



ARTS
A look back at tornado
Page 2



COMMUNITY
Windfall for windmill
Page 6



SCHOOLS
Local grads given boost
Page 9



SPORTS
Tri-county ball heats up
Page 11

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 15, 2017 | Vol. CLXVII, No. 22 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

HORSE POWER



Turley Publications staff photo by Wyatt Aloisio

A group of spectators gather in front of the barn at Blue Star Equiculture on Palmer Street in Palmer as workers prepare to hitch four horses to a carriage and depart on a tour of Palmer as part of the Share the Road- Horses Paved the Way event.

Blue Star hits the road

Events draws horse riders, spectators

By Wyatt Aloisio
Staff Writer

PALMER — Staff and supporters of Blue Star Equiculture and their equine companions took to the streets of Palmer over the weekend to remind drivers that the roadways are for all to share and that horses and their riders have the same rights drivers do.

The sixth annual “Share the Road-Horses Paved the Way” event, that took place on Saturday, June 10, began four years ago in Palmer and has since spread to nearly a dozen other communities throughout Western Massachusetts.

The ride serves as a means to promote state laws that permit the sharing of local roadways between horses and drivers and to help raise awareness about the important role that horses play within the commu-

BLUE STAR | page 7

SEASONAL

Town readies for Summerfest

Event begins with fireworks program

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

MONSON — The excitement is building for this year’s Monson Summerfest, which will begin with the annual fireworks program on Saturday, June 24, and continue with the July 4 Summerfest activities in downtown Monson.

The June 24 festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Quarry Hill Community School on Margaret Street in Monson, with Thomas the Train rides, a “Magical Moments Show”



Turley Publications file photo

Fireworks fill the night sky over Monson at last year’s display.

SUMMERFEST | page 8

GRADUATION

EMBRACING *the future*

Pathfinder grads told not to settle

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

PALMER — This year’s graduates of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer will go in their own directions, but the road that got them to their commencement was an unforgettable one, said Shannon Fiore of Palmer, the valedictorian of the Class of 2017.

She noted that at that moment, their teen years were effectively over and their years as responsible young adults had begun.

“I couldn’t ask for a better group of people to graduate with,” she said. “Our teachers and families have helped us along the way. But now as you go off and do whatever you put your mind to, remember not to give up on a dream because of time. Time will pass anyway so we might as well use it.”

Fiore, a student in the business technology shop who will attend Western New England University to study neuroscience in the fall, offered these thoughts at the Pathfinder graduation, held outside the school on Friday, June 2.

After processing out from the school’s cafeteria that evening, they were congratulated on their accomplishments by both Pathfinder Superintendent Gerald Paist and Pathfinder School District Committee Chairman Michael Cavanaugh.

Paist also offered a newly-minted John F. Kennedy half-dollar to each of the graduates, which was presented to each student by Vocational Director Eric Duda and Academic Director Timothy Moriarty after being handed their diplomas.

“Please don’t spend it,” he said, to chuckles from the large crowd. “What I hope is that when your own kids graduate, you will pass it on to them.”

The Palmer High School Jazz Band, directed by Christopher Beaudry, provided music for the ceremony.

In her speech, Salutatorian Paige Samantha Sevivas, of Ludlow, said that if her classmates had not yet plotted the course of their lives, it was all right to take some time to do it.

“It’s okay to change your mind,” she said. “Don’t feel pressured to do everything based on someone else’s timeline. And don’t stop expressing how you think, just because someone might react to it. Do things that make you forget to check your phone.”

Sevivas, a student in the cosmetology shop who will seek a job in the field in the coming



Turley Publications staff photo by Douglas Farmer

Abigail Killian of Warren is embraced by her little sister after the graduation ceremony.

PATHFINDER | page 10

ELECTION

Incumbents win out

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

REGION — An election that featured low voter turnout proved beneficial to incumbents, most of whom were unopposed on the ballot.

In Palmer, a total of 471 voters went to the polls out of 8,264 registered voters, or about 5.7 percent of the total. All elected positions are for three years.

In the only contested race,

Town Councilor-at-Large Robert Lavoie received 198 votes to 134 for former councilor Donald Blais Jr., 55 for George Richardson and 49 for Trevor Eliason.

Michelle Sikes received 115 votes in her uncontested bid for District 1 Councilor, after Councilor Philip Hebert announced he would not run for reelection. For Planning Board, incumbents Kathleen Burns and Thomas Skowrya received 326 and 335 votes for their seats.

And for School Committee,

Bonny Rathbone received 370 votes for the seat currently occupied by member David Lynch, who did not run for reelection, and current School Committee Vice Chairwoman Lisa Murray retained her seat with 288 votes.

In Monson, a total of 669 voters went to the polls out of 5,733 voters, or about 11.6 percent of the total. All posts on the ballot were for three years.

Incumbent Selectman John Morrell received 483 votes to 178

for challenger Jeremy Foisy.

In a write-in campaign for School Committee, Michelle Heroux received 36 votes, to Jeffrey Lord who received 31 votes and Sara Goodrich who received 25 votes. Heroux still needs to formally accept the position.

Jenny Curry, who had been in the post, resigned last August, and Ed Maia, who was appointed to fill out the term, did not run.

HEALTH

Fighting the tide



Turley Publications photo courtesy of Monique Vacon

Former Miss Bay State Monique Vacon practices her kayaking skills for this Saturday’s Against the Tide fundraiser hosted by the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition.

Monson resident raises cancer awareness

By Wyatt Aloisio
Staff Writer

MONSON — Former Miss Bay State and Monson resident Monique Vacon is continuing her volunteer efforts and will soon be paddling alongside the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition.

The 25th Annual Statewide Against the Tide event will be held this Saturday, June 17, with funds

raised going toward the nonprofit’s mission of backing studies into the causes of breast cancer and ways to prevent its development.

This family-friendly competition is open to individuals of all ages and allows participants to take part in up to three activities that include competitive and recreational swimming, recreational kayaking, a fitness walk and USA Track and Field certified 5k and 10 k runs.

The event also offers an aquathon “splash and dash” where com-

CANCER | page 3

RECREATION

Hiking Hideaways

Leadmine offers flora, fauna

By Wyatt Aloisio
Staff Writer

This summer *The Journal Register* is continuing limited series called “Hiking Hideaways.”

Each week we will be featuring a different local hiking and outdoor

recreation area from within the region and offer a snapshot look at the many reasons why outdoor lovers of all ages should take the opportunity to visit it. We will also include where they can be found, the history of each site and the attractions available at each scenic location including hiking, biking, boating, and other types of recreation.

This week our focus is:

Leadmine Mountain, Heins Farm, and Tantusques

197 Leadmine Road, Sturbridge

The 880-acre Leadmine Mountain conservation area as well as the



Turley Publications staff photo by Wyatt Aloisio

The Tantusques property in Sturbridge features an outside glimpse of the historic lead mine entrance.

HIKING | page 7



8 04879 13180 9

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

SOCCKER

PVIAC realigns fall soccer season

By Dave Forbes
dforbes@turley.com

When the new soccer season starts in the fall, changes will be the theme.

Not only will some schools be changing divisions for tournament play, but the looks of several of the leagues will have changed, as well.

On the girls side, one of the leagues that will feature the most changes is the Central. Only two of the six schools that played in the Central last year will return for 2016. Division 1 schools Amherst and Holyoke will return, and joining them will be Granby, Hampshire, Monson and Southwick. Monson, Southwick and Hampshire were all previously members of the Grieve, while Granby will be coming over from the Pioneer-North.

The Grieve will now feature Palmer and Sabais, who were both in that league last year, along with newcomers Central, Renaissance and South Hadley. Central is coming over from the Central League, while Renaissance and South Hadley are from the Tri-County and Pioneer-North, respectively.

Besides Renaissance moving out of the Tri-County, the league will feature two more changes as Duggan joins and Smith Voke leaves for the Pioneer-South. The new Tri-County will be: Commerce, Duggan, Franklin Tech, Hampden Charter, Pathfinder, Putnam, Sci-Tech, St. Mary's and Westfield Tech.

The Pioneer South, which was a four-team league last year, will have seven members in 2017, including five new ones. Returning are Smith Academy and Ware, while the new schools will be Mohawk, Pioneer, Greenfield, McCann Tech and Smith Voke. By having at least five teams in the league, automatic postseason tournament bids will be awarded to the top two (more if ties for first or second) teams.

The Coombs and Kurty-Fielding leagues will remain almost unchanged with Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Ludlow, Minnechaug and West Springfield in the Coombs, and Agawam, Chicopee Comp, Longmeadow, Northampton and Westfield all coming back to the Kurty-Fielding and Chicopee being added in.

On the boys side, the Holley will feature only one change as Pope Francis, which had been a member of the Churchill Division, will join the league with Hampshire, Southwick, Monson and Palmer, while South Hadley will be moving to the Schmid.

The Schmid, which was a five-

SOCCKER | page 12

TRI-COUNTY BASEBALL

Saints set to challenge Peoples for crown

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER - It's still early in the Tri-County Baseball League season, but it appears like St. Joseph's might be one of the team's to challenge PeoplesBank for the league championship title this summer.

St. Joe's, who had four of their first six regular season games postponed by rain, received an outstanding pitching performance from Ryan Magni in a 4-2 win against league newcomer EITC Everest Vodka at St. Joe's Ballpark, last Thursday night.

Magni, who's beginning his fourth season with St. Joe's, went the distance in the make-up game against EITC. He allowed two runs on four base hits. The right-hander from West Springfield also had seven strikeouts and three walks.

"I thought it was a very good pitching performance by Ryan tonight," said St. Joe's player/manager Karl Oliveira. "This is his second win of the season and he's the ace of our pitching staff. I'm very glad that he's playing for us again this year."

Oliveira, who has been playing in the Tri-County League for the past 38 years, has been a member of the St. Joe's team for 28 years.

St. Joe's, who defeated Longmeadow, 4-1, in another home game the following night, entered this week's action standing in second place in the league standings with a 3-1 record. Peoples Bank, who has won the postseason championship title the past four years were sitting in first place with a perfect 5-0 record.

"I have very high expectations for this season," Oliveira said. "We have a couple of very good pitchers and we also have some good hitters, but were still chasing Peoples. They just have All-Star players at every position."

A year ago, St. Joe's lost to Peoples in the semifinals.

Because there are only eight

ST. JOES | page 12



Shortstop Joe Periak (14) prepares to make a throw to first base.

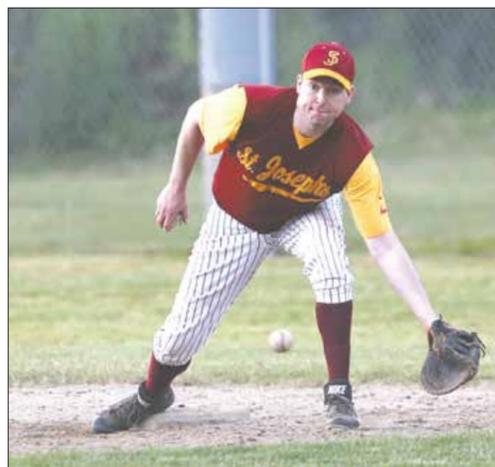
Photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com



Second baseman Greg Vourous (7) reaches out to make the catch.



Third baseman Brandon Magni (12) prepares to make the throw to first.



First baseman Dave Gwozdz (21) stretches out to catch the low throw.

BASEBALL

Valley Wheel: Cubs rally back to beat Orioles

REGION - The Cubs outlasted the Orioles on Sunday at Forest Park #2 capped by a 3-run bottom of the ninth to win in walk-off fashion. After a 1-2-3 top of the first, the Cubs jumped on the Orioles with three runs in the bottom half of the inning on RBI singles from Ben Young, Paul Audette and Ryan Lopes. Cubs starting pitcher, Jon Campbell would keep the O's off the board for the first three innings, allowing only one base runner in those frames. The Orioles Tony Bermanni crossed the plate in the top of the fourth on a Jose Pena sac fly to make the score 3-1. The Cubs answered with a two out RBI single from Alex Carrasquillo to drive in Lopes for the 4-1 advantage. The Oriole bats finally got to Campbell in the sixth putting up three runs on five hits to even the score at four. A controversial pickoff call at first base probably prevented the Orioles from adding more in that inning. The Orioles again went to work adding three more in the top of the eighth to take a 7-4 lead after an RBI single by Paul Korchari was later followed by a two-run throwing error. The Cubs manufactured a run in the eighth to close the gap to 7-5 when Jeremy Donnelly crossed the plate on an RBI groundout by Young. Cubs relief pitcher, Carrasquillo, ended his three innings on the mound with a key strikeout with two runners on in the top of the ninth to keep the game in reach. The first five Cub batters reached base to start the bottom of the ninth including RBI singles from Rob Hyde and Joe Arnone and the Cubs capped the come from behind win with a bases-loaded walk to Campbell.

Twins Beat A's 11-8

The A's opened the game with three quick runs off of Twins starter Dan Benoit. Eric Powell led off with a double, Dan Oleksak reached on an error, and Don Pellerin drove them both home with a two run double. Pellerin would also score to make it 3-0. A's starter Erick Velez retired the Twins 1-2-3 in the bottom of the first. The A's were held scoreless in the top of the second. In the bottom of the second the Twins got on the board. Sandro Frattura was hit by a pitch with two outs and eventually came around to score. The A's were again held scoreless in the top of the third. In the bottom of the third the Twins cut the A's lead to 3-2. Brandon Soucie led off the inning with a single and scored a run.

VALLEY WHEEL | page 12

LEGION

Monson Legion opens schedule



Photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Monson shortstop Ben Malo (7) prepares to put the tag on a sliding Greenfield runner.

PALMER - The Monson American Legion baseball team played their inaugural contest at home against Greenfield at Legion Field on Friday, June 9.

Monson lost, 10-0.

Monson also lost a contest to Al-denville, 16-0.



Monson pitcher Derek Joyce (15) makes a delivery to home plate.



Monson second baseman Matthew Bachand (20) prepares to toss the ball to second base.