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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE

No sale comes in church auction

St. Bart's, St. Thomas merged in 2009

By Douglas Farmer
 Staff Writer

BONDSDVILLE — The amount of interest in a public auction of the former St. Bartholomew's Church in the heart of Bondsville was evident by the number of residents and officials that turned out a week ago. But

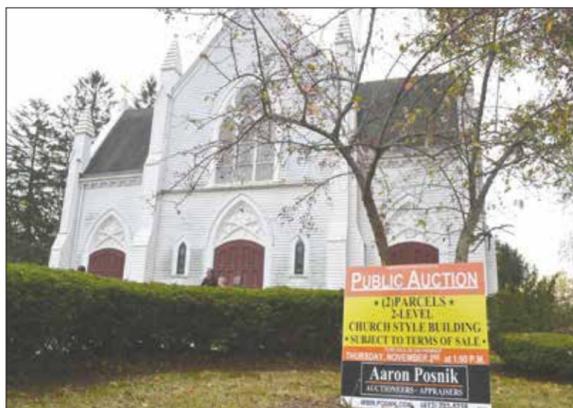
that curiosity did not translate into serious bidding, as the auctioneer announced that there would be no sale at the conclusion of the proceedings. And in fact, there were more former parishioners holding signs in protest of the potential sale than there were people who spoke up once the auction opened on the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 2.

The auction particulars were handled by Corey J. Fisher, executive vice president of Aaron Posnik &

Co, auctioneers of West Springfield. He opened the bidding at \$50,000, then lowered it to \$40,000, with the expectation of a \$5,000 deposit that day. But he received no stated bid higher than \$10,000, which he said would not be accepted by his client, the Catholic Archdiocese of Springfield that presently owns the building.

Fisher said he had conducted

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Turley Publications staff photo by Douglas Farmer
 An auction held for the former St. Bartholomew's Church in Bondsville did not produce a sale last week.

PLANNING BOARD

Gravel pit rejected

Developer sought Route 67 access

By Douglas Farmer
 Staff Writer

PALMER — After months of back-and-forth between a local developer's representatives and the Palmer Planning Board about a planned gravel pit off Robinson Road, along with emotional appeals from neighbors, the proposal was voted down this week.

The developer, RB Enterprises, had submitted plans for a project that encompassed over 184 acres, including about 72 acres that would be disturbed for the earth removal operation. The excavation was expected to extract about 125,000 cubic yards of material annually.

But citing potential problems associated with a roughly 2,000-foot-long access road off Route 67, particularly as it pertained to local zoning, board members voted 4-0 against granting a special permit for either the access or the gravel operation itself.

Board member Thomas Skowrya recused himself from the proceedings, after attorneys for both the board and the developer cited a state law that a member that had missed more than one public hearing on a project could not vote on the matter. Skowrya had missed two hearings since the project was introduced in February.

At the Planning Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 at the Palmer Office Building, RB Enterprises principals, Raymond Breton and Paul Les, were represented by attorney David Berson, of the firm Bacon Wilson, P.C., Donald Frydryk, an engineer and project designer from the firm Sherman & Frydryk, and Herbert Singleton, a sound engineer from Cross-Spectrum Acoustics.

The applicant presents

"We know there were concerns about noise from the operation, so we are proposing six-foot-high, 260-foot-long barriers near the entryway, as well as two rows of white pines in other locations," Singleton said, adding that they had measured the noise from the RB Enterprises gravel operation off Flynt Street,

GRAVEL | page 9

TOWN MEETING

Stream halts on Spray Park

Peaked purchase contingent on grant

By Wyatt Aloisio
 Staff Writer

MONSON — The proposed installation of a spray park at Veteran's Field fell short by only six votes at Monday's Special Town Meeting in Monson, waylaying plans for its construction next year.

The Special Town Meeting was held at Granite Valley Middle School on Nov. 6 and saw just over 130 residents in attendance. They voted on 30 warrant articles, including numerous community preservation committee requests.

Two of them asked the townspeople to approve the borrowing of \$290,000 from Community Preservation Act funds and \$35,000 from the budgeted reserve account to aid in the construction of a spray park at Veteran's Field.

SPRAY PARK | page 8

VETERANS

Towns set to salute their VETERANS



Palmer veterans march out of the parking lot of Amvets Post 74 in Three Rivers last year.

Turley Publications file photo

By Wyatt Aloisio
 Staff Writer

REGION — Over the weekend the region, including the Journal towns, will thank veterans for their past and continued service with events open to the public.

Palmer Veterans Services Agent Troy Brin and other town of-

icials have invited residents to join them in the village of Thorndike to help salute the town's veterans as part of the annual parade and ceremony.

The Veteran's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11 and will begin at 10:45 a.m. proceeding from the Thorndike Post Office on Church Street. The pro-

cession will make its way down Church Street and will conclude with a formal ceremony at 11 a.m. held at the Lake Junction Memorial Boulder.

The public as well as local veterans and community groups are invited to participate in the ceremonies.

Those interested in taking part

should contact Brin at 413-283-2610 or tbrin@townofpalmer.com.

In Monson, efforts are underway to help show support for local men and women currently active and serving in the military.

Individuals and businesses can show their support for the 25 men

SALUTE | page 6

UPDATE

'Welcome Home' play postponed

MONSON — "Welcome Home," an original play scheduled to debut Veterans Day Weekend in Monson and West Springfield, has been postponed. An actor in the play coordinated by Care for the Troops and the Brookfield Institute, had to withdraw for personal reasons.

Tickets can be refunded but organizers are encouraging patrons to hang on to them for the rescheduled performances.

The play is a narrative of experiences of veterans from the Vietnam and Gulf War eras based on interviews with Care for the Troops, and was written by Sam Farnsworth, produced by Todd Farnsworth and directed by JS, Hobbs.

For more information, call Cynthia LaBombard at 413-967-3887.



VETERANS

Rotarians honor their veterans

Citations given at luncheon

By Wyatt Aloisio
 Staff Writer

PALMER — The Palmer Rotary Club came together for an early Veteran's Day celebration, highlighting local veterans' services to their country.

Gathering at CJ's Restaurant Thursday, Nov. 2 the club and officers both past and present welcomed veterans John Machnik and Dr. Robert Sullivan, who were awarded with citations for their services in the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

"It is perhaps the club's most important day," said Club President Stephen Chiacchia. "It is our small way of thanking out vets for their duty, honor, commitment, patri-



Turley Publications staff photo by Wyatt Aloisio

Palmer Rotary Club President Stephen Chiacchia discusses the importance of Veterans Day and the need to thank and acknowledge all veterans alongside guest speaker David Mottor.

tism, and sacrifice." Chiacchia discussed the history of Veteran's Day marking the Treaty of Versailles signed on June

28, 1919 officially ending World War I. Fighting ceased on Nov. 11.

ROTARY | page 7

CHARITY RUN

Full memories lead to half-marathon

Memorial Classic steps off Nov. 12

By Douglas Farmer
 Staff Writer

MONSON — More than 20 years after their passing from cancer, friends and family of sisters Kelly Waldron and Kathy Waldron Perry still get emotional thinking about them — the way they loved life and charmed those around them.

So those memories continue to fuel them as they plan the 22nd Annual Monson Memorial Classic Half-Marathon and 5k that will again be held in their honor next



Turley Publications file photo

Amos Sang waves to the crowd at the finish line after winning the half-marathon with a time of 1:09:04 last year.

MARATHON | page 8



The Artists at Indian Orchard Mills

FALL ART SHOW & SALE

OPEN STUDIOS 50+ ARTISTS

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SPORTS

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GOLF

Mustangs place 10th at states

By Dave Forbes
dforbes@turley.com

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Monson boys golf team reached the penultimate round of high school rounds in the state of Massachusetts.

Monson was one of 11 teams to compete in the Division 3 state finals at Wyantenuck Country Club on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The Mustangs finished in 10th place with a team score of 347.

Cam Kratovil, who also competed for the individual title, had the team low round of 10-over par 80, which tied him for 14th with Sutton's Jack Moy and AMSA's Nico Ciolino.

Mason Dumas was second on the team with an 84. He tied for 28th with Newburyport's Matt Babcock, Martha's Vineyard's Peter Gillis and Matignon's Mike Pariseau.

Connor Rogers was third on the team with a 90, followed by Liam James at 95, Zach Wysk at 98 and Aiden Jennings at 101.

St. Mary's of Lynn won the team title with a score of 292. Christian Emmerich, of St. Mary's of Lynn, won the individual title with a 1-under par 69.

FOOTBALL

Warriors turn back Panthers in semis

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

DALTON - Fourth-seeded Palmer was trailing top-seeded Wahconah by only six points with four minutes remaining in the first half of the Western Massachusetts Division 7 semifinal football game.

When the Panthers offense took the field again a minute into the third quarter, they were trailing 23-0.

The Warriors would add two more touchdowns during the second half en route to a 37-6 home victory on a chilly and windy night in the Berkshires, last Friday.

"I thought we played a solid first half," said Palmer head coach Peter Farr. "We also created a couple of turnovers in the first half, but Wahconah is a very good football team. Their depth wore us down a little bit in the second half."

It was the second meeting on the gridiron between the two teams during the past twelve months.

The Warriors also defeated the Panthers 20-14 in last year's Division 4 championship game, which was held at John F. Gilligan Field located at the Roberts Sports Complex in Holyoke.

The Palmer athletic program also hasn't had very much success against Wahconah in the postseason tournament during the past year.

Last Saturday night, the Lady Panthers soccer team made the long trek to Dalton and lost 4-0 to the Lady Warriors in a Western Mass. Division 3 first round match. Last June, the Palmer baseball team, which is also coached by Farr, lost 8-0 at Wahconah in a Division 3 quarterfinal game.

The Panthers (6-3) will be looking to get back into the win column when they host Franklin Tech in a non-playoff football game at 7 p.m. on Friday.

"We're hoping to bounce back in next week's game," Farr said. "We're a little banged up at a couple of positions, but we're just going to keep battling."

Wahconah (8-1), who's scheduled to face second-seeded Frontier

FOOTBALL | page 12

GIRLS SOCCER

Lady Pioneers slip past Duggan



Sarah Nareau (2) chases after the ball in the midfield area for Pathfinder.



Riley McClosky (11) chips the ball forward.



Keeper Mackayla Weldon comes across her goal to make the save.



Hannah Montanez (6) tries to get a shot on goal.

Staff photos by Dave Forbes

Win first tourney game in program history

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER - Until last Saturday afternoon, the Pathfinder girls soccer team had never won a Western Massachusetts postseason tournament match.

The sixth-seeded Lady Pioneers made a little bit of history by posting a 1-0 home victory against the 11th-seeded John J. Duggan Academy Jayhawks in a first round

Division 4 Tournament match. It was also the first time that Pathfinder hosted a Western Mass. Tournament contest.

"This is a very special day for us because it's the first time in school history that the girls soccer team has won a postseason tournament game," said Pathfinder co-head coach Kevin Lynch. "We've qualified for the postseason tournament almost every year that I've been coaching the team, but the players were just happy being there. This year's team really wanted to win a postseason game and everyone is very excited that we

were finally able to accomplish our goal. We're hoping to keep the momentum going in our next game."

Lynch has shared the coaching duties this season with Ryan Gonyea, who coached many of the Pathfinder players at the youth level.

"All of the players on this year's team have made a huge improvement since last season," Gonyea said. "We just proved that we can win a postseason game and it's just a beginning of a lot of very good things to come for this pro-

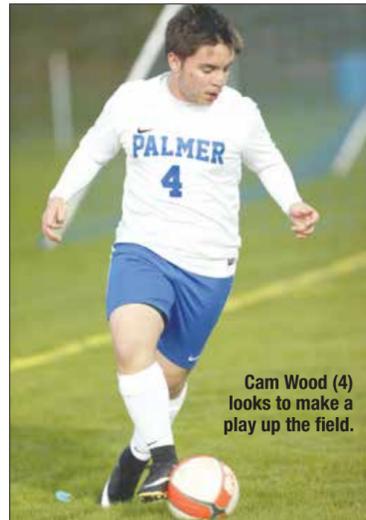
PIONEERS | page 12

FOOTBALL



Keeper Jake Riel drops down to make a sliding save.

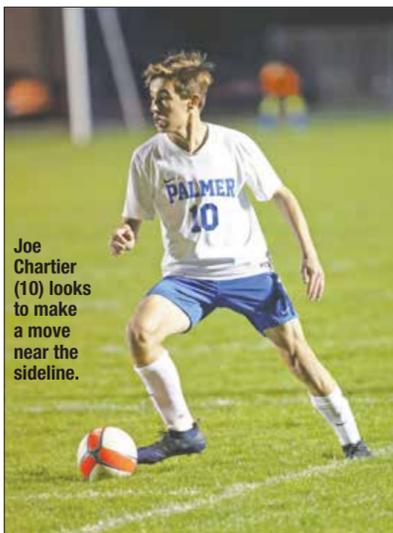
Photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com



Cam Wood (4) looks to make a play up the field.



Brandon Duran (7) sends the ball up the field.



Joe Chartier (10) looks to make a move near the sideline.

Home finale

PALMER – The Palmer boys soccer team wrapped up their 2017 season with a 4-1 home loss against Southwick on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

GIRLS SOCCER

Lady Panthers blanked by Lady Warriors

By Nate Rosenthal
Sports Correspondent

DALTON - The Palmer girls soccer team dropped a 4-0 decision to Wahconah in the first round of the Division Three tournament. When the host team scored in the ninth minute, they had the only goal they would need and then added another a minute later. The Panthers would struggle throughout the game and the Warriors went on to win, 4-0.

In terms of possessing the ball and getting quality shots, the Warriors ruled the day. Palmer had its first shot in the seventh minute and Wahconah scored in the eighth and ninth. The first shot on goal by the Panthers came in 13th minute. To their credit, they kept the Warriors out of the net for remainder of the first half and another 20 minutes of the second. Wahconah scored their third goal midway through the half and added another in the 27th minute.

With a through in the first minute making its way to Michaella Moncecchi, the Panthers had the first ball near the goal. In the third Arden McKnight was wide left from 20 yards for Wahconah, while Allison Washburn was high with an 8-yarder in the fourth. Miranda Sandoval sent a 15 yarder over the goal in the seventh for the first Palmer shot. A minute later at 8:42 Noelle Furlong scored from 10 yards out to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead. It was just a minute after that, 9:52 into the

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