

The Journal Register

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Saluting Our Local Heroes

PALMER



Police, firefighters, and paramedics stand together in support of local veterans.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Veterans Day event honors sacrifice

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Against a backdrop of flurrying snowflakes and biting wind, residents, students, veterans, and local leaders gathered on Tuesday morning, Nov. 11, for the Town of Palmer’s annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony; a solemn yet spirited tribute to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The parade began at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers and made its way

through town, concluding at Hryniewicz Park, where the ceremony took place before a bundled-up but determined crowd.

The event opened with an invocation by Father Richard Turner of St. Thomas Parish, who led the gathering in prayer. “Loving God, we

gather in faith and we know that you are there to guide, bless, and keep us always,” Turner said. “On this Veterans Day, we thank those who have served and those who continue to serve.”

Following the prayer

VETERANS | page 8

MONSON

Monson salutes veterans

By Staff Writer



Bressette of American Legion Post 241 of Monson performs the taps.

Turley staff photo

MONSON – The Town of Monson held the annual Veterans Day ceremony on the steps of Memorial Hall on Main Street in Monson.

Kailee Fullen, Town of Monson Veterans Services Agent, opened the ceremony program.

In her opening remarks, Fullen spoke of her family’s military service. “At the age of 17, I enlisted in the Air Force. I needed my parent’s signature to join as I was underage. A month after graduating high school, I entered basic training. My

SALUTES | page 9

MONSON

Granite Valley honors service members of Monson students

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – Granite Valley Middle School in Monson held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 7, welcoming town officials and local veterans to the school community for a morning of reflection, gratitude, and song. The event, led by sixth graders Kaylani Santaniello and Charles Pelletier, brought together the entire school community, from first through sixth grade, to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The assembly opened with greetings from Santaniello

and Pelletier, who thanked the many guests in attendance, including Superintendent Paul Foster, Principal Mrs. Wissinger, Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz, members of the Monson School Committee and Select Board, and Ms. Sherry Spinx, assistant to State Representative Angelo Puppolo. Representative Brian Ashe, and Hailee Fullen of the Monson Veterans Services Department were unable to attend but sent their best wishes to the school.

“At Granite Valley, we follow the ROCKS acronym: Respect, Ownership, Communication, Kindness, and Scholarship,” Santaniello said

in her opening remarks. “We can think of no better group of people who exemplify these qualities than our veterans.”

Fifth graders Claire Guerin and Camilla DiNobile shared the first student reflections of the morning, each speaking with emotion about what Veterans Day means to them. “A veteran is someone who has served in the military to protect our country,” Guerin said. “They risk everything...their lives, families, and homes...to protect all of us. Their bravery is unforgettable.”

For DiNobile, the occasion carried special meaning

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PALMER



Palmer High School marked Veterans Day with a ceremony on Nov. 10.

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Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

PHS celebrates veterans with ceremony

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Palmer High School held its annual Veterans Day ceremony on Monday morning, Nov. 10, gathering students, staff, local officials, and community members to honor the service and sacrifice of the nation’s veterans. The event blended solemn remembrance with heartfelt appreciation, while also paying tribute to a beloved teacher whose legacy helped shape the school’s long-running tradition of honoring veterans.

A special moment early in the program recognized Mr. Paul Holloway, a Palmer High School teacher who passed away earlier this year. Holloway had been instrumental in organizing the school’s Veterans Day events for more than a decade. A reading by sophomore Janнат Khan, reflected on Holloway’s devotion to veterans and the inspiration he drew from his father, Bruce Holloway, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam.

“In addition to teaching for the past 14 years, Holloway was the heart and soul

behind this assembly,” Khan spoke. “His dedication and passion for veterans made his events meaningful for everyone who attended.”

Holloway’s family was recently recognized at the Massachusetts State House by Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative Todd Smola, honoring his contributions to the towns of Palmer and Holland and his work

CEREMONY | page 16



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Students, staff, and veterans join the Granite Valley chorus in singing “Proud to Be an American.”



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Select Board takes up open meeting law issues

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Select Board met Oct. 28, covering a broad agenda that included community updates, upcoming town events, legal clarifications from Town Counsel, and several routine administrative matters.

Community Updates and Event Announcements

During public comment, Karen Davis of Monson Together reported that the Community Cupboard food pantry has had a strong start, serving more than 60 families in its first month of operation. Davis said the pantry is now preparing for increased demand in November due to upcoming SNAP benefit changes.

“We’re definitely reaching out for donations,” Davis said, adding that recent contributions from local families have helped keep the shelves stocked. “We already have people calling us to make sure that we’re open and that we have enough food.”

Davis also reminded residents about the “Halloween

in the Field” celebration that took place Friday, October 31, starting at 5:30 p.m. The event included a costume contest, parade, games, and community groups handing out candy.

The board also approved Davis’s request for \$250 from the Gifts to the Town account to fund the annual Veterans Day luncheon at the American Legion following the November 11 ceremony at Memorial Hall. “Every veteran and their family will be invited,” Davis said. “We’re just looking to cover the luncheon costs.”

Select Board Chair John Morrell praised the initiative, calling it “a good thing you’re doing there,” and the motion passed unanimously.

Legal Guidance on Town Meeting Authority

Under old business, the board reviewed a memorandum from Town Counsel regarding the authority of Town Meeting over Select Board actions. The clarification followed questions raised about a May 2025 Town Meeting vote directing the Select Board to form an electronic voting system committee. One member had voted against forming the committee, asserting that Town Meeting could not compel such an action.

Town Counsel’s opinion affirmed that while Town Meeting serves as the legislative body, its power is limited to making bylaws and appropriations. It cannot direct or control the executive branch, including how Select Board members vote on specific matters.

“The contention that Town Meeting has the authority to compel the vote or action by a member of the Select Board is unfounded,” the opinion concluded. Board members agreed to post the full memo on the town website for public review.

Addressing Open Meeting Law Issues

The board also addressed several Open Meeting Law complaints and a prior misunderstanding involving a meeting recording.

Vice Chair Pat Oney publicly apologized to Roxanne Gunther for having “wrong-

fully accused her of surreptitiously recording” the September 23 meeting. Oney said the accusation stemmed from a misunderstanding about when recordings become available through MPACT.

“I did wrongfully accuse her, and I do sincerely apologize for that,” Oney said, explaining that she had since learned the live-streaming technology was updated in 2022.

Oney clarified distinctions between privacy expectations at public meetings and the requirement to notify the chair when privately recording. “While there is a very limited expectation of privacy at a public meeting, individuals do not lose their right to privacy,” she said.

Three Open Meeting Law complaints, one filed by Gretchen Nagers on October 14 and two filed by Gunther on October 15, were formally referred to Town Counsel for response. Each motion passed unanimously.

Routine Business and Resignations

The board accepted sev-

eral letters of resignation, including:

- Robert Dequila and Ronald Fussell from the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Rebecca Morse from the Tax Assistance Committee

A one-day liquor license was approved for Leadfoot Brewing to host an event on November 1 at Monson Self Storage on Bliss Street.

Following the resignations, Morrell emphasized the importance of filling vacancies. “It’s really important for us to get David Baldwin back on [the Zoning Board of Appeals] with his experience and knowledge of the town,” he said, requesting that reappointment be placed on the next agenda.

Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz encouraged residents to apply for openings on both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Health, noting that information is available on the town’s website and Facebook page.

Lotto calendars now available

PALMER – Baystate Wing Gift Shop Annual January Lotto Calendars are now available through Jan. 30, 2026. The drawing will be held Feb. 3, 2026.

The price is \$5 for one calendar with 31 chances to win and \$10 for three calendars with 93 chance to win. The winner need not be present.

Funds are used for scholarship awards for seven local high school graduates and towards the gift shop’s pledge of \$200,000 (in installments) to Baystate Wing to a specific department.

These make great stocking stuffers/gifts or recognition of someone in your daily life.

Monson Arts Council to present ‘It’s A Wonderful Life’

MONSON – The Monson Arts Council is proud to present “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at Granite Valley Middle School.

“When financial ruin threatens, George Bailey is wrought for a way out. As his options close in on him, a guardian angel is sent to show him that it truly is a wonderful life,” said director Amos Lake. “We’re excited to have you join this star-studded cast of talent as they transport you via the



airways of WBOR to Bedford Falls in this classic radio play.”

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$20, available online and at the door.

“There is always hope. You never know what people crossing your path are really angels in disguise,” said producer Tony Esposito.

This show marks the first collaboration between Granite Valley and the Monson Arts Council theater committee. It is the group’s

second radio play-style performance, and the Arts Council is proud to partner with independent local radio station 97.7 FM to bring the radio-play experience to life.

“The story is one we can all relate to right now,” Lake said. “We may feel defeated, we may feel fear for the future, but this story also reminds us there is hope, and together we can overcome what seems impossible.”

A full cast list, ticket purchase link, and additional information is available at the Monson Arts Council’s website, MonsonArtsCouncil.org.

St. Christopher’s to hold craft fair

Two days of food, fun, holiday shopping

BRIMFIELD – St. Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 22 and Sunday, Nov. 23 at 22 Sturbridge Road (route 20) it has easy access and plenty of parking. The hours of the fair are Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and admission is free.

The craft fair offers a wide variety to choose from including unique pieces of handcrafted jewelry, primitives, Christmas decorations & ornaments, organic lotions & soaps, resins, watercolors, stained glass, pottery, sea glass, wreaths, mugs, honey products, quilted, knit & crochet items, stone and shell art, wooden décor and tie dye, all in addition to the clubs bargain tables that offer an array of goods especially for those on a tight budget. Our strolling caroler Lauren helps bring the Christmas spirit.

The kitchen is open throughout the day and will offer a breakfast menu and a variety of sandwiches, soups, chili, chowder, meat pies, and desserts. Whole meat pies can be purchased to take home.

A cookie walk on Saturday starts at 9 am. It sells out quickly so go early.

For those who like to take a chance there are raffles. The main raffle has a variety of prizes that include numerous local restaurants, themed gift baskets, a fire pit, and tickets to entertainment venues, among others. There is also a raffle comprised of unique gifts from crafters and a tree filled with lottery tickets.

The Women of Saint Christopher’s organize the fair. Club president Cindy Skowyra says “there are so many festivals these days with many great crafters and artisans, but I think ours is a bit special, it’s right at the beginning of the holiday season and the inviting setting provides the warmth and character of a community gathering to support local artisans, and the

food is great.” The group will also be selling winter/cemetery boxes after the Thanksgiving weekend.

Reverend Jack Brennan, pastor of St. Christophers says “I know that I can always count on this group for support and that is important for the life of our parish They make a difference in the life of our parish. I invite everyone to come to the fair and see who we are. I also invite you to join us anytime.”

Masses are on Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Weekday masses are Monday and Wednesday at 9:00 am. Holy Day masses vary. For more information about the fair or St. Christophers Church, contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check it out on the church’s Facebook page.

Christmas Craft Fair on Nov. 15

FISKDALE – St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine will host its 1st Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Center, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale. Local artisans, makers, and crafters are invited to reserve vendor spaces, which include tables and chairs. The event

will feature crafts, jewelry, home décor, food, and more. Applications are available at <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>.

“The Christmas Craft Fair is about more than shopping-it’s about gathering as neighbors to share joy, creativity, and community as we prepare for the Christmas season,” said Fr.

Salvator Musande. “We encourage all members of the community to join in these meaningful opportunities for prayer, healing, and celebration.”

For more information about these opportunities and St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish and Shrine, please visit: <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>

Tree of Love annual fundraiser ongoing

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.

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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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Excavation project meets compliance

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, Nov. 4 addressing lake management updates, environmental remediation efforts, new residential and earth-removal projects, and the town's ongoing review of wetlands bylaws. The evening reflected both the commission's regulatory responsibilities and its proactive role in protecting Palmer's natural resources.

Lake Thompson Civic Association Reports Strong Water Quality

Representatives of the Lake Thompson Civic Association presented their annual lake management report, noting encouraging water quality results following a preventative alum treatment earlier this year.

"We did still have some algae throughout the year, but a lot less than in the years before... and without using an algacide," said the association's spokesperson. "That's more of a preventative maintenance measure, and it's expected to last several years."

Testing this summer revealed low phosphorus levels and excellent E. Coli readings at all regular sampling sites. The group has also begun testing culverts entering the lake for temperature, pH, and nutrients to trace potential runoff issues from the Turnpike ponds.

"The phosphorus wasn't as high as we thought it would be," they added. "We'll keep testing over the next few seasons to see if there are patterns."

The town recently resolved erosion problems at Flint Street and Farragon by installing trap rock. Wildlife observations included fewer Canada geese, a recent otter sighting, and low eagle activity this summer. Lake levels remain about six inches below the spillway due to ongoing dry conditions.

Earth Removal and Residential Projects Move Forward

The commission approved a Certificate of Compliance for a 2016 earth-removal project by Brown Nominee Trust and reviewed a new Notice of Intent for expanded work at the Ware

Street and Thorndike site.

Engineer Keith Terry explained that the proposal involves adjusting berms within the 100-foot buffer zone to create a gradual slope and direct stormwater infiltration away from nearby wetlands. The application will return to the commission on December 2 pending state and Planning Board review.

Nearby residents expressed concern about truck noise and vibrations, prompting reassurances that no further development is planned beyond continued soil removal and revegetation. Excavation will remain at least five feet above groundwater, and finished areas will be progressively seeded.

"This is an earth-removal project only," Terry emphasized. "There's no construction beyond reclaiming the land."

The commission also approved a Notice of Intent for Hampden Homebuyers to build a single-family home at Lot 4 Peterson Road. The steep site will use a walkout basement to minimize grading and erosion near the buffer zone.

A related pre-application discussion for 207 Breckenridge Street involved a deteriorated town-owned property where Hampden Homebuyers hopes to rebuild within the existing footprint. Because wetlands on the parcel were newly flagged, the commission will conduct a site visit to assess conditions before formal review.

Oil Spill Triggers Emergency Response

Commissioners ratified an emergency certification following an oil spill at 4 Springfield Street, the former Tam Brand factory site. Approximately 150 gallons of oil overflowed from failed gauges, entered a storm drain, and reached the river.

A coordinated response by the DEP, Wilbraham Fire Department, and Strategic Environmental Services contained the spill with absorbent booms and vacuum equipment. A cracked section of storm drain pipe was later identified as a source of lingering sheen.

"They caught it very quickly," Conservation Agent Jessica reported. "The booms absorb oil but not water, and

the DEP is now requiring cleanup reports and ongoing monitoring."

DEP has issued a Notice of Responsibility to Palmer Redevelopment LLC, which owns the property. The commission requested updates and a final inspection once cleanup concludes.

Local Ordinance Review and Restoration Efforts

The board discussed the town's wetlands ordinance review, part of a broader effort to modernize Palmer's bylaws. Commissioners will submit feedback by December 11 to clarify local regulations that are sometimes stricter than the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

"We have a 50-foot no-disturb zone in addition to the 100-foot buffer," said Chair Donald Blais Jr. "This review gives us a chance to refine the language and make sure it's consistent."

An enforcement order at 3205B Main Street was also revisited. Conservation staff reported that a previously filled wetland has been successfully restored and seeded with native species, with one more growing season of

monitoring before the order is lifted.

Commission Recognized at MAC Conference

Five Palmer commissioners attended the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Fall Conference, where Palmer was commended for strong participation. Chair Blais met with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll to discuss local challenges, including youth out-migration and the need for investment in housing and rail infrastructure.

Workshops at the conference emphasized stormwater management, sustainable landscaping, and open space residential design. Commissioners also revived discussion of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which has twice failed in Palmer but is credited with funding successful open space and historic projects in neighboring towns.

"If you want to know how other towns fund their beautiful parks and historic restorations... that's the CPA," Blais said. "It's time we look at bringing it back with better public education."

Holiday Craft Fair on 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 distinguish-

es 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 Mon-

son 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

Community Cupboard open for those in need this season

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 community 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



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Viewpoints

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Daughter honors her Vietnam Veteran father's service

To the editor,

My Dad, Dave Sarrette, was born in Palmer. He spent most of his life here and raised his family in the area. He spent 51 years with my Mom, 44 of which they spent as loving husband and wife. During their time together, my Dad enlisted in the Army and volunteered for the Draft during the Vietnam War in 1969. He was sent to war almost immediately and honorably discharged as an Army Infantry Sergeant over a year later. During that time, he received many awards, including but not limited to The Bronze Star with Valor Device, The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), and he was also an Air Medal Recipient.

Things were different back then. We did not honor our Veterans as we do today.

With Vietnam Veterans specifically, their return home was often not met with gratitude. Rather, they were spit on and ostracized by many who did not agree with the War. For the record, my father finds war abhorrent. I have come to find most Veterans do. I do, as well. It, unfortunately, is sometimes a necessary evil.

He spent several years helping Veterans who needed assistance in Palmer through the VA and then moved on to a career in Academic Administration. He never talked about the War. He still doesn't. He never talks about his medals, and is humbled in such a way I see paralleled in so many Combat Veterans. As they say, "If you know, you know."

Growing up, I came to know Memorial Day and

Veterans Day in a different way than most of my peers. They were not days for barbeques and beer. Rather, they were days of gratitude. Memorial Day was a day spent primarily in silence. I came to understand why many years later.

My father and I could not be on farther ends of the political spectrum. He thinks I "overdo" it with my pride in America and my respect for the Flag. Maybe that's because when you grow up loving a combat Veteran, you see things through a different lens. I tell him often that I wish he could-if just for a moment-see himself the way others see him.

His heroism didn't end when he left the Army. His devotion to our family and unwillingness to ever give up on us no matter how

many obstacles were presented before him defined him as a man and a parent. He is the reason I believe I am such a good Mom today. I learned loyalty from him. I learned that freedom truly is not free. I learned that every single man and woman who signs up for the military writes a blank check with their lives so that we may remain free. We are the greatest country in the world. An experiment that, albeit not always perfect, renders us opportunities that no other country on earth does.

I used to have Bumper Stickers custom-made back in the 90's that said "Proud Daughter of Vietnam Veteran." That drove him nuts.



Now, I just order shirts online with the same saying. He thinks I go too far with it. I think he is too humble.

He is one of the greatest people I have ever known. Anyone close to him will tell you the same.

He would not agree. He never talked about being a Veteran. He never talked about being a College Dean. He grew up in a blue collar household in Palmer and his dad was a decorated Korean War Veteran. He is not one to boast in any way that might make someone else feel 'less than.'

But I will boast about him. Even though he won't talk to me for a week af-

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The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL
journalregister@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Consider the 'wearing out' factor while deciding when to claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:

Enjoyed your recent article on claiming SS benefits.

I feel, however, any decision making should also include what I call the "wearing out" factor. Yes, financial need, health and longevity are definite criteria for a decision. The inevitable problem, I just turned 83, is the speed at which many of us descend down the back side of that hill after we hit around age 65.

Yes, one might live to 85-90 but as you age after 65, many physical limitations begin to appear. Only then does one realize their earlier retirement decision, waiting to max out SS, might not have been honestly evaluated to the extent needed.

I speak from experience: after having reached 60 in excellent health, I took early retirement from work, then Social Security at 62 and glad I did so. I figure the degree of slope on the backside of that "hill" will increase with age (it did quickly for me), so one best start enjoying a retirement life as soon as financially possible.

Signed:
Glad I claimed at 62

Dear Glad I Claimed at 62:

Thank you very much for your excellent perspective on the "wearing out" factor. And please know that I wholeheartedly concur with your opinion that waiting for a higher Social Security benefit is not always the most prudent choice. For perspective, however, we have found that far too many people claim Social Security as soon as they are eligible at 62 simply because "it is there," without fully analyzing whether that is the best option considering their personal circumstances.

You are correct, enjoying your retirement life while you are still physically able is a valid consideration. And that is why we always suggest that evaluating both your financial needs as well as your health and life expectancy is important.

Fulfilling one's "bucket list" is, indeed, an im-

portant consideration and if claiming Social Security at age 62, after evaluating all factors, enables one to do that, then that is exactly the right choice. It obviously was for you.

Age does, indeed, tend to slow us down, so if taking the SS money early means being able to enjoy life while you still can, then that is a good decision. But having more money as you age can also make your "golden years" a lot more comfortable. As we have recently witnessed, inflation has an insidious way of reducing our financial comfort in retirement. Despite having a retirement pension from your primary working career, imagine how another 25% in your monthly Social Security payment, had you claimed at full retirement age instead of age 62, would help make your senior years more comfortable.

The fact is that no one can predict how long they will live nor whether they will do so in good health. All we can do is evaluate all our options under varying circumstances and make our claiming decision based on that analysis. And that is precisely what we advocate for at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Service. In no way did I intend to say that claiming at 62 was never the right choice; only that everyone should look at their complete personal circumstances when deciding when to.

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 or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



A healthy orchard begins in the planning phase

It was a lot of fun to take part in a "meeting of the minds" this past week, where we were discussing key maintenance tasks in the young orchard at Old Sturbridge Village.

I left the meeting inspired for my own young orchard, and with renewed interest in heirloom apples altogether.

I must make a trip to Cold Spring Orchard to get some Caville Blanc for the Thanksgiving pies before they are all gone! They are surely the best pie apples, to me at least!

Perhaps indulging in your favorite apple varieties have inspired you to consider a home orchard as part of your landscape. If so, this column, straight from the archives, is for you. Enjoy the re-visit, as you ask yourself some important questions. We all know that the key to successful home apple orchards appears to be forethought. Purchasing fruit trees should not be an "impulse buy."

What variety do you want to grow? While I like heirlooms, you may prefer some of the newer, disease resistant types.

Or maybe you want apples that span the seasons, say Paula Red to start, Honey Crisp for mid-stream and Gold Rush to finish it off. Perhaps you'd like to make cider or bake lots of pies.

There are apples that are specifically suited to how you'd like to use them. My favorite place to buy trees by mail order is through Fedco in Maine. Call 207-426-0090 or log on to fedcoseeds.com or trees to request their "Trees" catalog.

You will glean lots of useful information within the pages of this catalog. I am thrilled to know that they

are grafted on site and accustomed to our climate! How tall to you want your trees to get? Apple trees are available in dwarf, semi-dwarf and standard size. Their ultimate size is determined mostly by the rootstock onto which the named variety is grafted. Each has their pros and cons. Dwarf trees can generally be maintained without a ladder. They come into bearing sooner but because of their size produce fewer apples than larger trees. Staking and irrigation are often necessary, because of limited root systems. They can be planted relatively close together (six-eight feet) and are generally short-lived. Semi-dwarf trees are midsized, bear well and are most productive for two or three decades. They are usually spaced 12-14 feet apart from one another. Standard, or full-size trees are those beauties of our grandparent's era. Extremely hardy, many are still around and might even be bearing fruit! Plan on 18 feet or more between trees, with a mature height of 15-20 feet tall!

Where will you plant them? With the size of the trees determined, you can now figure out how many will fit in the space designated for your home orchard.

The best spot is one that receives six-eight hours of full sun per day.

Deep, well-drained soil is ideal; never plant where you know the water table is high. In my opinion, a few trees positioned close to the house will be maintained

better because they are in eye-shot as compared to those placed strategically out in the back-forty. They tend to nag you as you walk by: "Time to prune!"

"Why are those leaves curled?" What is that orange spot?" You get the idea.

Is my soil any good? Fall is a great time to take a soil test.

First, slice a six-inch core of soil from your intended orchard with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

Repeat several times and mix the cores together. Then, measure out a cup of soil to send to the lab. If the locations you plan on planting your apple trees vary considerably, test them separately.

Official directions and an order form are found on <http://soiltest.umass.edu>. The standard soil test is \$20. Mention on the test that you are growing apples and pH and fertilizer recommendations will be specific to that crop.

You can do something this fall to make planting easier next spring. Mark out where your trees are to go and dump a generous amount of compost on top of the grass in a circle three feet in diameter. This will start to break down the sod and get the microbes in the soil working.

With the planning part behind you, it will be a lot of fun to await the arrival of your trees come springtime.

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

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:

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

journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

UPCOMING

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

NOVEMBER VENDORS

Nov. 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

Nov. 22, 23

The Women of St. Christopher's Parish on Rt. 20 in Brimfield will hold their annual craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors offer everything from handcrafted jewelry, primitives, quilted, knit & crochet items, Christmas decorations, organic lotions and soaps, resins, watercolors, wooden décor, pottery, sea glass, wreaths, mugs, honey products, tie

dye, bargain tables and much more! Get your gift shopping done and support your local small business, in addition to finding unique gifts for everyone on your list! The kitchen will be serving breakfast, lunch, snacks & desserts. Meat Pies can be pre-ordered to take home. Take a chance on the raffles that each have over thirty great prizes! Admission is free. For vendor spots and more information contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check it out on the church's Facebook page.

Dec. 28

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Patient advocate gives advice on why to be aware of your A1C

which is National Diabetes Awareness Month.

It's important because an elevated A1C is a possible signal that you are at a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. The good news is that if you can catch this disorder while it's still in its "pre-diabetes" phase, you have a good chance of avoiding Type 2 diabetes altogether.

And avoiding elevated blood glucose means you also lessen the risk of its associated outcomes, such as a higher chance for stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, limb amputation and blindness.

Even if you have regular

bloodwork at your doctor's office, it may not include A1C, which requires a separate testing procedure. There were sometimes hassles with insurance coverage if the test was being used for screening and not diagnosing, but in 2024 Medicare began covering two screening A1C tests a year. If you have commercial insurance, you will want to check with them to see if the test is covered for you.

What does A1C measure?

An A1C test (also known as an HbA1C test) looks at a sample of your hemoglobin to find your average estimated blood glucose level over the

previous three months, which is a more useful measure than a single point in time. While the standard blood glucose test requires fasting, the A1C test does not, making it easier on patients and their providers.

The number that comes back is expressed as a percentage. For example an A1C of 5.7 means that 5.7% of the hemoglobin is "glycated," or linked to sugar.

What's a normal A1C?

Typically, an A1C lower than 5.7 is considered "normal"; between 5.7 and less than 6.5 is considered "pre-diabetic." This is the blinking yellow light that tells you it's

time to make some lifestyle changes to prevent full-blown diabetes. You know what these changes are: a healthier diet and more exercise, probably coupled with medication.

An A1C of 6.5 or higher indicates diabetes. That said, A1C can be affected by other factors, such as blood transfusions, medications, stress and hormone levels, so there's no "one size fits all" interpretation. That's why Medicare decided to cover two screening tests a year, in case levels are being affected by something else.

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15th Annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR

New Wilbraham Senior Center
250 Springfield Street, Wilbraham - Behind Wilbraham Town Hall

Sat ❖ Nov 22 ❖ 9-3pm

- Favorite & New Crafts
- Delicious Home-Baked Goodies
- Unique Raffle Items (You don't need to be present to win!)
- Enjoy Children's Stories 10:00 - 1:00pm
- Visit with Santa 11:00 - 2:00pm

Operation Jeepers Christmas 2025 - Donate a Gift for a Veteran's Child, birth to Age 17. Help us Stuff the Senior Center Van!

Sponsored by Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.
Proceeds will be used to support programs & services of the Wilbraham Senior Center

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Veterans honored with lunch and stories of service

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – The Monson Senior Center hosted its annual Veterans Day luncheon on Friday, Nov. 7, welcoming local veterans, community members, and town officials for an afternoon of gratitude, remembrance, and reflection on service.

The event, held each November, celebrates veterans from across the community with a hot meal, speeches, and time to reconnect. This year's lunch featured meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and rolls, "a traditional comfort meal for a day of appreciation," said Kelly Bergeron, who helps coordinate the event.

"We do a Veterans Day lunch every year to honor the veterans from the community," Bergeron said. "We have a speech, we introduce a couple of speakers after we eat, and we're just glad to have everyone together."

Two guest speakers, both U.S. Navy veterans, shared their personal experiences in military service: Russell Brissette and Rita LaFerriere.

Brissette opened his remarks by thanking the community and the Senior Center staff "for providing us with the dinner" and reflected on the meaning of Veterans Day.

"Most of the people here don't need me to tell you what Veterans Day is," he said. "It's the people that have sacrificed everything they can to keep our land safe. The veterans are truly heroes of Monson."

Brissette shared that Monson is home to approximately 627 veterans, according to his research, and then spoke about his own service in the U.S. Navy during the 1960s. He served aboard an

assault cargo ship, operating mine boats capable of carrying troops and tanks, and was part of the naval blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Our ship blocked Castro from coming out of the bay with his destroyer," Brissette said. "We had one 5-inch gun, and when we started pointing the guns at each other, I tell you, it was something else. When we stopped him from coming out, it was either that or we would have gone to war with Cuba."

He also recalled surviving a hurricane at sea, being injured on deck, and being airlifted to another ship for medical care. Despite the hardships, Brissette said he felt proud of his service and grateful for the opportunity to share his story.

Following Brissette's talk, Rita LaFerriere, also a Navy veteran, offered a deeply personal reflection on her experience as a woman serving in the mid-1960s; a time when gender barriers in the military were still strong.

LaFerriere began by reading the Oath of Enlistment, reminding the audience of the solemn promise every service member makes to defend the Constitution.

"That says a lot," she said. "We were willing to die for our country."

LaFerriere described how women in the Navy, then known as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), faced restrictions that would seem unthinkable today.

"When I went in, women couldn't apply for a mortgage without their husband's or father's permission," she said. "We learned to clean an M1 rifle by video, but we weren't allowed to touch guns... we



Rita LaFerriere, also a U.S. Navy veteran, reflects on her experience as a woman in the military.



A chair reserved for prisoners of war and those missing in action is set aside in remembrance.

might get hurt [said very sarcastically]. We couldn't serve on ships; they said we were bad luck."

Assigned to the Naval Air Station in Memphis, LaFerriere worked in aviation navigation and later in a classified mailroom on the staff of Rear Admiral Gruder H. Tuttle. "It was a very interesting job," she recalled. "We had to maintain hundreds of manuals for the admiral. And when he was in the building, I even got to raise his flag."



Guests fill the Monson Senior Center for the annual Veterans Day luncheon honoring local service members.



Event coordinator Kelly Bergeron delivers opening remarks and introduces the two veteran speakers.

thing badly enough, you'll find a way to get there."

Friday's luncheon was one of several events planned at the Monson Senior Center in November. Upcoming programs include the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 12 noon - followed by a presentation on Native American History by historian Patrick Duquette.

Bergeron encouraged at-



Russell Brissette, a U.S. Navy veteran, shares memories from his time in service.

tendees to check the bulletin board at the Senior Center for more details and to sign up early for events.

As the luncheon drew to a close, the veterans in attendance were asked to stand for a group photo; a moment of recognition for those who have served in every branch of the military, in every era.

"It's about gratitude," Bergeron said. "We just want our veterans to know how much they mean to this town."

Holly Berry Holiday Bazaar returns

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, fami-

ly-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.

Christmas sing along on Nov. 30

STURBRIDGE – Christmas Sing along by the Fanfare Brass Ensemble on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. at The Federated Church located at 8 Maple St. in Sturbridge.

The 10 part group's program: O Come All Ye Faithful, Three Ships, Three Kings, Westminster Carol, Jingle Bell Rock, Twelve Days of Christmas, Away in the Manger, A Christmas Cannon, Jin-

gle Bells, White Christmas, Sleight Ride, Oh Holy Night, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Angels from the Realms of Glory, All I want for Christmas, O little town of Bethlehem, We Need a Little Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Stars and Stripes for Christmas and more.

For more information contact David Neill at tbh8@aol.com or call 413-686-5027.

'Chime In' handbell concert at St. Patrick's Church Dec. 7

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 Dec. 7. 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.

Local churches unite in joyful Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

STURBRIDGE – Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish and Shrine, together with the Federated Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, invite the community to a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Church Service and Gathering on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m.

The service will be hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 345 Main Street, Sturbridge. The evening will be a joyful opportunity for neighbors and friends of all faith traditions to come together in gratitude, prayer, and fellowship.

"Each year, this gathering reminds us of the deep unity that exists among our churches and within our wider community," said Fr. Salvator Mu-

sande, Pastor of Saint Anne Saint Patrick Parish. "It is a beautiful expression of our shared faith and gratitude for God's abundant blessings."

Pastor Dave Cote of the Federated Church shared, "In a world that can often feel divided, coming together in thanksgiving allows us to celebrate what connects us — our shared humanity and our call to love one another."

Pastor Dan Purtell of Bethlehem Lutheran Church added, "We are delighted to host this service and welcome everyone to join us. Giving thanks together helps us remember that gratitude is at the heart of faith, hope, and community."

Members of Brookfield

Congregational Church, Elm Street Congregational Church, and Holy Trinity Church will also be joining in this year's celebration, further enriching the spirit of unity and thanksgiving shared among our local faith communities.

The service will include shared prayers, readings, and music from all congregations, followed by light refreshments and fellowship. A free-will offering will be collected during the service to benefit St. Luke's Guest House in Southbridge, which provides shelter and support for those in need within our local community.

All are welcome to attend this special evening of thanksgiving and unity.



Mah Jongg Club open to all levels at the Palmer Public Library

PALMER - Have you ever wanted to learn Mah Jongg?

Haven't played in years and would like to? Drop in and join us at the Palmer Public Library for this newly formed, weekly club! Beginners will get help from

Joyce, a local Mah Jongg enthusiast and teacher.

The club will primarily meet in the Community Room on Mondays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. If the Community Room has another event, the club will relocate for that day to another

area of the library. This club will play the American version of Mah Jongg and follow the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) rules.

Mah Jongg is a 4-person game of strategy and skill that originated in China. There are many versions of

this game, with the American version enjoying popularity in the U.S. today. Learning to play involves getting familiar with the tiles, learning the specifics of dealing & play, and especially learning to decipher and become familiar with the official card

of playable hands released annually by the NMJL.

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

Holiday Fair at First Church

LUDLOW – The holidays are fast approaching, always a hectic time for shoppers who decide to procrastinate.

Now is the time to start shopping and enjoy a relaxing day.

The First Church in Ludlow is located at 859 Center Street. The festivities will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Available for shoppers are Holiday/Cemetery logs—using fresh greenery and other decorative materials, Santa's workshop—handmade items from the elves, raffles in Fellowship Hall with baskets galore, Bake-shop with fantastic homemade goodies.

As always, the Church's bookstore and a yarn/fabric shop will be open.

Come to the Snack Bar to rejuvenate during your shopping excursion. Menu includes homemade soups and sandwiches served cafeteria style.

Cub Scouts help support Monson Cupboard

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON – As the holiday season approaches, the Monson Cupboard is once again filled with the generosity of the local community; this time thanks to a successful food drive led by Cub Scout Pack 168, which collected an impressive 434 pounds of food during their event held Saturday, Nov. 8, from noon to 2 p.m.

Karen Davis of Monson Together and the Monson Cupboard proudly showcased the food pantry's fully stocked shelves and freezers, describing the donations as "a true blessing" ahead of the busy winter season. "The Boy Scouts are doing a drive, and we're so grateful," Davis said, gesturing to the pantry's organized rooms filled with canned goods, pastas, peanut butter, cookies, and hygiene products.

"This is our freezer... full, stocked, ready for the holidays," she said with a smile. "We've gotten a lot of what we need: nonperishables, canned goods, even little treats to make the holidays brighter for families."



Cub Scout Pack 168 outside the Monson Community Cupboard.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The Cub Scouts' collection focused on nonperishable food items, with local families and volunteers contributing everything from pasta and peanut butter to canned fruits and vegetables. "It's great to see the kids outside, learning about service and giving back," Davis added.

The event also drew attention from state and local

representatives. Davis noted that Representative Brian Ashe and staff from Senator Jake Oliveira's office visited the Monson Cupboard on Thursday, November 6, as part of a larger grassroots food security initiative coordinated by Amanda Haller from Senator Ryan Fattman's office. The program aims to highlight and support com-

munity-based hunger relief organizations across the region.

"We're so blessed to have this level of support," Davis said. "Between the Scouts, the representatives, and our volunteers, Monson really shows up for one another."

With the cupboards full and spirits high, Davis said

the team is now preparing for the upcoming holiday distribution and planning festive touches; including a community holiday decorating contest to keep the season bright.

"The holidays can be a hard time for some families," Davis reflected. "But thanks to this community, we're making sure everyone has something good on the table."

Sign language classes continue to grow at Wales Public Library

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

WALES – On a recent afternoon at the Wales Public Library, the meeting room was quieter than usual; just a few voices and the gentle rhythm of signing hands. While most sessions of the library's new American Sign Language (ASL) class have been well attended, the November 8 session was a more intimate one, with only a mother-and-son pair learning from instructor Jill Pourmand.

Pourmand began offering the monthly class only a few months ago, back in August she recalled, but the program has already developed a following among residents eager to learn a new, inclusive way to communicate.

"I think it's a great way to build a sense of community and teach people something that's very useful and relevant," Pourmand said. "It helps you communicate with a more diverse population of people. Anytime I can help, I like to."

For Pourmand, ASL isn't just a skill, it's one of her first languages. "I was born to two deaf parents, so I've always known it," she said with



Frederick Wasiluk practicing the sign for yesterday.

a smile. "I'm what's called a CODA: a child of deaf adults."

Her familiarity with ASL gives her an intuitive understanding of how to teach it to beginners. Each month, she provides students with printed packets that focus on a new set of vocabulary and grammar concepts. "If someone misses a class, we just catch them up with the previous packet," she explained.

The November class covered everyday basics, family and people descriptions,

adjectives, and daily life and activities. Pourmand also introduced students to ASL's unique sentence structure, focusing on time, topic, and comment; the framework that helps learners begin forming their own complete signed thoughts.

Although Pourmand has the natural presence of a teacher, she isn't an educator by trade. "This is the only place I teach," she said. "Unless my friends want me to show them something, this is just something I do for fun."



Jill Pourmand teaches mother-son duo Kaylin and Frederick Wasiluk.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

In her day-to-day life, Pourmand is a student of speech-language pathology, a field she says complements her interest in ASL and her background in the Deaf community. "It's relevant," she said. "I'm hoping to work with deaf people someday."

Among the group's younger members that day was six-year-old Frederick Wasiluk, who attended the class with his mother, Kaylin

Wasiluk. "I've been homeschooling him," Kaylin said. "We had done some Spanish classes a little bit ago, but my son expressed interest in ASL. When we heard Miss Jill was teaching the class, we were very excited."

When asked what he enjoys about learning sign language, Frederick grinned. "It's fun to learn new things," he said.

Pourmand hopes more people will take advantage of opportunities like this to learn sign language; even if only the basics.

"If you have an opportunity to learn ASL, take advantage of it," she said. "Anyone who uses ASL will appreciate that you at least know something. Even just basic finger spelling of the alphabet can go a long way in communication."

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VETERANS | from page 1

and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Palmer High School Band performed the national anthem, their instruments ringing clearly through the cold morning air.

The keynote address was delivered by Tina Brohman, Palmer's Veteran Services Officer and a United States Air Force veteran, who spoke with heartfelt emotion about the meaning of Veterans Day and the deep connections it holds for those who have worn the uniform.

"Veterans Day is not just a date on the calendar," Brohman said. "It's a moment for us to pause, reflect, and express our gratitude to those who put on a uniform in service to our country."

Brohman, who served as a Combat Arms Training and Maintenance instructor, described the gravity of her role. "I trained airmen on the safe and effective use of their weapons and ensured the tools they carried into harm's way were reliable and ready," she said. "That sense of purpose and taking care of others stays with you long after the uniform comes off."

Before beginning her remarks, Brohman called for a moment of silence to honor Richard 'Ricky' Delude, late commander of the Sons of AMVETS, remembered as a tireless advocate for local veterans. "To truly know him was to love him," she said. "We miss him and his large personality."

Brohman emphasized that Veterans Day should not be the only time Americans think about their service members.

"Don't let Veterans Day be the only day you think about veterans," she said. "And most importantly, teach the next generation that freedom is not free. It is earned and protected by real people with real lives and real families."

She thanked veterans of all generations for their courage and commitment, acknowledged the families who "lived the service too," and expressed deep appreciation for the American Legion, AMVETS, Sons of AMVETS, and Ladies Auxiliary for their continued work supporting veterans and their families.

"You are the heart behind so much of what gets done, and we thank you," she said.

Brohman also extended gratitude to town officials, first responders, and State Representative Todd Smola for their ongoing support of veterans and their families. "Veterans deserve more than



Father Richard Turner delivers the closing prayer at Hryniewicz Park.



Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops from Palmer show their support during the community celebration.



State Representative Todd Smola offers remarks honoring all who served.

applause," she said. "They deserve understanding, resources, and care... not only in words but through action."

State Representative Todd Smola also addressed the crowd, recalling that last year's Veterans Day celebration took place under unusually warm skies.

"That tells you we're in New England," he said with a smile. "And it also tells you how important it is that every single year we return in this community to pay tribute and honor to the men and women who serve our wonderful country."

Smola praised Palmer High School students for participating in veterans' recognition events and underscored the importance of passing down the legacy of service. "It's going to be your responsibility to share this event and to pass down the story of what Veterans Day means," he said.

As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, Smola reflected on America's enduring strength and ideals. "For 250 years, men and women have been willing to put on a uniform and go places to answer the call of their country... a call greater than that of themselves," he said.

He also urged Americans to use their voices responsibly, even amid political division. "Make sure that it's productive," he said. "Make sure

you are part of the solutions, not part of tearing down communities. We may be frustrated with the government at times, but thank God we have a voice... because in other places, they don't."

Smola closed with a reminder of the debt owed to those who served. "Because of them, we live in the greatest country on God's green earth, the United States of America."

The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and the solemn playing of "Taps" in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As light snow continued to fall, the Palmer High School Band performed "God Bless America," followed by a closing benediction from Father Turner.

"May all who have died and share with you a new life be recipients of your grace and love," he prayed. "Bless our country and our community as we go forth."

Event organizer Tina Brohman thanked Band Director Joshua Hubbard, alumni Mark and Cassie Perry, and all who contributed to the ceremony's success.

"This concludes the official observance of Veterans Day in the Town of Palmer," Brohman announced as the ceremony drew to a close; a fitting end to a morning marked by reflection, unity, and gratitude.



Tina Brohman, Palmer's Veterans Services Officer, delivers the opening address, sharing her Air Force experience.



Members of Amvets Post 74 lead the Palmer Veterans Day Parade, joined by local Boy Scouts.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Members of the Palmer Girl Scout troop march proudly in the parade.



The Palmer High School Color Guard and Marching Band play during their walk in the procession.



Palmer Fire Department engines and emergency vehicles close out the parade lineup.



Vehicles carry veterans unable to walk the full parade route.



The Palmer High School Band performs "Taps" to conclude the ceremony.



Scout and Cub Scout troops make their way down the parade route.



Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops brave the cold.

Markey introduces legislation to reduce costs for Veteran entrepreneurs

Ranking Member Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), alongside Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), this week introduced the Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act to eliminate financial barriers for veterans, military reservists, and their spouses looking to start or grow their small businesses. The legislation would decrease down payment requirements, eliminate fees on small business loans under \$1 million, and direct the Small Business Administration (SBA) to collect and publicize data on services provided to veterans.

The Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act was introduced prior to Veterans Day and during National Veteran Small Business Week, which honors the sacrifices of veterans and their families and highlights resources available for veteran entrepreneurs. In Fiscal Year 2025, veteran entrepreneurs received nearly 3,500 loans totaling \$1.5 billion

through the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan programs.

"This week, we honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans and their families and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a smooth transition to civilian life," said Ranking Member Markey. "Entrepreneurship is a natural path for our brave service members, but high entry costs can be a barrier to their small business success. This legislation would lower the cost of small business loans for veterans and their families, making it more affordable for them to move from military service to Main Street."

"On behalf of our 1.5 million members, The American Legion strongly supports the Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act, which removes financial barriers that too often stand



Edward J. Markey

between veterans and their pursuit of the American Dream," said Dan K. Wiley, National Commander of the American Legion. "Veterans have proven leadership, discipline, and dedication—traits that are invaluable to entrepreneurship. By expanding access to capital and ensuring data transparency for veterans, reservists, and military spouses, this bill honors their service and strengthens The American economy. The American Legion believes that when we empower veterans to build businesses, our communities and nation not only succeed, but we fortify the very foundation of The American Dream they once fought to protect."

"Veterans bring the same determination, leadership, and mission focus that defined their service to building small businesses back

home," said Mary Kaszynski, Director of Government Relations for VoteVets. "Yet too often, financial barriers stand in the way of Veterans who have already given so much to our nation. By significantly reducing fees and expanding access to credit for veteran-owned small businesses, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act removes key obstacles and unlocks opportunity. Our country owes it to Veterans not just to thank them, but to ensure they have every chance to succeed in civilian life. This legislation honors that commitment in a tangible, impactful way. We applaud Senator Markey's leadership and encourage all Members to join us in supporting this important effort."

"The Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act meaningfully reduces barriers for veteran-owned small businesses by waiving guarantee fees and lowering equity injection requirements: critical steps toward

expanding access to capital and opportunity," said Ray Toenniessen, Deputy Executive Director of the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). "We're encouraged by the bill's emphasis on data-driven oversight and accountability, ensuring its impact is both measurable and sustainable. This legislation reflects a smart, responsible investment in the economic success of veterans and their families."

"The National Veteran Small Business Coalition strongly supports the goals of the Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act," said Scott Jensen, Chief Executive Officer for the National Veterans Small Business Coalition. "Access to affordable capital remains one of the greatest barriers to Veteran business ownership. By permanently waiving SBA loan guarantee fees and reducing equity requirements for Veterans and military spouses, this bill takes

meaningful steps to level the playing field and empower those who have served our nation to continue serving through entrepreneurship. We look forward to working with Congress and the Small Business Administration to ensure these reforms are implemented effectively and equitably for the Veteran small business community."

"National Guardsmen are deeply rooted in our communities - as employers, neighbors, and business owners who invest locally," said retired Major General Francis M. McGinn, President of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). "This bill unleashes the entrepreneurial drive of veteran small business-owners and encourages even deeper connections to the people we serve. We applaud Senator Markey and the Small Business Committee for their work to improve economic opportunities for those who have given our nation so much."

SALUTES | from page 1

dad had served in the Marine Corps and my mom was in the Air Force" said Fullen. "I am very grateful for my time spend in the military, the people I have met and the lessons I have learned."

Chaplain Glenn Perry of American Legion Post 241 of Monson led the attendees in a prayer. Fullen then led the crowd in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Oney, Vice Chairman of the Monson Board of Selectmen spoke next.

"Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by our heroes who have selflessly defended our freedom, protected our values, and safeguarded our liberty."

As we honor the brave men and women who have served our nation with courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment, we acknowledge and appreciate their love of country and willingness to serve.

We continue to be inspired by their strength and resilience, and look to find those qualities in ourselves so that their legacy lives on.

And finally, we support them, through our actions, our words, and our pledge never to forget" said Oney.

Theodore Kozak followed Oney to the podium.

Kozak reflected on the history of Veteran Day. November 11 originally marked the end of World War One on November 11, 1918. November 11 became a federal holiday in 1938 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to include all branches.

"Veterans Day is about our gratitude for those who served, not just remembrance, we use this day to reflect on their sacrifices. This sacrifice is not only limited to their participation in combat but also their commitment to service which often places them in stations around the world, of which, they often experienced long hours of duty away from family and friends" said Kozak. "That's why communities come together each year to recognize their service and give our thanks."

Commander Carl Santos of American Legion Post 241 laid the ceremonial wreath at the base of the flagpole. The firing detail from American Legion Post 241 provided a 21 gun salute followed by taps played by Russ Bressette

Monson native Jordan Doyle sang the National Anthem. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Fullen invited all attendees to a collation at T's Tavern.

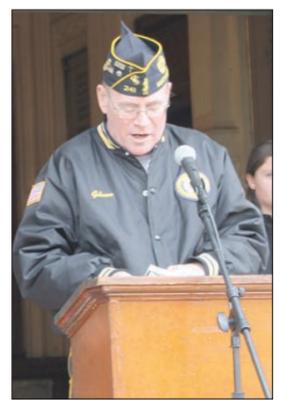
Debbie Lawrence, proprietor of TJ's Tavern, hosted the collation after the ceremony concluded. The menu included chicken and broccoli Alfredo, rotini with pork loin in red sauce, homemade meatballs, tossed salad with sweet vidalia onion dressing, Italian bread, pumpkin pie, pumpkin swiss roll, red velvet cake and homemade blueberry scones and cranberry orange apricot scones with eggnog.

"It is a warm and fulfilling feeling when after the ceremony is over, everyone comes here. Monson is that town that its townspeople cares deeply about their veterans" said Campbell.



Members of American legion post 241 perform the firing detail.

Turley staff photos



Glenn Perry of American Legion Post 241 of Monson delivers the prayer.



TJ's Tavern proprietor Deb Lawrence prepares the meal.



American legion post 241 commander Carl Santos raises the American flag.



Pat Oney delivers her remarks.



Jordan Doyle sings the national anthem.



Theodore Kozak delivered his remarks.



Hailee Fullen opens the ceremony.

Monson Fire Logs

MONSON— Fire log for the Monson Fire Department for the week of Nov. 3-11, 2025. The department responded to 23 EMS calls and 10 Fire calls.

Monday, Nov. 3 at 4:52 p.m. the department responded to the area of Lower Hampden Road at Bogan Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 8:37 a.m. the department responded to 157 Moulton Hill Road for the tree on wires. The department returned to service at 9:10 a.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 9:16 a.m. the department responded to 339 Main Street for the smoke alarm activation. The department returned to service at 9:29 a.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 10:39 a.m. the department responded to 59 Bradway Road for the CO alarm activation. The department returned to service at 11:33 a.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 6:12 p.m. the department re-

sponded to 137 Moulton Hill Road for the telephone pole on fire. The department returned to service at 7:12 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 8:12 p.m. the department responded to 105 Main Street for the fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:13 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 11:23 a.m. the department responded to 96 Bethany Road for the fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 11:39 a.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:21 p.m. the department responded to 242 State Ave for the fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:17 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 6 at 9:28 a.m. the department responded to 2 Whitney Ave for the commercial fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 9 at 3:08 a.m. the department responded to in front of 40 Mayhill Road for the motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 4 a.m.

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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025

Youth United program relaunches at First Church

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

MONSON — A new chapter for local youth engagement began on November 5 at the First Church of Monson, as organizers from the church and St. Patrick's Parish introduced the revamped Youth United program: a community-oriented group for middle and high school students designed to foster leadership, service, and connection across area towns.

The relaunch event, held around 6 p.m. in the church's community room, brought together organizers and volunteers who outlined their vision for the program's future. Originally founded as a joint effort between the First Church of Monson and St. Patrick's Church, Youth United began several years ago as a youth group for students in grades 4 through 12. However, the program has since evolved to better meet the needs of local youth.

"Originally, it was for fourth through twelfth grade," said organizer Holly Norwick. "It kind of fluctuated with different age ranges coming at different times, but now that we've honed in on one age group, I think it's going to be more successful."

The newly defined age range is grades 7 through 12, aligning with the current youth ministry structure at both churches. Norwick noted that narrowing the focus will allow for deeper connections and more consistent programming.

Co-organizer Dave Wallace, who represents St. Patrick's Church along with his wife, Erin Wallace, shared that the new direction will move away from the traditional youth group model.

"This year, we're rethinking the approach," Wallace explained. "Rather than just having weekly or monthly gatherings, we're building the program around a goal... something the group will work toward throughout the year, like a mission trip or a community project."

That long-term focus, he said, gives participants a sense of purpose and direction.

At its core, Youth United will hold monthly meetings, organize community service projects, and plan fundraisers and excursions. The group's first gathering on Nov. 5 served as an introduction and brainstorming session, giving students a voice in shaping the group's future activities.

"We want the kids to help pick the projects and ideas," Norwick said. "That way, they're invested in what they're doing and learning leadership skills along the way."

One early idea under consideration is a monthly "Friday Night Lights"-style event, where teens from Youth United would host an evening at the church, offering babysitting for younger children while parents enjoy a night out.

"It would give the older kids a chance to mentor and lead," Norwick said. "At the same time, it would be a fundraiser they could put toward their annual mission or project... and it gives back to the community in a really practical way."

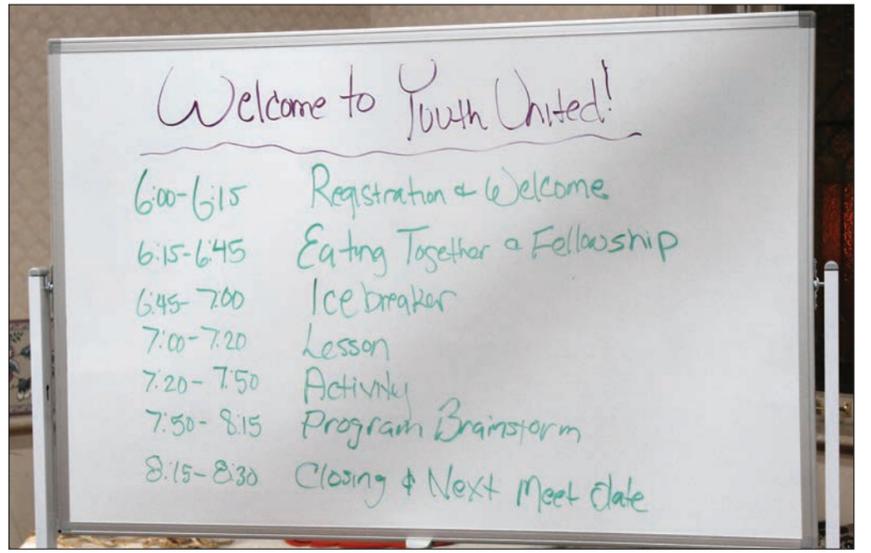
While the program's roots are faith-based, Norwick and Wallace emphasized that Youth United is open to all area youth, regardless of church affiliation.

"We're inviting any and all church youth in the area, or anyone who just wants to be involved," Norwick said. "You don't have to be part of a church. You just have to want to help your community and have fun doing it."

The organizers hope to draw students from Monson and surrounding towns, including Palmer, Wales, Holland, and Brimfield.

For now, Youth United meets monthly at the First Church of Monson, and new members are welcome to join at any time.

"This is really about creating opportunities for young people to come together, serve others, and find their place in the community," Norwick said. "We're excited to see where this goes."



A schedule outlines the evening's timeline for the first meeting of the Youth United group on Nov. 5. Turley photos by Abigail McCoy



Snacks and drinks, pizza being brought in later on, await participants at the group's inaugural gathering.



A lively game of spoons serves as an icebreaker for the new youth group.



Attendees mingle and socialize as the first Youth United meeting gets underway.

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No Veteran should go hungry after their service

By Coleman Nee
DAV National Commander and Marine Veteran
Coleman Nee

REGION — According to U.S. government data and recent policy studies, nearly 25% of America's veterans live either below the federal poverty level or paycheck to paycheck, with little margin for unexpected expenses.

To get by, many adopt emergency-level budgets. But even the harshest austerity measures may not be enough. Life at the bottom still costs money. Mortgages and rent must be paid. Vehicles are needed to reach work or medical appointments. So, what can be cut? Too often, it's food-eating less or sacrificing nutrition. Tragically, many veterans and their families face this choice every day.

The latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that 7.5% of veterans-about 1.5 million-are hungry or food insecure. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that those ages 65-74 are now most at risk, a shift from only a few years ago when 55- to 64-year-olds faced the highest rates.

The picture grows bleaker within subgroups. Nearly 1 in 5 women veterans, many raising children, report food insecurity. More than a third of disabled working-age veterans struggle to feed themselves. These aren't abstractions-they're neighbors, family and friends.

VA disability benefits are

often treated as unearned income for the purposes of means testing in some federal programs. But these benefits were never meant to be treated as a paycheck. They were designed to offset the extra costs of living with a disability. In programs where they are counted toward income limits, this classification can unfairly block many veterans from receiving assistance through programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

SNAP can provide essential short-term relief, adding protein, vegetables, and fruit to meals. Yet because disability benefits often push veterans over the income threshold too many are excluded. According to RAND, only 4.9% of food-insecure veterans in the

U.S. received SNAP assistance in 2023.

It is a failure of our system when individuals who served this country bravely and honorably-so that others could pursue the American dream-now face malnutrition and hunger.

On Veterans Day, crowds gather to give speeches and host parades honoring those who wore the uniform with fierce pride. But veterans can't eat their pride.

On Thanksgiving, we sit down to abundant meals of turkey, vegetables, and homemade desserts, raising a toast to those who secured our freedoms. But veterans can't eat our thanks.

Rather than simply thanking veterans for their service, we can show our gratitude through meaningful action.

Immediate steps taken today can make a difference-from supporting or volunteering with trusted organizations like DAV's Volunteer for Veterans program, to helping at local veteran food pantries and nutrition centers, or urging elected officials to ensure veterans and their families do not go hungry through efforts like DAV's Commander's Action Network. These frontline actions have a direct and lasting impact on veterans' lives.

Veterans stood up for us; now it's our turn to stand up for them. Through awareness, advocacy, and community support, we can work toward a future where all veterans live safe, healthy lives-free from hunger. Now that's something to give thanks for.

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SOCCER

Mustangs trample Holbrook in tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – After not losing a home match during the regular season or the Western Mass. tournament, the Monson boys' soccer team managed to keep the streak alive in the Division 5 state tournament.

The 10th-seeded Mus-

MUSTANGS | page 12



Brady Ronaldson looks to head to his right.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER

Girls prevail in opening round

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – While the Monson girls' soccer team entered the state tournament with a total of eight victories, they didn't win more than two consecutive games during the regular season.

Monson will need to win five games in a row to capture the Division 5 state title for the second time in the past three years.

The fourth-seeded Lady Mustangs began that

task with a 4-0 shut-out victory over the 29th-seeded Franklin County Tech Lady Eagles on a cold and windy afternoon at Larry Tassinari Field, last Thursday.

"We're going to take it one game at a time in this tournament. We now have a one game winning streak," said Monson head coach Larry Pagliaro. "We have a bunch of talented players, and I believe that we can

GIRLS | page 13



Ada Wojcik prepares to move the ball left.
Turley photos by David Henry

FOOTBALL

Panthers keep momentum going with win



Dylan Doherty heads off on a carry.
Turley photos by David Henry

PALMER – Last Friday night, Palmer High School entered nonplayoff action as they work toward their annual holiday matchup with rival Ludlow. In Week 9, Palmer defeated Belchertown 21-7 to improve to 5-4 and also pick



Griffin Nawrocki makes a stop.

up their third straight win. For Week 10, Palmer heads on the road, drawing a matchup with Springfield International Charter.

The Panthers will be at home on Thanksgiving morning on Nov. 27 at 10 a.m.



Matthew Santos gets ready to punt.



Jared Perry makes a block.



Hunter White goes for the tackle.

FOOTBALL

Pioneers football team falls in nonplayoff matchup with Ware

WARE – Last Friday night, Ware defeated Pathfinder 16-12 in a nonplayoff matchup for both teams. Ware

found itself in nonplayoff action following an upset loss against Palmer two weeks ago. Ware faces Putnam in

Week 10 while Pathfinder will have a vocational tournament matchup with Smith Vocational of Northampton.



Animas Kowalik makes a block.



Trevor Alexander heads for the sideline.



Jarret Skowrya starts a return for the Pioneers.



Trevor Alexander hugs the ball on a carry.



Anthony Arventos drops back to pass.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Austin Meacham
Monson High School

In Monson's first-round win over Holbrook, Meacham notched the game-tying goal to get the Mustangs on the scoreboard.

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

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Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
 rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

The Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes has reached the 10-week mark of the season.

After 10 weeks of league candlepin bowling, Night Hawks take over first place in the east division and overall, with a record of 43-27. Sandri leads in the west division and is in second place overall with a record 42-28.

During week 10, Slow Burners bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 495-438.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 458-454. In game three, Slow Burners got the win by a score of 492-470. Three out of four members of Slow Burners broke the century mark with scores of 111, 111 and 112.

The final score was 1423-1384 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls. The team is in tenth place with a record of 27-43.

P&J Meats bowled against Ironmen in week 10. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 486-480. Chico Boynton of P&J Meats had the highest score on his team with a 108.

In game two, Ironmen

got the win by a score of 507-468. Billy Brunk of Ironmen scored big with 148 in game two.

In game three, Ironmen won the last game by a score of 446-443. The final score was 1433-1397 in favor of Ironmen, who are now at 39-31.

Sandri bowled against Cannonballs in week 10. In game one, Sandri defeated Cannonballs by a score of 429-421. In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 468-464. Bob Hutchinson of Sandri had the best game with 113.

In game three, Sandri won to get a three-game sweep over Cannonballs, 455-446. Hutchinson and his teammate Sue Horton each bowled 108 in game three. The final score was 1352-1331 in favor of Sandri.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Snappers in week 10. In game one, Snappers won by a score of 529-465. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers began the match by bowling a 128. His teammate, Andy Tombor bowled a 116 and Eddie Stachowicz bowled a 111.

In game two, Snappers won again by a score of 496-490. Stachowicz bowled a big game with 138 to lead his team to victory.

In game three, Snappers won to sweep Zeke's Freaks, 490-462. Stachowicz finished with 115 and

a series of 364. Krasnecky bowled a 124 and had a series of 358. The final score was 1515-1417.

Fire Mountain bowled against Night Hawks in week 10. In game one, Night Hawks won by a score of 472-439. Darryl Sinclair Night Hawks began the match with 138 during the team's victory.

In game two, Night Hawks defeated Fire Mountain by a score of 488-431. Dave Smigiel of Night Hawks was the hero for the team by bowling a 121.

In game three, Night Hawks and Fire Mountain tied at 477. As a result, each team receives one point. Gavin Sinclair finished strong with 132 and had a series of 339. Smigiel finished with a 109 and a series of 332. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain bowled a 121 to end the match.

The final score was 1437-1347 in favor of Night Hawks.

Spare Parts Bud bowled against Team UMass in week 10. In game one, Spare Parts Bud won by a score of 483-443. John Jebb of Spare Parts Bud began the match with a 110.

In game two, Spare Parts Bud won again by a score of 484-455. In game three, Spare Parts Bud won by a score of 476-472 to sweep Team UMass in week 10. The final score was 1443-1370 in favor of Spare Parts Bud.

MUSTANGS | from page 11

tangs overcame a 1-0 halftime deficit to defeat 23rd-seeded Holbrook, 3-1, in a round of 32 contest held at Coach Robert E. Moriarty Field in Monson, last Wednesday afternoon.

"It has been more than a year since we've lost a game on this field," said Monson senior Jack Beaupre. "This is one of the best grass fields in Western Massachusetts. It's sad that we won't be playing anymore soccer games here."

The last boys' soccer team to defeat Monson on their home field was the Chicopee Pacers, who posted a 7-3 victory on October 8, 2024.

Beaupre, along with fellow seniors Brady Ronaldson, Ben Pignone, Shane Szado, and Austin Meacham have been members of the varsity soccer team since they were freshmen. Senior Luis Diaz

Perez is a first-year member of the team.

"I've been coaching five of the seniors on different teams for the past ten years. It's going to be very hard not coaching them anymore," said Mustangs head coach Jared Pignone. "It was also nice to see Luis score his first goal in today's game."

It was the first time that Monson played Holbrook in a boys' soccer match.

"Other than knowing where they're from, I knew very little about them before the game," Coach Pignone said. "The only games that they had on YouTube were from a couple of years ago. The players change every year.

Both teams each had six shot attempts during the first 45 minutes of the match.

The only goal of the first half was scored in the 27th minute by Holbrook freshman Nathan Costa.

With three minutes remaining in the first half, Monson sophomore Anthony Tulloch, who's a starting defender, was injured and sat on the bench for the rest of the game. He was replaced by junior Brennan Peterson, who was one of the starting midfielders.

Trailing 1-0, the Mustangs made a couple of adjustments at halftime.

"We talked about different things at halftime," Coach Pignone said. "The input isn't just from me and my assistants. We also got some feedback from the players, which is something that I like.

The Mustangs scored the tying goal six minutes into the second half when Meacham blasted a shot into the back of the net.

Beaupre, who assisted on the tying goal, netted the go-ahead goal with a low shot into the net, which was unassisted in the 64th minute.

With 13:48 left in regulation, referee Chris Kolodziej handed out red cards to Holbrook junior Sam Mutiso and Monson junior Lucas Pignone after they threw punches at each other. Both players were suspended for two games, which carries over into the next sports season.

The two teams finished the match with only 10 players.

Perez capped off the scoring with his first career goal, which was assisted by Beaupre, with less than two minutes remaining.

"We're very happy that Luis was able to score his first

goal in our final home game," Beaupre said. "I'm very glad that I passed the ball to him."

The home victory improved Monson's overall record to 15-1-4.



Anthony Tulloch rears back to clear the ball.



Kreslen Casseus looks to fake out an opponent.



Austin Meacham makes a play on the ball and tries to keep it from his opponent.



Benjamin Pignone gets ready to shoot.



Isaac Somers runs over to cut the ball off.

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GIRLS | from page 11

win at least four more games. We're looking forward to playing another home game."

Pagliaro is aided by assistant coach Brooke Murphy, who was one of the best girls' soccer players in the history of Monson High School.

"Brooke isn't an assistant coach, she has been my co-head coach this year," Pagliaro said. "She has brought us to where we are. She's very knowledgeable."

It was the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between the two teams.

The Lady Eagles, who are members of the Bi-County League, advanced into the round of 32 after dispatching 36th-seeded Dearborn Stem Academy, 3-0, in a preliminary round home match on November 3. They finished their season with an 8-8-4 overall record.

The Lady Mustangs (9-10-1) had eight days off after suffering a 2-1 loss against Mt. Greylock in the Western Mass. Class C finals.

The victory against Franklin County Tech was the Lady Mustangs seventh of the season on their well-kept grass field. They only won

two games against Central Division opponents.

The Lady Mustangs outshot the Lady Eagles, 29-4.

"We outplayed them in the first half, but we only held a 2-0 lead at halftime," Pagliaro said. "Franklin Tech played very hard against us."

The home team took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the first half on a tap in goal from eighth-grader Makenna Peterson, which was assisted by junior Chelsea Hull.

Six minutes later, senior Hannah Murphy lined a shot into the back of the net over the head of Franklin Tech senior goalie Shayly Martin-Ovalle (19 saves) for an unassisted goal.

Murphy, who's the only senior listed on the Lady Mustangs roster, has scored more than 30 goals this season giving her 219 career goals. She broke the state's goal record during the regular season.

"Hannah is an unbelievable soccer player," Pagliaro said. "I think it'll be a long time until someone breaks her goal record."

The Lady Mustangs had four corner kicks late in the first half, but the score was still 2-0 at halftime.

Murphy completed her hat-trick by scoring two more goals in the middle of the second half.

Peterson and seventh grader Lucy Maziarz were

credited with the assists on the two second half goals.

Monson sophomore goalie Grace Berry only had to make four saves in posting the shutout.

"Our defense is underrated," Pagliaro said. "Our two center backs are (junior) Avery Beaudoin, and (junior)

Lylia Ellis. Our outside backs are (junior) Mackayla St. George and (eighth grader) Aida Wojcik. Grace is also an outstanding goalie.

The Lady Mustangs were scheduled to host the 13th-seeded Holbrook Bulldogs on Monday afternoon in the round of 16.



Avery Beaudoin advances the ball up the field pursued by the opposing defense.



Chelsea Hull watches the ball as she dribbles.



Hannah Murphy surrounds the ball as she eyes the goal.



Lucy Maziarz sends the ball deep.



Elle Somers makes a stop on the ball.



Mackayla St. George makes a throw-in for the Mustangs.



Sophia Leonard socks a free kick away.

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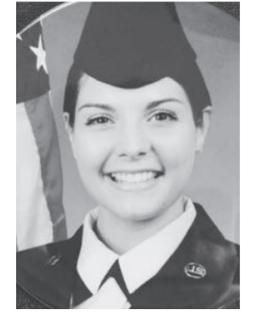
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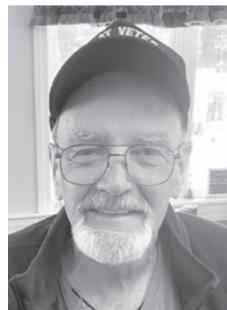
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CEREMONY | from page 1

on veterans' tributes. The ceremony continued with student readings and performances. Ninth-grader Owen Kupiec-Fox read the poem On Veterans Day, and National Honor Society President Scarlett LaRose followed with the reading Thank a Veteran and led the presentation of the Missing Man's Table; a symbolic display honoring soldiers who never returned home.

Each element of the table was described in detail: a red rose for lost lives, a lemon slice for the bitterness of loss, salt for the tears of families, a Bible for faith, and an empty chair symbolizing those still missing. "All Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call to serve and fought for our freedom with honor," LaRose said.

A video message was then shared from Captain Nick Lamb, Palmer High Class of 2012 and Army National Guard Operations Officer currently deployed overseas. "Happy Veterans Day and thank you for your continued support," Lamb said, offering a special thanks to his wife, Bethany.

The audience then heard remarks from state legislators.



Student-made posters honoring veterans line the hallways of Palmer High School.

Representative Todd Smola, a 30-year Palmer High alumnus, praised the school's tradition of honoring veterans and reflected on the meaning of service. "Today is not just a day of remembrance, but a day of recognition," Smola said. "For 250 years, men and women have made tremendous sacrifices for this country. Every single day you live your life, make sure it has purpose."

He urged students to look to veterans as examples of resilience and dedication. "If you are ever struggling in your personal life and can't find a role model, you need not look further than the men and women sitting in front of you on this stage," he said.

State Senator Jake Oliveira echoed Smola's remarks, noting that Palmer High is the only school in his 12-community district to hold a Veterans Day ceremony during the school day.



The Palmer High School Band performs "Taps" in remembrance of fallen service members.

Oliveira also marked a significant milestone, the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, celebrated on November 10.

"Today we celebrate 250 years of service to this nation," Oliveira said, also recalling his grandfather's service in World War II. He spoke about the values of equality and free-

dom enshrined in the nation's founding documents and commended Massachusetts for being a national leader in veteran benefits. "We want and strive to be the best state in the entire country to be a veteran," he said.

The ceremony's keynote speaker was Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vic Musante, a U.S. Army veteran and helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Musante captivated the audience with stories of his military journey: from a self-described "C-minus student" in high school to a decorated pilot and later, a volunteer who returns to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to help locate missing U.S. servicemembers.

"I got shot down three times in Vietnam," Musante said. "By fate, luck, or skill, I came home. I learned to manage my time and apply myself, and that made all the difference."

Musante now volunteers with Tours of Duty, a non-profit organization dedicated to recovering the remains of

American soldiers still missing in Southeast Asia. He told students that over 1,500 Americans remain unaccounted for and more than 81,000 from all U.S. wars combined.

"Manage your time, respect your teachers, and learn the subjects they're trying to teach you," Musante urged the audience. "Anybody can be a knucklehead...so manage your time and do a good job."

The ceremony concluded with members of the National Honor Society presenting carnations to local veterans, including Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vic Musante (Army), Christy Kupiak (Coast Guard), William Horvath (Navy, Post 130 Commander), Matthew Nay (Air Force), Mark Pachi (Army Commander), Sally Nang (Army, Past State Commander of the American Legion), William Ernst (Army, Purple Heart recipient), and several others.

A final acknowledgment was given to Jason Anderson (Marine Corps) before the Palmer High School Band performed "Taps," followed by a ceremonial salute led by the color guard and band under the direction of Mr. Hubbard.

Principal Susan North offered closing remarks, reminding the audience to carry the spirit of Veterans Day beyond the ceremony. "May we honor our veterans through our actions, our gratitude, and our commitment to one another," she said.

As the last notes of "Salute to Freedom" filled the gymnasium, the audience rose with a round of applause for their veterans, an enduring reminder that at Palmer High School, honoring service is more than a tradition; it is a lesson in gratitude that continues to inspire.

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SMALL TOWN AGENT, BIG ON SERVICE

GRANITE | from page 1

because of her father's service in the U.S. Air Force. "For me, Veterans Day is very personal because my dad is a veteran," she said. "It reminds me that real heroes don't always wear capes...sometimes they wear uniforms." She added, "Even if I don't know every veteran personally, I want them to know that kids like me appreciate their sacrifice. So today, I want to say thank you to all veterans, and especially to my dad. Thank you for your bravery, your service, and your love for our country."

Following their speeches, the Granite Valley Chorus performed "America the Beautiful," filling the gymnasium with music and earning warm applause from guests and students alike.

Sixth graders Emily Ostrander and Robert Esposito then took the podium to share their thoughts. Ostrander explained the origins of Veterans Day, which began as Armistice Day in 1918 to mark the end of World War I. "Later, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day so that we could honor all veterans," she said. "Veterans don't just fight in wars...they train, help in emergencies, bring supplies, and support peace efforts around the world. They show courage, commitment, and a strong love for our country."

Ostrander spoke about her brother, Quintin Ostrander, who served in the Army, and emphasized the importance of gratitude. "We thank veterans for their service, their sacrifices, and their dedication," she said. "We can show our appreciation in many ways, like standing during the national anthem, writing thank-you cards, or simply saying, 'Thank you for your service.' We will never forget your service."

Esposito dedicated his remarks to his grandfather, Douglas Frantz, who served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1977. "If it weren't for these great-hearted veterans, we as a society would have little to no

rights," he said. "Because of them, we can live in a peaceful nation where we're allowed to have freedom to speak our opinions, be educated, and live under a stable justice system. The simplest and most sincere way to respect veterans is to thank them for their service."

After the student speeches, each veteran in attendance was introduced by name. As the students announced each guest, the veterans stood to applause from the audience, creating a powerful and emotional moment of recognition and gratitude.

Superintendent Paul Foster delivered closing remarks, expressing both pride and deep appreciation. "My heart is full," he said. "I am so proud and humbled to be superintendent of Monson Public Schools and honored to be part of this opportunity to celebrate you, our veterans." Foster praised the students for their thoughtful presentations and shared his own family connection to military service, recalling his grandfather's time in the Navy during World War II.

"You remind us of the values that we teach in our classrooms: justice, equality, service," he said. "Those values are lived out most powerfully by the people who are willing to defend them. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. We echo that sentiment today...you are the few, and we are deeply and humbly grateful."

The ceremony concluded with a performance of "I'm Proud to Be an American" by the Granite Valley Chorus with the audience encouraged to join in for the chorus. Following the assembly, refreshments for veterans were generously provided by Dunkin' Donuts of Monson.

As the students returned to their classrooms, the message of the morning lingered: that Veterans Day is not just a date on the calendar, but a time to remember, to thank, and to honor those whose service ensures the freedoms Americans enjoy every day.

Obituaries

Joan Margaret (Meurisse) Smola

1944 - 2025



Joan Margaret Smola (née Meurisse) passed away peacefully surrounded by family. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend, Joan lived a life rooted in faith, generosity, and a deep love for nature and community.

Born to James and Alice Meurisse, Joan grew up with a strong sense of family and faith that shaped her lifelong vocation of service. She graduated from Monson High School in 1961, earned her teaching degree from Emerson College in 1965, and later received her Master's in Religious Studies from Saint Joseph College in 1990.

In 1966, Joan married the love of her life, Edward Smola, and together they built a life filled with warmth, faith, and purpose in Hadley, Massachusetts. Her passions

for flower and vegetable gardening, attracting birds to her feeders, and beloved pets were matched only by her joy in baking for friends and family.

Professionally, Joan dedicated her career to religious education and spiritual formation. She served as the Religious Education Coordinator at Holy Rosary Parish, later becoming a Professional Director of Adult Religious Education for the Diocese of Springfield, Diocesan Consultant and Director of the RCIA (Rights of Christian Initiation for Adults) program. Joan provided guidance to diocesan leaders, bishops, and directors through the implementation of RCIA and was a respected leader in the National Advisory Committee on Adult Religious Education. She wrote numerous educational materials and articles that influenced Catholic educators locally and nationally.

In her parish life at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church (and previously at Holy Rosary Parish), Joan developed the first lay-provided catechism curriculum, served on the Pastoral Council, and managed both the weekly Food Pantry and the coordination of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers-ministries she herself regularly served with devotion.

Joan is survived by her loving husband of 59 years Edward Smola of Hadley; daughters Susan Smola of Hadley, Anne Marie Daigle (husband Daniel) of Somers, CT, and Catherine Pienkos (husband Robert) of Monson, MA; grandchildren Helena Capell (husband Austin) of Peterborough, Canada, Jackson and Broderick Rheault of Somers, CT, Mary Pienkos of Springfield, MA, and Rose Pienkos of Monson, MA; and her great-granddaughter Hadley Anne Capell of Peterborough, Canada. She is also survived by her brother James Meurisse of New Hampshire,

as well as a niece and several nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved son James Smola of Hadley, and brothers Walter, Robert, David, and Michael Meurisse.

In the final chapter of her professional life, Joan joined her husband in managing the fiscal operations of his dental practice—a partnership that reflected their lifelong teamwork and shared commitment to caring for others.

Joan's life was a testament to faith in action—nurturing others through her teaching, her kindness, and her tireless devotion to her church and family. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of those she taught, served, and loved.

Donations in honor of Joan can be made the Holy Rosary Cemetery Fund or Mass General Cancer Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital (PO Box 329, Northampton, MA 01061-0329).

Please go to Czelusniak-funeralhome.com for online condolences and tribute book.

Tracey (Robert) Theodore



Tracey (Robert) Theodore of Palmer, passed away peacefully at home after a long illness. She was 65. She grew up in Monson, MA, and attended Monson schools. She was a graduate of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Tracey was predeceased by her parents, John Robert, and Patricia (Moriarty) Robert, her brother, John Robert, Jr., sister, Donna Gravelin, and mother-in-law, Doris Theodore.

Tracey loved feeding

birds her birds and spending time with her family. She loved most of all, being with the love of her life, Barry. She was an avid fan of rock and roll from a young age. She had a love for flowers, especially white lilies and daffodils.

Tracey had worked for Monson Developmental Center and had enjoyed being a caretaker for many years. She also was a teacher's aide in the Monson and Palmer schools. Tracey was known to be very kindhearted and could light up a room with

her personality.

She is survived by her husband, Barry; his children, Kristie Kramer (Richie), Barry G. Theodore, Heather Theodore (Jared); her sisters, Jacqui Santucci and Nancy Plant (Ken Hamel); and her brother, Mike Robert (Karen). She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at Beers and Story Funeral Home in Palmer, MA. There will be a private service for the family in the future.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

DEATH NOTICES

Joan Margaret (Meurisse) Smola
Czelusniak Funeral Home

Tracey (Robert) Theodore
Services Nov. 14, 2025
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Visit us at
www.turley.com

FATHER | from page 4

ter seeing this in the paper, I will raise both my girls to respect our Flag, to stand for our National Anthem with their right hands on their hearts, and I will teach them the cost of freedom-when it is age-appropriate.

As my Dad's forearm tattoo says, "For those who've fought for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know."

We are the protected. And may Veterans Day serve as a reminder to thank a Veteran for their service. To welcome combat Vets home (because not all experienced

the welcome they deserved upon returning), and to shake their hands.

Everyone has the right to air their own opinion, political grievances, and so many other things as a direct result of the freedom that our combat Veterans fought for. I will never forget that. And it is my Dad who, inadvertently

ly or not, taught me that.

I am proud to be the daughter of a Veteran. And I would like to thank all of our Veterans for their service and willingness to fight to keep us free. Happy Veterans Day.

Respectfully,
Dené Sarrette Ackerman

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

3

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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 wild-life 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.
HD25P2262EA
Estate of:
Mona May Gibbs
Also known as:
Mona M Gibbs
Date of Death: 09/18/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kenneth N Gibbs, Jr. of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kenneth N Gibbs, Jr. of Palmer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

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

Date: October 29, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/13/2025

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
Pursuant to the provisions

of MA. Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: **MERCEDES VIN:55SWF4K-BXHU20026Y** Raymond Ramotar 8744 Wellington View DR West Palm Beach, FL; **BMW VIN:5UXFE435X9L261009** Rosaridpa Fell 111 Mimosa DR Cherry Hill, NJ; **JEEP VIN:-1J4GW48S62C137014** Dillon Sezerns 130 School ST Warren, MA; **HONDA VIN:2H-KRM4HSXE716059** Julie Gromosky 2268 Palmer, RD Three Rivers, MA; **FORD VIN:1FAHP35N79W156895** Mark Bamford 2042 Main ST Apt 4 Three Rivers, MA; **BMW VIN:WBA5B3C59ED537133** Devon Hawk 17 Old Thompson ST Palmer, MA; **FORD VIN:-3FA6POH79FR301257** Joushua Crenshaw 217 Pasco RD Indian Orchard, MA; **EV Bike Charlie Ricko 401 Liberty ST Springfield, MA; FORD VIN:-3FA6POHR4DR109615** Tracey Henderson 1262 S. Main ST Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on December 1, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M. @ LaBonte & Son, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA. 01069. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2297EA
Estate of:
Richard G McAvoy
Date of Death: 9-1-2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dianne J McAvoy of Palmer, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Dianne J McAvoy of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

11/13/2025

**Town of Palmer
Notice of Public Hearing
National Grid/Verizon
December 1, 2025 6:00 PM**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 22 Chapter 16 of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at the Palmer Town Administration Building 4417 Main St. Palmer, MA on the **1st day of December**

HEALTH | from page 5

Should you get screened?

The American Medical Association is hopeful that making it easier for patients to get two A1C screenings a year will lead to earlier diagnosis of pre-diabetes and prevention of full-blown diabetes. Some of the symptoms of diabetes can be so subtle you may not even notice them, so if you have a family history of Type 2 diabetes, ask your doctor about getting screened.

Also let your primary care provider know if you're experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Extreme thirst and/or hunger
- More frequent urination
- More fatigue
- Slow-healing sores
- Blurry vision

A special offer from the American Red Cross

This November in honor of Diabetes Awareness Month and its theme – "Taking Action to Prevent Diabetes-Related Health Problems" – the American Red Cross is offering free A1C screenings to all blood donors who haven't received the test in the past 12 months. It has found that about one in

2025 at 6:00 PM. On the petition of National Grid/Verizon -Bridge St-National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Bridge St. beginning at a point approximately 38' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Chudy St. Install Pole #10-84 approximately 28' south of the centerline of Chudy St. Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground lateral, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Brad Brothers, Town Manager
11/13/2025

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

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The Town of Palmer DPW is seeking **CONTRACTORS FOR SNOW REMOVAL** for the upcoming winter season.

Rates have increased for Fiscal Year 2026.

If interested, contracts are available on the town website: townofpalmer.com or at the DPW office.

Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance forms can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St., Palmer.

Please call our office at (413) 283-2615, M-F, 7 am - 3:30 pm, with any questions.



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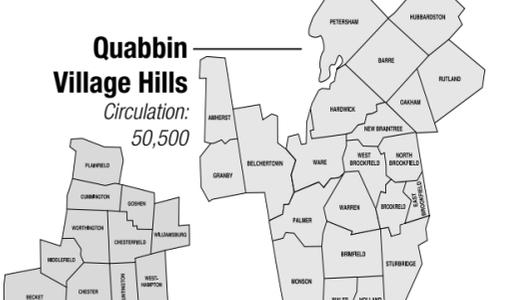
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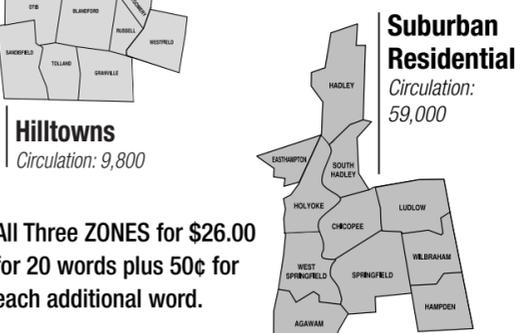
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