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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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BRIMFIELD

Kimberly Minton published first book this fall

By Kevin Flanders
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BRIMFIELD – With the publication of her debut children's picture book, "Turkey Traffic," author Kimberly Minton is showing young readers the comforts that can be offered by unexpected sources during challenging times.



Kimberly Minton

Published this fall, "Turkey Traffic" was inspired by a serendipitous series of events that occurred while Minton's mother was battling cancer.

"During her treatment, a trio of wild turkeys took to showing up outside the hospital, every single time we went. They became an unexpected source of laughter for our family at a time when we really needed one," Minton said. "I wanted to turn that into a book that helps children understand what it means when someone they love is sick – honestly, but gently, and with hope."

Minton knew it would be a challenge to begin the writing process by revisiting a painful period for her family. But each time she remembered the triad of turkeys wandering into the road outside the hospital and stopping traffic, she also recalled how the unexpected guests gave her mother the light of laughter on some of her darkest days.

"I always wanted to write a book since I was a child," said Minton, who has worked in education for over 25 years. "During my mother's cancer journey, I felt the need to document the story – and during the long hours of her surgery, I felt it in my heart to finally write a story and it would be hers that I wrote."

Adding to the family bonds running through the book, "Turkey Traffic" was illustrated by Minton's son and goddaughter.

"Writing it meant revisiting a hard season of our lives, which wasn't always easy, but shaping it for children helped me focus on the love and the humor that carried us," Minton told The Journal Register. "Getting it ready for publication was a family project."

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PALMER



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders
The flag is flying as veterans are honored. Below, An antique fire vehicle approaches.

Parade honors VETERANS

By Kevin Flanders
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PALMER – Veterans from throughout the area attended an annual celebration of service at Hryniewicz Park.

Held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the event began with a parade that lined up at Amvets Post 74 in Three Rivers. Marchers representing several organizations took part in the parade, proceeding along Springfield Street before arriving at the park.

The program continued with a special ceremony honoring veterans. Guests included Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, State Representative Todd Smola, and State Senator Jake Oliveira, as well as local Scouting groups and public safety agencies.

"Today, we come together to say two powerful words – thank you," stated Eric Segundo, the Director of Ludlow-Palmer Veterans Services.

The ceremony featured several activities and presentations recognizing those who served, including musical selections from Palmer High School.

"Today is about honoring the men and women who have put on a uniform and answered a call that is greater than themselves," Smola said.

VETERANS ❙ page 7

MONSON

Granite Valley School students lead Veterans Day program

By Kevin Flanders
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MONSON – Students at Granite Valley School welcomed veterans last week for a creative celebration of service.

On Nov. 10, the GVS community carried on a unique tradition of inviting veterans to a student-led recognition program. The event included chorus performances, student speakers, and presentations from local officials.

"It was an honor to be a part of my first Granite Valley Veterans Day Assembly," said GVS Principal Serenity Greenwood. "By honoring their service, we help our students understand that character is not simply something we talk about, but something we demonstrate through our choices and actions each day."

Prior to the program, veterans gathered in the cafeteria to enjoy breakfast refreshments. Many of the veterans in attendance are family members of students, and they were thrilled to connect with other members of the GVS community.

The assembly began with reflections provided by students, followed by a rendition of "God Bless America" from the Granite Valley Chorus.

Guest speakers included State Representative Brian Ashe and Monson Veterans Agent Tina Brohman.

"This time of year is very special because we come together to celebrate and honor our veterans," Rep. Ashe told guests. "I love the way our students bring their families here to honor their service."

School officials said the program serves as a powerful example of Granite Valley ROCKS traits (Respect, Ownership, Communication, Kindness, and Scholarship).

Toward the end of the assembly, students took turns introducing their family members who served our nation.

"Our veterans remind us of the importance of serving others, showing gratitude, and making a positive difference in the world," Greenwood said.

Officials congratulate students on their leadership displayed in organizing and running the program.

"Our Granite Valley School Veterans Day Assembly is one of the highlights of

GVS ❙ page 8



Turley photos by Kevin Flanders
From left, veterans Richard Michaud, Larry Heller, and Don Lupien gather before the event.

MONSON



Turley photos by Dan Flynn
Members of Purcell LaBrecque American Legion Post 241 present a memorial flag to Sharon Mills in honor of longtime Post Vice Commander Mike Mahitka.

TJ's Tavern hosts veterans event

Staff Report

MONSON – November 11, Veterans Day, celebrated in honor of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when World War I was ended with the signing of the treaty of Versailles.

TJ's Tavern of Monson held its annual Veterans Day lunch on Nov. 11.

"This is the fifth year that TJ's Tavern has hosted a Veterans appreciation lunch for the community of Monson," said Debbie Lawrence, proprietor of TJ's Tavern. "It's a labor of love. My sister, Diana Wysocki, and I have been cooking since last night to prepare the dishes for the lunch, but it is so rewarding to see the grateful response from our veterans and their families when they are here enjoying the day."

The lunch menu consisted of chicken and broccoli alfredo, rotini with pork loin in red sauce, homemade meatballs, Italian sau-

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Joan Watson, U.S. Air Force retired, enjoys the meal.

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SPORTS

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Lady Panthers advance to second round

PALMER – Last Monday night, under the lights of Legion Field in Palmer, the Panthers girls soccer team picked up a win in the opening round of the Division 5 State Tournament.

The Panthers defeated Parker Charter Essential School, a school from Central Massachusetts, 4-0. The Panthers scored early and never looked back in the matchup.

The Panthers advanced into the Round of 16 held later in the week.



Harper Hawk moves the ball away from the sideline.

Cora Lachance makes a stop.



Lillian Pronovost socks a pass away.



Aria Nompleggi sends a pass away ahead of a pressuring opponent.



Adelynn Allard looks to get around an opponent.



Jaclyn Swiatlowski chases after the loose ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Previous Scores

BELCHERTOWN VS. PATHFINDER
Belchertown leads series 14-10
2025: Belchertown 17-14
2024: Pathfinder 20-14
2023: Belchertown 61-14
2022: Pathfinder 47-22
2021: Belchertown 44-8
2020: No game - COVID
2019: Belchertown 44-7
2018: Belchertown 46-6
2017: Belchertown 39-0
2016: Belchertown 30-0
2015: Pathfinder 16-0
2014: Pathfinder 3-0
2013: Pathfinder 30-6
2012: Pathfinder 30-8
2011: Belchertown 29-0
2010: Belchertown 9-7
2009: Belchertown 41-6
2008: Pathfinder 15-13
2007: Pathfinder 34-8
2006: Belchertown 8-6
2005: Belchertown 25-0
2004: Pathfinder 28-0
2003: Belchertown 27-6
2002: Belchertown 9-6
2001: Pathfinder 48-24



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Jarett Skowyra takes the return toward the right sideline.



Trevor Alexander makes a carry.



Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.



The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop during last year's close 17-14 loss.



Aiden Girard makes a great block.



Cassian Kowalik lumbers through the crowd on a carry.

Silver anniversary for Orioles, Pioneers game

PALMER – Next Thursday, on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26, Pathfinder Tech will take the football field at Legion Field to matchup with Belchertown on Thanksgiving for the 25th time.

Belchertown does not hold a huge advantage, winning last year to go up 14-10 in the rivalry.

In last year's game, on a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.

This year, Belchertown goes into the game holding a huge advantage over Pathfinder from a record standpoint, as well as a possible mental advantage.

Belchertown had a 7-1 regular season, a phenomenal mark for the Orioles this year. Their second loss game against Norwell in the state tournament.

Pathfinder, despite a respectable 6-4 record, suffered a loss against Belchertown already this year in conference action, and they did not qualify for the state tournament this year.

Momentum sometimes is only as good as your previous matchup or previous week. Belchertown defeated Ware in Week 10 while Pathfinder lost to Keefe Tech in the vocational tournament matchup held at Framingham State.

In terms of the rivalry between the two teams, Belchertown and Pathfinder have actually split the last four games, trading wins for the past four years.

Unlike the other Thanksgiving morning games that get going at 10 a.m., Belchertown and Pathfinder kick off a little bit earlier as this game gets underway at 9 a.m.

2026 Schedule

BELCHERTOWN FOOTBALL (8-2)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Belchertown 53, Ludlow 0
Friday, Oct. 2 – Belchertown 37, Monument Mountain 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Belchertown 48, Smith Vocational 12
Friday, Oct. 16 – Worcester North 35, Belchertown 28
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Belchertown 54, McCann Technical 0
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 5 State Tournament First Round – (Norwell 51, Belchertown 6)
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Pathfinder 9 a.m.

PATHFINDER FOOTBALL (6-4)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Pathfinder 43, Ludlow 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Pathfinder 56, Commerce 0
Friday, Sept. 25 – Franklin Tech 48, Pathfinder 20
Thursday, Oct. 1 – Pathfinder 31, Smith Vocational 16
Thursday, Oct. 8 – South Hadley 34, Pathfinder 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Pathfinder 41, McCann Technical 8
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Friday, Oct. 30 – Pathfinder 34, Monument Mountain 6
Friday, Nov. 6 – Pathfinder 28, Frontier 21
Friday, Nov. 13 – Keefe Technical 41, Pathfinder 7
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Belchertown 9 a.m.