

Class of 2026 Granby HS graduates celebrated

By Ben Hernandez
bhernandez@turley.com

GRANBY – The Granby High School class of 2026 celebrated their graduation on June 6 on Junior Senior High School campus grounds. There were 45 students in the graduating class. Mylin Laliberte was the class Salutatorian and Kaitlyn Curran was Valedictorian.

The ceremony featured speeches from principal Allison Jordan, Senior Class President Faith Ramos, Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson, class Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte, class Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran, and guest speaker Norman Racine. Additional guests in attendance were the Granby School Committee Chair Jennifer Bartosz, School Committee Vice Chair Trevor Augustino, School Committee members Thomas Hammel and Elizabeth Lafond and Director of Pupil Services Nicole Heroux. All musical sections were performed by the Junior Senior High School band directed by Robert Castellano. The Class of 2026 Marshalls for the graduation was class of 2027's Breena Moreno and class of 2028's Ralph El Aouji.

Principal Jordan welcomed attendees after a band rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" by John Standford Smith. She thanked the graduates for their commitment and stated the students "met challenges with determination" and "embraced opportunities with confi-



Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran and Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte pose for the camera.

dence." (Principal) advised the graduating class to "take pride" in what they accomplished over the years and to be open for what life had to offer. She reminded the class to be ready for those opportunities and to embrace the challenges to come.

"The moments that challenge you, surprise you or take you in a new direction may ultimately become the experiences that define you. As you move forward, embrace new possibilities with confidence, learn from those setbacks and remain

open to the unexpected," Jordan said. "Granby will always be part of your story. Wherever life takes you next, know that we are so proud of you, that we believe in you

Please see **GRANBY GRADS**, page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Costume contest winners smile for the camera.

Belchertown hosts Relay for Life

By Ben Hernandez
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BELCHERTOWN – The last Relay For Life in Belchertown took place in the Town Common and the UCC Church on May 30. Activities at the event included a raffle, a live outdoor band, baked goods, catered food and a costume contest. However, due to the rainy weather, most of the festivities were held indoors. Signed participants still braved the bad weather, with five teams registered to walk the laps to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

"Relay for Life is the biggest fundraiser for the American Cancer Society," said Eleanore Gray from Team Lynn Peach Pedestrians. Gray has been a member of the relay team and a key figure in organizing the Belchertown event for 13 years and has dedi-

cated her time in memory of her daughter Lynn, who was lost in 2014 to uterine cancer.

"We have raised over \$193,000 for the American Cancer Society," Gray said. She reported the original regional relay was held in Ware in 2002 to 2007, then moved to Belchertown. She enjoys the fundraising but due to her age and recent health complications, she reported this year would be the final one for her team. However, she isn't done doing her part to end cancer.

"I'll still fundraise because I'm going to get \$200,000 if it's on my deathbed," Gray said.

The event's theme was Halloween, a concept reported by event lead Brian Meehan as a way to "spread the joy, spread the meaningfulness of the

Please see **RELAY**, page 5

Repair shop applies for used car license

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

GRANBY – Smith Merrill Incorporated petitioned the Granby Select Board on June 1 for a Class II license. The company plans to make a used car dealership at their existing repair location at 161 West State Street, inspired by existing customers prompting them to get into the business. Owners Nicholas Smith, Aldina Smith and Brett Merrill mentioned they already met with the fire chief and the building inspector for lot inspection.

"I believe we are in agreement with this as far as your class two license goes," Select Board member David Labonte said. "We do have a little bit of concern that the parking lot may become overcrowded."

Class II licenses are required in the state of Massachusetts to run a used car business. The license per-

mits the commercial buying and selling of pre-owned cars within the state, a process which requires a \$25,000 deposit, zoning approval with written sign-off from a local building inspector, a business certificate from Granby's Town Clerk if not operating under a registered corporate name, access to a repair facility and a place to conduct site inspections.

"They showed us 15 spots," said Interim Town Administrator and Police Chief Kevin O'Grady as he recalled results from the state required inspection. "I think that's in one of the last photos. I know the planning board did approve up to 20. We kind of agreed that we could try 15 if you guys are onboard with that?"

The chief explained 15 would be preferable, as the added spots would give access to a parking lot "in

Please see **LICENSE**, page 9

Farmer's Market supports community spirit



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Hunter from Livingstone Mycology poses with some of the day's fresh finds.

The market is open through Oct. 4

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Families flocked to the Belchertown Common on June 14. The seasonal farmer's market opened last week and will continue to be in operation every Sunday between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 4. The past Sunday featured a number of local business, from family farms to mushroom forages, and offered on-site food and beverages. Open to the public, the market is about connecting local people and fostering a community spirit.

"Direct-to-consumer sales for small farms is everything," said local farmer Molly Crooks from Quabbin Hill Farms; a diversified family farm operated by two fami-

Please see **FARMER'S MARKET**, page 7



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Community Band set to begin rehearsals

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Community Band wants you to join them for their 40th Anniversary Season. It doesn't matter what town you are from, what instrument you play or your skill level, you are invited to be part of this celebratory season. Rehearsals start June 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Belchertown High School. From the parking lot, go into the left door and walk down the hall that is slightly to the left.

There is no fee to participate, but you can anticipate a wonderful experience of playing music and making new friends. If you can't come June 23, come June 25, same time, same place. You will be part of 4 concerts performed on the Belchertown Common on Thursdays in July and August. So brush off that instrument and come enjoy music again

Granby Lions sponsoring bus trip

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The chartered bus will be leaving the East Meadow School Parking Lot at 8 a.m. and dropping us off in the Seaport District at approximately 10 a.m.

Come help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States at SailBoston 2026, an international maritime event that brings tall ships and naval vessels from around the world to Boston Harbor. You will be on your own to visit the ships and the bus will depart Boston at 4 p.m.

The cost per person is \$75. Please make your checks payable to the Granby Lions Club, and mail to Granby Lions Club, c/o Jim Pietras, 280 East State St, Granby, MA. 01033. Questions – email Jim at jpieras@comcast.net

Seniors need to pick up senior packets

BELCHERTOWN – Graduating seniors who were previously on an IEP are encouraged to pick up their senior packets at Central Office. Packets include; most recent IEP and testing along with a summary of performance. If you wish to obtain your records, please come to Central Office, 14 Maple Street with picture identification, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. High School transcripts that contain course titles, and grades received will continue to be stored at the BHS Counseling Office for sixty (60) years after graduation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lions Club installs new officers

The Belchertown Lions Club officially installed its new slate of officers for the 2026-27 session at the Villa Rose Restaurant on Wednesday, June 10. (L-R) President Morgan Kimball Jr., 1st Vice-President George Cook, Jr, 2nd Vice-President Michael Pease, and 3rd Vice-President Matt Fillmore. Stop in and say, "Hi" to these smiling faces at our Annual Memorial Cruisin' the Common Car Show on Aug. 8, our monthly Saturday Sub Sales, or the Belchertown Fair Food Wagon in September...or contact them for information or tickets to our Fall Super Raffle or Spring Half-Raffle through our website at www.belchertownlionsclub.com

If you'd like to become a member of one of Massachusetts most progressive and active Lions clubs, simple fill out an application at the above website link.

Nominations sought for local awards

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Select Board has reopened nominations for the Town's yearly awards, extending the submission period through August 1, 2026. The decision to reopen nominations provides additional opportunity for residents to recognize outstanding members of the community.

Award recipients will be honored for their contributions and invited to march in the Belchertown Fair Parade on Saturday, Sept. 26, as part of the 167th Belchertown Fair.

Nominations are being accepted in three categories:

Citizen of the Year honors any community member who has made a positive difference in Belchertown, whether through one defining moment or ongoing contributions to the community. Nominations can be submitted at <https://www.belchertown.org/FormCenter/Awards-14/Nomination-Form-Citizen-of-the-Year-80>

Employee of the Year recognizes a Town employee who has gone above and beyond in service to residents. Nominations can be submitted at <https://www.belchertown.org/FormCenter/Awards-14/Nomination-Form-Employee-of-the-Year-78>

Volunteer of the Year honors a volunteer whose dedication has made a lasting difference in Belchertown. Nominations can be submitted at <https://www.belchertown.org/FormCenter/Awards-14/Nomination-Form-Volunteer-of-the-Year-79>

The deadline for all submissions is Aug. 1. For questions, contact Melissa Shattuck in the Select Board / Town Manager's Office at mshattuck@belchertown.org or 413-323-0403.

Town hosting beaver management walk and presentation on June 27

BELCHERTOWN — Residents are invited to a free, all-ages presentation and walk about beaver management on Saturday, June 27, from 1 to 3 p.m., beginning at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street.

The Beaver Institute will give a presentation at the Recreation Department, after which the group will walk to the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field to see a "beaver deceiver" flow device in action. The device, also known as a Pond Leveler, allows the town to manage water levels while letting beavers remain in place. A table will be set up lakeside with pond critters, giving attendees a chance to explore local biodiversity and aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring.

Beavers play a vital role in flood control, water retention and infiltration,

and habitat biodiversity. The event offers families a fun, hands-on look at how these complex animals shape the local landscape and how the town coexists with them.

The presentation and walk are made possible through Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program funding for the culvert replacement project on Warren Wright Road over Hop Brook.

The walk to the spillway is approximately one-third of a mile. Anyone arriving after the group has departed the Recreation Department can meet them at the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field.

For more information about this program please call or email Belchertown Department of Public Works at 413-323-0415 or lleduc@belchertown.org.

St. Francis seeks donations for upcoming tag sale

BELCHERTOWN – The St Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale team invites the community to make donations to this annual event on Aug. 22. The team will gratefully accept most donated items.

As you begin sorting, please be aware that the following donated items will be appreciated: bed and table linens, new dust-free candles, craft items, hardware, kitchenware, luggage, backpacks, handbags, children's clothes up to size 2T only, children's books, small working appliances, working lamps, toys, pictures, frames, holiday decorations, hand tools, yard tools, jewelry, shoes, boots, sporting goods, baby gear, small but not-upholstered furniture, knick-knacks, and collectibles. The team politely requests that donors clear all donated items of storage dust, bugs, mold, and critter residue.

Unfortunately, the following items cannot be accepted: partially used dusty candles, any clothing larger than size 2T, cookbooks or non-children books, bed pillows, baby cribs, car seats,

computers, monitors, 8-track or cassette or VHS tapes, skis, exercise bikes, treadmills, gas grills, propane tanks, hazardous materials, mattresses, clothes hangers, medical equipment, bed pillows, and any large furniture items.

The proceeds from this annual effort are earmarked for the parish's Living Our Faith, Building Our Future Capital Campaign in support of the much-needed building of the proposed St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center on the grounds of the Jabish Street campus.

This year, the Tag Sale Team will only accept donations for a ten-day period – Aug. 7 to 16 only. Donations will be accepted Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 7 pm with Sunday donations only accepted noon to 5 p.m. Please do not leave donations outside the Pine Room door when a team member is not there to receive them.

The team is grateful for the continuing, generous support of our Belchertown community.

Zonta Club holding golf day at Cold Spring

BELCHERTOWN – Join members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on Sept. 12 for a fun day on the links at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and be a champion for women and girls. The \$120 registration includes golf, cart, pastries/coffee, snacks, box lunch, beverages, prizes and more. If you aren't a golfer, you can donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole.


Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration

form and link are at www.ZontaQV.org/golf. Questions can be directed to Mary Knight at 413-219-8260. Your support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. We're working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate justice, education equality, and women in decision-making positions.

REMEMBERING

Jeffrey Michael Lucey

MARCH 18, 1981 – JUNE 22, 2004



"Whatever happened to the you man's heart, swallowed by pain as he slowly fell apart"

– Shinedown

We miss you deeply and will keep you in our hearts. Forever 23.

♥ Love, Mom, Dad and family

"I could have missed the pain but I'd have had to miss the Dance"....

– G. Brooks

Dear Jeff,

It is difficult to comprehend that twenty-two years have passed since you left us at the age of twenty-three. While we are happy to see your friends settle into their careers, homes and families, it remains a bittersweet experience. We often wonder about the life you would have built, the career you would have pursued and the family of your own you might have started.

For over two decades, your absence has left a significant void during our holidays, vacations and family milestones. We have spent these years commemorating your birthday at your resting place rather than celebrating with you in person. If we've learned anything from your death it is that war steals our loved ones, our youth, the very people our tomorrows are built on. No winners. Only survivors left to piece together broken lives and make some sense out of a death that makes no sense.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of June 5, through June 11. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, June 6

11 a.m. – A Chicopee man was arrested on charges of a violation of an abuse prevention order.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, June 5

3 p.m. – An officer responded to a Chauncey Walker Road business for an accident. A person parked their vehicle on a hill and failed to set the parking brake. The vehicle then rolled struck a second vehicle. There were no tows needed and no injuries reported.

4:01 p.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire assisted a

person who was in a mental health crisis.

Saturday, June 6

8:56 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Monday, June 8

8:36 a.m. – Officer responded to a group home to assist with an argument between residents.

12:07 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street business regarding a disturbance about a person who was harassing another person. A follow up call indicated one of the involved people was going to their residence. The officer was told a male and woman being harassed by another person. They were looking to file a harassment order. Another officer went to the other location where the other person was. They agreed to leave the other people alone and go to their residence.

1:08 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle going north on Federal Street was struck by a deer. The vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

4:32 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle going east on Ware Road was rear ended after slowing to turn

onto Jabish Street. No injuries were reported and no injuries were reported.

11:47 p.m. – An officer responded to Route 9 by Meadow Pond Road for disabled vehicle that didn't have its lights on. The officer found the vehicle in break down lane with no hazard lights on. A tow company was there to remove the vehicle. A person and their dog were in the vehicle. The officer also heard movement from a person in the woods. The person said they had car troubles. There were no signs of impairment.

Tuesday, June 9

8:36 a.m. – A resident came to the station to ask an officer about an online order of a ring box showed signs of tampering it was torn in half then opened again. They found a ring box they ordered and there was nothing inside. The delivery company is opening an incident on the matter. The issue was documented.

11:59 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of an accident. A tractor cutting grass and brush on the side of the road struck a piece of wood that then struck a vehicle. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

7:42 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about harassment issues at their

workplace.

Wednesday, June 10

12:45 a.m. – An officer responded to Railroad Street disabled vehicle that ran out of gas. The officer spoke with the person. They said the vehicle was not operational. The officer learned the operator's license wasn't valid between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. and they told the officer they left five minutes before the deadline. The vehicle was towed from the scene and the person was brought to a local business.

11:16 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on three car accident. There were no tows needed and no injuries reported. One vehicle was parked and off when a second vehicle attempting to turn right struck the first. Another vehicle was struck in the process as well. Insurance information was exchanged.

12:56 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about someone they met online. They began messaging a suspected scammer and the suspected scammer asked the person for their bank information so they could purchase a Father's Day present. Then the suspected scammer convinced them to send money to a Zelle account linked to bank account then notified that an additional asked to be withdrawn. They

were able to stop the second one.

Thursday, June 11

11:58 a.m. – A person turned in a wallet that was found on Stebbins Street with no identification inside. It had cash in it. The wallet was placed into property for safe keeping.

5:50 p.m. – An officer took a report of larceny. A person was called reporting a scam on Facebook marketplace after a family member was selling items and was contacted a person. They got a message they needed to upgrade to Venmo due to large value of account. The scammer then guided them through how to do that but were told to pay via bitcoin. No monetary loss was accumulated.

5:52 p.m. – An officer responded to George Hannum Road business said vehicle struck in the parking lot. Officers are attempting to get video footage of the crash.

7:16 p.m. – An officer on patrol ran a check of a registration and it came back as expired non-renewable for non-payment of excise tax. The officer stopped the vehicle, and the operator was unaware of their expired nonrenewable license and the vehicle was towed. A citation was issued.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 138 calls for the week of June 5, through June 11. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, June 5

2:31 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident on Taylor Street. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Tuesday, June 9

3:46 a.m. – The on-duty clerk reported an unwanted patron in the store. An officer responded and the party left without incident.

5:34 p.m. – Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at Dufresne Park amongst workers for the ride company setting up for Charter Days. The manager asked that the employee leave the area and not return. The employee left the park without further incident.

Thursday, June 11

2:09 p.m. – An officer took a report of attempted check fraud at the bank. An officer responded and completed an incident report.

How to avoid scams when booking a hotel online

If you are planning an upcoming trip, keep an eye out for hotel booking scams.

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker continues to receive reports of travelers falling victim to lookalike websites. Always confirm you are on the right website before making hotel reservations.

How the scam works

You search for hotels in the city you plan to visit. Among the top search results is what appears to be an official hotel website or a legitimate travel booking agency.

When you click the link, you find a website with professional photos from the hotel and reasonable pricing.

Everything looks normal, so you decide to book a

room. You enter your credit card information and check out.

However, when you review your credit card statement, you notice you've been charged a much higher rate than you agreed. It turns out that you weren't on the official hotel website after all and you accidentally clicked on a third-party site without affiliation with the hotel.

When you contact the company to cancel your reservation, you may not be able to get through to anyone. And even if you do, they'll likely tell you you've made a non-refundable reservation. The best they can do is cancel your reservation and charge you for it anyway.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer shared, "Purchased a hotel

reservation for a Hilton hotel in Chicago. But when I called the hotel they said they don't have any record of the reservation. Same answer after I called them multiple times. Then they transferred the call to Hilton reservation and they said the same. Then only I realized that they are a fraudulent company. And when I researched them online I found lot of similar incidents..."

How to avoid hotel booking scams

Only book hotels through official websites. The best way to avoid this kind of scam is to check and double-check you are on an official hotel website before you enter your credit card information.

Scammers are pros at

building fake lookalike websites to fool you into giving up your information. Look closely at the URL to ensure you are on the hotel's official website or a booking agency you know and trust.

Only make reservations through secure websites. You'll also want to ensure websites and their payment pages are secure, meaning they start with https:// and display a padlock symbol.

If a web page isn't secure, don't enter your personal information and close the tab.

Contact the hotel directly. If you're unsure about a booking site or deal, call the hotel directly to confirm that the offer is real and that your reservation is in their system.

Look for red flags in communication. Be wary of unusual payment requests,

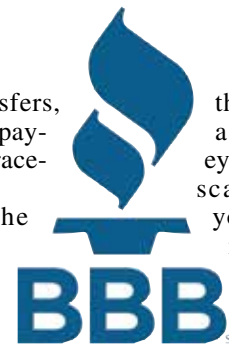
such as wire transfers, prepaid cards, or payment through untraceable methods.

Also, be on the lookout for typos and grammatical or spelling errors. Legitimate hotels typically do not have these errors.

Watch out for misleading ads. Look at search results carefully. Just because a website is the first result on the page doesn't mean it's legitimate. Watch out for high-ranking ads that scammers could sponsor.

Research businesses you aren't familiar with. If you find a booking site that looks professional but you haven't heard of it before, proceed with caution.

Search for reviews on



third-party websites and keep a close eye out for reports of scams. Never share your personal information with a person or business until you know they are trustworthy.

Check the cancellation policy. Review the hotel's cancellation policy carefully. Scammers might not provide clear information on this, making it difficult to get a refund.

Search BBB.org. It's always best practice to search hotels near you on BBB.org to check reviews, ratings, and BBB Accreditation. When booking a hotel online, look for the BBB Seal; it's The Sign of a Better Business®.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why don't we have a minimum Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person.

When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us, who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives.

Signed: Needs More Social Security.

Dear Needs More:

For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists, but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for.

The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify.

That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit.

In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime.

However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income.

Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings.

Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retire-

ment monthly average income.

In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement.

Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources).

While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program, which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging (www.benefitscheckup.org). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

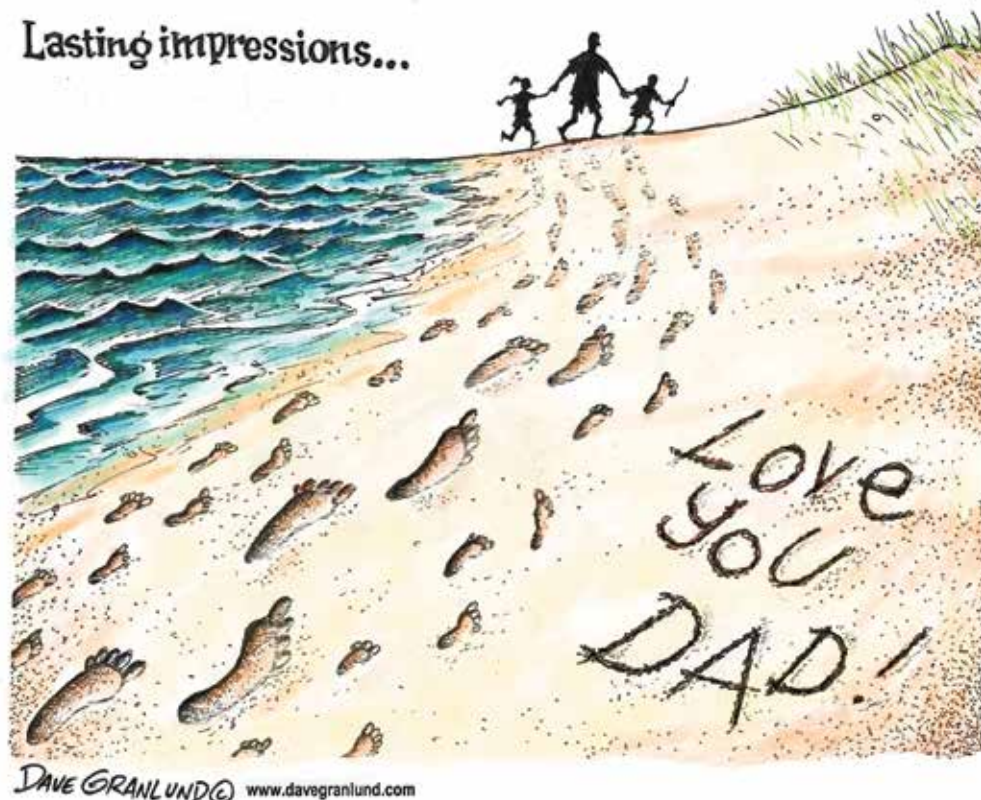
NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com

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Lasting impressions...



LETTER

Residents encouraged to attend Pride Festival

Dear Editor:

Did you go to Belchertown's first annual Pride Festival on the common last year? If so, I'm sure you remember what a fun and meaningful day it was, filled with a strong sense of community, and capped by a joyous march around the common. It was inspiring to

be part of our town coming together to recognize and support Pride in Belchertown.

Belchertown's second annual Pride Festival will be held this Saturday, June 20, from 12 to 5 p.m. on the town common. You can sample treats from the food trucks, check out the vendors, bop along to live music, and enjoy fami-

ly friendly activities for all ages. And of course, join the parade around the common as Belchertown again celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and affirms that all are welcome here. Hope to see you there.

Cindy Loiselle

Strawberry culture 101

Melissa, who gardens in Belchertown, asked this question of the Garden Lady.

"It's always so hard to install strawberry plants and pinch off the flowers the first year. Do you really have to? It would be so wonderful to enjoy some fruit."

I completely understand where you are coming from! Last year I was in the same boat. This year, the fruit is coming in and boy, am I enjoying it!

Removing the flowers redirects the plant's energy away from reproducing to forming strong roots and more shoots, so yes, it recommended practice.

I thought you might find this column, one of my very first, helpful. It contains lots of good tips for strawberry culture.

I have fond memories of strawberry picking. One of the first days of summer vacation was always spent at a local pick-your-own farm with my mom, filling boxes with luscious red berries.

Like any kid I did my share of sampling out there in the rows, and my taste buds never forgot the intense sweetness found only in fresh picked fruit. Now that I have my own space to garden I am able to go strawberry picking in my backyard.

With a lot of patience and a little labor, so can you!

My bareroot strawberry plants arrived by mail in early spring. I had prepared the sunny space intended for them ahead of time, by eradicating all weeds and tilling in two-inches of finished compost and some slow release organic fertilizer.

Lime wasn't necessary, as strawberries prefer a slightly acidic soil.

The plants looked a bit limp from their trip so the roots were soaked in water for an hour to rehydrate them prior to planting. I set the crown of the plant right at soil level with the roots spread over a small mound of soil in the hole.

Keeping in mind that strawberries send out runners (daughter plants), I set my



plants in a single row roughly two-feet apart with three feet between the rows. This wide spacing allowed for four daughters to be positioned four-five inches apart from mom and each other.

Some gardeners prefer to pinch away all runners, and nourish only the original mother plant. Initial yields may be higher, but without replacement plants the patch will expire sooner.

All blossoms, although it is tempting to leave them, must be removed the first season so that energy will be spent on building strong roots.

I set up a soaker hose among the plants to be sure that they would continue to grow with gusto during droughty spells. If you choose to do the same, be sure to position runners under the hose, otherwise removing it for winter storage may be a difficult and tangled task.

A mulch of chopped leaves conserves soil moisture and prevents weeds from sprouting. Evergreen boughs laid over the row after the ground has frozen lessens temperature extremes, preventing the plants from being heaved out of the ground during winter freeze/thaw cycles.

Anticipation begins to build in the spring of the second season. It is only a matter of time before the plants will be loaded with ripe berries.

As new growth emerges remove the protective boughs. Pull stray weeds and reapply mulch. If frost threatens during blossoming cover the plants with spun poly floating row covers or old bed sheets.

Keep up with watering. Lightweight netting works

well to deter birds, while slugs can be captured in shallow containers filled with beer and buried at ground level. Remove dead slugs and top off the beer nightly.

June-bearing strawberries bear fruit for two-three weeks. Harvest when the berries are bright red; if fruit is picked unripe it may turn red, but flavor will be sacrificed.

The season can be extended a bit by growing early, mid and late season varieties, or by growing day-neutral types which bear smaller amounts of fruit over a longer period, from June-October.

Nourse Farms (noursefarms.com) of South Deerfield is an excellent local source for strawberry plants.

After fruiting is complete mow down the plants with a push mower. I had to cross reference a few advice books before I had the courage to do this, but it surely did wonders to renovate the bed.

Rake away the mowed leaves, thin runners that are too close, and remove the oldest plants. Top-dress with compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer before remulching.

Although labor intensive, strawberries are worth the work. Managing a strawberry patch in this manner will likely keep it productive for five years. Imagine, your own flavorful memories!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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support community journalism

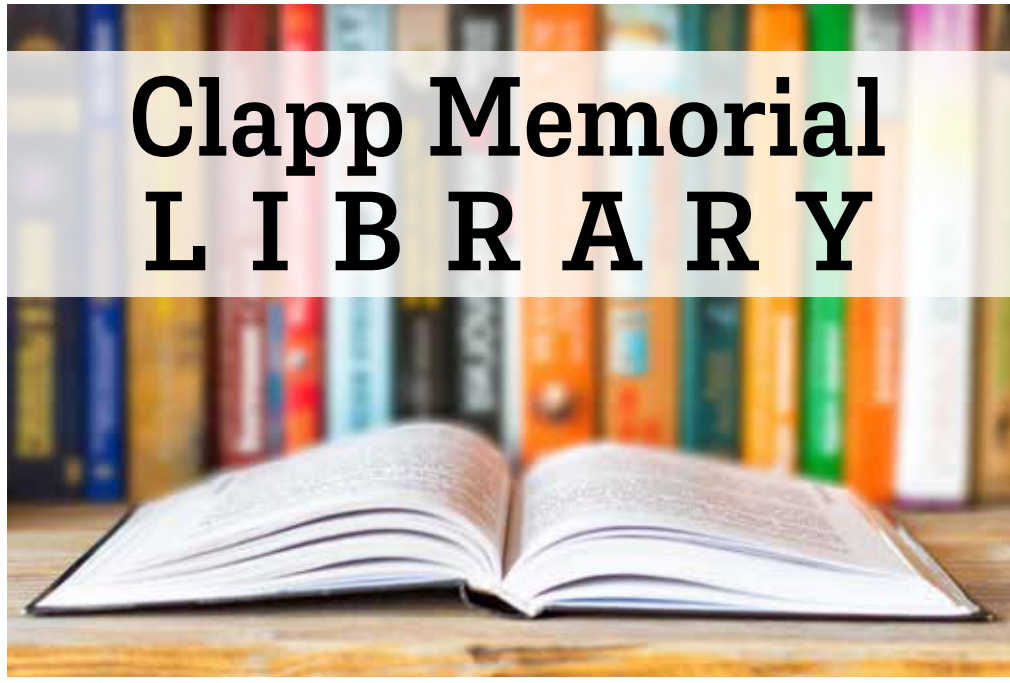
What's going on at the Library? Check it out!

The Clapp Memorial Library's Summer Reading Programs begin June 20th and run through August 15th! This year's theme is "Plant a Seed...Read!" We have programs for kids ages 0-12, teens ages 12-18, and adults ages 18 and up. Keep track of what you read, take part in exciting challenges, attend special summer programs, and earn chances to win great prizes! We'll be kicking off our Children's Summer Reading Program on Saturday, June 27th at our Touch-a-Truck Event right here at the library (see details under "For Children"). For more information about all of our summer reading programs, stop by the library or visit our website: clapplibrary.org/summer-reading-programs

FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES:

Pamela Means Presents: Black, Brown & Beige

Saturday, June 20, 5-6 p.m.
Join us as we welcome jazz artist Pamela Means for a concert on the Library's front lawn. This new program celebrates the artistry and cultural contributions of Black, Brown and Beige musicians; a nod to Duke Ellington in title and celebration. This concert honors artists who have used their voices, their lives, and their art



to call out injustice, inspire compassion, and prove possibilities of a just and loving world. Highlighted artists include Bessie Smith, Leadbelly, Nina Simone, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Marvin Gaye, Tracy Chapman, Prince, and more! On the front lawn of the library, inside Town Hall in case of rain. This program is funded by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library.

ViewFinder Exhibition and Award Reception

Wednesday, July 1, 6-7:30 p.m.
Join us for a reception and awards ceremony for the winners of the ViewFinder: Belchertown Nature Photography Contest. This contest, sponsored by the Clapp Memorial Library,

Friends of Lake Wallace, Quabbin Photo Group, and the Belchertown Creative Economy Committee, showcases local photographers capturing the natural diversity of Belchertown. Light refreshments will be served. The winning photographs will be displayed at the Library throughout the month of July and, after that, will be on the Town of Belchertown website.

FOR ADULTS:

Pride Month Movie Matinees

Tuesday afternoons in June, showings at 3 p.m.
Grab your popcorn for this program series! Tuesdays in June we're showing a series of films for Pride Month in our Activity Room!

Tuesday, June 23: A gay couple who run a nightclub are challenged to play it straight when their son brings home his fiancée—the daughter of an ultraconservative senator. Starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. Rated R, 2 hours. Public performance rights provided through SWANK.

Tuesday, June 30: Stonewall Uprising (2010) In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in the Greenwich Village section of New York City. The Stonewall riots, as they came to be known, marked a major turning point in the modern gay civil rights movement in the United States and around the world. TV14, 1 hour, 22 minutes.

Public performance rights provided through Kanopy.

Zen Coloring with Crayons

Monday, July 6, 6-7:30 p.m.
Create your own zen masterpiece with crayons! Artist Marie Tucker will help you make your own beautiful work of art. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call 413-323-0417. This program is for adults 18 years old and up. Please register in advance by June 29th as space is limited. All supplies will be provided. All experience levels welcome! Sponsored by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library.

FOR TEENS:

Teen Book Club

Wednesday, June 24, 3-4 p.m.

Are you a tween or teen age 12-18? The library has a Teen Book Club in conjunction with the MA Teen Choice Book Awards (MTCBA), the only book award in the state selected by teens. Each month teens will read and meet to discuss one book from the nominee list. On Wednesday, June 24th, teens will discuss *The Dead of Summer* by Ryan La Sala. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the library's circulation desk and on the Libby and hoopla apps. Snacks will be provided at the meeting. Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com with any questions. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

Teen Crafternoon: Diamond-Painting Pollinators

Wednesday, June 24, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Tweens and teens ages 12-18 are invited to diamond-paint a pollinator garden stake! All materials will be provided, but space is limited; email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com or call the library at 413-323-4017 to register. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens must be registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program to attend. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Cupcake Wars

Monday, June 29, 4:5-5:30 p.m.

Tweens and teens ages 12-18 are invited to a Summer Reading-themed edition of Cupcake Wars! Participants will be given themes and timed rounds to decorate their cupcakes and can take home their tasty treats at the end of the program. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program; the winner will receive a gift certificate to Carefree Cakery in North Amherst. Teens can sign up for the program at the library or by emailing clapplibrarytab@gmail.com. Teens must be registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program to attend. Space

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 15

FARMER'S MARKET from page 1

lies. Crooks stated much of her business is generated from coming to farmer's markets and interacting with town residents. She called farmer's markets an "essential" part of her business.

"The wholesale game is very hard," Crooks said. "Very competitive. Going against big commercial farming is always going to be hard for local farmers, so being able to come here and sell directly to people is what helps the local economy and your local farmers truly the best."

Crooks reported she has seen an uptick with the number of people attending local markets, which she concludes is not only to an urge buy cheaper and more locally, but also a residential desire to create stronger connection with the surrounding area.

"I have actually noticed a little bit more of an uptick in the markets," Crooks said. "This is the way that people recognize as a way to get your food, eat very naturally and just, like, talk to humans, you know?"

"We only sell to farmer's markets," said Hunter from Livingstone Mycology. A former neuroscientist, Hunter and his partner were laid off from a company who sold "biological living material to schools across the country" during Covid times. The sudden transition harbored in them a hobby of walking

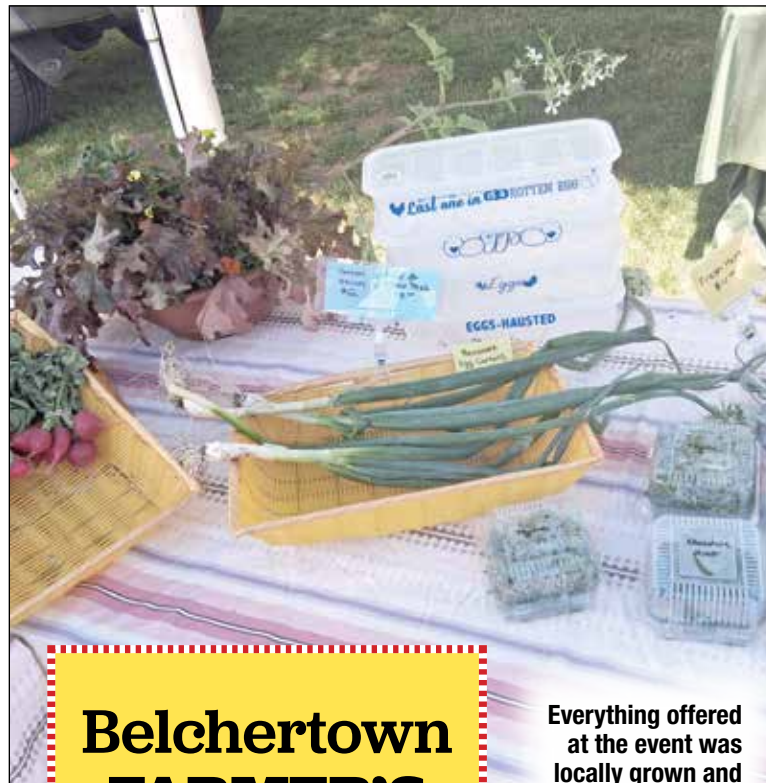
nature trails and foraging, which inspired their current business of selling foraged mushrooms.

"Our business turned five in February," Hunter said. He reported the business required them to work seven days a week and much of their success could be credited to working the local farmer's market scene.

Hunter enjoys the ability to change common misconceptions about mushrooms and uses his booth to educate the populous about regional fungi, as well as offer medicinal tinctures, cooking mushrooms and grow kits for people willing to try their hand at raising their own mushrooms.

"I have all these studies on this binder right here that I have accumulated over the years," Hunter said as he pointed to a sizable black ring binder stationed at the front of his booth. The binder contained a number of up-to-date peer reviewed studies related to the products on his table. He described the farmer's market spirit as one "very committed" and "very dedicated."

"I mean, all of the farmer's markets, they just have such a different vibe," Hunter said. "But they all have that community commitment and really, that's what we rely on... That's what we're providing when we're doing markets every day of the week; it's the freshest possible thing you could ever get. And that's our goal."



Belchertown FARMER'S MARKET

Every Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Oct. 4

Everything offered at the event was locally grown and fresh from farm to table.



Multiple stalls lined the Belchertown Town Common and offered an assortment of baked goods, poultry, pork and refreshments.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Quabbin Hill Farms sold local produce and meat directly from the farm.

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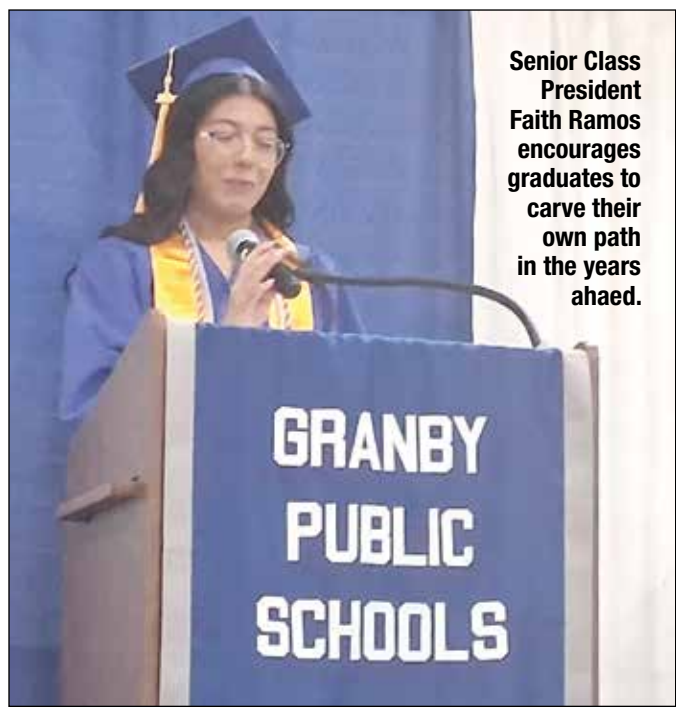
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MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

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AUGUST 21 AT THE STATE STREET FIELDS

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Congratulations GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2026



Senior Class President Faith Ramos encourages graduates to carve their own path in the years ahead.



Excited graduates and families line up to prepare for the day's events.

GRANBY GRADS

from page 1

and we look forward to all that you accomplish."

Senior Class President Faith Ramos then took the podium. During her Class Welcome speech, Ramos reflected on her time in high school and stated though people viewed her as someone who "got it all together," a perception she made clear couldn't be farther from the case. During her heartfelt speech, Ramos grappled with perfectionism and her struggles in attempting to be the ideal student.

"I thought being a leader meant being perfect," Ramos said. "I thought I had to follow a specific script, blend in and make sure my personality didn't make anyone else uncomfortable."

Ramos admitted she spent a lot of her time in high school keeping up appearances and the exhaustion of trying to "fit into a mold that wasn't made for us." She empathized with the graduating class' feelings of inadequacy caused by pressures to conform. She nonetheless stated "high school was a team sport" and it was important to show gratitude for support systems.

"To the families here



Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman reveals the class gift of chairs to Granby Junior Senior High School staff.

today, thank you," Ramos said. "Thank you for being our rocks. You've seen us at our best and you've definitely seen us at our worst when we were swamped over our laptops at midnight, stressed out and exhausted."

She applauded her class for their courage to grow into themselves. She mentioned the graduating body was one of artists, athletes who pushed the limits, activists and "brilliant thinkers who challenge the status quo" and encouraged them to continue being themselves in a world all too eager to tear them

down. She also reflected on her own journey of self-discovery.

"I realized that we don't owe the world a version of ourselves that makes them comfortable. I had to stop looking for everyone else's approval to realize I'm perfect exactly the way I am,"

Ramos said. "Not because I don't make mistakes because trust me, I have made plenty, but because I'm entirely, un-apologetically, myself."

Ramos encouraged others to follow their own path, to be brave enough to pursue authenticity and to be courageous on the journey of self-discovery. As she ended her speech, she offered one final challenge to the graduating class.

"I have one final challenge for you," Ramos said as she turned towards her classmates. "Be too much. Be too

loud about your passions. Be too kind in a cynical world. Dream a little too big, love a little too hard and be so completely yourself you don't make an ounce of sense to anyone else but you. You don't need a blueprint. You just need to show us who you are."

Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman presided over the presentation of the class gift, a regional tradition. The gift was revealed to be new chairs, an idea proposed by the vice president. In the dedication speech, Loughman mentioned the chairs were also representative of the class spirit, which she described as a "strong, supportive and tight-knit community."

"This gift represents our gratitude to the administration, teachers, staff, families, underclassmen, athletes and everyone who has supported us throughout our journey," Loughman said as she dedicated the chairs. "We hope these chairs serve the school well and provide comfort for future students, families and community members for years to come."

Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte's speech recalled her time in high school and the nervous anticipation of "stepping into a world that doesn't come with instructions." Laliberte spoke on the twelve years the class spent together as they grew up in the school district, getting lost on the first day of school, leaving the car running with the AC on and the friendships forged along the way.

"Looking back, it's funny how the years we once thought would take forever suddenly seem to have flown by," Laliberte said. "The moments we couldn't wait to move past are now the moments we wish we could revisit one last time."

She encouraged the class to look back on what they've been through and to celebrate what they accomplished. Laliberte thanked her parents for the support through all the years and for believing in her when she didn't believe in herself. She thanked her classmates for their time learned from them. In the speech's closing words, she called upon the class to "embrace uncertainty rather than fear it."

"I'm so proud of everything you accomplished," Laliberte said as she closed the speech. "I'm so excited for our futures. I can't wait to see where life takes each and every one of us."

Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran spoke on the difficulties of writing her speech, as she found it hard to distill twelve years in the Granby school district into a few minutes. She questioned what excellence met in the

classroom and what the real high school experience was.

"I found myself asking 'how can I even sum up 12 years of growth, mistakes, lessons and memories?' I thought success was measured in percentages and trophies, the tangible items that prove you work hard," Curran said. "While those things still matter, I realize now they're only a small part of the story. The real measure of our high school experience isn't found on our transcripts...it is truly the people that define the place."

Curran reminisced on racing to the swings at recess, eating lunch with the same people she knew since kindergarten and prom. She stated the things people remembered most about high school wasn't the grades or their overall academic performance, but in the little moments they shared with the people around them. She asked the class to recall their best memories in Granby as she guessed at what those memories contained.

"You're probably remembering a time where you laughed so hard with your friends your stomach hurt," Curran said. "Or the time a teacher told you they believed in you when you felt like giving up...We've spent the last four years surrounded by people who are just as foolish about the future as we are."

Curran referred to the teachers who guided them through the past four years as "anchors" who gave them the chance to grow, to make mistakes and the opportunity for self-discovery. She thanked the teachers for being patient when the class was struggling, for being kind when the class was confused and supportive "when we didn't ask for help." She emphasized the value of the human experience, the importance of community and "what it means to be a part of something."

"We hope we do you proud," Curran said. "I hope for all of us this: we continue to value people over performance, that we remember the strength of showing up even when it's hard...no matter how far we go, we stay grounded in the truth that who we are matters more than what we achieve."

Social Studies teacher Norman Racine, introduced by Senior Class Corresponding Secretary Allison Maslak, was hand-picked by the Class of 2026 to be a guest speaker for the class. During his tearful speech, Racine thanked the class for the honor.

"I really do appreciate it but it reminds me of something that I have caught myself saying so many times this year," Racine said as he addressed the beginning words of his speech to the graduates. "I really did not

expect this and I'm touched that you guys selected me. Thank you. I hope that I can deserve this and I won't let you down."

Racine reflected on getting hired in July 2000, on the fact he had spent half of his working life at the school and how his time in the district changed him. As he recalled his time, he mentioned he "used to care more about essays and test scores" than he did at the present time. He stated what mattered to him now was getting to know the students and to help them on the way to being good people. He asserted the real journey was yet to begin for the class.

"I mean no disrespect but this is high school we're talking about. Graduation is a big deal but I don't want any of you to think that this is it, that you're peaking here," Racine said. "You're only on the start of your journey...Be brave and creative. Be adventurous and make mistakes. You're young and you have plenty of time to figure out what you want to do with the rest of your lives."

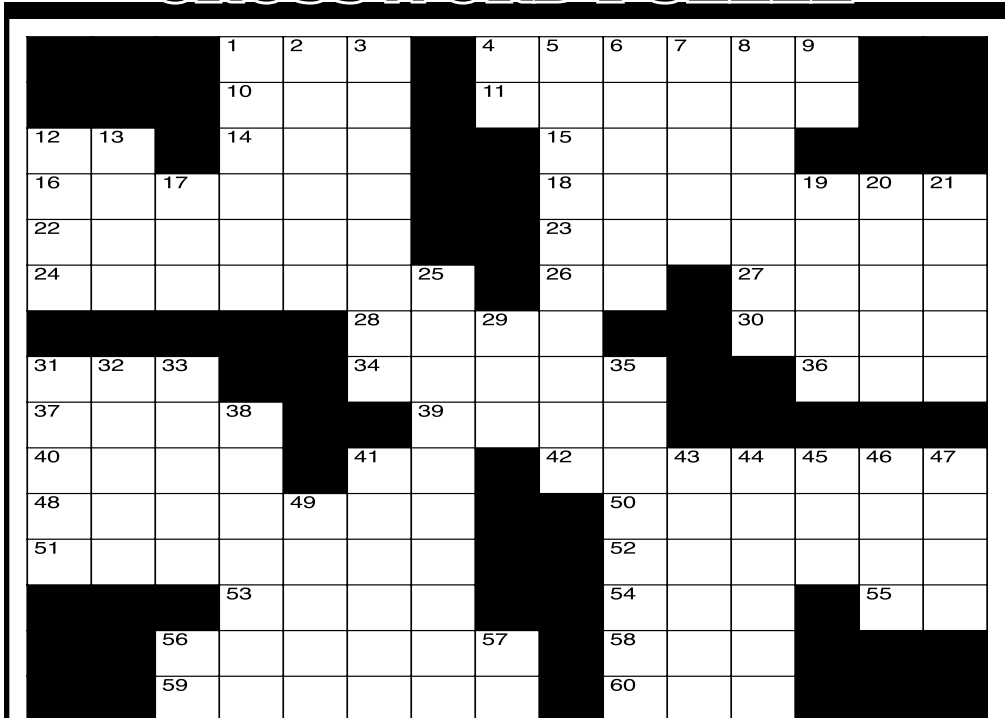
The Social Studies teacher applauded his "squad" and thanked them for helping him make a better version of himself. He expressed gratitude for the times he shared with both the class and staff and how essential it was to show the people in their lives how much they cared. As his speech came to a close, Racine urged the students to share their feelings with each other.

"You've truly taken care of me," Racine said to the graduates. "Please do this with your friends and family and teachers. Tell them that you care. Tell them that they have made a difference and thank them for the time that you have shared with each other."

Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson offered a brief speech prior to the diploma acceptance ceremony. In her speech, she discussed the meaning of the class' chosen theme song "Life is A Highway." She stated the song was about treating life as a journey filled with twists and turns, one each student wouldn't have to travel alone. Using the analogy of a car race, Rickson described the people who help along the way as a "pit crew" in place to aid the graduates throughout the course of their life. She mentioned the point of life wasn't the destination, but the path taken.

"Success is not about just crossing the finish line. It is about growth, humility, resilience and relationships that we build along the way," Rickson said. "Life is a highway and today marks the beginning of an exciting new stretch of your journey. Congratulations, graduates."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Similar
- No (Scottish)
- ___ Aires, city
- Morning
- Senior's son (abbr.)
- A notable achievement
- European nation
- Endings
- Puts into place
- Former
- Grenadier
- Sea patrol
- Algerian port
- Norwegian river
- Precipitation
- Newscreen rating
- New York is one
- Patti Hearst's

- captors
- Soft mineral with greasy feel
- Retired Brazilian footballer
- An Indian nursemaid
- Atomic #24
- Immobile
- Insignia of royalty
- Seeds from which chocolate is made
- Begin again
- Round root
- Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- What newlyweds just said
- Empire State
- Give back
- College hoops tournament
- Unstable situations

- Young women's association
- Administer a drug
- Holy places
- Contrary opinions
- Blood type
- Gags
- Micturating
- Silly
- A type of "cuff"
- Spanish be
- Austrian river
- Messenger
- Consume food
- California supermarket
- Electronic communication
- Cassia tree
- Written works

- Cool!
- Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- One who was compensated
- National symbols
- Raising
- A type of talk
- Cloud
- Middle Eastern peoples
- Pouches
- 007's creator
- A cut of meat
- Sports entertainment award
- Christine __, actress
- Relief organization (abbr.)
- Canadian province (abbr.)

Congratulations GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2026



The Class of 2026 enter to "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward William Elgar



Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson reminds graduates to appreciate the journey over the destination.



High school students, soon to be graduates, march to the day's proceedings.



Principal Allison Jordan greets the crowd and begins the opening ceremony.



The Class of 2026 performs the ceremonial cap toss after receiving their diplomas.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ



Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte reflects on the past and encourages gratitude for the bonds forged along the way.



Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran urges community and to value people over process.



Social Studies teacher and class-appointed guest speaker Norman Racine thanks the class for making a difference.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 2**

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LICENSE from page 1

case of an emergency." The chief stated he would be fine with giving them 20 spots should the need arise.

Merrill agreed with the assessment but questioned if a re-approach would be necessary should their lot be reclassified as a 20 spot area. He expressed his hesitations, as "this was about a year process" for the initial request, and was concerned a reclassification would force them to go through the current process again.

"As we start to approach another cycle with the licensing, just reach out to myself or to whoever here at town hall and just indicate that, yes, you would like to explore the 20," Town Clerk Glen Saxton said. "The chief, Chief Briant would go out there, re-investigate and they would come back with their recommendations."

Merrill stated they agreed with the planning board's decision and mentioned they highly doubted they would "even be getting getting to the capacity" they were talking about in their first year of selling cars. Merrill mentioned the only reason they considered selling vehicles was due to customer

feedback.

"We really did this because we have so many people saying 'you guys do a great job working on the cars. We want someone we can trust to buy a vehicle from,'" Merrill said. "And that's really the kind of service we want to provide. So that's where it came from."

Smith and Merrill plan to start with five cars on the premises. Merrill reiterated they weren't comfortable with more until they knew how many cars would "move in and out" of the lot. The current business works as an appointment-based service and includes online scheduling services. The Select Board asked how many vehicles on average they would have in the lot.

"Changes every day," co-owner Aldina Smith said. "Today I had four cars parked out front because we had bigger jobs and they were all in the garage."

The motion to approve the Class II license was proposed and voted on by the Select Board. The license is good until Dec. 31. With the license approval, Smith Merrill Incorporated is one step closer to their dealership goals.

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Lions Club seeks sponsorship for upcoming car show event

BELCHERTOWN – In an effort to defray the costs (trophies, permits, entertainment, flyer printing, and distribution, etc.), the Belchertown Lions Club is appealing to our local businesses to have an 18" x 24" weather-resistant sign with ground stake custom-printed and prominently displayed on the Town Common during the event on Aug. 8. We will handle the set-up design and printing for a donation of \$100. All proceeds from this year's car show will stay locally as we support our Senior Center, Fuel Assistance Programs, Veterans' Organizations, Scouting America, Girl Scouts, Relay For Life, Aaron's Day, local Food Pantries, Belchertown Little League, College and Continuing Ed. Scholarships for seniors at BHS and Pathfinder, as well as emergency requests regarding sight and hearing concerns.

Alternately, or in addition to the sponsor sign, businesses can opt to submit an item or gift certificate in any amount to be displayed for a Pick-A-Prize raffle -- where attendees can purchase a sheet of 25 tickets...and place as many of their tickets into whichever gift bags they desire.

If you are the owner or representative of a local business and would like to sponsor a ground sign, kindly email Lion Mike Mathras at mmathras@charter.net, and you will promptly receive the necessary information to do so.

If you would like to donate a gift certificate or prize for our raffle table, please get in touch with Barb Greene at br123199@charter.net

As you consider your donation, please keep in mind that all profits from the sale of food, raffle tickets, and sponsor signage at



this event will go directly to the local charities mentioned above.

Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding the "Cruisin' the Common" Car Show in the Sentinel, by visiting our website at www.belchertownlionsclub.com, or by checking out our Facebook page: Belchertown Lions Club.

Community Yard Sale coming back first weekend in August

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Community Yard Sale Returns the First Weekend in August Belchertown, MA — The Belchertown Community Yard Sale is set to return for its third year, continuing to establish itself as a growing summer tradition in Western Massachusetts. The event will take place the first weekend in August, from July 31 through Aug. 2 (Rain dates: Aug. 7 to 9).

Over the past two years, the Belchertown Community Yard Sale has welcomed thousands of visitors from across the region, transforming the town into a destination for treasure hunters and community engagement. In 2025 alone, the event drew more than 6,400 visitors and raised over \$4,000 for the Belchertown Senior Center and Council on Aging, contributing to a total of more



than \$7,000 raised for local non-profits and community initiatives since its inception. For 2026, the event is proud to announce that its beneficiary will be the Clapp Memorial Library, furthering its mission of supporting vital community resources.

As the event grows, organizers hope to solidify the Belchertown Community Yard Sale as a signature annual tradition, making the first weekend in August a must-visit experience for residents and visitors alike. Registration for house-

holds and vendors will open on May 1. Participation is open to all, with a cost of \$30 for individual households and \$60 for vendors wishing to sell at the Town Fields. Sellers across Belchertown will be featured on an official event map, guiding visitors to over 100 sales throughout town. Maps will be sold at the Town Fields, 60 State Street, Belchertown, for \$5.

Event organizers welcome local business sponsors and community volunteers to help expand the reach and impact of the event. Those interested in sponsoring, volunteering, or learning more can contact Organizer Kris Lynds at belchertownyard-sale@gmail.com

For additional details, updates, and registration information, visit www.belchertownyardsale.com



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Rams, Orioles battle to draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—Granby and Belchertown combined for a total of six goals during last Thursday night's Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League Boys B-Division match-up.

The only scheduled meeting of the prestigious summer league regular season between the neighboring high schools concluded in a 3-3 draw on the turf field at the MacDuffie School in Granby.

"I've coached most of these kids at the youth level for the past seven years. They're going to be freshmen at the high school in the fall," said Belchertown coach Jonathan Casella. "We were trailing by a goal at halftime, and we managed to tie the score in the second half."

The other summer league coaches listed on the Belchertown roster are John Haluch and Margaux McDonald.

While Belchertown has two boys' soccer teams competing in the summer league, Granby only has one squad.

The Orioles (1-0-1), who were the home team



Quinten Chen shoots and makes a goal for Belchertown.

in last Thursday's match, began the summer league season with a 1-0 road victory against West Springfield at the beginning of last week.

They'll be playing all their summer league home games at the MacDuffie School because the grass fields at the

Jabish Brook Middle School and Belchertown High School are being refurbishment.

Granby, who played their first match of the summer league season, didn't receive their uniforms before the season opener.

"I thought it was an out-

standing effort for our first game of the summer league," said Granby coach Jacob Calery. "We were able to take the lead at the end of the first half, but we did get a little bit tired in the second half, especially on a hot night."

The Rams other two sum-

Nico Fazio sends a pass away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

mer league coaches are Brian Carillon and Hector Santiago.

The PVSSL, which is beginning its 44th season, was started by William Kolodziej in early 1980's.

Belchertown took a 1-0 lead 15 minutes into the opening half when the ball got away from Granby goalie Jacob Weglarz and Quinten

Please see **BATTLE**, page 12



Jeffrey Duprey gets the throw-in.



Post 241 edged in extras

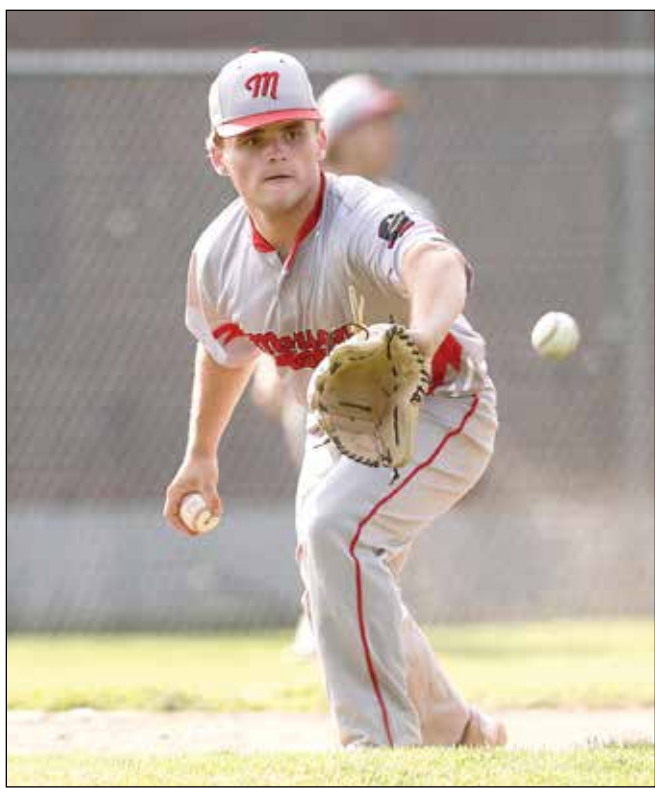
By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Before the start of the high school baseball season, the Palmer Parks Department installed a portable outfield fence at historic Legion Field.

While the new fence is a nice addition to the field, it didn't help the Monson Post 241 Legion team very much in their season opening 4-3 extra inning loss to Westfield Post 124, last Wednesday night.

After Westfield Post 124 took the lead with an unearned run in the top of the eighth inning, Monson loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom half of the frame.

Their rally began with catcher Kyle Kaczuwka drawing a walk against righthanded relief pitcher Jakob Elmer. Then first baseman Liam McGrath



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Sebastian Mayberry catches the ball.

blasted a shot to deep left field. In previous years, it most likely would've been an inside the park home run and Monson would've celebrated a walk off victory. However, the ball bounced over the new fence for a ground rule double.

"If the fence wasn't there, Liam's hit would've tied the score and we probably win the game," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "This is the first year that they put up the outfield fence during the high school baseball season. I asked Jeff Pardo, who's the new Director of the Parks Department, if they would keep the fence up for the Legion season. It wound up costing us in tonight's game."

With runners on second and third base, Westfield manager Don Irzyk, who's the former Athletic Director, and varsity baseball coach at Pathfinder Tech, elected to intentionally walk shortstop Matt Santos, which loaded the bases. The move worked out in Westfield's favor as Elmer retired the next batter on a pop-up which was caught by the second baseman ending the ballgame.

Monson, who had won their previous two season

Please see **LEGION**, page 13



Grayson Griswold slides into second.



Milla Lee starts up the field.



Gabby Williams goes after a loose ball.



Eva Blatz sends a free kick away.

Mutiny defeats Maine Footy

LUDLOW – Last Sunday afternoon, June 7, Maine Footy made their annual visit to Luistano Stadium. The New England Mutiny continued their success against the Footy, defeating Maine 4-0. The UWS win was followed by a win at the Worcester Wanderers 3-0. The Mutiny did suffer a USL-W loss against Hudson Valley 2-1 last Tuesday. The Mutiny will face Hudson Valley again on Saturday, June 20 at Luistano Stadium.



Sophia Scyocurka tries to overcome an opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Valentina Molinari looks to get around an opposing player.



SPORTS

Teddy Bears Pools scores rare win over defending champs

SOUTH HADLEY — Teddy Bear Pools and Spas wasted no time last Monday evening at South Hadley High School, sending eight men to the plate in the bottom of the first and not looking back en route to a 15-0 blanking of PeoplesBank. The margin was never in question.

The first inning established the tone with swift and relentless efficiency. Bailey Griggs drew a walk that scored a run, Xavion Maldonado doubled to bring home two more, a PeoplesBank error allowed another pair to score, Sean Rosemond drew a walk to push across yet another, and Alex Gochinski grounded out with enough to score one more. Six runs — before PeoplesBank could exhale.

The scoring resumed in the second when Travis Kagan singled to plate one, and the third inning became an exercise in patience and plate coverage. Ray Toth hit a sacrifice fly, Willie Landman singled to center, Griggs singled to right, Kagan grounded into a fielder's choice, Ty Evans doubled to center, Rosemond singled down the right-field line, and Ryan Magni singled down the left-field line — each driving in a run. Seven different play-

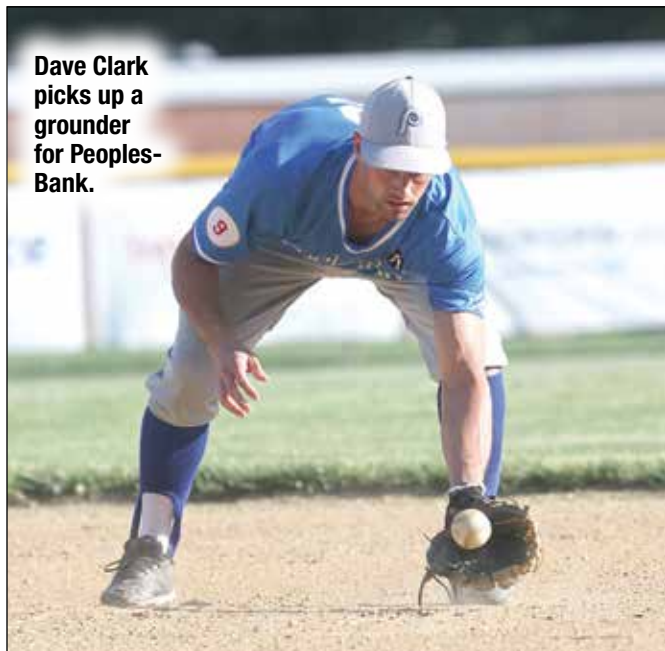
ers contributed to that inning. Kagan finished the night with four RBI on a single hit, the most efficient line on the card.

Nate Kelleher-Mochak was untouchable on the mound. The starter worked five innings without allowing a run, giving up just two hits, striking out four, and walking one. It was the kind of outing that makes a winning pitcher's night feel almost anticlimactic — he threw strikes, got outs, and watched his offense do the rest.

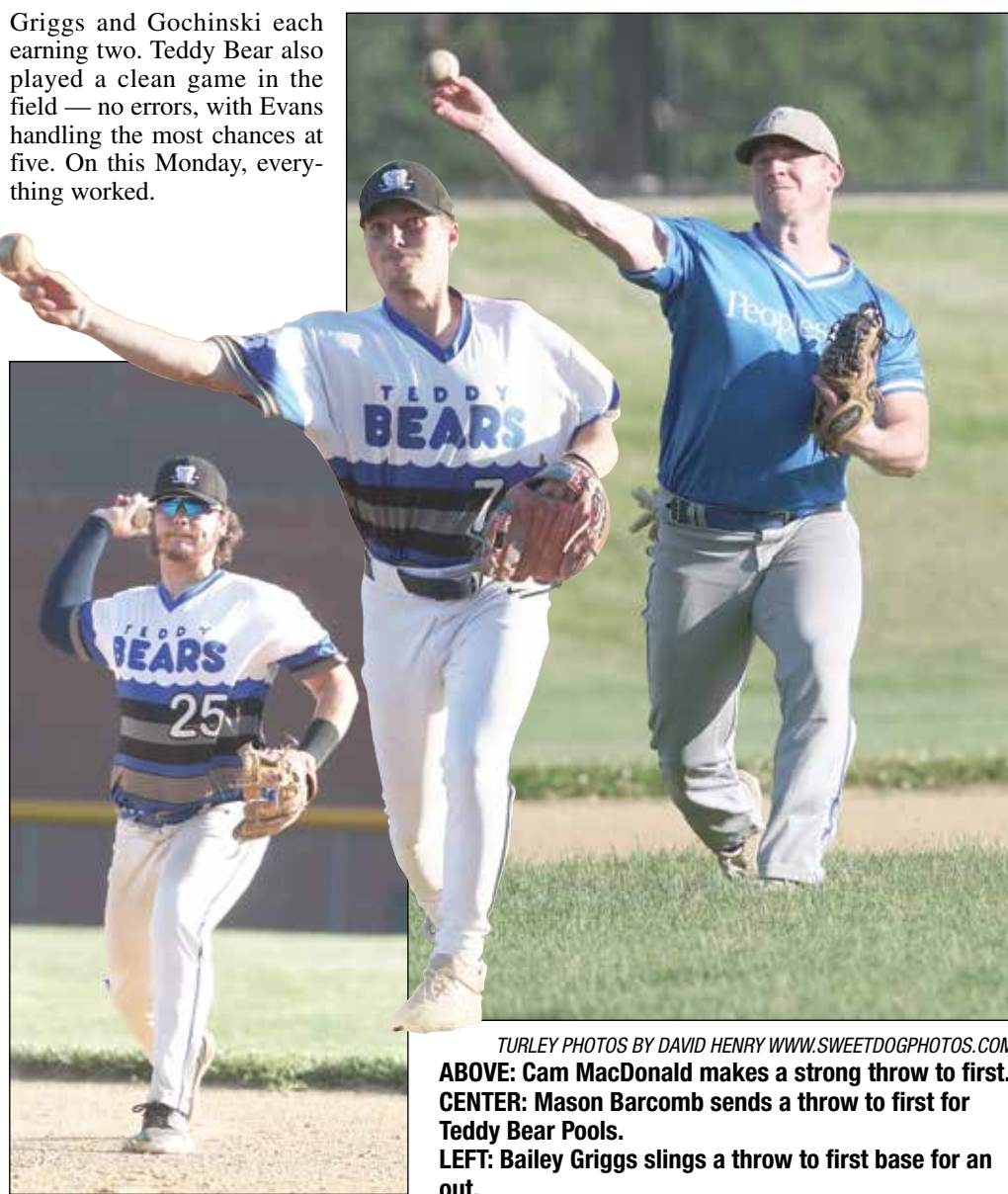
Jackson Lavalley absorbed the loss for PeoplesBank, lasting just one inning and allowing one run on one hit. The final score reflected a difficult evening for the visitors, who managed only two hits on the night — one apiece from Hogan G and Macdonald.

Teddy Bear collected 10 hits as a club, with Magni, Rosemond, and Maldonado each going 2-for-the-night. Equally notable was the team's discipline at the plate: eight walks drawn, with

Griggs and Gochinski each earning two. Teddy Bear also played a clean game in the field — no errors, with Evans handling the most chances at five. On this Monday, everything worked.



Dave Clark picks up a grounder for PeoplesBank.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
ABOVE: Cam MacDonald makes a strong throw to first.
CENTER: Mason Barcomb sends a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.
LEFT: Bailey Griggs slings a throw to first base for an out.

Blue Sox out to impressive start

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox (6-1-1) took down the Danbury Westerners (3-5) by a score of 4-2 June 13, driven heavily by strong pitching performances from RHP Jackson Hinchliffe (Richmond) and RHP Jake LeFrancois (UMass Lowell).

It was the second night in a row where the Blue Sox's starter pitched at least five complete innings and was relieved by one pitcher who finished the rest of the game.

The ability of Valley's starters to consistently work efficiently through the fifth inning as well as head coach John Raiola's willingness to keep his starters in the game seemingly have a correlation to the team's early success. Opponents in 2026 have not left a starting pitcher in more than 3.2 innings against the Blue Sox. Valley has done so in all but one game this season.

"It's all them and their ability to throw strikes and to get off the field," Raiola said. "We talk a lot about trying to get length in five or six innings, whatever it is. But the reality is, it's pitch count more than anything. And if we have quick, efficient innings, then they can keep going."

Hinchliffe did exactly that on Saturday night. His final line from June 13 was six innings pitched, four hits, zero earned runs, three strikeouts, and zero walks, all on 70 pitches. LeFrancois, who earned the nine out save, pitched three innings, allowing one hit, one earned run, striking out two and walking none.

"100 percent," Hinchliffe said when asked if his performance showcased the kind of pitcher he's built himself to be. "With the two-seam sinker thing, just

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 13

T-Birds agree to bring back head coach Ott

SPRINGFIELD — St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the team has signed Steve Ott to a two-year contract extension as head coach of the Blues' AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds.

Ott, 43, took over as Springfield's head coach on January 19, 2026. In the club's final 34 regular-season games, he led the team to an 18-14-2 record, clinching a berth as the sixth seed in the Atlantic Division for the 2026 Calder Cup Playoffs. Ott then guided the Thunderbirds to the Division Finals following a first-round series win over the third-seeded Charlotte Checkers and a historic victory over the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy-winning Providence Bruins (the regular-season champions) in the Division Semifinals. Springfield's win over Providence marked the single biggest upset in AHL history, as the two teams

were separated by 38 points in the regular season.

Ott originally joined the Blues' coaching staff on May 25, 2017, spending seven seasons as an assistant coach before being elevated to associate coach ahead of the 2024-25 season. During his tenure, the Summerside, Prince Edward Island, native helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 regular-season record and make five postseason appearances, including 2019, when he played an instrumental role in helping the organization capture its first Stanley Cup championship.

As a player, Ott put together a 14-year NHL career, including 122 regular-season games and 21 postseason games with the Blues after the team acquired him via trade from the Buffalo Sabres on February 28, 2014.

Overall, he appeared in 848 career regular-season games, totaling 288 points (109 goals, 179 assists) and 1,555 penalty minutes.



Amare Fernandez heads up the field.



Gabe Helbok dribbles up the field for Granby.



Austin Camody hustles up the field with possession.

BATTLE from page 11

Chen fired a shot into the back of the net.

Following a water break, Granby had the opportunity to tie the score, but Gabe Helbok's shot attempt was

saved by Belchertown goalie Logan Alves.

Helbok, who's wrapping up his sophomore year, is a co-captain of the Rams summer league team along with Logan Carmody. The duo were also members of the

varsity squad last fall.

Late in the first half, Helbok tied the score at 1-1 following a break-away goal.

The Rams then took the lead with five seconds remaining in the opening half, which is 35 minutes long.

A couple of minutes later, the Rams retook the lead again following Helbok's second goal of the match.

Belchertown managed to score the tying goal when Fazio delivered a pass to Braden Wakefield, who put a shot into the net.

Wakefield and Damon



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Chase Steining tries to trap a bouncing ball.



Leo Fisher smashes a free kick.

A Granby player was fouled inside the penalty area resulting in a penalty kick.

Samuel Crawford stepped up to the spot and booted a shot into the right corner giving his team a 2-1 halftime advantage.

About two minutes into the second half, the Orioles tied the score for the second time when Nico Fazio put a shot into the left corner of the net from the top of the

Ranzie are the co-captains of the Orioles B-Division squad.

Both teams had a couple of shots on goal during the final 15 minutes of regulation, but the score remained tied.



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SPORTS

Obie wins rain shortened \$5k Winchester 101 Modified

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Modified superstar Brian Robie added to his legacy at the great race place Saturday, topping the \$5,000-to-win Open Modified Winchester 101 at Monadnock Speedway.

The reigning and multi-time speedway 604 Modified champion set fast time in qualifying and then outran a stout 18-car field to earn the big payday at his home track, the site of scores of feature victories by the Sunapee speedster over the last decade.

In other events Saturday on the high banks, Hillary Renaud survived a wild one to notch her first Limited Late Model victory of the season, Eric Pomasko ended a long drought by topping the Mini Stocks, and Young Guns sensation Dylan Stati won for the sixth week in a row.

The start of Saturday's main event was postponed earlier for one hour, ten min-

ute rain delay but when the night's top show went green, nobody was more ready than Kimball, except maybe Robie, who started back in row four.

In qualifying Robie set fast time with a lap of 11.713 around the high banked quarter-mile. He, Meservey, and Joey Jarvis each eclipsed the 12-second mark. With Kimball second and Meservey third in the main event, current weekly 604 Modified top points man Tyler Leary was fourth, and NASCAR Whelen Modified series regular Kyle Bonsignore was fifth.

Kimball, from row two, took the lead from Bleau on lap one, with Robie quickly up to third on lap six and blasting into second a lap later. Kimball then held an eight-length advantage.

With reigning MRS champ Brett Meservey storming into Robie's shadow, Kimball rode all alone at the front, but his advan-

tage vanished when a Chris Pasteryak spun that brought out the caution flag and, with it, brought Robie to the leader's door on lap 29.

Robie was quick to cash in on the opportunity, taking charge on lap 30 and holding Kimball and Meservey at his bumper until heavy rain swept in mid-race, effectively ending the show. After a meeting of track management and the racing teams, the race was declared official.

Hillary Renaud was jostled backward early in the night's Twin States Truck Services Limited Late Model main event but when the chips were on the line, the Vernon, VT star was in the right place at the right time to score her first win of the summer.

Wesley Stedt powered into the early lead, with Renaud and previous winner Robert Hagar close behind. With Renaud shuffled back in the top groove, Hagar held the

point, just ahead of Stedt and Daniel Petrowicz, who, like Hagar, had trophied the night before at Claremont.

Petrowicz rubbed past Hagar on lap 28, but a caution flag put Hagar back at the top, Three laps later, with the checkered flag high in chief starter Chris Horton's hand, Petrowicz again tried to muscle his way to the front, this time sending the top three cars spinning wildly across the finish line.

Renaud, whose ride ended half way to pit road, walked away with her first victory of the summer. Hagar, who was somehow able to drive away from the carnage, was second, and Erik Smith third. Petrowicz, whose destroyed car had to be scraped from the frontstretch wall, was credited with fourth, and Michael Lashua was fifth.

Popular veteran Pat Houle led the first 15 laps of Saturday's Keene

Towing and Recovery Mini Stock 25-lapper, with Eric Pomasko challenging until inching ahead on lap 16 and the two crafty vets - each many moons from victory lane - went to work. When Houle's ride quickly dropped off pace, former track king Louie Maher was quickly into second.

Maher tried over and over to wrest the top spot from Pomasko but the Peterborough speedster refused to budge, holding strong to earn his first win in years. With Maher a strong second, potent Craig Chaffee impressed in third, Tim Paquette finished fourth and Houle came home fifth.

Pre-teen ace Dylan Stati won for the sixth week in a row Saturday, topping the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns 15-lapper with ease. Maeve Barry was second on the night.

BLUE SOX from page 12

getting weak contact early in counts allows you to get deep in games, save the bullpen and let the defense work."

As of the morning of June 14, Hinchliffe and RHP Dylan Reid (Brown) lead the NECBL in innings pitched, each with 11.0.

Hinchliffe's second start was a nice recovery after his first start of the season where he lasted five innings, but allowed five earned runs and five hits. For LeFrancois, it was his fourth appearance of the season and his second in three days.

With the Blue Sox still waiting on select arms to join the team for the summer, the bullpen has stepped up in a major fashion with relievers recording longer outings in order to preserve other pitcher's arms.

"When you play every single day you can't just go 1-1-1 and not have guys available," Raiola said. "You need some length at times and you have in this case, [LeFrancois] down for a couple days. We have the off day on Tuesday, and we'll get him back on Wednesday. And so, it sets us up nicely for Sunday and Monday."

LEGION from page 11

openers, finished the 2025 regular season with a 7-6 record and went 1-2 in the state playoffs. There are nine returning players this season.

"We do have a lot of returning players, but we're a young team," Tripp said. "We have a couple of eighth graders and a freshman on our roster. We'll be losing only four players due to their age."

McGrath, who's wrapping up his junior year, is the only member of the Quabog Regional baseball team listed on Monson's roster. Besides being a first baseman, McGrath was the ace of the Cougars pitching staff this past spring.

Kaczuwka, who graduated from Ware High School a couple of weeks ago, is the only member of the Indians baseball team playing for the Legion team this summer.

Both McGrath and Kaczuwka are returning Legion players.

Most of the Monson Legion players either attend Palmer High School or Pathfinder Tech.

One of the players from Palmer High is Theo Haley, who suffered a season ending injury at a preseason practice.

Monson's starting pitcher in the season opener versus Westfield (1-1) was righthander Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech a year ago. He was a member of the Monroe University baseball team this past spring.

Mega pitched the first five innings allowing three runs



Kyle Kaczuwka frames up a pitch.

(two earned) on five base hits. He walked four and recorded seven strikeouts.

"Mega had around a 1.28ERA for us last year," Tripp said. "He only allowed three runs, and I thought he pitched well in his first start of the season."

Two of Mega's walks came in the first inning, but he ended that frame with a pair of strikeouts.

The righthander, who made a throwing error in the first inning, wasn't as fortunate in the following inning.

Westfield took a 1-0 lead when leftfielder Jacob Maynard smacked an RBI single into right field. Second baseman Camden Witczak (2-for-4) knocked home two more runs with a flyball double to left field.

The visiting team managed

to put the leadoff hitter on base in seven of the eight innings. They left a total of 13 runners on base, including the bases loaded twice.

"We issued too many walks and made a couple of errors," Tripp said. "We were on the edge of being blown out in tonight's game. We did get out of a couple of jams, which is good to see."

Centerfielder Dylan



Brayden Mega sends a pitch home.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Liam McGrath is safe on a pickoff throw.

against righty starting pitcher Donovan Cummings with one out in the bottom of the fifth.

Boronski walked on a 3-and-2 pitch before scoring on a wild pitch.

Mega was hit-by-a-pitch and he also crossed the plate following a wild pitch. After the next hitter struck out, third baseman Sebastian Mayberry belted a double to left field, which scored the game tying run.

"The double by Mayberry got us back into the game," Tripp said. "It was a big hit."

At that point, Elmer replaced Cummings on the mound.

Cummings retired the first ten batters that he faced.

Mayberry, who's a righty, relieved Mega at the start of the sixth inning. He allowed



Mathew Santos goes high to make a catch.

two base runners in both the sixth and seventh innings. None of the runners scored, which sent the contest into extra innings.

An RBI single by centerfielder Jacob Barnes gave Westfield a 4-3 lead with one out in the eighth inning.

Monson couldn't tie or win the game in their final at-bats of the game



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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Holyoke Medical Center to host Nurses Rock

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center will host Nurses Rock '26, a free appreciation concert for all nurses, regardless of where they work, on Friday, June 19 in Springfield. This event is Holyoke Medical Center's salute to nurse heroes and is free for nurses.

Holyoke Medical Center's Nurses Rock event will include free food, drinks,

giveaways, a DJ, dance party, and live music featuring MiniKiss—the hottest little band in the world.

"Holyoke Medical Center is proud to honor all nurses, regardless of where they work, with this free appreciation event," says Sr. Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Holyoke Medical Center, Margaret-Ann

Azzaro DNP, RN, CENP. "This is our way of saying thank you to all nurses for everything they do. We encourage nurses to join us and have fun."

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Nurses interested in learning more and registering for the event are encouraged to visit HolyokeHealth.com/nursesrock.

call 413-323-0417 to register. Completed artwork from the first two classes will be put on display at the Library during the month of August. Children must be registered for the Summer Reading Program to participate.

Touch-a-Truck Summer Reading Kick Off Celebration

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-12 noon

Library Parking Lot
Hands on fun with the Belchertown community! Get up close to Belchertown Fire trucks, Police cars, Public Works vehicles, and more! Don't miss our Special Guest! Free books for children while supplies last. Register for our Summer Reading Program, "Plant A Seed, Read!" Cindy's Drive-In's new ice cream truck will be here with treats for families to purchase. No registration is required to participate in this event. This is a rain or shine event but not a severe storm event. This event is funded in part by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library. Free books are funded by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library and a grant by the CFCE grant (Coordinated Family and Community Engagement).

Magic: the Gathering
Saturdays: June 20, July 11, 18 & 25, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Magic the Gathering in the Activity Room. Bring your own deck or use one of our learning decks. Everyone is welcome, however players must be fluent readers. Players under the age of 10 must have a caregiver who is at least 14 years old on the Library premises. Join us for every session or just one - it's up to you! We will have two instructors to help get games started and assist with the rules of the game. No registration is required. Join the email list so if the group needs to be postponed, we can notify you, by sending an email to Jennifer at jwhitehead@cwmar.org. We will not be meeting on June 27 or July 4.

Clapp Memorial Library Hours:

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*The library will be closed on Friday, June 19th for the Juneteenth holiday.

LIBRARY from page 7

is limited. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Summer Dungeons & Dragons for Teens

Mondays: July 6, 13, 20, & 27, August 3 & 10, 1-2:20 p.m.

Calling all Belchertown Teens for Summer D&D! The Undying Sands are a shifting, treacherous place. You are starting forth from the Great City of Sand in pursuit of a treasure stolen, and greater wealth to be gained... Get together with fellow teens for this epic adventure! Space is limited, please email tmanino@cwmar.org with any questions and to register. Confirmations will be sent out to teens confirming enrollment or waitlist status.

FOR CHILDREN: Sweet Seeds of Summer Drawing Classes for Kids Ages 7-11

Thursday, June 25, Monday, July 13 & Tuesday, Aug. 4, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Learn to draw some summer fruits and their seeds! Each class includes drawing, telling stories, and the juicy goodness of summer fruits. Registration is required, and you can sign up for all 3 sessions or just one. Visit our website at clapplibrary.org or

PUBLIC NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0365EA
Estate of:
Karen Frances Devine
Also known as:
Karen F. Devine
Date of Death: 04/21/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kristie A. Landon of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Kristie A. Landon of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled

to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S.

Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 08, 2026

Mark S Ames, Register of Probate

06/18/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

OBITUARY

Anne Grim, 71

Anne "Betsy" Merritt Grim, 71, died peacefully on June 8, 2026 after a brief battle with an aggressive cancer. Surrounded by the family she loved so fiercely, she left this world in the same way she lived her life—with love, laughter, and those closest to her by her side.



Born to Cyrus and Barbara Merritt, Betsy grew up in a close-knit Irish family whose commitment to one another shaped the way she lived her life. She was often described simply as "the kind one." Family members knew they could count on her, whether they needed advice, reassurance, or simply someone to listen to them.

Betsy's greatest partnership was with her husband Kirk, with whom she built a life centered on family and unconditional love through 46 years of marriage. They began their life together in South Hadley, Massachusetts, before settling in Belchertown, where they lived for 35 years and built deep roots in the community. Belchertown became home in every sense of the word—where they raised their three children and grew lifelong friendships. Their home was the natural gathering place for neighborhood children, family, and friends.

As a mother and grandmother, she was a steady presence in the lives of those she loved. As her children established homes and families of their own, she remained their biggest supporter, offering encouragement, practical help, and the reassurance that she was only a phone call away. Known affectionately as "Gamma B," she delighted in being part of her grandchildren's everyday lives and special milestones alike.

Professionally, Betsy dedicated more than three decades to Community Options in Belchertown MA, where she served as Program Director. Helping individuals with devel-

opmental disabilities find meaningful employment and build independent lives was more than a career—it was her calling. She believed deeply in the dignity and potential of every person she served. The people whose lives she touched became much more than clients; they became part of an extended family.

Compassion guided every aspect of Betsy's life. Whether caring for aging parents, supporting family members through difficult times, welcoming new additions to the family with one of her handmade quilts, or simply showing up when someone needed help, she gave of herself freely and without expectation. Her love was expressed not through grand gestures but through a lifetime of presence, reliability, and care.

Betsy also treasured time spent with family and friends. She enjoyed summers on Cape Cod, traveling throughout Ireland and Europe, and gathering with the people she loved. Whether at home, traveling abroad, or sharing time with friends, she valued connection above all else.

Betsy will be remembered for her quiet strength, her warm hugs, and the way she made people feel seen and cared for. Though there are not enough words to fully capture the impact she had on the lives around her, her legacy lives on in the family she cherished, the community she served, and the countless people who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Betsy is survived by her husband, Kirk Grim of Fredericksburg, VA, her children Colleen Barlow of Fredericksburg, VA, Christopher Grim of Washington, D.C. and Bridget Grim of Springfield, MA, son-in-law Scott Barlow, daughter-in-law Lee Ann Grim, her grandchildren Connor, Ryan and Rowan Barlow and Cassidy Grim, her siblings Mark Merritt of Isle-of-Palms, SC, Pamela

DEATH NOTICE

Grim, Anne
Died June 8, 2026
Services July 8, 2026 at 11 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi Church, Belchertown

The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Brisson of Naples, FL, Susan Trompke of Granby, MA, Patricia Pancione of Whately, MA, and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was pre-deceased by her parents and brother Timothy Merritt.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 8, at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Belchertown, Massachusetts. Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life at 1:30 p.m. at The Boathouse in South Hadley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Community Options of Belchertown MA (CommunityOptionsMA.org).

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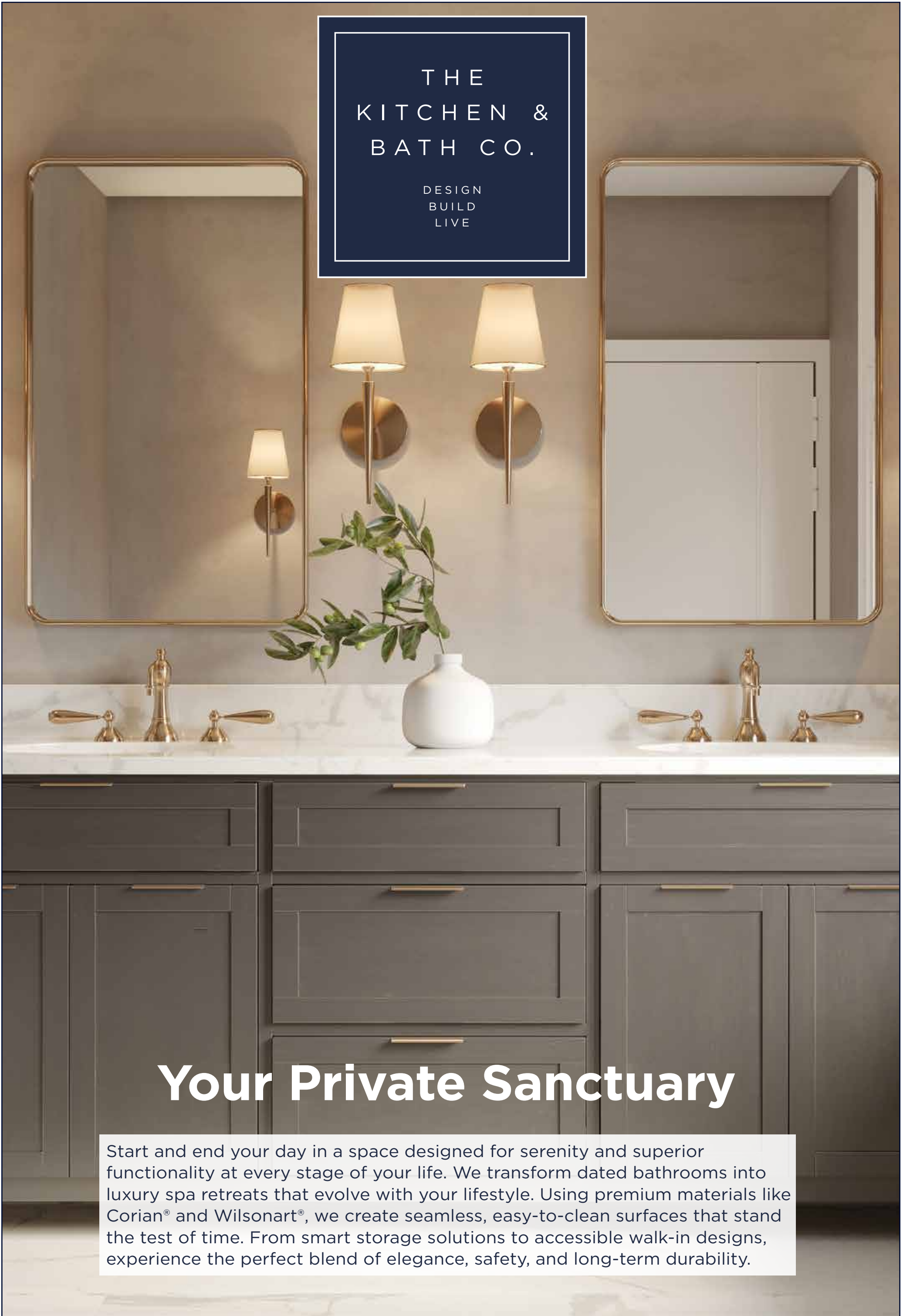
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