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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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**PALMER**

## Recreation director resigns, accomplishments praised

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
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**PALMER** – At the Oct. 15 Conservation Commission meeting, Recreational Director Andrew St. George announced that he will be resigning from his position.

“Over the last several years, we’ve worked on a lot of projects together,” St. George said. “Me and

Jessica have been going over where we were in some of those projects.”

St. George said that he did not have updates on those projects since the departure of Conservation Agent Justin Enright, but said that the property at Barker Street have been cleaned up and more maintenance has been done.

St. George described it as “bittersweet” to leave the position. “Since we’ve worked so close-

ly together over the last couple of years, I wanted to have the opportunity to come in here in person and let you guys know,” St. George said.

Commission Member Peter Izyk praised the work St. George did on applying for the grant to purchase the Barker Street property. Blais thanked St. George for everything he has done for his department and for Conservation.

“It has been a pleasure to work with you and get to know you over the last two years,” Blais said. “Thank you for Krampus and all the concerts you’ve done. I’m sad that you’re going because you’ve done a lot for this town.”

Commission Member Nicholas Zeo said that the work, while incomplete, would not have been anywhere near as far along as it is without his efforts.

“Just bringing a position like yours and you with that position has done an awful lot to bring attention to Recreational Services under Town Hall, which is really important,” Zeo said. “You’ve done an awful lot and I thank you for that.”

Blais said St. George has been very helpful with the work on the trails, and many great projects have been started with his collabora-

tion. Blais said that he hoped St. George’s successor will continue his efforts, and that he looks forward to working with whoever is appointed in his place.

“Thank you for everything that you’ve done, and I wish you well,” Blais said.

St. George promised to continue to “exist in this world,” and said

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**COMMUNITY**



Submitted photos

Two girls hold up the scarecrows they made at DVTF’s Build-a-Scarecrow event.

## Task Force holds annual Scarecrow Contest

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
 Staff Writer  
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**PALMER** – The Domestic Violence Task Force’s annual Scarecrow Contest is underway, with two Build-a-Scarecrow events at the library.

The Domestic Violence Task Force was established in 2009 by Madeline Smola, and has been worked on by many people since then. Director and Coordinator Crystal Rondeau started as a volunteer for the organization eight years ago, and has been the director for the past two-and-a-half years.

Rondeau said that she has a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice and Offender Rehabilitation and Victims Advocacy, and has worked in the field of domestic violence for eight years.

“The purpose of task force is about raising awareness,” Rondeau said. “We do directly help survivors very often. The Palmer Police Department will give us a call, or sometimes victims reach out, or people who reside in Palmer or have fled to Palmer.”

The task force does a lot of community events to raise awareness about domestic violence and provide literature about resources available to the community.

“Myself and other volunteers have been doing kid-friendly and family-friendly events to create opportunities for families to do things for little to no money,” Rondeau said.

One such family-friendly event is the third annual town-wide Scarecrow Contest, which involves the Build-a-Scarecrow events in partnership with the Palmer Public Library. Rondeau said that a previous event, a children’s clothing swap, left the task force with a lot of clothes to use to make scarecrows.

“We have a lot of clothing that we’re stuffing with newspapers that were donated by Turley Publications,” Rondeau said. “They’re stuffing life-sized clothing that wasn’t claimed at the swap.”

“I went out today to the thrift store and picked up more clothes because we had so many people come last time,” Rondeau said.

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**MONSON**

## School Committee updates policies, plans to meet with FinCom

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
 Staff Writer  
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**MONSON** – At last week’s School Committee meeting, there was a discussion about policy changes for the school district’s technology

The Oct. 10 meeting began with the committee welcoming Haley Ketterman as its new secretary.

**Finance updates**

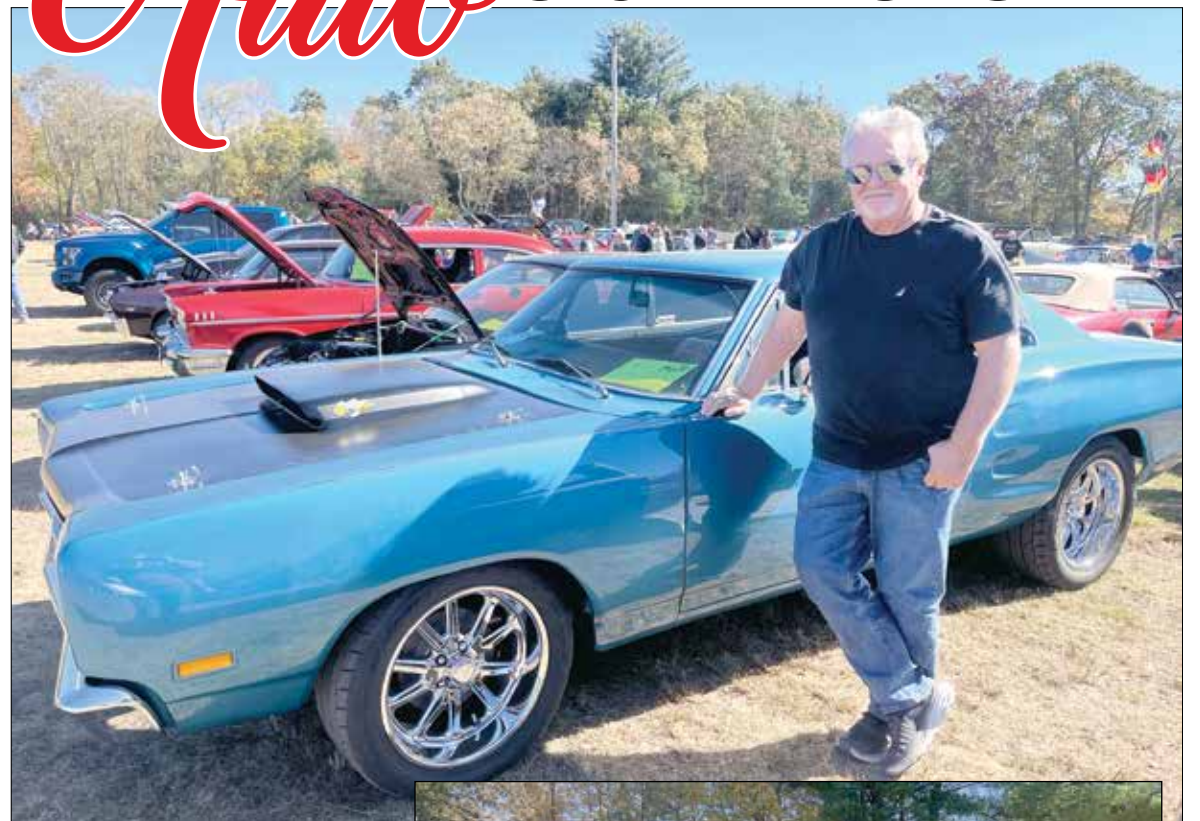
Member Karen Nothe-Valley reported on the Finance Subcommittee meeting, which met on Sept. 30. Nothe-Valley described a communication the superintendent and school committee received from the Finance Director, Jamie Farnum, about prior year bills and budget concerns.

“The nature of the concerns included things like the unpaid Fiscal Year ‘24 electricity and gas bills,” Nothe-Valley said. “We reviewed some of the historical emails and had a very light, very preliminary the look ahead at the Fiscal Year 2026 budget calendar.”

Nothe-Valley reported that subsequent to the meeting, the Finance Committee reached out and invited the School Committee to an Oct. 21 meeting to further discuss these concerns. Nothe-Valley and Com-

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## Auto admirers



Steve Courchaine with his blue 1964 Dodge Super Bee.

Annual auto show reaches 16 years and over eight hundred cars

By **Emily-Rose Pappas**  
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**BRIMFIELD** – The fall weather brings many people outside to explore, and on a beautiful fall day, one could stop by Brimfield Winery to enjoy a car show.

Located at Brimfield Auction Acres around the winery, it is the historic birthplace of the famous Brimfield antique shows, filled to capacity with over eight hundred classic cars.

The day was put together, like many car shows, as a fundraiser to support both the Brimfield Fire Association and the Hitchcock Academy, a local family center.

“The point of the show is that



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Dean Atwood and Andrea Cava (left) with his iconic silver 1919 Mustang Eco, and Terry Atwood (right) with his yellow 2010 Camaro SS named “Twedy”.

all the dollars stay local, and the dollars will go to these two organizations,” said Bruce Marshall, the director of the Brimfield Auto Show.

The day featured opportunities to participate in a 50/50 raffle, buy merch from the fire association, and donate towards the Academy and learn about the pro-

grams it offers. “The show turned out to be totally fantastic,” Marshall said. “Between the cars and spectators, I wouldn’t be surprised if there were a thousand people on the field.”

People came from all over to enter their cars, or to see the cars

CAR SHOW | page 6

**COMMUNITY**

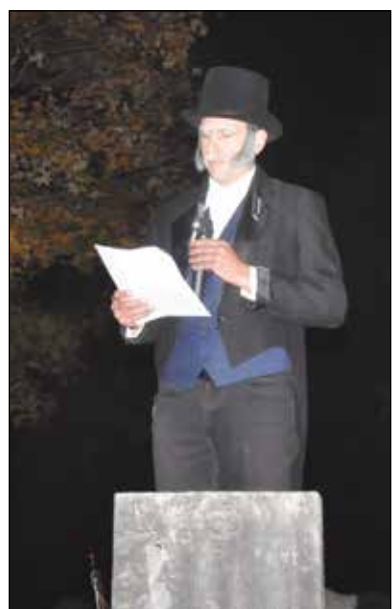
## Historical Society puts on its annual Cemetery Walk

By **Emilia Alves**  
 Correspondent

**MONSON**—On Saturday, Oct. 12, citizens of the town and surrounding areas gathered at the Hillside Cemetery for the Monson Historical Society’s annual Historical Cemetery Walk.

The event started with an introduction from Jacob Thompson, a historical figure from the town played by Cemetery Foreman Mat Wawrzyk. Thompson introduced himself and gave a brief description of the event and what to expect.

“[I] built a house on Main Street in Monson. At this new house, I worked as a farmer and practiced law in town as well ... Tonight, I’ve invited Charles Carpenter, Marcus Keep, and Dr. George Fuller to join us and share a few of their personal experi-



Cemetery Foreman Mat Wawrzyk reprised the role of Jacob Thompson for the event.



Cemetery Commissioner Sarah McNamara Pedder portrayed Marcus Keep for the event.

The Cemetery Foreman was joined by Cemetery Commissioner Sarah McNamara Pedder, who portrayed Marcus Keep, Town Clerk

CEMETERY WALK | page 15

**BRIMFIELD**

## Oktoberfest celebrates local homebrewers



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Matt Skowyra (center) with his friends Jackie and Nate at the welcome table handing out bracelets and checking ID’s. Story and photos on page 8.



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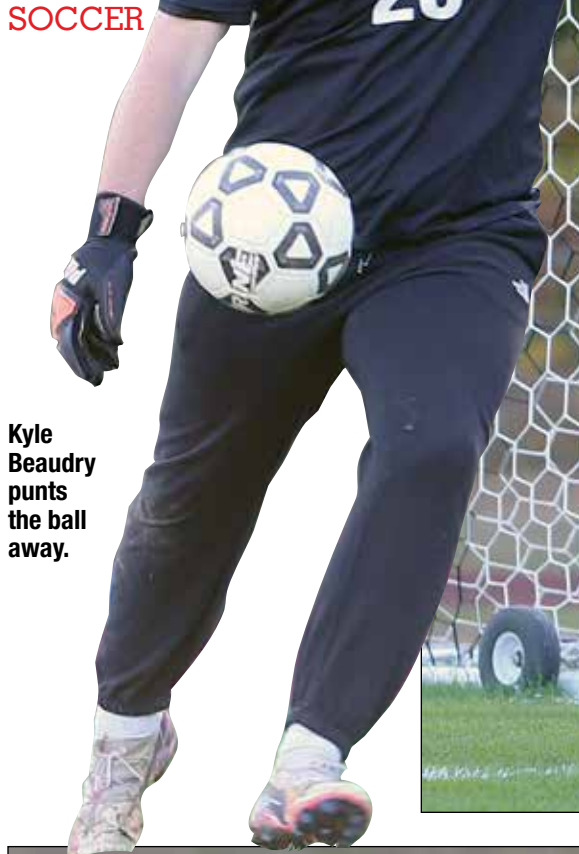
# SPORTS

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## SOCCER



Kyle Beaudry punts the ball away.



Shane Szado clears the ball away.



Jake Beaupre makes a pass up the field.



Charles Dillahunt looks for the header.

## Mustangs offense sputters in pair of defeats

MONSON – Following a three-game win streak and four wins in five games, the Monson High School boys soccer team hit a bit of a roadblock in Chicopee. The Mustangs lost consecutive games, first to Chicopee High, then to Chicopee Comprehensive. The two Chicopee schools outscored Monson 12-1 in the two games. The tough losses dropped Monson below .500 at 5-7-1. The Mustangs need a pair of wins to get back to .500 for the season. They are scheduled to face Central on Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Anthony Tulloch goes for the block.



Issac Somers takes a corner kick.

## Panthers score draw

PALMER – After struggling all season with nine consecutive losses, including a 6-0 defeat at Belchertown last Wednesday, the Palmer field hockey team finally changed its fortunes with a 1-1 draw against Mahar Regional. The Panthers next face Hampshire Regional still looking for its first win of the year.



Eldi Arroyo sends a hit inbounds.



Greenly Lagimoniere attempts to block a clearing pass.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Neila Lachance sends the ball up the field.



Hannah Roy tries to block her opponent's progress.

## SOCCER



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Hannah Murphy tries to advance the ball past the midfield.



Addison Peterson sends a corner kick away.



Mackayla St. George attempts to steal the ball away.

MONSON – It's not the nearly undefeated seasons Monson girls soccer is used to, but the Mustangs are headed back to the state tournament against this year. They are also a likely contender for the Western Mass. tournament as well. The Mustangs suffered its second defeat this season against Southwick, falling 3-0 on the road last Tuesday. But the Mustangs rebounded with a pair of wins after that to go to 8-4 on the season. Monson faces Ludlow on the road on Friday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.

## Despite setback, Mustangs qualify for tournament



Grace Berry tries to make a run up the field.



Natalie Hull runs into pressure.



Chelsea Hull attempts to chase down a loose ball.