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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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MONSON

## Clarke announces retirement at School Committee meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At last week’s School Committee meeting, prior to the public session, the superintendent announced that she will be retiring after this year.

At the Oct. 23 meeting, after receiving the student reports and voting to approve the minutes for several previous meetings, the committee was informed by Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Clarke that she will be retiring, effective in June of next year.

“It has been an honor to serve the students, staff, and families of the Monson Public Schools for 20 years,” Clarke said. “I am proud of the work that we have accomplished during the 12 years of my superintendency.”

Clarke listed some of these accomplishments, including moving Quarry Hill School out of DESE’s Level Three designation, bridging gaps between the community and the schools, maintaining and expanding programming on a limited budget, and serving as an exemplar to surrounding districts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The administrative team that I have put in place is one of the best,” Clarke said. “They’re dedicated, knowledgeable, committed to the town, and most importantly, truly care about our staff, students, and their families.”

“There is much more work to be done, and I am confident that this team, along with our exempla-

SCHOOL | page 2

# Trunk or Treat

Old Mill Pond PTO holds annual Halloween event

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This past weekend, families were invited to gather around Converse Middle School for the Old Mill Pond annual Trunk-or-Treat.

On Friday, Oct. 25, community members gathered at the closed school for the PTO Trunk-or-Treat. Cars were lined up in the parking lot and decorated with lights, streamers, and mannequins that wowed children and families alike.

In addition to volunteers from local businesses around the community, school staff and



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Principal Holly Riopel and her family dressed up as Beetlejuice characters for the Trunk-or-Treat.

administration and excited parents also set up trunks to hand out candy to local trick-or-treaters.

All night, a crowd of people in costumes lined up around the Converse building to pick up candy. The cost for each child to participate in the Trunk-or-Treat was \$5, with a maximum of \$15 per family.

Highlights at the event included Principal Holly Riopel’s Beetlejuice booth, a group of students dressed as hippies from the ‘60s, and a massive skeleton hanging out of a trunk. There were also a number of impressive costumes among the

HALLOWEEN | page 6

Melinda Darby had a whole barn set up in her trunk last Friday.



MONSON

## Adult Prom held as local fundraiser

Second Time’s A Charm and Miss America partner

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – This past weekend, Second Time’s A Charm held an

adult prom fundraiser at the Ludlow Country Club.

Second Time’s A Charm is an affordable alternative to dress-shopping, based out of the Palmer Technology Center and run by friends Michelle Anecchiarico and Natalina Tulik. On Saturday, Oct. 26, the shop held its fifth annual Adult Prom.

“The reason the prom hap-

PROM | page 16



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Second Time’s A Charm owners Michelle Anecchiarico and Natalina Tulik started the adult prom to give families an opportunity to attend a prom

SPORTS



Turley Staff Photo

## Rivalry football game challenge

With the 100th year of the Palmer and Ware high schools’ football rivalry being celebrated at the Saturday, Nov. 2 game being held in Palmer, a friendly wager has been made between Matt Lemieux, president of Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and Dan Flynn, president of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond. The losing team’s supporting president will be at Rondeau’s scooping ice cream on Sunday, Nov. 3. Best of luck to both teams!



MONSON

## Tri-Board discusses Siemens contract and school budget

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Last week, members of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Select Board held a Tri-Board Committee meeting to discuss the contract with Siemens Energy and the school’s end-of-year budget.

Greenblat said that the first option would be to “stay the course,” with no renegotiation, though the town would still need to address the underbudgeted amount along with budgeting for annual amounts. Finance Director Jamie Farnum added that there was a prior year option to address that bill, and that the funds have been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2025.

“If we stay the course and we don’t change or renegotiate our current contract in place, it would be \$850,000 over the life of this,”

Farnum said.

Greenblat presented a second option, which would modify the program through scope reduction.

“The stream of costs over the term is about \$350,000 in total,” Greenblat said. “Siemens would continue to provide an annual performance report reflecting the stipulated values.”

Farnum added that an advantage of this option would be that the town would not need the additional \$12,000 because of the reduction, so available funds would already have been appropriated from fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

Greenblat said that under this option, the guarantee will be met annually regardless of annual performance.

“How do you know that this stuff is working?” Greenblat said. “You know by using tools that are available to you to see how the

TRI-BOARD | page 11

PALMER



Derek Thomas and his son Oliver of West Brookfield take a photo in front of their 2017 Ford Fusion Sport with a “Terrifier” theme.

## Trunk or Treat car show benefits local food pantries

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – Palmer Motorsports Park and the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation teamed up for another car show this season, this time adding in some Halloween fun with a trunk or treat

event. This past Sunday, over 250 show cars arrived at the track, representing makes and models from various decades, from the 1930s to modern day.

Keeping with its tradition of giving back to the community, Halloween fun with a trunk or treat

CAR SHOW | page 8

**BINGO IS BACK!!!**



**Doors Open 4:30 p.m.**  
**Early Bird 6:25 p.m.**  
**Games Begin 6:30 p.m. Regular.**  
**Kitchen Open at 5 p.m.**



**Monday, Nov. 4th.**  
**2150 Main St. Three Rivers**

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## FOOTBALL

### Palmer wins, heads into big matchup 5-2

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GREENFIELD—Following back-to-back home losses to Intercounty North Division foes Franklin County Tech and Athol, the Palmer football team made the long bus ride to Greenfield High School looking to get back into the win column.

Junior Dylan Doherty scored three second half touchdowns as the Panthers pulled away for a 28-12 victory over the Green Wave in a league contest held at Veterans' Memorial Field, last Thursday night.

"We've lost our last two games at home, and this win should give us some momentum heading into Ware week," Doherty said. "We're also undefeated on the road, which is very special."

Two years ago, the Green Wave celebrated a 22-12 home win over the Panthers. They also squeaked out a 14-7 victory at historic Legion Field last year.

The Panthers (5-2, 2-2), who only had 15 players in uniform during last Thursday's game, outscored Pathfinder Tech and Mahar Regional, 76-13, in their first two road games of the 2024 regular season. They have a 2-2 home record.

"It's always very important to play well both at home and on the road," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "I gave the guys a speech in the locker room at half-time and we pretty much controlled the second half of tonight's game."

While Marciniac downplayed the halftime speech following the game, Doherty said it was some-

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## SOCCKER

### Mustangs edge rival Rams in rematch

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Hannah Murphy is the only junior listed on the Monson girls' varsity soccer roster.

Unless one of her classmates decides to join the varsity team next year, Murphy will have the spotlight all to herself during the Lady Mustangs 2025 senior day celebration.

Murphy made sure that the four current seniors had a very enjoyable experience on their senior day.

The Central Division contest versus Granby was tied 1-1



Natalie Hull battles for possession of the ball.

when Murphy scored a goal with a minute remaining in regulation. It wound up giving her team an exciting 2-1 victory on a warm and sunny fall afternoon at Larry Tassinari Field, last Monday (Oct. 21).

"Hannah is a very special soccer player and she's an extension of me," said Monson first-year head coach Larry Pagliaro, who was previously an assistant coach under Eric Degnan. "Whenever we're huddled in a circle, she's already talking with the other players before I do. She's going to be



Avery Beauoin kicks the ball away.

our only senior next year and she's already a tremendous leader." The four Monson seniors, who were honored during a post-game ceremony, are Ella Corthell, Natalie Hull, Addison Peterson, and Emily Provost, who's the starting goalie.

"This season has been a little bit different for us, but the four seniors have continued to work very hard and they're very good leaders," Pagliaro added. "In the past, we would always have a large half-time lead, but we had to grind out a

Emma Maziarz pivots to get the loose ball.



## SOCCKER



Neila Lachance is pressured by a Quaboag defender.

### Panthers lose to Quaboag

WARREN – Last Wednesday was defeated at Quaboag 4-0. The afternoon, Palmer field hockey Panthers are 0-12-1 for the season.



Hannah Roy attempts to keep possession.



Eldi Arroyo makes a play on defense for the Panthers.



Goalie Scarlett Larose looks to make a save.



Camden Kimball heads up the field with the ball.

## SOCCKER

### Pioneers shut out Sizer

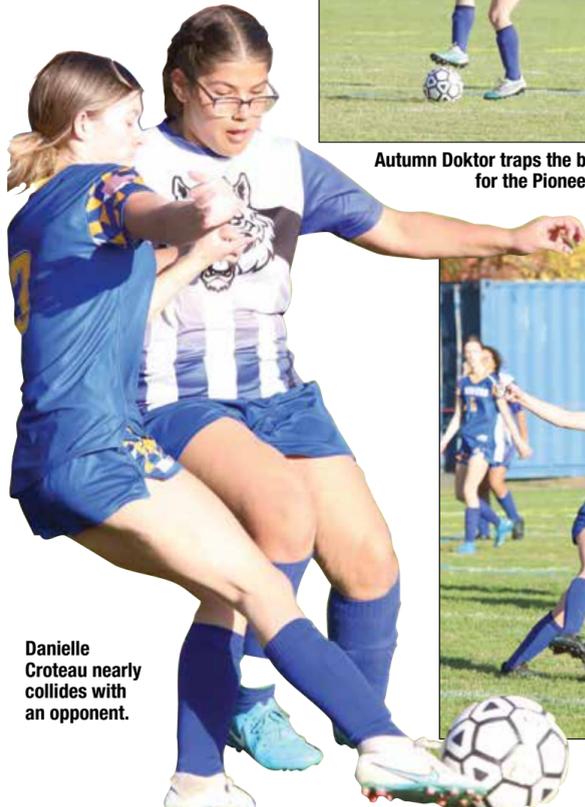
PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer picked up a 10-0 shutout of Sizer School, a Central Mass. school. The Pioneers scored early and often and were in control of the game throughout. The Pioneers improved to 2-10-1 and were scheduled to have non-playoff games earlier this week.



Autumn Doktor traps the ball for the Pioneers.



Samantha Lowe goes after the loose ball.



Danielle Croteau nearly collides with an opponent.



Taylor Allen turns play around.



Hannah Mellor makes a stop on defense.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

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