**QHMA holds meeting** - Page 2 ■ **SPORTS: Mustangs find stride in tourney** - Page 11 ■ **Obituaries** - Page 9

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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WALES

## Saluting service, one stitch at a time

### Veteran receives Quilt of Honor

**By Kevin Flanders**
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WALES – Community members gathered last week to show their gratitude to veteran Therisa "Terry" Tringali, who received a Quilt of Honor recognizing her service.

The presentation program was held on Nov. 6 at Meeting House Fabric (83 Main Street). Business owner Sheila Valle provided fabric for the project and made her sewing studio available to volunteer quilters who were eager to use their skills to give back.

Tringali, who served in the U.S. Army as a medical corpsman from 1971-73, was joined at the program by a group of friends who are also veterans.

"A Quilt of Honor is much more than a quilt. It is a tangible expression of our gratitude, appreciation, and respect for someone who answered our nation's call to serve," said Tara Taglieri, a shopkeeper and instructor at Meeting House Fabric who organized the presentation event.

The quilt was sewn by a dozen volunteers at the studio. Project participants enjoyed the process of creating



Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

**Therisa Tringali (front) is joined by fellow veterans to display her Quilt of Honor.**

an enduring symbol of the community's appreciation.

"Each quilt is made with care, thought, and love," Taglieri added. "Every piece of fabric, every stitch, and every hour spent creating it represents a simple but meaningful message: We appreciate your service, we honor your sacrifice, and we thank you for protecting the freedom we enjoy."

Surrounded by project volunteers, local veterans, and members of the Meeting House Fabric team, Tringali was thrilled to see her quilt for the first time.

"We are so blessed to have each other and the giving spirit of this communi-

STITCH ❙ page 13

PALMER

## PHS honors veterans

**By Kevin Flanders**
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PALMER – In one of the only traditions of its kind across the area, Palmer High School held its student-run ceremony honoring veterans this week.

Two days before Veterans Day, PHS students welcomed local veterans into the building for a Nov. 9 celebration. Breakfast was served in the school library, followed by a ceremony in the auditorium that included musical performances, special programs recognizing veterans, and remarks from officials.

The event began with all attendees standing to honor veterans as they proceeded into the auditorium and took the stage. The National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

"This annual tradition of honoring our veterans is truly special – a testament to the pride the students and staff have in their town and country," said Palmer Public Schools Superintendent Matthew Francis. "Over the years, it has become much more student driven, with a couple of staff advisors to provide oversight – which speaks volumes for the climate and culture created in the Palmer Public Schools."

This year's assembly included a presentation of the Missing Man Table, an elaborate display honoring those who did not come home from war.

Additionally, students read works of poetry and performed special musical selections offering gratitude to veterans.

"Thank you to Palmer Public Schools for always honoring the service of our veterans," said State Sen. Jake Oliveira, who described the event as one of the most unique and impressive veterans' programs in his district. "We must always honor veterans' services and sacrifices, not only from those in uniform but also their families."

State Rep. Todd Smola, who grew up in Palmer and attended PHS, congratulated students and officials on another ceremony saluting those who served.

"Thank you for bringing our veterans here to honor them," Smola told student organizers. "These men and women sitting on the stage were not much older than you are today, when they raised a hand and took an oath to serve our country."

Smola urged guests to celebrate veterans on a daily basis by taking time to get

VETS ❙ page 10

MONSON

## Special Town Meeting raises building position salary

**By Marcelo Gusmão**
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MONSON – At the recent Special Town Meeting, the town voted to raise the salary of the Director of Facilities to compensate for the increased workload to the position.

Town Moderator Laurent McDonald opened the meeting by speaking about the long history of the open town meeting, which he described as an important duty.

The town passed two consent agendas with majority vote, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

One item that was removed from the consent agenda was to raise and appropriate $151,325 to supplement the fiscal year 2027 budgets for expenses. Town Meeting members asked for clarification on the line item of Salaries Position Reclassification, which amounted to $12,000.

"The Building Salaries Position Reclassification is a reclassification of a job description that was done earlier this summer," said Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz. "It is for a position in the Building Department for an employee that handles the Building, Zoning, and Director of Facilities position."

Wolowicz said that this reclassification brings the annual salary to approximately $123,000, covering the position of Justin Larivee, who covers the work of two full-time positions. Wolowicz also said that Larivee will oversee the maintenance and repairs of multi-million dollar assets in the buildings.

Wolowicz said that this particular job description was put through the Wage and Classification Reclassification Process that the town has used for the past several years, which included a rating and grading system and a salary guide.

"Right now, we have one person doing both of those duties," Wolowicz said. "If I had to look to hire a separate full-time Director of Facilities, we would be looking at about $100,000 for a minimum salary to compensate for that, and that does not include benefits."

Wolowicz said that paying Larivee the proposed salary would represent a substan-

MEETING ❙ page 6

MONSON

## Fundraiser supports those who serve

**By Kevin Flanders**
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MONSON – Local residents teamed up with the business community last week to support servicemembers far from home.

Main Street Tavern hosted a fundraising night on Nov. 5, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Monson Military Care Package Drive.

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

Also, the organizing committee is selling special T-shirts this year that not




Submitted photo

**A fundraiser was held last week to support the Monson Military Care Package Drive.**

only recognize Monson military members, but also the nation's 250th birthday.

For Karen King Turgeon, who founded the care package drive 13 years ago, it's been a thrill to see consistently strong community support for the mission.

"It means everything to know that the people and businesses of Monson are

SUPPORTS ❙ page 7

MONSON

## Running to remember

### Memorial road race supports local causes

**By Kevin Flanders**
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MONSON – Now in its 30th year, the Monson Memorial Classic is inspiring the next generation of racers to carry on the giving legacies of sisters Kelly Waldron and Kathy Waldron Perry.

Held on Nov. 8, the half marathon and 5K drew participants from throughout the region. Several racers have attended the Classic for decades, while others enjoyed their first experience this year.

The very first road race took place in 1996 to honor the memories of two sisters who lost their battles with cancer less than eight months apart.

Kelly Waldron succumbed to breast, bone, and liver cancer at the age of 36. Her sister, Kathy Waldron Perry, lost her fight with melanoma at age 34, leaving behind her husband Jack and young sons, Jesse and Jeremie.

Both sisters left behind their parents, Faye and Ted Waldron, as well as their sister Kim Maher.

For race director Lee Williams, who founded the event in memory of the Waldron sisters, it has been an honor to see it expand over the years. She




Turley photo by Kevin Flanders

**Bryce St. Martin, of Monson, and Kaitlin Trudeau, of Bernardston, get ready for the race.**

RUNNING ❙ page 6

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# SPORTS

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SOCCER

## Mustangs find stride in tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – After just a two-win regular season, the Monson High School girls soccer team has found its way during tournament play. Monson got through two opponents and advanced to face Drury High School in Class C Championship game. The Mustangs, thanks to a Mackayla St. George goal, defeated Drury 1-0 at West Springfield High School to capture another section title. The Mustangs are now 5-14 and received the No. 5 seed in the Division 5 State Tournament due to a very high strength of schedule. The Mustangs reached the state finals last year.



Lucy Maziarz tries to change direction on her opponent.



Elle Somers tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Adriana Loglisci tries to keep possession of the ball.



Chelsea Hull takes a corner kick.



Mackayla St. George settles the ball.



Jordyn Szado goes for a header.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

FOOTBALL

## Pioneers turn back Frontier

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder Tech High School football took Frontier to the limit and managed to prevail 28-21. The Pioneers improved to an impressive 6-3 on the season as they headed into a Week 10 matchup. The Pioneers are scheduled to head on the road and face off against Keefe Tech on Friday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Then the Pioneers will look forward to their annual Thanksgiving morning matchup against Belchertown scheduled for 9 a.m. at Legion Field in Palmer.



Caleb Crum goes on a run after making a reception.



Cassian Kowalik heads up the middle on a carry.



Ray Kularski makes a tackle.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Trevor Alexander kicks off for the Pioneers.



Grayson Griswold attempts a screen pass.



The defense goes after the offensive line of Frontier.

SOCCER

## Panthers fall in WMass semis, head to states

HADLEY – The Palmer High School girls soccer team was defeated by host Hopkins Academy in the semifinals of the Western Massachusetts Class D Tournament. After a good win in the quarterfinals, the Panthers were stymied by the possession advantage Hopkins had on their home turf as they fell 4-0. With an 8-9-1 record, Palmer was set to enter the Division 5 state tournament, beginning earlier this week with a home match against Parker Charter Essential School. If victorious, the Panthers would play later in the week.



Harper Hawk catches up to a pass.

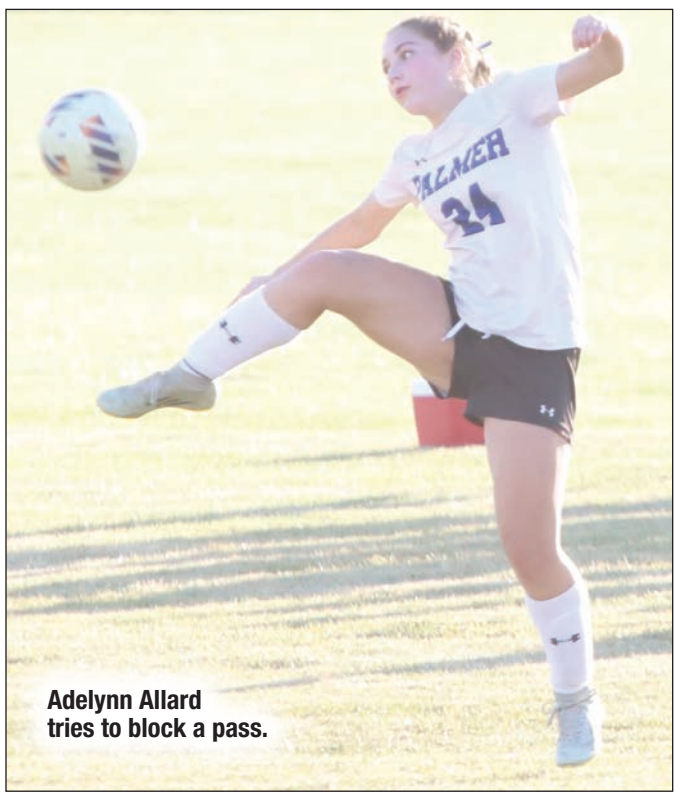


Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Harper Brouilette makes a quick pass to Addy Petrashewicz.



Molly Walker starts to head up the field.



Adelynn Allard tries to block a pass.



Clara Smola looks to block a ball.



Anabelle Ladue heads toward midfield with the ball.

FIELD HOCKEY

## PHS field hockey season ends with shutout loss

PALMER – On Thursday, Oct. 29, Palmer High School field hockey saw its season come to an end in nonplayoff action.

The Panthers were defeated by Turners Falls and Northampton on consecutive days, but both by 1-0 scores.

While the offenses was not able to get anything going, Palmer's defense performed very well in both defeats.

The Panthers went 1-15-2 overall this season.