned. "And don't let your jars touch each other inside the pot. That's how they crack."

The discussion also covered reuse and sustainability. "You can reuse your jars several times," Cummings said. "Just check for nicks or missing wax on the lids. Clean them well, and they'll last four or five rounds easily."

While participants measured salt, packed jars, and massaged shredded cabbage for sauerkraut, the atmosphere remained light and social. Laughter mixed with the gentle bubbling of boiling water as Cummings shared personal stories from her homesteading life.

"I'm really not a neat freak," she joked, laughing



Jessica Petrie-Cummings gives a small lecture on how to properly can a bunch of cans in one water bath.

about her nickname "Messy Jessie." "My son tells me to clean as I go, but I'm always doing 30 things at once. That's just part of the process... it's all about getting it done."

Cummings said she's open to leading more workshops if community interest continues.

"We get a lot of requests for other things," she said. "I was actually caught off guard when Hitchcock first asked me to teach. But I love helping people with their homesteading endeavors and showing them that this isn't as intimidating as it sounds."

She also praised the venue. "Hitchcock Academy has been great to work with," she said. "The facility is perfect for this kind of class...it fits about 20 people comfortably and makes everything easy."

With homemade sauerkraut and jars of bright red pickled beets cooling on the tables, participants left with both food and newfound confidence. For Cummings, that's what it's all about; helping people reconnect with the simple, sustainable skills that preserve more than just vegetables.



Jessica Petrie-Cummings uses a special jar holder to gently place the cans in the boiling water.



During the process of making sauerkraut, participants had to massage the strips of cabbage for upwards of ten minutes to release all the liquid.

# LeCours presents latest work to congregation

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Local resident, playwright, and storyteller Paul LeCours believes that the simplest stories often carry the deepest truths. His latest work, "The New Sandals," performed at the Second Congregational Church in Palmer on November 2 during the 10 a.m. service, reflected that conviction through a timeless tale about generosity, humility, and the power of compassion; themes that feel especially poignant as the holiday season approaches.

LeCours said the inspiration for the play reaches back more than seven decades, to when he was a small boy sitting in a barn with his grandfather. "When I was five years old, my grandfather would tell my sister, my brother, and me stories about giants and little boys with slingshots," he recalled. "That was over 70 years ago, but I remembered it. I added a few things over the years, and it became this story."

"The New Sandals" centers on a wealthy merchant's son named Eli who learns the joy of giving after parting with his fine sandals and coins to help others in need. Through Eli's selfless acts: trading shoes with a servant girl, sharing robes with beggars, and giving away his father's silver; the story illustrates how compassion and understanding can bridge the divide between privilege and poverty.

LeCours explained that he wanted children to see biblical values expressed in relatable, everyday ways. "I think it's important for children to equate the messages in the Bible with everyday occurrences," he said. "You can't just tell someone to appreciate what they have or to give to others... you have to show them why it's necessary."

He added that one of the play's central messages is gratitude. "Appreciate what you have," he said. "What you have isn't necessarily a lot of money... it might just be really great friends or a



Eli, played by Robert Lovell, gives his dirty sandals to one of his servant friends.

caring family."

Despite its spiritual tone, "The New Sandals" isn't a retelling of a specific Bible story but an original work written and directed by LeCours. "The script is an original one," he said, "but it's built around the same kinds of lessons Jesus taught through parables... simple stories that cause people to think."

The production came together quickly, with only three or four rehearsals, but LeCours praised the dedication and spirit of the volunteer cast. "It was joyful," he said. "You start with an idea and a few words, and before



In the beginning of the play, the teacher, played by Hannah Haley, asks her students what they are doing.

you know it, you've got a whole group of ideas in the form of a play. Then you see it come to life through real people. It's almost magical."

Audience members at the Second Congregational Church warmly received the performance, and several shared that its message lingered with them. "A few people got back to me already and said, 'This story is more than a little simple story... there's a lot to it,'" LeCours noted. "People learn by seeing actions rather than being

told to do something."

For LeCours, the play's moral goes beyond the stage. "Giving is a lot more joyous than receiving," he said. "Starting life as a very poor boy, I empathize with that message. When people help each other, everyone becomes richer... not in money, but in heart."

As the actors bowed and the service continued on after "The New Sandals," the message was clear: kindness and gratitude are the greatest gifts of all.



Eli, gives two beggar women two of his robes on his way to the market.



Eli gives the blind, legless beggar man, Lazarus, played by Richard Opper, his last two silver pieces.



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## EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

**Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue**

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

**Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue**

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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# Author, conservation advocate shares love of New England Trails

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Outdoor enthusiasts gathered Thursday, October 23, for a presentation by author and lifelong hiker Jeff Romano, who visited the Monson Free Library to discuss the newest edition of his guidebook 100 Classic Hikes in New England and to highlight the wide range of trails and natural landscapes available across the region. Romano, whose work spans more than two decades of writing and exploration, has now published five hiking guidebooks, three of which cover trails throughout all six New England states.

Romano said hiking has been a constant in his life for half a century, beginning when he was a child growing up in New Hampshire. Over the years, he has climbed the highest peaks in

each New England state and spent countless days exploring forests, ridgelines, and conservation lands in every season.

“Hiking has just always been a passion of mine,” Romano said. “I love sharing what I’ve experienced and opening the door for other people to enjoy these places. It’s something you can do as an individual or with your family for your whole life.”

In addition to his writing, Romano works professionally in land conservation. He serves as a public policy advocate for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, where he collaborates with land trusts across the state to support conservation policy and protect natural spaces. That background, he said, also influences how he writes about hiking.

His presentation focused not only on suggested trails, but also on the organizations

that make access to those trails possible; from local land trusts to large conservation nonprofits that maintain and safeguard public land. He discussed the region’s unique ecology, offering insight into New England’s birds, wildlife, plants, and forest ecosystems that hikers encounter along the way.

Romano also emphasized safety and accessibility for those who are just getting started. He encouraged new hikers to begin locally, building confidence before tackling more rugged terrain.

“You’re blessed in this area,” he said. “There are so many places close by to explore. Start with nearby conservation lands and reservation properties, then gradually expand. Eventually you’ll find yourself in places like the White Mountains, the Green Mountains, or the wilds of Maine. The

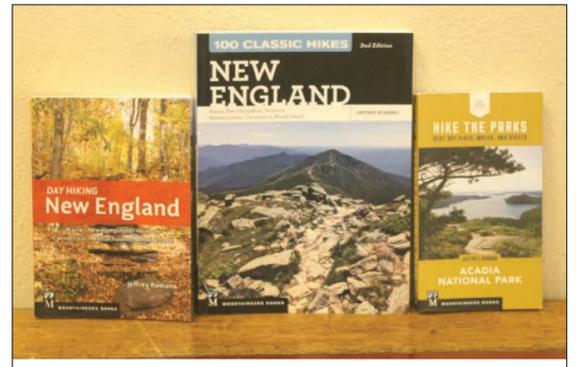
opportunities are limitless.”

He noted that much of New England’s landscape, once heavily logged or farmed, has reforested over the past century; resulting in unexpectedly vast areas of green wilderness. “There is still a lot of wildernesses in New England,” he said. “It’s remarkable how much open space is out there once you start exploring.”

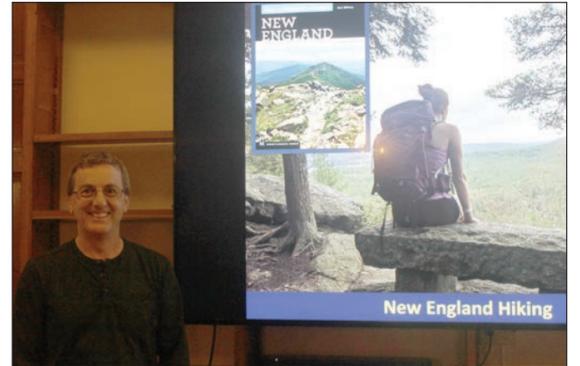
Romano’s guidebooks, including the latest edition of 100 Classic Hikes in New England, are available online and through major booksellers.

For those looking to get started closer to home, Romano encouraged residents to take advantage of nearby trail systems such as land trust preserves, Trustees of Reservations properties, and state parks.

“Just get out and enjoy it,” he said. “There are thousands of trails out there waiting.”



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy  
Romano's three hiking guide books he has published over the years.



Jeff Romano right before his presentation on hiking in New England.

## Community Cupboard open for those in need

MONSON—Monson Community Cupboard abounds in holiday spirit. The cupboard has been open since September 1 and has been frequented by more than 80 families. Our goal is to help alleviate cases of food insecurity throughout our town.

The Monson Community Cupboard, located at 24 Green St. is currently open on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Fridays from noon - 4 p.m and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, and can be opened by appointment if you can't make those times.

“We are grateful for the citizens who have made both food and monetary donations because they want to help members of our com-

munity in need. If there’s a need we will feed,” stated director, Karen Davis.

One customer declared that she “went to the food pantry on Green Street and the ladies in there are so sweet, kind helpful. Nobody makes you feel bad about needing help... We are blessed to have them. Karen and team - thank you so much for what you do. It was amazing. The shopping experience is so phenomenal!”

Donations of food may be dropped off at 24 Green St. when open. Monetary donations may be dropped off or mailed to Monson Community Cupboard 24 Green St. Monson, MA 01057

## Holiday Bazaar returns Nov. 15

PALMER – St. Paul’s Church of Palmer is delighted to announce its Third Annual Holly Berry Bazaar, a joyful community tradition celebrating the spirit of the Holiday season. The

event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Paul’s Church located at 1060 Central Street in Palmer.

The bazaar offerings will include an old-time holiday marketplace filled with arts and crafts, handmade gifts, a giant raffle, themed gift baskets, and St. Paul’s famous bake sale, featuring homemade pies, cookies, and seasonal treats. A variety of local and regional artisans will showcase unique items perfect for holiday giving—from handcrafted ornaments to

specialty foods and décor.

The children’s activities promise fun for the entire family. The Christmas Kid’s Corner will

feature the North Pole Post for letters to Santa, free sweet-treat bags, and photos with the

genuine Santa and Mrs. Claus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Little ones can share their wish lists while

parents enjoy the sights and sounds of a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

The Holly Berry Christmas Kitchen will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., serving a warm

and hearty lunch that includes fresh apple cider, homemade coleslaw, chili, hot dogs, and

more. Guests can also take-home delicious items from the bake sale, including fresh fruit pies

and other homemade favorites baked by the “Sweet Traditions” team at St. Paul’s.

Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul’s Church, shares: “Come out for a day of festive fun

and Christmas shopping! We’re excited to host our Third Annual Holly Berry Bazaar and look

forward to sharing the holiday cheer with our friends and neighbors across the Palmer area.”

About St. Paul’s Church of Palmer:

Founded in 1937, St. Paul’s has long served the greater Palmer community through outreach,

fellowship, and inclusive worship. The church continues to share its enduring message of

grace, acceptance, and love. For more information, visit [www.StPaulsPalmer.org](http://www.StPaulsPalmer.org).

### CORRECTION:

In our recent article about the Monson Special Town Meeting we incorrectly identified the museum discussed under Article 23 as the Keep Homestead Museum. The correct reference was to the Monson Bellman Museum. We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

## Craft fair on 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. Refreshments and lunch available for purchase. Free parking and admission.



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**November 23, 2025**

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Bake Sale to Benefit Senior Gift Bags  
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# Viewpoints

PALMER

## Local residents continue to step up for the food insecure

To the Editor,

Not surprisingly, Palmer Food Share, and I'm sure all other food pantries across the nation, were extremely busy on Friday, October 31. Knowing that the federal government had failed to fund expiring SNAP benefits, local residents stepped up. A woman came in with a number of Big Y gift cards and several bags of food. A

U10 boys' soccer team also donated bags of food along with a generous cash donation. And an anonymous gentleman handed me a bill. I thanked him, but in all the confusion to fill food orders, I neglected to get his name and address for a written thank you. When I returned to the office, I realized I had a \$100 bill in my hands. So, a big thank you to that gen-

erous man and to all who supported, and continue to support, our efforts to battle food insecurity in the area. Members of Palmer and surrounding communities always come through when others are struggling. Thank you so much.

**Sandra Noonan**  
Secretary,  
Palmer Food Share

The Palmer Food Share is located at 39 Walnut Street in Palmer.

On Nov. 22 at the Converse Street parking lot (building on the corner of Park and Thorndike Streets, at the lights) collection of food will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items requested: cranberry sauce, pasta, soups, pie fillings, stuffing boxes, canned tuna, canned

chicken, laundry soap, dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo and body wash.

Contacts: Cathy Plouffe Director Food Share (413) 283-3614 or Finnegan (413) 427-2413 Assistant Director.

This event is sponsored by Monson Savings Bank and The Valley's Classic Hits. Trucks provided by ServPro of Hampshire County.

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Should I ask for retroactive benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 70 next month, Oct. 3 and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026.

I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026?

Signed: Turning 70

Dear Turning 70:

I must ask why claim your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn't gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC's, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits, which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the "Remarks" section of your application that

"I do not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age."

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the "Remarks" section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

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



## Garden Lady follow up

Martha wrote in after my column on Stinging Nettle. As you may recall, a reader had reached out about this plant and how it had begun to grow rampant in her field.

She was nervous about coming in contact with it, and nervous for her dog, as well, who likes to run in the tall grass. Her main concern was eradicating it, and although I gave her some advice on how to do that, I should have also given the plant a little more well-deserved recognition.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

This is what Martha had to say: "I did, indeed, plant nettles; they are in a part of the yard where their growth will be somewhat controlled. But are they not an excellent source of calcium, and have plenty of other health benefits, besides? It seems we are quick to 'eradicate' the less tame plants, which, upon investigation, can prove to be beneficial."

Martha, your point is well-taken! I guess it goes along with the old saying, "one person's trash is another person's treasure." Or better yet, how about "one person's weed is another person's medicine?"

Along similar lines, this question came in from Steven, who lives in Becket. He wrote to the Garden Lady curious about the late blooming perennial, Monkshood.

First he provides some

background; "My wife was starting to clear a small flower area we have next to the driveway two weekends ago. She was cutting down daisies that we didn't even plant there. I saw a flower next to the daisies, which I had never seen before and asked her what it was. She said she had no idea, that she'd never seen it before either. I took some pictures, and every search I did on them said that they're Monkshood. I told her that the search said they're poisonous."

I walked away and then read a little more and found out that they're poisonous to the touch. I went back to tell her and she had cut them down without touching them because she was scared our dog would get into them. We just left them where they're lying. The stems are still sticking out of the ground. What are your thoughts? Is that what you think they are too? My research didn't show them growing in this area. Also, thoughts about how we should handle them if they are indeed poisonous?"

Monkshood (Aconitum) is a pretty perennial that has blue "hooded" flowers along two-four foot spikes. It is a cottage garden favorite because it is one of a few flowers that do bloom in blue shades, and it blooms towards

the end of summer, when few others plants are in their glory.

Due to the unique flower shape, the plant is mainly pollinated by "long tongued" bumble bees, who pry open the flower to get at the pollen.

With all this said, the plant sounds great!

Now here comes the "but..." Caution should indeed be exercised around Monkshood. It goes by other common names that are more telling of its true nature, Wolfsbane and Devil's Helmet among others.

The plant contains a deadly toxins, aconitine and diterpene alkaloids that can result in death if ingested. It is even advised to use gloves when handling the plant, even its roots if you were to dig it up, because of absorption that can occur through the skin.

Most experts recommend not growing it in gardens that pets or children may frequent.

I hope this answers your question, Steven. I do think that you were on target to be concerned, especially because of your dog.

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



Horned lark

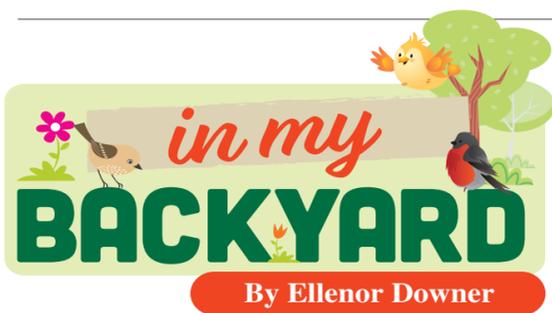
Recently, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a horned lark on the summit of Mt. Wachusett in Princeton.

Only the male horned larks have "horns." They are tiny and hard to see. Males are sandy to rusty brown above with a black chest band and a curving black mask. The face and throat are either yellow or white. The female lacks the horns and face mask. She is brown with darker streaks and has a white eyebrow and white below.

They are about the size of a robin and the only lark species in North America.

The female lays three to four pale gray to greenish white, blotched and spotted with brown eggs in a slight depression in the ground. Incubation is by the female and young are fed by both parents. Young may leave the nest after nine to 12 days. They are not able to fly for about another week.

Larks forage entirely by walking and running on the ground. Except when nesting, they usually forage in flocks. They eat seeds and insects. They also eat berries. They are present all year in most areas from southern Canada south. They are strictly migratory in the far north.



### Bird sightings

On Oct. 25 Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, hawk watchers reported sighting from the summit two northern harriers, ten sharp-shinned hawks, nine Cooper's hawks, 18 red-shoulder hawks, four red-tailed hawks, two American kestrels and one merlin.

In addition, people saw two bald eagles, 37 turkey vultures and one horned lark.

### Helping birds

With more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S. alone, there's huge potential to support wildlife by replacing lawns with native plant-



Kestrel

ings. People will have less grass to mow by adding native plants. They then will be able to watch the birds come into their yard. They also provide shelter and nesting areas for birds. The nectar, seeds and berries help feed the birds.

## The Journal Register

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@ Journal Register

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

[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com)  
The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## UPCOMING

### WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILLIARY SHOP

Located at 40 Wright St., Palmer

#### NOVEMBER VENDORS

- Nov. 13: Cork Elegance Plus
- Nov. 18: Wicked Good Treats
- Nov. 19: Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- Nov. 20: Therafeet
- 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. 11: Cork Elegance Plus
- Dec. 15: Generations of Cookies
- Dec. 17: Wicked Good Treats
- Dec. 19: Shannon Bacon
- Dec. 22: Generations of Cookies
- Dec. 23: Geriations and Sew on
- Dec. 24: Patty Cakes

## 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](mailto:trulytorie2000@gmail.com) for more info and to register.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subscribe to The Journal Register online at [journalregister.turley.com](http://journalregister.turley.com)

## BIRDS | from page 4

### Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident emailed on Oct. 17 that he went to the Brimfield State Forest a few days ago and checked three ponds. He said, "Not much about, one pond had eight Canada Geese and another had a group of wood ducks. Maybe a couple dozen in a beaver pond, it was difficult to get a count with all the stumps and branches in the water."

He said, "In the yard the Eastern Towhee and Northern Catbird were last seen the second week of October. Besides the usual suspect there have been white-throated Sparrows (most were the tan-striped color form), com-

mon yellowthroat (female). An unusual sighting was a male northern flicker taking a drink at the bird bath. That is the first time that I have seen a woodpecker take a drink" He also saw two dark-eyed juncos, the first of the year in his yard. One took a bath.

### Sunflower seed heads

The Brimfield resident reported the tufted titmouse and northern cardinal really like the sunflower seed heads that he has been hanging on one of my feeder stations. Because of the black bears, he has no bird feeders out yet.

### Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident drove past the ponds in War-

ren. At the one on New Reed Street, there was an adult bald eagle, three mallards and two double-crested cormorants.

### Canada geese

I saw a flock of about two dozen Canada geese land in a harvested cornfield in Barre this past Saturday. I do not know if they were local geese or some migrating south from the north.

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

Tickets are \$10 each. Tickets available at TJ's Tavern and will be sold at the B4 Mac Craft Fair on Nov. 29 & 30 downtown Monson or scan QR code. Drawing Nov. 30th.

~ Proceeds go to Monson Community Cupboard ~

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## Annual State Button Show to be held Nov. 8

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.

## Mah Jongg Club open 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 an-

other 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.

## Tree of Love fundraiser

PALMER – The Tree of Love annual fundraiser honors a loved one with a wooden ornament to be put on our tree near the Baystate Wing Gift Shop from November thru December.

A single name ornament is \$5 and a family name is \$10.

More information and forms are available in the Gift Shop or by our tree on the 1st floor.

### COMMITTEE | from page 1

#### Granite Valley Health Program Adjustment

A significant discussion centered on changes to the Granite Valley School health curriculum. The weekly health block for fifth and sixth graders, previously taught by school counselors, has been discontinued for the 2024-2025 school year. The decision allows counselors to focus more directly on student mental health needs and provides additional instructional time for math interventions.

Foster explained that the shift was made to balance student wellness with academic priorities. "We needed our counselors to be focused on counseling and proactive wellness lessons, not daily direct instruction," he said.

One committee member voiced concern about the long-term impact of the change, emphasizing that "fifth and sixth grade are

formative years... we must ensure consistent, age-appropriate health education even as we adjust programming." Foster added that health lessons are still being delivered through wellness weeks and classroom integrations that meet state standards.

#### Communication and Community Engagement

Foster reported substantial progress in the district's communication efforts. The Monson Public Schools Facebook page now has around 400 followers and logged 75,000 views in September. He credited the district's communications team for strengthening transparency and outreach. "This shows that people want to hear about the great things happening in our schools," he said. "We're telling our story, not letting someone else tell it for us."

#### Early College Initiative

Monson High School is collaborating with a regional university to certify certain classes for dual credit, en-

abling students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. The goal is for students to graduate with up to a year's worth of college credits, saving families thousands of dollars in tuition. The district is also pursuing a \$25,000 state pre-planning grant for formal early college designation.

"This program will save families thousands of dollars and open doors for students," said Principal Christopher Fontaine. Committee members commended the initiative, calling it a major advancement in preparing students for higher education and workforce readiness.

#### Fiscal Stability and Grant Funding

Business Manager Leah Zippin provided an update on the district's financial status, reporting that Monson schools are operating approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 in the black. The district benefited from circuit breaker funding that came in

\$49,000 higher than anticipated. Zippin noted that while unplanned special education expenses are expected, the district's recent cybersecurity costs should be fully covered by insurance. "Transparency and proactive financial planning are key," Zippin said. "Our goal is to make sure every dollar is accounted for and understood."

The committee also accepted two grants from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: a \$9,000 Targeted Tier Math Academy grant to train teachers in math recovery instruction and a \$5,000 Innovation Career Pathways Planning grant to help develop new high school programs in engineering and related fields.

#### Graduation Date Set for Class of 2026

Monson High School's graduation has been scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Granite Valley School, with a rain date of Saturday, May 30, at

11 a.m. The date aligns with prior years and avoids conflicts with other area graduations. Principal Fontaine said the decision provides families ample time to plan and allows the district to maintain consistent academic scheduling. "This keeps us consistent with previous years and gives families ample time to plan," he said.

#### Superintendent Goals and Evaluation

Superintendent Foster presented his evaluation plan for the academic year, outlining goals to build a multi-year curriculum review process, establish a long-term fiscal sustainability plan, and strengthen family and community communication. The committee voted unanimously to approve the goals and timeline. "My focus is on sustainable growth: academically, financially, and in how we engage families and the community," Foster said.

Committee members praised the superintendent's

proactive leadership and noted improvements in transparency and community engagement since his appointment.

#### Student Climate and Learning Survey

Foster reviewed results from the state's Views of Climate and Learning (VOCAL) survey, which measures student engagement, safety, and school climate. Monson's results closely matched state averages overall, but 10th-grade students reported notably higher satisfaction in all categories. "Every one of our 10th graders said a teacher is available when they need to talk," Foster said. "That speaks volumes about the caring culture in our high school."

The survey also identified opportunities for improvement, particularly in strengthening peer respect among younger students and making middle school learning more relevant through applied learning and project-based approaches.

### DISTRICT 1 | from page 1

lined his plans to launch a town-wide survey to identify resident interests and shape both summer and fall recreation models that better reflect community needs. "I'm just very excited to work with all the youth groups, work with the schools, and try and get some things going," Kyeremateng said. His long-term goals include developing a local summer youth program and exploring partnerships with organizations such as the YMCA and Pathfinder to expand opportunities for families.

Councilors expressed optimism about Kyeremateng's approach and the Recreation Subcommittee's support in establishing clear program goals. Brothers noted that the town's objective is to provide inclusive recreation options for residents of all ages and that Kyeremateng's arrival represents an important step toward rebuilding the department's visibility and consistency.

Ashley Place, the town's first-ever Director of Admin-

istrative Services, was also welcomed by the Council. Her primary responsibilities include improving communication between departments, enhancing Palmer's social media presence, and overseeing a complete website redesign. "I'm very excited to join the team here and come back into municipal government," Place said. "We're already cleaning up the website, fixing broken links, and expanding our social media presence." Councilors praised her early initiative, with several noting that residents have already begun to notice more frequent updates from Town Hall. Councilor Jess Sizer commended Place's efforts, adding that "one of the things that's said a lot is there's nothing happening here...but there is. We just have to do a better job of getting the word out."

#### Tax Relief Expanded for Seniors and Veterans

Principal Assessor Rachael Carney presented findings from a personal exemption study comparing Palmer's senior and veteran tax exemptions to those of fourteen other communities.

The results revealed that Palmer's income and asset limits for seniors were well below the regional average, leaving many residents unable to qualify for meaningful tax relief.

Carney recommended, and the Council unanimously approved, a series of adjustments to bring Palmer's exemption programs in line with Massachusetts General Law and neighboring municipalities. Backdated for July 1, 2025, the town will increase income and asset thresholds for seniors, rescind two outdated cost-of-living adjustments related to surviving spouse exemptions, and adopt a new provision expanding veterans' benefits under the state's recently passed "Heroes Act." "These changes will bring our income and asset limits in line with HUD poverty levels," Carney explained. "They'll make Palmer's program consistent with other communities and provide fair and meaningful tax relief to those who qualify."

Town Manager Brothers said the estimated cost of these adjustments, approximately \$55,000, would

come from the town's overlay account and would not affect other budget priorities. Councilors voiced support for the update, noting that the adjustments help correct longstanding inequities and better support older residents and veterans living on fixed incomes.

#### Council Adopts Local Room Occupancy Tax

In a move aimed at expanding the town's revenue base, the Council voted to adopt a six percent local room occupancy excise on hotels, motels, and short-term rental properties such as Airbnb and VRBO. Brothers described the measure as a fair way for visitors to contribute to the community services they use during their stay. "This isn't going to scare people off," he said. "It's a minimal charge, and nearly every neighboring community already has it in place."

According to a conservative estimate from the Department of Local Services, the tax could generate around \$14,000 annually, though actual revenues may grow as more rental properties are registered. The Council em-

phasized that the additional funds would help support local services without burdening residents. Not everyone agreed, however. Councilor Phil Hebert voiced strong opposition, describing the measure as "highway robbery" and "another way of taking money out of people's pockets." Despite his dissent, the measure passed, with the Council noting that it needed to be adopted by December 1 to take effect on January 1, 2026.

#### State License Amendment Frustrates Council

The Council also approved an amendment to House Bill 4282, which allows Palmer to grant five new on-premise alcoholic beverage licenses. The change updated a specific restaurant name, originally tied to the now-defunct Mexican restaurant proposed for the former Friendly's site, to the ownership group responsible for the property.

While the vote passed without issue, councilors expressed growing frustration with the state's slow and rigid licensing process, which requires each license to be tied to a specific business address. Brothers noted that this site-specific restriction has already cost Palmer several development opportunities. "A business can open tomorrow in Sturbridge, where licenses aren't site-specific," said Council president Barry. "Here, they wait a year or more. It's not fair and it's not helping our economic development." The Council agreed to have Brothers draft a letter to the town's state legislators urging them to consider a

more flexible licensing framework that supports faster growth and competitiveness.

#### Town Manager's Report

In his report, Brothers announced that the town has posted a combined Treasurer/Collector position that will require Council approval for an organizational change. The Department of Public Works Director posting is expected to follow shortly. He also reported that work has begun on establishing a District Improvement Financing (DIF) district, which will require a Council vote in November.

The town's \$6-8 million grant application for the Thorndike Street sewer siphon replacement was not funded, though officials plan to meet with state representatives to determine how to strengthen next year's application. Brothers also noted that work on the Complete Streets project has been postponed until 2026 due to unresolved easement issues in front of Big Y.

Code enforcement efforts continue, with notices regarding unregistered vehicles successfully improving compliance through education rather than fines. A vacancy on the Planning Board will be filled through a joint meeting between the Council and Planning Board later this fall. Brothers added that the former Three Rivers School has been condemned and is in the process of being sold to a private owner.

The meeting concluded with the Council entering executive session under state law to discuss collective bargaining strategy with Palmer Police NEPBA Local 071.



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**LIONS** | from page 1

continues to define the organization today.

"Helping with the flood cleanup was one of the first big things they did," Davis said. "From there, the Lions became involved in all sorts of community projects... whatever was needed."

Over the years, those efforts have ranged from public health initiatives to environmental conservation. The Lions conduct vision screenings for students in Monson and Brimfield schools, collect used eyeglasses for distribution in developing countries, and gather crayons for repurposing and donation. The club also supports food pantries and other local charities, and has even funded tree-planting projects at the Quaboag Riders Club to combat erosion.

The Lions Club's presence is felt year-round in Monson's community life. The group takes part in Summerfest, helps organize Halloween celebrations, and hosts the annual Tree of Lights ceremony each Christmas season.

Held at the gazebo downtown, the Tree of Lights is one of the club's most cherished traditions. "We sell ornaments with loved ones' names on them," Davis explained. "They hang on the tree at the gazebo downtown. It's a really meaningful way for people to remember someone special during the holidays."

This year, the Lions also hosted their first Halloween celebration at Veterans Field, which Davis described as "chaotic, but kids love chaos." Despite cold, rainy weather, turnout was strong and spirits were high. The event featured trick-or-treating, a costume parade, and participation from several local groups and businesses, including Colonial Village, the Monson Republican Town Committee, TJ's Tavern, and Karina from Afrique.

Beyond community cel-

ebrations, the Monson Lions have helped foster opportunities for young people. The club has sponsored students for the All-State Band, supported local athletes fundraising for cancer research, and contributed to civic improvement projects. "The Lions do a little bit of everything," Davis said with a laugh.

Membership in the Monson Lions Club is by invitation, and the organization currently meets once a month. Interest has been growing, Davis noted, with five new members set to be inducted at the next meeting. "You usually get invited by someone already in the club," she said. "It's really about being active in your community and wanting to give back."

Leading the club through many of its milestones is President Don Vacon, who has been a member for 50 of the club's 70 years. "He's been with the Lion's for most of its history," Davis said. "He's seen it all...from the early cleanup days to the way the club continues to adapt today."

As the Monson Lion's Club looks toward its next chapter, its members remain committed to the same principles that guided them through the floodwaters of 1955: service, community, and compassion.

"Seventy years later,"



**President Don Vacon regales the group with stories of the past 50 years of the Lions Club.**



**Curt Jameson shows off some items bought for the celebration.**

Davis said, "we're still here, doing what we can to help our town."



Submitted photos

**The cake made for the 70th anniversary of the Monson Lion's Club**

## Holiday Craft Fair Nov. 29-30

MONSON – The Monson Arts Council 46th Annual Holiday Craft Fair is a major fundraiser for the Monson Arts Council as well as several other non-profit groups. The Fair opens on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 9 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m. and then reopens on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m.

The fair features 65+ crafters located in four buildings all within a short walking distance. The buildings are Memorial Hall, the United Methodist Church, the Universalist Church, and the House of Art. Luncheon is served in the Methodist Church.

This fair distinguishes itself from other fairs, by featuring only hand-crafted items. All locations offer a wide variety of gifts, decorations, and collectibles, including stained glass, pottery, bath products, books, candles, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand crafted greeting cards, and much more.

Starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday a Holiday Carol Sing will begin in front of Memorial Hall.

Jordyn Doyle will be leading the sing along this year. We encourage everyone to come out and help us ring in the holiday season by

participating in the Monson Community Carol Sing along.

The singing will precede Santa's arrival on a fire truck at about 4:30 p.m. and the town holiday lights will be turned on. All of the Children gathered can follow Santa into Memorial Hall to meet him and enjoy some refreshments. All are welcome.

You are encouraged to join this annual craft fair and our Monson Community Carol Sing and get a head start on your Christmas shopping.

For information or directions please contact Wendy Murakami at 413-896-8666 or email info@monsonartscouncil.org.

## Musical delights of handbells

MONSON – Join "Chime In" for a magical experience, enveloped in the musical delights of handbells hosted by St. Patrick's Church located at 22 Green Street, Monson at 3 p.m. on December 7, 2025. This concert is FREE.

Ring, revel, and rejoice throughout this concert. Chime In! Music with a Mission is a truly magical experience for friends and family, enveloped in the musical delights of handbells. They offer a wide range of dynamic music, be it a collection of beloved carols, a singular arrangement of a traditional tune, or a riotous

cacophony of boom-whackers and organ pipes reclaimed as chimes. One hundred twenty-five handbells plus chimes and gongs are sure to warm your hearts during this joyous season.

Chime In! Music With a Mission brings joy and fun to their handbell performances. Their concerts of secular and sacred music embrace audience participation.

Where else do you get the opportunity to mingle with the performers and their instruments?

Guests will be encouraged to try their hands at playing bells, chimes, and

even some of their more unusual instruments after the concert when they might try out the handbells themselves. Children are often encouraged to try their hands on the bells.

The choirs of Chime In! have been sharing their love of music with the community for more than 20 years, at multiple venues – from New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas, to the Bethlehem Fair, UMass, Carnegie Hall, and now right here in Monson.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert at the Parish Hall (Columbia Hall) across the street.

## Grant proposals being sought

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

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

Monson priorities can

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

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**BUTTON** | from page 1

Among those early treasures was one particularly rare find: a Confederate Civil War button, passed down from an ancestor who fought during the war.

Korstynski's passion for buttons eventually led her deep into a thriving collector's community. "We do button shows: local club shows, regional shows, and even national and international ones," she said. "In New England, we have the Northeast Regional Button Association, NURBA, and then there's the National Button Society, which includes collectors from around the world. Australia, England, France...you name it."

Buttons, she explained, can be studied from many angles: by the materials they're made from, their decorative artistry, their military use, or their historical significance. "It's like studying antiques," Korstynski said. "You can focus on what you find pretty, or dive into the industrial and cultural history behind them."

For her, the appeal lies in the research. "I love finding out where they were made and what they were made from," she said. "Connecticut is a treasure trove; Stafford Springs, for example, had mills that made pearl buttons. Waterbury was once called the brass capital of the world."

In fact, she recently pub-



**Elizabeth Korstynski appraised some buttons a few patrons of the Keep Homestead Museum brought in.**

lished a book on pewter buttons from Naugatuck, Connecticut, which she calls the first American buttons to bear a maker's mark; a small name or symbol stamped on the back, known as a backmark. "Those early pewter buttons mark the beginning of America's Industrial Revolution," she said.

Her enthusiasm for the subject extends to the local community as well. Korstynski helps lead the Monson Button Club, which meets monthly at the Keep Homestead Museum. The club, which has about 20 members,

is part of the Massachusetts State Button Society, an umbrella organization that connects several regional clubs including the Metro Boston and Shirley Button Clubs. Their next major event, the Massachusetts State Button Show, will be held on November 8 at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers, featuring eight dealers and countless examples of button artistry and history.

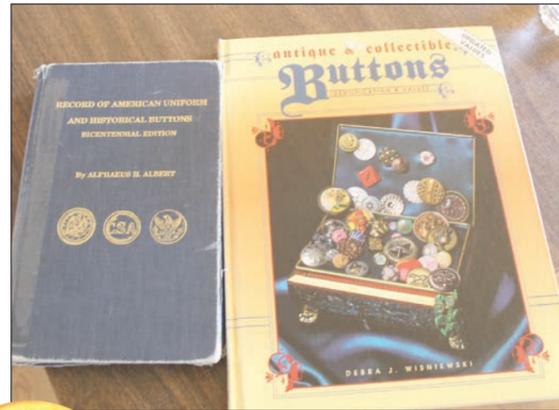
The Keep Homestead Museum's Myra's Button Room pays tribute to long-time collector Myra Keep Lovell, whose mosaic button

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

collection forms the centerpiece of the exhibit. Myra's acquisitions span over a century and include fine examples of both Roman and Florentine mosaic buttons; tiny pieces of glass or stone arranged into floral and scenic designs that look like painted artwork when viewed without magnification.

The museum's interpretive display invites visitors to imagine what stories these buttons could tell: where they were made, who wore them, and how they survived over time.

As one display reads:



**Some of the books Korstynski uses to help in her button appraisal. Inset, an example of a maker's mark, or a back mark, on a button.**

"Although buttons were made to fasten clothing, they were often admired for their beauty as well as their purpose. Ladies felt grand wearing their opera capes fastened by jeweled buttons of the 1890s, and every railroad man felt complete with the properly labeled buttons for his uniform."

Only a fraction of Myra's vast collection is on display at any given time, with exhibits rotating seasonally. Visitors are encouraged to use magnifying glasses to admire the craftsmanship of 19th-century buttons featuring animals, flowers, landscapes, and even portraits.

Throughout the museum, button displays are paired

with other historical exhibits, emphasizing how these small objects connect to larger stories of industry, art, and personal expression.

When asked what inspired her to write her book on pewter buttons, Korstynski smiled. "Because I love the history," she said. "Those were the first buttons made in New England...the first American buttons with makers' marks. I wanted to go back to the beginning."

From a grandmother's bedside collection to an international community of collectors, the story of buttons, told through people like Elizabeth Korstynski, reveals how even the smallest everyday objects can hold extraordinary history.

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## Business

### Country Bank welcomes Paul Whitfield appointment as Retail Banking Officer

WARE – Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Whitfield as Retail Banking Officer. With more than two decades of experience in the financial industry, Paul brings an impressive depth of knowledge, leadership, and customer-focused service that align seamlessly with Country Bank's mission to make a difference in the communities it serves.

"We are thrilled to welcome Paul to our retail banking team," said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer. "His extensive background in banking, combined with his genuine passion for helping individuals and families achieve their financial goals, reflects the core of who we are at Country Bank. Paul's commitment to service, teamwork, and community embodies our iSTEP values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity."

Paul began his career in the financial sector in 2001 as a Loan Officer for a small brokerage in Lakeville, MA, later expanding his expertise across several leading financial institutions including Citizens Bank, Santander Bank, Bank of America,

Berkshire Bank, and Fiserv. His professional journey has included roles as a Banker, Assistant Manager, Small Business Officer, and Merchant Specialist, each reinforcing his dedication to delivering exceptional customer experiences.

Motivated by a lifelong desire to make a positive impact, Paul found a natural fit in banking. "I've always been drawn to roles that allow me to help people in meaningful ways," Paul shared. "Country Bank's community involvement, especially programs like Credit for Life, really resonated with me. Joining a team that values both customer care and community support feels like coming home."

Beyond his professional achievements, Paul is deeply involved in his community. He has served for over 34 years as a youth basketball and baseball coach, mentoring countless student athletes across New England. His leadership extends to serving on the Programs Committee with the Corridor 9/495 Chamber of Commerce and previously as a Committee of Management member and



Paul Whitfield

Sub-Committee Chair for Special Events with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Massachusetts, where he received the MA Governor's Alliance Against Drugs Award for his volunteerism.

About Country Bank: Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$2B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 15 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at [countrybank.com](http://countrybank.com).

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**FOOTBALL**

## Warriors fall to Doherty, make state tournament

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER — Both the Tantasqua Regional boys' soccer and football teams suffered shutout road losses to Doherty Memorial High School on back-to-back days at the end of last week.

The Highlanders soccer team clinched the inaugural CMAC A Division title by posting a 6-0 shutout win over the Warriors at Foley Stadium, last Thursday afternoon.

A little more than 24 hours later, the Warriors football team made another trip to Worcester and suffered a 31-0 loss to the Highlanders, which was played on Doherty's brand new turf field.

Doherty held a 3-0 lead late in the second quarter before scoring touchdowns on a pick-6, a punt return, and on a two yard run following a blocked punt, which pretty much sealed their victory at halftime.

WARRIORS | page 11

**FOOTBALL**



After several years of defeats, Palmer High School finally picked up a win in its great rivalry with neighbor Ware.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Panthers score upset, defeat Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE — A total team effort.

That's probably the best way to describe Palmer's 21-6 victory over Ware in the 99th meeting on the gridiron between the neighboring high schools, which was held before a large crowd at Veterans' Field in Ware, last

Saturday afternoon. "Everybody played a huge role in today's game," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "My players played very well in this setting, which you can't recreate at practice."

It has been ten years since the Panthers celebrated a victory in the rivalry series, which began in 1925. On October 31, 2015,

the Panthers came-from-behind to defeat the Indians, 14-6, at Legion Field. The last time that the Panthers won a game at Veterans' Field was in 2010 by the final score of 33-0.

The Palmer-Ware trophy, which is shaped like a football, will be kept at Palmer High School for the next year.

"I only beat Ware once

when I played for Palmer. I also won a couple of games as an assistant football coach under Peter Farr," Marciniac said. "This is the first time that I've beaten Ware as a head coach, and it just feels great."

The eight seniors listed on the Panthers football roster are Gavin Smola, Landon Couture, Jared Perry, Kaleb Hayes, Hunter White, Dylan

Doherty, and Matt Santos. "I believe six of the eight seniors have been playing for the football team since they were freshman," Marciniac added. "We might not be here today if it wasn't for the seniors. I can't thank them enough."

Doherty, who sat out the six games of the season

SCORE | page 12

**SOCCER**

## Monson boys lose title game in shootout

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — The only times that the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy and Monson boys' soccer teams have faced each other have been in the postseason tournament.

The first match-up between the two sides took place in the 2016 Western Mass. Division 4 quarterfinals. Kyle Monaghan and Logan Gerry scored a pair of goals in that contest as the

Brady Ronaldson advances up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry



Mustangs cruised to a 6-0 home victory over the Eagles.

Their second meeting came in this year's Western Mass. Class D semifinal match, which was a very close affair.

Senior Jake Beaupre, who is Gerry's cousin, scored a goal during the 11th minute of the opening half. The Mustangs defense managed to hold the Eagles off the score-

SHOOTOUT | page 11

**FOOTBALL**

## Pioneers beat Orioles in first matchup

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Anthony Arventos and Mason Baer combine for a tackle.

PALMER — The previous 23 games on the gridiron between Belchertown and Pathfinder Tech have taken place on Thanksgiving morning.

The two squads, who first faced each other in 2001, will be facing each other at Belchertown High School on Thanksgiving morning, but they're also members of the Tri-County League.

The league contest took

PIONEERS | page 10



Jordyn Szado guides the ball up the field.



Lylia Ellis sends a pass away.



Avery Beaudoin clears the ball away.



Makenna Peterson gets ready to pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

**SOCCER**

## Mustangs edged in WMass title game

MONSON — Last Wednesday, Monson High School girls soccer was narrowly defeated by Mt. Greylock in the Western Mass. Class C championship game 2-1. To reach the title game, the Mustangs easily defeated Lenox 9-2 in the quarterfinals, followed by a 1-0 edge of Easthampton in the semifinals. In the finals, held last Wednesday at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Hannah Murphy had the lone goal as

Greylock grabbed two in the first half. Monson could not equal them in the second half and fell in the title game.

Monson was ranked No. 4 in Division 5 and thus will have three home games in the state tournament if they make a deep run. The first of those was scheduled 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6. Their opponent is the winner of the Franklin Tech, Dearborn STEM Academy preliminary round winner.



Hannah Murphy looks upfield as chases down the ball.



Chelsea Hull dribbles, looking for an open teammate.

# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Bondsville League

WARE – After nine weeks of league candlepin bowling, Fire Mountain remains in first place in the Bondsville League.

Fire Mountain has a record of 41-22 and leads in the east division. In the west division, Cannonballs are in first place with a record of 40-23; second place overall.

In week nine, Cannonballs bowled against Team UMass. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 484-430. In game two, Cannonballs bounced back with a win of their own, 464-457. Sally Czarniecki of Cannonballs bowled well with a 105 during game two.

In game three, Cannonballs won by a score of 504-454. Micah Hinkley of Cannonballs ended the match with a good game of 128. The final score was 1398-1395 in favor of Cannonballs.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against the Night Hawks in week nine. In game one, Night Hawks were the winners by a score of 440-418.

In game two, Night Hawks won again by a score of 495-450. Darryl Sinclair of Night Hawks had a good game with a score of 136.

In game three, Night Hawks won big against Zeke's Freaks by a score of

548-484. Sinclair finished with 139 and a series of 383. Gavin Sinclair finished with 136 to go with his 103 and 115 for a 354 series. Dave Smigs of Night Hawks finished strong with a 115.

The final score was 1483-1352 in favor of Night Hawks, who are now 37-26.

P&J Meats bowled against Spare Parts Bud in week nine. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 466-433. Game two was won by P&J Meats, 460-440. In game three, P&J Meats won all seven points by taking game three, 472-432. The final score was 1398-1305 in favor of P&J Meats.

Slow Burners bowled against Fire Mountain in week nine. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Fire Mountain, 522-503. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners began with 138. His teammates broke the century mark with scores of 119, 104, and 102. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain bowled 119 and Scott Brewster bowled 114.

In game two, Fire Mountain came back with the victory, 506-496. Trott bested his last game with a 129 in game two. Orszulak had another good game of 130.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 484-458. Orszulak's last game was 117 and brought him to a series of 385. Trott bowled a 109 and a series of 357. The final score was 1502-1467 in favor of Slow

Burners. Sandri bowled against Ironmen in week nine. In game one, Sandri won by a score of 481-444. Sue Horton of Sandri bowled a 125 and her teammate Bob Hutchinson started with 116.

In game two, Ironmen returned with a victory over Sandri, 521-460. Pete Swistak of Ironmen bowled his best game of the season with 145. His teammates, Billy Brunk and Ryan Drago bowled well with scores of 126 and 123.

In game three, Ironmen won the last game by a score of 501-456. Swistak finished with 129 and a series of 376. Drago finished with 123 and a series of 374. The final score was 1466-1397 in favor of Ironmen.

Snappers bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls in week nine. In game one, Snappers won by a score of 479-452. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers began with 125 and his teammate Andy Tombor began with 115.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 474-443. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls bowled well with 123.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won again to end the match, 480-454. Paulus finished with 111 and a series of 320. Krasnecky finished with 115. The final score was 1406-1376 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

Contact the Journal Register's Sports Editor [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Week



**Hunter Baird**  
Palmer High School

Baird had an amazing catch and dive into the end zone to score a key touchdown in Palmer's big win over rival Ware last Saturday.

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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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## PIONEERS | from page 9

place Oct. 24 at Legion Field in Palmer.

The Pathfinder Tech Pioneers celebrated their senior night with a 40-25 victory over the Orioles before a large crowd.

"It did feel like a Thanksgiving Day game tonight," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Bill Darling. "They made a comeback against us in the second half, but we never relinquished the lead. I'm very proud of the players."

The seniors listed on the Pathfinder Tech football roster are Dustyn Cook, Ethan Mooney, Stephen Curtis, Brandyn Wilson, Aiden Girard, Brandon Charron, Jaiden Ambrose, Wyatt Breault, Amias Kowalik, Jaycub Parker-Gregory, Harold Black, and Jarett Skowyra.

"It's nice that we could beat our rivals on senior night," Darling said. "They'll probably remember tonight's game forever."

The two teams are heading in opposite directions.

While the Pioneers (3-4) won their third game in a row, the Orioles (4-3) have lost three straight games.

"I'm very frustrating be-



Anthony Arventos goes for a tackle.

cause we began the season with a 4-0 record and we've lost our last three games," said Belchertown head coach Keith LeBeau. "We've lost all of our fundamentals. We have a lot of things to work on. Give Pathfinder a lot of credit because they made the plays."

Belchertown won the coin toss, and junior Avery Cote returned the opening kickoff to the Pioneers 35

yard line.

The Orioles offense put together a four minute drive which was capped off with a one yard TD run by junior quarterback Coleman Longley.

Junior Leandro Martins made the extra point attempt.

Pathfinder sophomore quarterback Grayson Griswold completed a couple of passes



Grayson Griswold goes for the quarterback keeper.

to Skowyra before sophomore Cassian Kowalik powered his way seven yards into the endzone with 1:31 left in the first quarter.

Kowalik also scored a



Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)  
Cassian Kowalik takes the ball through the middle of the field.

rushing touchdown on the two-point conversion, which gave the Pioneers an 8-7 lead.

Following an interception by junior Anthony Arventos, the home team put together a nine play scoring drive.

Just when it looked like Griswold would be sacked, he managed to toss the ball to sophomore Trevor Alexander, who made the catch in the endzone completing the 9-yard touchdown pass with 8:14 remaining in the first half.

There was a fumble on the two-point conversion play, which left the Pioneers holding onto a 14-7 lead.

With a little more than a minute left in the half, Cassian Kowalik scored his second rushing touchdown on an 11-yard scamper up the middle.

Holding a 20-7 halftime lead, the Pioneers put six more points on the old scoreboard in the middle of the third quarter.

Griswold completed a 44-yard TD pass to Kowalik, who made an over the shoulder catch before sprinting into the endzone.

Trailing by 19 points, the Orioles scored the next three touchdowns which closed the gap to one point.

The comeback started when Longley threw a screen pass to senior Adam O'Rourke, who ran into the end zone behind a wall of blockers completing the 63-yard scoring play.

The extra point attempt was blocked.

After the Pioneers offense were forced to turn the ball over on downs, Cote scored a 34-yard rushing touchdown with three minutes left in the third quarter.

A pass on the two-point conversion play was incomplete in the endzone.

With 1:12 left in the third quarter, Longley called his number in the huddle and scored his second rushing touchdown on a six yard run.

Longley also carried the ball on the conversion play, but he was tackled in the backfield by Charron, which allowed the Pioneers to keep the lead.

Sophomore Caleb Crum and Griswold sealed the Pioneers victory with rushing touchdowns during the final quarter.

Belchertown will be looking to get back into the win column when they travel to McCann Tech on Saturday night, while Pathfinder Tech will be playing at Monument Mountain on Friday night.

## LAND FOR SALE

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**WARE: 214 OLD BELCHERTOWN RD** - Beautiful log home set on 5+ acres near the Quabbin, oversized two car garage with workshop area. Open living room area, granite counters, lower-level family rooms, enclosed four season sunroom on the front. **\$585,000**

**WARE** - Commercial building on over 4 acres. Multiple garage space, multiple office spaces. Great rental potential rent to one person or split up and rent to a few. So much potential here for the price. **\$280,000**



**SHOOTOUT** | from page 9

board for the final 69 minutes leading to an exciting 1-0 victory before a large gathering at Coach Robert E. Moriarty Soccer Field in Monson on October 27.

"It feels awesome to be going back to the Western Mass. finals," said Beaupre, who's an outstanding three sport athlete. "We've lost in the finals during the past couple of years, and we really want to win it this time."

Beaupre recalls attending several of his older cousin's high school soccer matches.

"I loved watching Logan, and his teammates play soccer when I was in elementary school," Beaupre said. "They were a great soccer team and we're trying to be just like them."

The Mustangs finished the 2016 season with an 18-4-1 overall record. They defeated Cohasset, 3-2, in overtime on a memorable goal from Connor Hicks in the Division 4 state finals.

The Mustangs, who also captured the 2015 state title, had a 14-1-3 overall record following the semifinal victory. Their only regular season loss came in a non-league contest at Pathfinder Tech, 3-2, in the season opener.

Pioneer Valley Christian Academy (12-1-2) didn't suffer any losses during the regular season.

"They're a very good soccer team," said Monson head coach Jared Pignone. "We played very hard in today's game and earned the right to play in the finals again. I'm very proud of my boys."

The Mustangs had a couple of early scoring opportunities before taking a 1-0 lead in the semifinals.

The play began with senior Austin Meacham delivering a pass to Beaupre, who fired a shot that deflected off the hands of senior goalie Andrew Vilakis (10 saves) into the right corner of the net.

"After Austin sent me the ball, I noticed that the defender was going towards him," Beaupre said. "I broke behind him, and my shot attempt went into the corner off the goalie's hand. It was just an awesome feeling because we always love scoring the first goal of every match that we play."

The duo of Beaupre and Meacham combined for seven of the Mustangs shot attempts during the first 40 minutes, but the home team held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

The other seniors listed on the Mustangs varsity roster are Brady Ronaldson, Ben Pignone, Shane Szado, and Luis Diaz.

Szado and Ronaldson are members of the Mustangs stout defensive unit, along with junior Lucas Pignone

and sophomore Anthony Tulloch.

"They did put a lot of pressure on us, but we have a solid defense," coach Pignone said. "The four guys back there have been playing soccer together for a long time."

Monson freshman goalie Mason Murphy was credited with 14 saves in posting his first shutout in a Western Mass. tournament game. He had seven shutouts during the regular season.

"Mason is a very good goalie, and he has a very bright future," Beaupre said. "Our defense has also been doing a very good job this season."

Two days later, Beaupre scored three second half goals against second-seeded Turners Falls in the Class D finals at Berkshire Community College.

The score was tied 3-3 at the end of regulation and Turners Falls outshot Monson, 4-3, in the penalty shootout to capture the championship title.

Because the Western Mass. tournament is considered part of the regular season, the official outcome of the championship match was a tie.

Monson and Turners Falls also played a 1-1 draw at the beginning of the regular season.

The Mustangs entered the Division 5 state tour-



Anthony Tulloch clears the ball away.



Samuel Hudak gets low to make a play on the ball.



Benjamin Pignone makes a quick pass.



Jake Beaupre makes a stop.



Austin Meacham tries to get around an opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

**WARRIORS** | from page 9

"The last three minutes of the first half killed us," said Tantasqua head coach Nate Orzech. "I thought we would still be in the game at halftime, they just exploded against us."

The Tantasqua football team, who also lost at home against Auburn in another CMAC A contest a week earlier, had a 4-4 overall record and a 1-2 league mark.

The Warriors also lost their first road game of the regular season. Their three road wins came against

East Longmeadow (17-14), Nashoba Regional (35-21), and Worcester South (40-7).

The Tantasqua players and coaching staff made the bus ride back to Fiskdale not knowing if they had qualified for the Division 4 state tournament or not.

"I'm not really sure if we're going to still make the playoffs," Orzech said. "I think we deserve to make the playoffs, but I don't think we competed very well in our last two games. We just have to wait until 1pm on Sunday afternoon to find out if we did make it or not."

The good news for the

Warriors supporters is that their football team earned the 16th seed in the state tournament. They're scheduled to play at top-seeded Scituate High School at 7pm on Friday night. The Sailors, who are the defending Division 4 state champions, currently have a 7-1 record. They've won four games in a row since losing, 20-15, at Plymouth South, on October 3.

Tantasqua also qualified for the Division 4 state tournament a year ago as the ninth seed. They lost, 41-12, at eighth-seeded Canton in a first-round game.

Doherty (4-4), who lost

four of their first five games this season, squeaked into the Division 3 state tournament as the 15th-seed. The Highlanders are also 2-0 on their new football field, which is located on the site of the old high school and next to the brand-new school, which opened a year ago. Their first game on the new field was a 38-8 win against Westborough High School.

The Highlanders, who celebrated their senior night, took a 3-0 lead against the Warriors when senior Thomas Kursonis made a 31-yard field goal with four minutes remaining in the first quarter.

The Warriors offense responded with a 12-play series.

On the first play of the second quarter, sophomore QB Jack Nichols threw a pass to junior Sean Allen for 20 yards, which moved the ball to the Highlanders 40. Four plays later, the Warriors were forced to turn the ball over on downs.

Allen and senior Gabe Lopez had interceptions for the Warriors in the middle of the second stanza.

Things went downhill very quickly after that for the visiting team.

With 3:31 left in the

opening half, Ben Asare returned an interception 75 yards for a touchdown.

A little more than a minute later, senior Chase Rich returned a punt 65 yards for another touchdown.

Things didn't get any better for the visiting team, as junior Max Haire blocked a punt leading to a two-yard TD run from sophomore Andre Perkins.

Perkins also scored on a 10-yard run with 8:29 left in the third quarter.

The Warriors will need to play a perfect game if they want to pull off the upset victory on Friday night.

**TREBLE** | from page 1

"It's the community you build while doing choir and the joy it brings everyone."

The Treble Makers have several performances planned at the church on Dec. 14, Feb. 22, April 26, May 17, and June 14, with hopes to add more around town. With their mix of classic and contemporary songs and their infectious enthusiasm, the Treble Makers are making noise in all the right ways, one song at a time.

**ART** | from page 1

allowing attendees to move at their own pace and try multiple projects throughout the night.

Adding to the cozy atmosphere, the animated fall tv series Over the Garden Wall was projected for everyone to enjoy while they worked, creating a relaxed and communal mood.

The library's teen programming continues to offer a welcoming space for young people in the community to create, gather, and enjoy seasonal activities together.

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**SCORE** | from page 9

with an injury, played in his first game against Mahar Regional at home on Oct. 23. He gave his thoughts about his team's first victory over Ware in a decade.

"I've never felt like this in my entire life," Doherty said. "We aren't going to the playoffs and aren't going to win our league title, so this is our Super Bowl. We really wanted to win today's game. This is the biggest win of my high school career. We did it for our school and town."

Santos has been the Panthers starting QB during the past couple of years.

"We've experienced the lowest of lows in the past, but this is the highest of high," Santos said. "I wouldn't want to play for any other team. We don't have very many players, but everyone contributes."

While the Panthers finished the regular season with a 4-4 record, the loss ended the Indians dreams of qualifying for the Division 8 state tournament.

"Palmer executed their gameplan very well and they kicked our butts today," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We've won this game many times in the past, and you always have to be gracious in defeat. They just outplayed and we just didn't execute."

The Indians (5-3), also lost one point games against Belchertown and SICS, entered the contest ranked ninth in the Division 8 power rankings. The loss dropped them to 18th.

Only the top 16 teams in each division qualify for the state playoffs.

Despite the setback, Ware still hold a 50-44-5

lead in the rivalry series. The Indians also finished tied for first place in the Intercounty North Division with Franklin County Tech with a 4-4 mark. They've finished first in the league standings nine times since 2016.

The Ware seniors are Sean Bernier, Jadrien Berthiaume, Troy Dufresne, Brayden Compton, Robert Wood, Ethan Corder, Philip Dupell, Jacoby Heredia, Marek Luongo, and Alex Orsulak.

The Panthers set the tone on the game's first series.

Doherty carried the ball nine times during the opening drive. Santos, who's the Panthers starting QB, also completed a 17-yard pass junior Griffin Nawrocki. Santos capped off the 13-play scoring drive, which covered 71 yards, with a 4-yard TD run with 4:05 left in the first quarter.

"We always want to set the tone in every game," Santos said. "We played very well both offensively and defensively."

Because Palmer received a personal foul penalty following the touchdown, the 34-yard extra point attempt was made by junior Dylan Holbrook.

Ware's only touchdown of the game was scored on an 8-yard run by Berthiaume with 3:56 remaining in the first half.

Junior quarterback Troy Jurcyk threw a pass on the two-point conversion play, which was deflected away by Doherty in the endzone.

The Panthers held a 14-6 halftime lead following a Doherty three-yard TD run with 44 seconds left in the second quarter. Doherty rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a junior.



Landon Couture tries to take down a ball carrier.



Kodah Laviolette-Gonzalez and Hunter White combine for a tackle.

With 3:14 left in the third quarter, Palmer junior Hunter Baird caught a tipped pass and scored a 15-yard touchdown giving the visiting team a 21-6 advantage.

"I saw the ball was tipped by the Ware player

before make the catch leading to the touchdown," Baird said. "It was my third touchdown of the season. It's a very special win."

Baird also had an interception in the fourth quarter. The Indians offense



Dylan Holbrook kicks the point-after with the ball held by Matthew Santos.



Dylan Doherty starts a run.

Turley photos by David Henry

had trouble moving the ball against the Panthers defense in the second half.

The 100th meeting between the two rivals is scheduled to take place at Legion Field in Palmer next year.

Ware will be looking to

get back into the win column when they host Pathfinder Tech in a non-playoff game on Friday night.

Palmer will also be hosting Belchertown in a non-playoff game on Friday night.

# FOOD DRIVE

Please join us, the Diamond Dance Awards Ambassadors, in making a difference to our community and people in need. We are collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries to donate to our local food pantries.



**Donations will be accepted November 3 – 21 at the following locations:**

**Hakim Medical @ 182 West St. Ware (Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**

**Limelight Dance Center @ 56 Pulaski St. Ware (during normal business hours)**

**Nat Falk @ 64 Main St. Ware (during normal business hours)**

## Fire Logs

For the week of Monday, October 27, 2025 through Sunday, November 2, 2025; the Monson Fire Department responded to 31 medical calls and 4 fire calls.

**On Tuesday, Oct. 28** at 7:40 p.m. the Department responded to Belmont Ave for alarms sounding. The Department returned in service at 8:02 p.m.

**On Thursday, Oct. 20** at 12:04 p.m. the Department responded to Palmer Road for alarms sounding. The Department returned in service at 12:28 p.m.

**On Friday, Oct. 31** at 7:40 a.m. the Department responded to Woodhill Road for trees on powerlines. The Department returned in service at 8:18 p.m.

**On Saturday, Nov. 1** at 11:31 a.m. the Department responded to Palmer Road for a motor vehicle accident. The Department returned in service at 12:10 p.m.



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# Obituaries

## Elizabeth "Betty" M. (Benoit) Dembkowski

PALMER — Elizabeth "Betty" M. (Benoit) Dembkowski, 90, passed away on Oct. 31, 2025, surrounded by her family at Cedarbrook Village in Ware. She was born on Dec. 6, 1934, in Providence, RI, to the late Florian and Dora (Benoit) Dembkowski and lived for



over 80 years in Palmer, MA. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Edward "Zeke" Dembkowski in 2021 and a brother John Benoit. She is survived by three children, Steven (Mary) Dembkowski of Palmer, Susan (David) French of Belmont, NH and Sandra (Gary) Leacock

of Palmer. She will also be missed by her siblings, Earl, Frank, George, Leo Benoit, and Doris Haraghey. Additionally, she is remembered fondly by her grandchildren, Matthew, Erin, Marc, Christopher, Megan, Adam, and Ali and her great-grandchildren, Gabbie, Max, Ryker, Ben, and Wyatt. Betty took immense joy and pride in her family. Betty retired as a supervisor, after working for 40

years at Tambrands. Betty was known for her generous spirit, often crocheting blankets and hats for newborns and donating them to the pediatric unit at Wing Hospital. Betty loved going to the casino and playing bingo. She cherished family time at Hampton Beach when her children were younger and was a devote member of Divine Mercy Parish. The visitation will be held at Beers & Story Palmer

Funeral Home, Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. Family and friends may arrive at the funeral home on Wednesday for 9 a.m. to follow to Divine Mercy for a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at St. Annes Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society. For more information, please visit [www.beersand-story.com](http://www.beersand-story.com).

### DEATH NOTICES

**Elizabeth "Betty" M. (Benoit) Dembkowski**  
Died Oct. 31, 2025  
Services Nov. 11, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Damian C. Sarrette**  
Died Oct. 30, 2025  
Services Nov. 9, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home



## Damian C. Sarrette

Damian C. Sarrette passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, Oct. 30 in his home. Damian was born in Ware on Aug. 5, 1973. He spent his school years in the Ware school system until his senior year, when he transferred to Palmer High (a rival school) and was a very successful athlete, graduating in 1991.

From there, he was off to UMass Dartmouth (Previously SMU). He spent his freshman year there before transferring home to complete his associates degree at STCC part-time, while working various full-time and part-time jobs.

From STCC, he transferred to Westfield State College (now a University), continuing to work full-time and attending classes part-time. He obtained a Bachelors in English, graduating with honors.

Moving on to Worcester State University, Damian obtained a Masters' Degree in Education with a concentration in English. There, he was the medallion recipient for attaining the highest G.P.A. in the English Department. His

educational journey was not simple. He considered himself a "non-traditional" student but felt that "it enabled him to build and develop very strong bonds and relationships with his students because they could always relate and identify with him." In an interview conducted about three years ago, Damian had said in referring to his students that, "In many ways, we are one and the same."

To quote Damian directly, "The only role I value more than teaching at North Brookfield is serving as a proud papa to my three boys."

Outside of school, he enjoyed weightlifting, reading, bike-riding with his boys, attending concerts with his boys (they were "huge music fans") and spending summers with his boys and his dog, Macho, at their trailer in Old Orchard Beach.

Damian is predeceased by his mother, Donna (Hanney) Sarrette. He leaves behind his father, Dave Sarrette of Monson, his sister and brother-in-law Dené (Sarrette) and Charlie Ackerman of Monson. He

leaves behind many loved relatives—two who were like second parents to him—his aunt and uncle, Geri and Stephen Cope of Worcester. He also leaves behind his very best friends, Andrew Vance of Palmer and Tim and Karin Curran of Dudley, MA. His small circle of very close friends meant the world to him. There are many more to mention that he held close to his heart. Damian created a family that was not blood and he valued them as though they were.

Most importantly, Damian leaves behind his three boys, Luke of Monson, and Mason, and Avry Sarrette of Palmer. They were the light of his life. He could not have been more honored and proud of his boys and being their father. He could not get enough of them. His love for them cannot be overstated.

In addition to his family, Damian leaves behind the thousands of students and



families he impacted over the years. Outside of his being with his boys, he cherished his students and often said that being at North Brookfield High with them was his "home away from home."

Damian started at North Brookfield High School in the Fall of 1999. This was his 27th year at North Brookfield and he had an impact on countless students and colleagues during this time. He was a class advisor, National Honor Society advisor, a coach, a club advisor, as well as a mentor for new teachers and any student who needed something. He put his heart and soul into the school. He was also a Union Officer, elected in 2007 for the 07-08 year and then elected President of the Union 10 years later in the 2017-18 school year. He had been President ever since.

Words cannot express how much Damian loved and took pride in being a teacher. But, most importantly, Dami-

an's entire life was his three sons. Being a Dad was the very best thing that ever happened to him.

His father wants it known that he could not possibly have had a better son for the past 52 years. He was so proud of him.

To his students, the family would like to thank you for being one of the best parts of his life. We may not have known you personally, but we want to stress that he looked forward every day to helping you and watching you learn. Damian knew he wanted to be a teacher since his junior year in high school. He would want us to tell you that the greatest thing you can do to honor him is not to mourn. Celebrate his life. Find comfort in how much you all meant to him. Be your best advocate. Use your voice. He would want you to know that you matter. And that each and every one of you can do great things. Honor him by being the best version of you, whatever that looks like. Speak up for yourself. Do hard things. And live an amazing life. We know his passing is very shocking but think about who he was

and honor him with your success and happiness.

And to his boys, who are young men now. You are surrounded by love and people who will carry on Damian's wishes for you. You will succeed and honor your dad by living long, happy lives. And we will be here every step of the way to support you.

Services will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a period of visitation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a service celebrating Damian's life to begin at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation is made to a non-profit organization supporting Veterans' Causes. There has also been a Memorial Fund set up to support various philanthropic efforts that Damian directly supported. Checks can be made to "Damian Sarrette Memorial Fund" and mailed to 13 Carter Street, Palmer, MA 01069. This account has been set up through Monson Savings Bank in Damian's honor to give back to the causes he loved and supported in life.

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**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](mailto: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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**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](mailto: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.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.  
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# Public notices

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 24th, 2025 at 7:15 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

To consider amending the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 171, by revising §171-5, Definitions, to include a definition for Battery Energy Storage Facilities and by enacting a temporary, six-month moratorium on the permitting of Battery Energy Storage Facilities by inserting a new section §171-127 entitled "Temporary Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Facilities". The purpose of this moratorium is to allow the Town sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address impacts of standalone battery energy storage systems and safety implications; including without limitation the standards for the placement, design, and construction of such systems; compatibility with adjacent residential uses; impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources; loss of wildlife habitat, forest and agricultural lands; visual impacts to the rural landscape; evaluation of the method of financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations and; to address the effects of such use for the welfare of residents, present and future, so as to enact ordinances in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

A copy of the zoning amendment may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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 is also posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>)

Norman Czech, Chairman  
11/06, 11/13/2025

**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.  
HD25C0318CA**

**In the matter of:  
Katelyn Rose Anderstrom  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Katelyn Rose Anderstrom of Holland, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Katelyn Rose Wynstrom  
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 11/18/2025.**

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 21, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccamani**  
Register of Probate  
11/06/2025

**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.  
HD25P2286EA**  
Estate of:  
**Cynthia Elliott**  
Also known as:  
**Cynthia Anne Elliott**  
Date of Death: 09/25/2025  
**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 **Rachel A Elliott of Monson, 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: **Rachel A Elliott of Monson, 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 12/01/2025.** 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: November 03, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccamani**,  
Register of Probate  
11/06/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE OF A COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING A MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED BY GREENWAY DELIVERY LLC**  
Notice is hereby given that an in-person community outreach meeting for **Greenway Delivery LLC's proposed Marijuana Courier Delivery Establishment** will be located at **1235 Thorndike Street, Palmer, MA 01069** (the "Property"). Community members and members of the public are encouraged to attend and ask questions and receive answers from representatives of Greenway Delivery LLC.

A copy of this notice is on file with the town clerk, the planning board, and the contracting authority for the municipality, at Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, Massachusetts 01069. A copy of this notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the community outreach meeting and mailed at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the community outreach meeting to abutters of the Property, owners of land directly opposite the Property on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred (300) feet of the property line of the Property as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town.  
11/06/2025

**PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, MGL c.131 s.40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Bylaws, the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:40 PM, Tuesday, November 18, 2025** at the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** for proposed activities associated with demolition of an existing house and construction of a new residence. Work is proposed to occur within the 50-foot and 100-foot buffer of vegetated wetlands. The project address is 207 Breckenridge Street in Palmer (Assessors Map 13, Parcel 56). The applicant making the request is Hampden Homebuyers. Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.  
Donald Blais, Jr., Chair  
Palmer Conservation Commission  
11/06/2025

**PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 24th, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, JT Brown Nominee Trust, is seeking a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove earth materials from the property located off Ware Street, also known as Assessor's Map 37 Lot 15.

A copy of the application

may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building Monday through Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm.

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

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

Norman Czech, Chairman  
11/06, 11/13/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Monson  
Conservation Commission**  
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:10 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the construction of a new single-family home with well, septic system, and driveway within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetative Wetland and dock on Bank of Pulpit Rock Pond for the property located at Lakeshore Drive, identified as Assessor's Map 004, Parcel 005. The owners of the property are Yevgen Tsykynovskyy & Trang Nguyen.  
Submitted By:  
Monson  
Conservation Commission  
11/06/2025

**(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
25 SM 003301  
ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO:  
**Jacqueline M. Ladew** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):  
**NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 84-86 Main Street, given by Jacqueline M. Ladew to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc., dated December 5, 2016, and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21482, Page 353, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.  
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **December 15, 2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.  
Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on October 28, 2025.  
Attest:  
**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder  
11/06/2025

**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.  
HD24P1425PO  
TRUST CITATION**  
The Levesque Family Trust  
In the matter of:  
Removal of Trustee and Appointment of Successor  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by: **GITSIT Solutions LLC of Orange, CA** requesting the Removal of Marcil D. Levesque as Trustee and Appointment of Wayne Levesque as Successor Trustee without sureties on his bond, all as more fully set forth in his amended petition.  
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 12/10/2025.  
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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 28, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccamani**  
Register of Probate  
11/06/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Monson  
Conservation Commission**  
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Large Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 110 Main St. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the construction of a new single-family home with well, septic system, and driveway within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetative Wetland and intermittent stream for the property located at Lower Hampden Road, identified as Assessor's Map 077, Parcels 001 & 003A. The owner of the property is Anthony Patalano.  
Submitted by:  
Monson  
Conservation Commission  
11/06/2025

**Town of Monson  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
LEGAL NOTICE**  
In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G. L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, November 20th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Select Board meeting room at the Town Administration Building, 110 Main Street on the application of Equestrian Hills Estates, LLC, Stafford Road, Monson, MA for a special permit as provided by §6.6 Earth Removal of the Monson Zoning Bylaws to conduct an Earth Removal operation. The property is zoned Rural Residential and located on Stafford Road, Map 101, Parcel 007. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Zoning Board of Appeals and is available for viewing during regular office hours.  
Ronald Fussell, Chairman  
11/06, 11/13/2025

**Town of Monson  
Legal Notice  
Public Hearing  
Tax Classification**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.G.L. CHAPTER 30A SECTIONS 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 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  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD23P2370EA**  
Estate of:  
**Donald Edward Phillips**  
Also known as:  
**Donald Phillips**  
Date of Death: 06/28/2023  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Christine M Phillips of Roslindale, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.  
**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 12/08/2025.**  
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.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 03, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccamani**  
Register of Probate  
11/06/2025

**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.  
HD25P2226PM**  
In the matter of:  
**Robert D Zulkiewicz Of: Palmer, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be Protected/  
Minor)**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
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Minor)**



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In observance of **THANKSGIVING**  
There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**  
Place your advertisement no later than  
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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.  
HD25P2226PM**  
In the matter of:  
**Robert D Zulkiewicz Of: Palmer, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be Protected/  
Minor)**

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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

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**INTERIOR PAINTING** - only \$249.00 for average 12x16 room. Free estimates, fast, dependable service.  
Call (508)867-2550.

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**SERVICES**

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees.** Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

**TUNE-UPS**

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
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**Math Tutor**  
Accepting students Gr. Pre-K - 6th for individualized math instruction. Located near Hampden, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow. MA Certified \$30/per 1/2 hour  
413-335-3729

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**HELP WANTED**

**SERVERS WANTED**  
Inquire at **Girly's Grill**, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call 413-284-0005.

**HELP WANTED**

**CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC** - In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us! **RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA 413 583-8393**

**CREW LEADER Sturbridge Department of Public Works**

The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Crew Leader. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$34.11/hr, with yearly step increases.

- Key Requirements:**
- Valid Class A or B CDL
  - Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)
  - Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months)
  - Effective communication skills.
  - Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.
  - Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.

Application Details:  
• Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>

• Interviews will begin on November 4, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.

**Additional Information:**

- The DPW operates as a union shop.
- The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at **508-347-2515** or **dpw@sturbridge.gov**

**Job Posting: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS Town of Sturbridge, MA**

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking a dynamic, experienced, and highly qualified professional for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a senior-level, management position that will support the Director of Public Works in overseeing the planning, administration, and daily operations of the Public Works Department.

**About our community**  
Sturbridge is a welcoming community known for its picturesque landscapes, historic charm, and vibrant local attractions. As Assistant DPW Director, you will play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the Town's infrastructure, ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

**Key responsibilities**  
The Assistant Director will provide a variety of engineering and administrative services under the guidance of the DPW Director, with a primary focus on:

- Conducting plan reviews for subdivisions, site plans, roadways, water, sewer, and stormwater designs.
- Managing all stormwater permitting activities associated with the NPDES MS4 General Permit.
- Supervising and overseeing the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Coordinating snow and ice removal activities.

• Addressing resident inquiries related to town projects, utilities, and permitting.  
• Presenting engineering reports to and responding to inquiries from town boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission.

**Qualifications**

- Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is required. Candidates must have two to five years of related public works experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of • Technical Knowledge: Knowledge of public construction bidding and Massachusetts procurement laws is essential.

- Computer Skills: Proficiency in spreadsheet software, GIS software (such as ESRI), and word processing software is required.
- Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary to interact effectively with town staff, other agencies, and the general public.
- Licenses: Must possess a valid Driver's License.

**Benefits**  
The Town of Sturbridge offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Salary up to \$100,000 DOQ
- Health Insurance,
- Paid time off and paid holidays
- Retirement Plan

**How to apply**  
Submit a cover letter, resume, and Town job application to Frances Wychorski, Constituent Liaison in the Town Administrator's Office, via email at **bosadmin@sturbridge.gov** or via mail at **308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566**. This position will remain open until filled. *The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

**WARE:** 2BR, 2nd Fl. Walk-up. Walk to BigY/McD, W/D, Off-street Parking, Utilities Not Incl., 1st/Last/Security Avail +/- Dec. 1, \$1,100/mo. **508-277-6044**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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or call: 413-283-8393

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_

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