

# From trash to treasure



Sarah Maronie's fabulous skirt made out of pages from the Sentinel itself.

## Belchertown hosts its first-ever trash gala

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
 Staff Writer  
 epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – Getting dressed up doesn't usually involve trash, but for this event, the Belchertown Creative Economy and members of other town departments, made trash the required outfit.

The Trash Gala, the first of its kind, was a big party to celebrate the completion of the Transfer Station's murals, a project months in the making, now complete with three works of art.

"The murals themselves inspired the Trash Gala," said Maude Haak-Frendscho. "Linda Leduc's idea of painting murals on the Transfer Station containers was brilliant, and the juxtaposition of investing into making the Transfer Station a beautiful, inspiring, and educational experience inspired the high/low idea of the Trash Gala, and to continue into the community engagement that makes

the project so special."

At the event, the DPW and Conservation Commission hosted tables at the Gala, and Cydi Harberson, director of the Clapp Memorial Library, organized a display of the paper dolls designed by kids back in January that inspired the mural artist Caoin O'Durgy created.

Jennifer Whitehead, the Youth Librarian, also worked to create and organize a pollinator planting project in fruit cups for kids to decorate.

Jen Turner, Vice Chair of the Selectboard and a fellow artist, also hosted a collage table with old magazines to make into new art, and the Creative Economy and BCC members organizing the traveling quilt with Radically Rural had the quilt on display.

"We haven't done other murals before, and none at the Transfer Station, but we are so happy to collaborate with the DPW and Clapp Memorial Library and hope we have more opportunities ahead to incorporate public artwork into community infrastructure. It really offers a strong sense of place

Please see **TRASH**, page 14

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

Laura Hicks dressed up as the winner of Miss Senior Massachusetts America.

## Resident wins Miss Senior Massachusetts

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
 Staff Writer  
 epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – Finding your thing can be as simple as discovering you like art, music, or science, but for others, its loved ones that show you how much you shine.

and being on stage," said Hicks. "Having them recognize that showed me that they knew I had the poise and the talent to be a contender."

Hicks has always enjoyed singing, even while as a young child, and today uses that love to help others and sings at mens and womens

prisons, to seniors, and at long-term care, rehabs, and memory care centers.

"The power of music to touch peoples' lives is truly magical. And even if I didn't perform, I truly love singing."

– Laura Hicks

For Laura Hicks, who has always loved performing and singing, it was her four daughters who inspired her ultimately to participate and compete for Miss Senior America.

The Miss Senior American Pageant is designed and meant to honor women in the "Age of Elegance," sharing and representing the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of senior American women over sixty.

Hicks' daughters first learned about the pageant after seeing a float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and immediately called their mom, telling her she'd be the perfect candidate.

"I sing for seniors and I perform, and they knew I already liked performing

prisons, to seniors, and at long-term care, rehabs, and memory care centers.

"The power of music to touch peoples' lives is truly magical," said Hicks. "And even if I didn't perform, I truly love singing."

The competition involved being interviewed by a panel of judges, and you can perform a talent, any talent at all, for the competition as part of the pageant.

"You don't know what talents you'll see," said Hicks. "A lot of senior women don't see their talents right away, but its about what you are good at."

Hicks' talent was a montage of six different Broadway songs she performed as a mashup, including "No Business Like Show Business," "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," "Spoonful of Sugar,"

Please see **HICKS**, page 3

## Recount shows override stays

**2146 IN FAVOR**  
**2125 OPPOSED**

By Melina Bourdeau  
 Correspondent

**BELCHERTOWN** – Following a narrow win of just 21 votes, the May 19 Proposition 2 ½ override ballot results were recounted on Wednesday, June 11, affirming the original results.

The question allowed the town to assess an additional \$2,894,400 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding municipal and school operating budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

According to the official results of the May 19 election, 2,146 were in favor of the question and 2,125 were opposed.

To have a recount, four petitions, one for each precinct, must have at least 10 certified signatures turned into the Town Clerk's office. Town Clerk Terry Camerlin received 15 for Precinct A, 14 for Precinct B, 13 for Precinct C, and 14 for Precinct D.

From there the Board of Registrars convened and selected June 11.

Camerlin explained the process of a recount. Rather than having a tabulator count the ballots, they were hand.

## Author works to bring mental healing to veterans

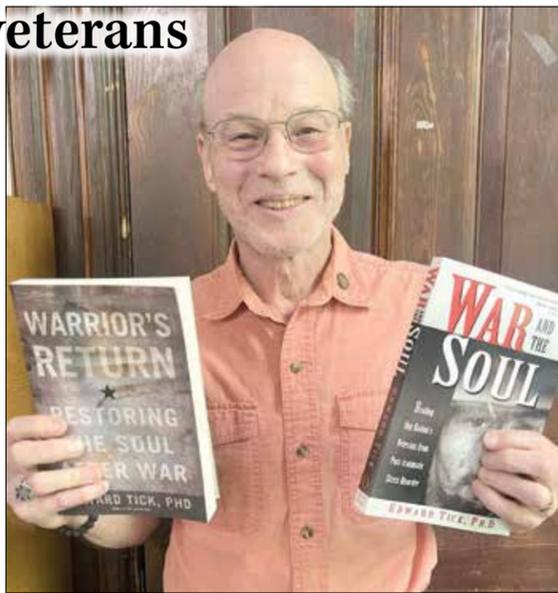
By Emily-Rose Pappas  
 Staff Writer  
 epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – Veterans are essential members of our society, and remembering their sacrifice and take care of them when they return.

Author Ed Tick has made it his life's goal for the past 45 years to work with veterans, and has worked with them since the Vietnam War.

Tick turned 18 during the height of the Vietnam War, but was a conscientious objector, having no desire to participate in the war, but was willing to be a drafted medic if he needed.

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 5



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Author Ed Tick holding two of his books on healing the mind of a warrior.

## Derby race hosted to honor Aaron Twining

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
 Staff Writer  
 epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – Remembering and honoring our loved ones is an essential part of how we grieve, and above all, share the impact they had on us with the world.

For Heather Twining, she remembers her son, Aaron, with an annual Pinewood Derby race in his honor on the common and in the Old Town Hall.

"Aaron was fifteen years old and just started at Pathfinder and was enjoying it," said Twining. "He was

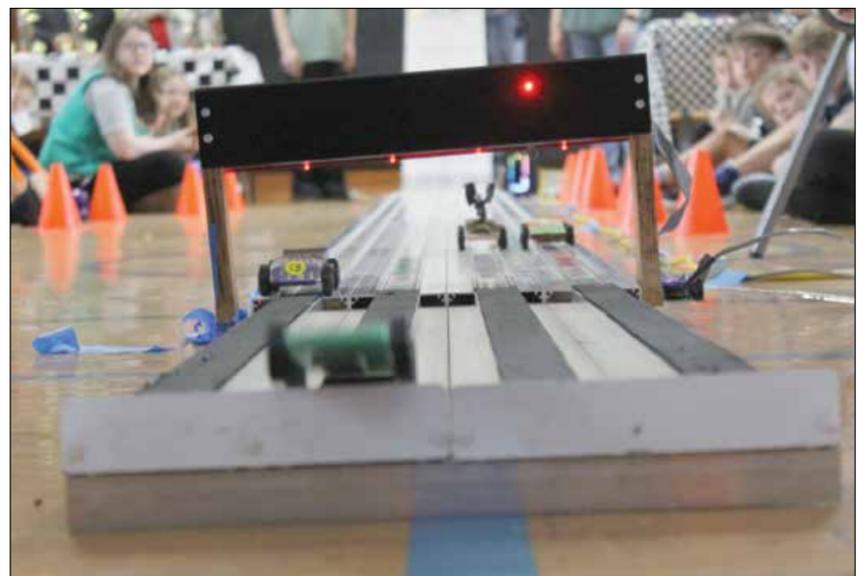
always funny with the people he knew."

Whether it was pranking his family by making every Alexa in the house play the song "Africa" by Toto, or making someone feel welcome, Aaron was well-loved by the community and everyone who met him.

"He had a huge sense of humor and was very caring and silly," said Twining. "IT's the little things that show they didn't forget about him and what he was like."

He spent a lot of time as a Cub Scout, and Heather served as Cub Master for a

Please see **RACE**, page 7



TURLEY PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MCCOY

The winning race car, made by Gavin Rosa, flying off the tracks as the rest of the cars try and catch up.

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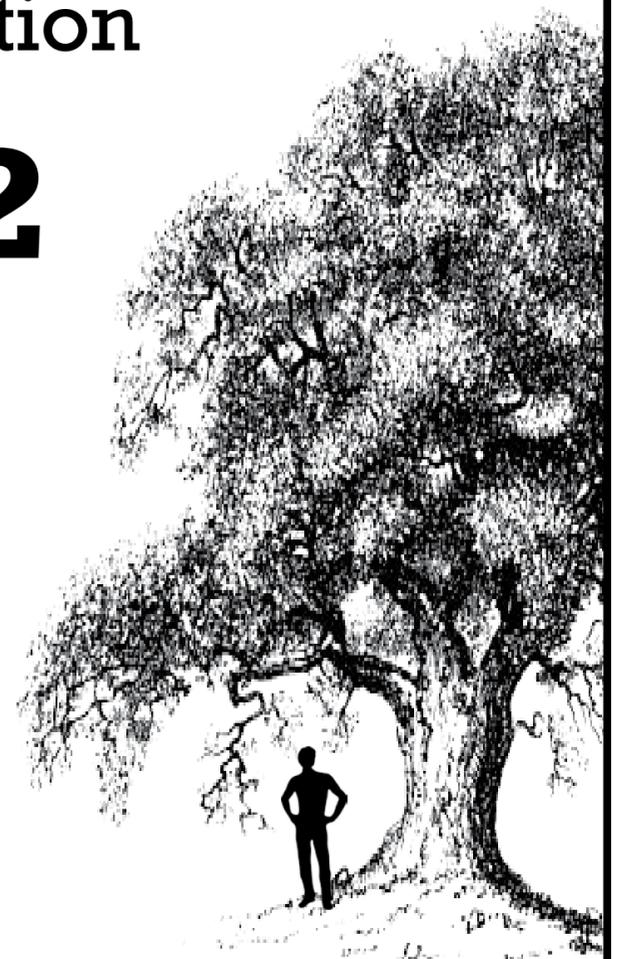
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# DL&G TREE



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COMMUNITY

# Selectboard reorganizes liaison duties

BELCHERTOWN - The Selectboard focused on reorganizing board responsibilities and addressing key town policies at its recent meeting on Monday.

The board began by approving meeting minutes and immediately launched into the annual process of assigning liaison duties to various town committees. Board members engaged in a detailed discussion about potentially consolidating committee responsibilities.

Selectboard member Jon Ritter suggested combining some committees, such as placing BC TV under communications and lakes committees under community services.

Town Administrator Steve Williams cautioned against hasty changes, emphasizing the need to consult with volunteer committee members.

"We don't want to have volunteers being slighted in any way," Williams said. "We certainly would like to have their input."

After a comprehensive

review, board members assigned liaison roles to various town committees. Some positions remained open for further discussion, with board members expressing interest in multiple roles.

The liaison assignments are as follows:

**Jonathan Ritter:**  
Agricultural Commission  
BCTV  
Hazard Mitigation Committee  
Lakes Committee  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board

**Nicole Miner:**  
Branding Committee  
Buildings and Grounds Committee  
(pending policy change)  
Council on Aging  
Historical Commission  
Scholarship Committee  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**Jen Turner:**  
Belchertown School Committee (primary, with Miner as alternate)  
Cultural Council

*DEI Task Force*

**Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz**  
Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group  
Creative Economy Committee  
Energy and Sustainability Committee  
Fair Committee (alternate)  
McPherson Garden Committee

**Lesa Lessard Pearson (Chair):**  
Animal Control Advisory Board  
EDIC  
Capital Improvement Planning  
Law Account  
Cultural Preservation Committee  
Family Center Committee  
Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together  
Clapp Memorial Library  
Veteran Services Advisory Board

Some committees like the Finance Committee were still under discussion, and

the board noted they might need to review and potentially consolidate committee structures in the future.

Town Administrator Steve Williams also provided updates on several ongoing town projects. He announced that bids had been opened for the Sports Haven project and that the town hopes to begin construction this season.

Williams also discussed the Franklin School property, revealing that three distinct proposals had been received with prices ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000. He suggested the board review the proposals and prepare for a potential executive session discussion.

The meeting concluded with the board moving into an executive session to discuss strategy sessions and potential negotiations with non-union personnel.

The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for July 7.

# Community band in search of musicians

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Community Band is just about to start rehearsals for their Summer Concert Series, and they are looking for new members. This is truly a unique opportunity for musicians of any ability level. The band is all-inclusive!

Rehearsals are at Belchertown High School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. starting June 24. Then there are four concerts on the

Belchertown Common each Thursday night starting July 24. The Tuesday night rehearsals continue through the concert weeks. There is no fee to play in this band.

So, if you want to brush off your instrument in the closet, keep your playing skills in shape or are a beginner who is looking for more experience, this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please come at least the first or second night to see if you like it. We are sure you will!

# Announcing new kid's event at the Ware Grange

WARE - The next Kids' Corner at Ware Grange will be called "Rainforests" and will take place on Saturday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. Kids' Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher Jen McNally and teach children about nature and

the environment through stories, songs and fun activities. Ever wonder what it's like in a rainforest habitat? There are so many species of plants and animals to learn about in the rainforests. Come learn about these amazing forests! Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.



TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

Laura Hicks and her husband after her performance.

**HICKS** from page 1

"Cabaret," "I Dreamed a Dream," and "The Impossible Dream."

"The reason I did six instead of one is because most of the contestants are singers, and I wanted to be different, to perform something to set myself apart," said Hicks.

But just winning the pageant isn't all there is; it's also being a part of the community, bringing smiles to people's faces, and being present at local events and for charities.

From showing up at events to standing on floats during the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and going to hospitals, the job of the Miss Senior pageant is to bring smiles to the community.

"For one thing, I really

enjoy performing, and being able to offer music makes me happy," said Hicks. "Music touches hearts; it transports people to places they remember. It's truly magical."

Hicks will be going to Nationals in October at a casino in Atlantic City, where winners from participating states will compete with their talents.

"It's a wonderful organization of women who help and encourage you," said Hicks. "You do have a talent, and we can think we don't have one, but you do. You just have to cultivate it."

As Nationals approaches, Laura Hicks is getting ready, and has loved every minute of it, getting the opportunity to work alongside other women and share her love of performance and music with the world.

# Lions Club welcomes new member

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Lions Club welcomed its newest member at a recent induction ceremony held at the Villa Rose Restaurant in Ludlow. Sponsor Victor Robidoux pinned Chris Desorcy of Belchertown after his formal installation by Past District Governor Bill White.

Chris, a local business owner, has been a very strong supporter of our Lions Club in its fundraising efforts--especially the "Cruisin' the Common" Memorial Car Show, which will return to the Town Common again this year on August 9th.

If you are interested in becoming a Lion--the world's largest service organization--please visit our website at <belchertownlionsclub.com/contact.htm> to fill out a brief application form.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sponsor Victor Robidoux (left) pins Chris Desorcy of Belchertown after his formal installation by Past District Governor Bill White (right).



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**Katie Yvon,**  
is a **2025 graduate** from **Holyoke Community College** as a **Registered Nurse (RN).**

She is a former graduate of Belchertown High School. Katie loves the medical field and helping people. She has helped many couples try to start a family by being an egg donor eleven times.

She is the daughter of proud parents **Dale & Donna Yvon of Ludlow.**

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# Dwight Day returns for annual event

BELCHERTOWN – Come discover the magic, people and history of the extraordinary village of Dwight, Massachusetts, including a portrayal of poet Emily Dickinson and music with Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry.

Dwight Day will feature nature talks with the Kestrel Land Trust and MassWildlife, children's activities, food, trivia, live music, antique autos, a cemetery tour, and history of the once well-known, nineteenth-century railroad destination and farming community in North Belchertown.

Local musicians Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry perform at 4 p.m.

The Day will feature a series of talks focused on a broad range of land conservation and wildlife topics, from pollinators to bears to birds of prey.

The community gathering also will host a portrayal of Poet Emily Dickinson in conversation with Dwight's once-famous 19th century editor, J.G. Holland.

"We are putting this fascinating and unique village on the map again," said Tom Stockton, president of the Belchertown Historical Association. "This ten-square-mile area has rich historical significance for the entire region, and possesses a great variety of natural features, from scenic waterfalls and swimming ponds to former old-growth forests and prime agricultural land. We are looking forward to the community spirit that will emerge from this special event for all of Belchertown and eastern Hampshire County."

Noontime music will be provided by the Dwight-based ensemble Flies in the Kitchen. Children's activities will include performances by Magician Fran Ferry.

Food by Antonio's Pizza and burgers by Austin Brothers Valley Farm.

Among invited guests are Heidi Dollard, Pollinator Network Steering Committee CoChair; Lee Halasz, Conservation Manager,

**When:**  
Saturday, June 21,  
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Where:**  
Dwight Chapel,  
885 Federal Street,  
Belchertown

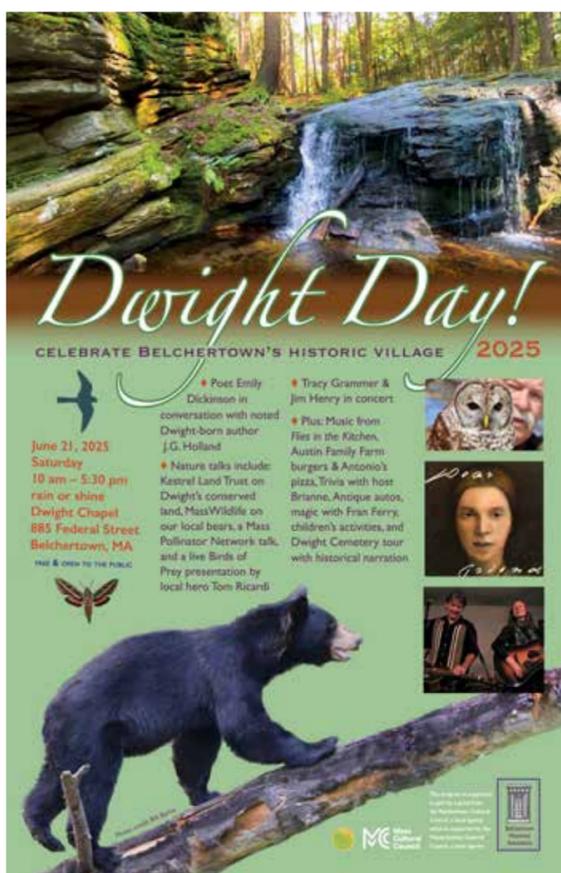
Kestrel Land Trust; Meghan Crawford, Community Engagement Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife; and Tom Ricardi, Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center; and Brianne Zulkiewicz, Trivia Host and Public Historian. Other presenters include Michael Carolan, History Writer and Correspondent for The Springfield Republican; Amy Lanham, Historical Interpreter; and Elizabeth Pols, Artist and Local Historian. The event is free and open to the public.

**Talks at Dwight Day include:**

Emily Dickinson and Josiah Gilbert Holland in Conversation: Emily wrote more than 90 letters to J.G. and his wife Elizabeth. J.G. Holland was born in Dwight and sold more books in his lifetime than Mark Twain did in his. The conversation will provide insights into the lifelong relationship between Emily, who never married, Elizabeth, a woman raising a family, and her husband J. G., the author and editor whose newspaper printed the only poems Emily published in her lifetime.

**Pollinators, Conservation Areas and the Natural World:**

Dwight is home to more than half of Belchertown's conserved land, with hundreds of acres of land including its crown jewel, Holland Glen. Over the decades, Kestrel Land Trust has facilitated the acquisition and stewardship of most of these properties. Their presentation will speak not just to the delights that these areas provide for hiking and recreation, but to the importance



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Come and explore the history of Belchertown.**

of Dwight's forest land in securing and maintaining the critical wildlife corridor from the Holyoke Range to the Quabbin Reservoir. Heidi Dollard from the Massachusetts Pollinator Network will present on pollinators and invasive species; Meghan Crawford from MassWildlife will talk about our local bears; and local hero Tom Ricardi will delight us with his rehabbed birds of prey.

**Come to hear about:**

Pansy Park's renowned horticulturalist whose seeds were sent across the globe. The meeting between Poet Emily Dickinson's sister-in-law Susan and the two boys fishing along a local brook, which helped reinvigorate the hamlet. The actual organ that Susan Dickinson helped purchase.

- 10 a.m.: Welcome
- 10:15 a.m.: Powerhouse Pollinator Plants for Belchertown Gardens (Chapel) Heidi Dollard, with historical introduction by Elizabeth Pols.
- 11:15 a.m.: Emily Dickinson & J. G. Holland in Conversation (Chapel) Amy Lanham & Michael Carolan.
- 12 p.m.: Lunch with Flies in the Kitchen ensemble (Outside).
- 1 p.m.: Historic Lands & Nature with Elizabeth Pols (Chapel) Kestrel Land Trust Conservation with Lee Halasz; Bears & Wildlife with Meghan Crawford; Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi.
- 1:45 p.m.: Emily Dickinson & J. G. Holland in Conversation (Outside).

Please see **DWIGHT DAY**, page 5

## BEFORE THE WAR

By Penny Rock

I wonder what the matter with him.  
He's not the way he was before.  
He's not the way he used to be.  
The way he was before the war.

He had no way of knowing  
What horrors were in store  
Then communications ceased  
When he went off to war.

He left only while in his teens  
Now he's so much older.  
The warmth of his youth is gone.  
His spirit's so much colder.

His eyes look deeply haunted.  
He has no joy anymore.  
He doesn't laugh and rarely smiles.  
He stares down at the floor.

He speaks in cryptic fode.  
He talks of blood and gore.  
Then lapses into silence.  
Since he came back from war.

I wonder what he saw there.  
That fills his eyes with fright.  
All those unknown terrors.  
Keep him awake at night.

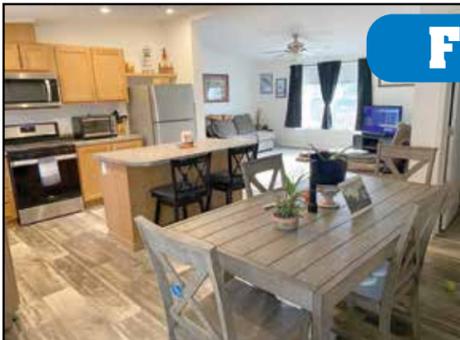
Certain sounds will start him  
And send him out the door.  
Will he ever have peace again,  
As he did before the war?

He turns away from mirrors.  
Who he sees must frighten him.  
There's no respite in his mind  
Because all his thoughts are grim.

He doesn't even look the same,  
So pale and so thin.  
It's like another person  
Come back inside his skin.

He used to be so much fun,  
So easy to adore.  
It's like he disappeared  
When he returned from war.

I wonder what became of him.  
I never see him anymore.  
He's not the person he once was.  
I mean, before the war.



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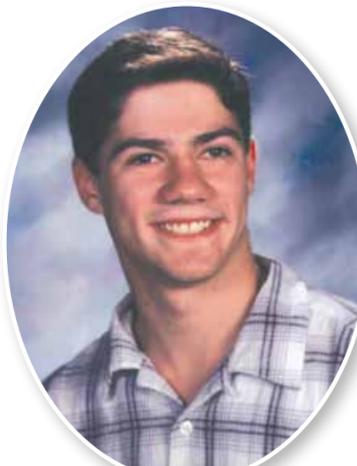
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In Memory Of

## Jeffrey Michael Lucey



Who died from  
"hidden wounds"  
of war on  
June 22, 2004

You remain alive in our hearts and dreams of what the future might have held for you. We hold on tightly to our memories of your laughter and smile, not wanting you to fade away even for a moment. You are our lesson on how war so deeply affects the heart and soul of an individual. Conflicts still rage around the globe and in our own country. Your pain lives in those who travel that same path. Fly high among the stars, Jeffrey!

♥ Miss you - Love, Mom, Dad and family  
"Forever 23"

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COMMUNITY

# Aaron's Race 01007 is proudly supported by Belchertown Lions Club

BELCHERTOWN – Heather Twining, organizer of Aaron's Race 01007, receives a check from Belchertown Lions Club's incoming president Josh Dufresne at the June 14th event held on the Town Common and Old Town Hall.

Heather has been coordinating this annual event for four years, which raises funds for the education, awareness, and prevention of teen suicide in honor and fond memory of her son, Aaron.

Thanks to the ever-present support of the townspeople in attendance, the Belchertown Lions Club was honored to make this donation to such a significant cause through its food sales on Saturday.

Congratulations, Heather, for yet another very successful year of your ongoing efforts in bringing awareness of this issue to our community.



Heather Twining, organizer of Aaron's Race 01007, receives a check from Belchertown Lions Club's incoming president Josh Dufresne.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**AUTHOR** from page 1

"I was protesting the war, I was never against the troops, I was against the war," said Tick. "I wanted to give an alternative service, but not in a war, and not killing people. I felt a moral injury from not serving, because I wanted to give service to the country."

Tick got his Master's degree in psychology, then moved to the Chatham area where he worked as a therapist, and came into the practice of working closely with Vietnam veterans in 1976 and 1977, just before the diagnosis of PTSD was discovered in 1980.

Even though there was little research on how to help, Tick had found his way to help and serve: to serve and care the the soldiers who came home.

"They tried to serve the nation, and they deserved help," said Tick.

Tick began working with the veterans who came home, using humanistic, spiritual, and psycho-spiritual practices to inform how he worked with them, finding a way to

be a medic for their minds.

"The number of veterans I was able to serve thanked me for not going because I was able to be a help to them when they got home," said Tick. "I wasn't a medic in the war, but veterans are coming to me after the war, and now I can be a medic for the invisible wounds."

Through his work with veterans, Tick also took trips to Vietnam to talk to veterans on both sides, some fighting in the same battles, and organized a way for them to talk to one another and find healing through their conversations.

"I feel in solidarity with people around the world that don't want war, so we have to join together in a global effort to heal from those horrors," said Tick. "I feel honored that I am working in my little way to help people expose and heal from war trauma, and that we can all be in this together."

At the age of 15, Tick made a vow that he would write, and he kept that vow, releasing the book "Warrior's Return: Restoring the Soul

After War", which he published ten years ago and in English, and six months ago it was published in Russian, and two weeks ago in Ukrainian.

"For this focus, I've been working with Ukraine since the beginning of the war, and they reached out to me and found my book," said Tick.

He began to work with combat stress and sometimes on the front lines, meeting with people over the phone to talk about reducing or avoiding combat trauma in the middle of it.

"This is the first time anyone's said to help us while we are in the war, and how we can get help while we are here," said Tick.

Tick has found healing in working alongside Russia and Ukraine, as his paternal grandmother was a Russian Jew, and his grandfather a Polish Jew. The village they were from was a part of the Russian Empire, and is now a part of Ukraine. His family ties made the two countries welcome him.

"Since I've been doing this work, I see her smiling at

me and thanking me, saying thank you for reconciling and bringing together a broken people," said Tick.

Tam Tien, a Viet Cong veteran, shared this message to American veterans: "From now on and forever more, American and Vietnam veterans need to be the lips and the tongues of the same mouth telling the world the same story."

"That's my philosophy—that former enemies need to get together and share stories and realize everyone is suffering together, to then heal together," said Tick. "I'm really proud to say that I am working with both sides, and as a healer and a doctor, my obligation is to help heal everyone that comes into my practice."

Through Tick's hard work and dedication to being a medic for the minds of veterans, he is working towards the wars of today, moving to open up a new world of healing, and making a way for veterans to not just find security, but true healing.

**DWIGHT DAY** from page 4

- 3 p.m.: Trivia with Brianne Zulkiewicz (Outside) 3:00 Dwight Cemetery Tour with Elizabeth Pols & Michael Carolan.
- 4 p.m.: Music with Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry

(Chapel). Dwight Day is sponsored by the Belchertown Historical Association, with generous donation of the space by the Christ Community Church.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural

Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/dwightdayma/> For more about Dwight, see: Wikipedia: Dwight, Massachusetts.

The Belchertown

Historical Association, founded in 1903, preserves artifacts, maintains the Stone House Museum and fosters the rich history of Belchertown by offering tours, educational programs and events.

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## OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*

By Russell Gloor

## Can my husband work part time, and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

Signed: Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and with-

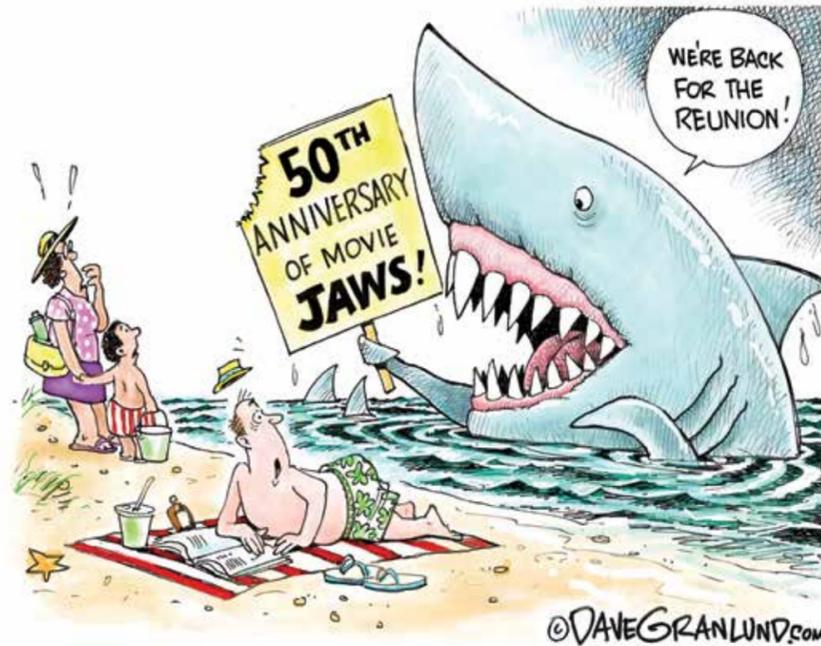
hold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## What not to do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

## Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

## Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

## Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

## Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fall-

en victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular

get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

## Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

## Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

en victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular

situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag. If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

## Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skimp in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

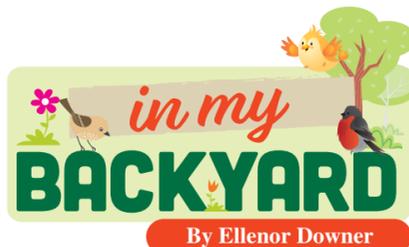
Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

## Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

## Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will



Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are

small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin.

These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird

baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

## Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13

Turley  
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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](mailto: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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The Sentinel is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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## NEWS &amp; 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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com)

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**RACE** from page 1

time, but he never wanted to finish it and preferred to go camping and on trips with his friends, and of course, the pinewood derbies where he made his banana car.

“So many people were impacted by him, and remember a lot of good things about him, sharing memories they had with him every time they see me,” said Twining.

Aaron took his life suddenly on Columbus Day at fifteen years old, and his loss shattered the hearts of all around him.

“When we say there were no signs, there were no signs! It was a shock to everyone who knew and loved him,” said Twining. “Aaron’s passing wasn’t good, but good has come from the children I have been able to help has been good.”

Through her work and time running Aaron’s Race and other work with mental health, Heather has been able to reach people in many ways, providing support and help to people struggling, and even helping to stop attempts.

“There have been a lot of people that I have helped because of this,” said Twining. “Since Aaron, I have been able to help a lot of different people.”

Aaron’s Race isn’t just a place where you can get the fastest time for your car, eat some cotton candy, or bounce in the bounce house; it’s a time to have some honest conversation, and let peo-

ple know they are not alone.

“I love the race because it brings back memories about when we made Aaron’s derby car, and it was one of the things he really liked doing,” said Twining. “I also really love seeing the family and friends who come out for this event, as well as seeing the people who come together for a good cause.”

Because the closest teen suicide prevention agency is in New Jersey, Twining works hard to make sure the local suicide prevention agencies are well-equipped to help, and also spread awareness of the importance of these resources being everywhere.

Fifty-six people participated in the derby, and helped to raise money for Twining to donate towards scholarships with the Lions Club for Pathfinder students in honor of Aaron, as well as support the local suicide agencies, as well as the teen agency in New Jersey.

“The amount of help that I received from friends and family, the people showing up in the rain, and all the kids participating and being patient- just to have people come. People have been coming year after year, and it really fills my heart,” said Twining.

The true meaning of Aaron’s Race is to be a reminder that you matter, and that you are important to so many people, and that it is worth staying.

“Stay because you matter- don’t make those quick decisions. This is a small snippet in your life, and stay because you matter,” said Twining.



The participants who showed up at Aaron's Race in the Old Town Hall building, buying raffle tickets and joining in on the community fun.

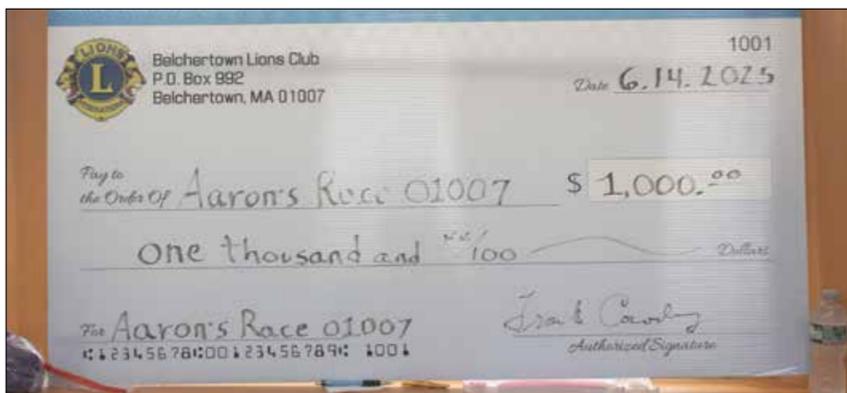


Heather Twining, organizer of Aaron's Race started off the first race by thanking everyone for being there and telling them to enjoy the day.



Face Painter Amy Frye and Balloon Animalist Julia Maloof, both from DazzleDay Face Painters.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL MCCOY



The Belchertown Lions Club donates \$1,000 annually to the Aaron's Race fund for future events and suicide prevention.



The first round of cars that kids decorated and painted for their participation in the race.



A variety of games for kids in the Belchertown Common, as well as the Belchertown Fire Department participating in a Touch-a-Truck event for the kids, as well as a bouncy house.



A variety of raffle prizes brought to you by the Belchertown Lions Club.



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## Belchertown Majors 12U Baseball Champions



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Head Coach Patrick Prizio, Jake Bodzinski, Jaymes Besaw, Brody O'Connell, Mac Floyd, Nick Roda, Aarush Patel, Liam O'Connell, Jacek Lavoie, Jacob Johnson, Coaches Ryan Lavoie and Don Besaw. Kneeling (L-R) Travis Desorcy, Quinn Prizio, Paul Keyes. Re/Max retained their championship status in the 12U baseball playoffs held at Hulmes-Warner Mini Fenway Park in Belchertown.

## Relay for Life craft fair, raffle is still on

The rain can't stop the fundraising for those in need

BELCHERTOWN – The rescheduled date for the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) Craft Fair and Gift Basket Raffle has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 28, on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The craft fair will have 100 crafters and vendors present. There

will also be a Food Truck, Face Painting, and Balloon sculpting. Come and see the many great local crafters. Still a few spots available if you are interested, please email Vicki at sv\_jewelry@charter.net

Our Relay Gift Basket Raffle was also cancelled because of rain and thunderstorms and will be held during the Craft Fair at the old Town Hall on Park Street (right across the street from the common) from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There are well over 100

great baskets and gift cards. They will start the drawing at 2:30 and will be calling the lucky winners so they can pick up their baskets. If you have any items you wish to donate for our basket raffle, please email ctellie@juno.com to make arrangements for pick-up. These are the Relay's two biggest fundraisers, and we are counting on our local people to come and support these events. We will have great weather and hope for lots of support.

## Lions Club Meatball Subs return

The Belchertown Lions Club will be holding its June Meatball Sub Sale on



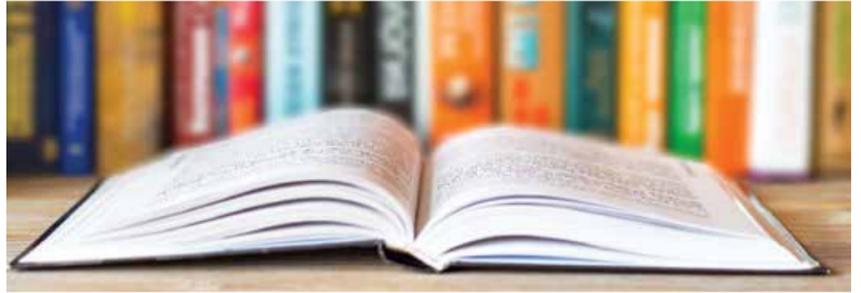
Saturday, June 21st at the Belchertown United Church of Christ on Park St. Our food wagon will be set up right along the sidewalk--allowing customers to drive up, place an order, and have a freshly prepared meatball grinder/mozzarella cheese and sauce, a bag of chips, and a beverage in their hands

within a couple of minutes for only \$10. Serving begins at 11:00 A.M. and continues until sell-out (which is usually about 2-1/2 hours.)

Beat the heat... and let us do the lunchtime cooking for you!

All proceeds from these grinder sales, as always, will go to local charities.

# Clapp Memorial LIBRARY



## Get ready for summer reading at the library

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library will be hopping this summer with lots of fun and educational programs for everyone. See you at the library!

**For All Ages: "Level Up at Your Library" Summer Reading Programs Start Saturday, July 21- register now!**

Clapp Memorial Library has an amazing calendar of events throughout the summer for Adults, Teens and Kids. This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library" and there's a Summer Reading Program group for every age! Summer Reading Programs include reading challenges, raffles and prizes, special events, parties, and more! Register now online at [clapplibrary.beanstack.com](http://clapplibrary.beanstack.com) or via the Beanstack app.

For more information, visit our website: [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org). To register offline, stop by the Circulation Desk or call 413-323-0417.

**Pride Movie Matinee Series Mondays in June, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

We're showing a series of films for Pride Month, Monday afternoons in the Activity Room! Snacks will be provided, no registration required.

**Monday, June 23: Kiki (2017, unrated):** 25 years after Paris Is Burning intro-

duced the art of voguing to the world, Kiki revisits New York City's thriving underground ballroom scene highlighting the serious challenges facing queer black and Latino youth. Public performance rights are provided through Kanopy.

**Monday, June 30: (a not so classic road trip movie) (1995 PG-13):** Three New York drag queens travel cross-country on their way to Hollywood, but a broken-down car strands them in a narrow-minded Midwestern town where they share makeup tips with the ladies and show the men how to treat women right. Starring Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze, and John Leguizamo. Public performance rights are provided through SWANK.

**Ask a Nurse Friday, June 20, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Kirsten Krieger RN, BSN, public Health Nurse for the Quabbin Health District, will be at the library for this free health and wellness clinic. Learn about health conditions, receive blood pressure and blood sugar checks, find out about community resources including harm reduction, health and wellness education, and more! No appointment needed.

**West African Drumming With Jafar Manselle and**

**the Wendell Warriors Monday, June 30, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

All ages are welcome to attend. Spots for teen and adult instruction are still available! Come out to play with the Wendell Warriors drumming ensemble and their leader Jafar Manselle! Discuss the history of drumming for village celebrations and learn hand placements for making different sounds. Then play together and celebrate the day! Drums will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Everyone is welcome at this event! Adult and teen audience members who would also like to participate in one-on-one instruction may register for one of 20 spots: call 413-323-0417 or visit [www.clapplibrary.org/events](http://www.clapplibrary.org/events) This program is funded in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**ViewFinder Nature Photography Contest Exhibit Reception and Awards Ceremony Tuesday, July 1, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

The Clapp Memorial Library and the Belchertown Creative Economy Committee invite you to

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 11

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# SPORTS

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Kylee Burnham clears the ball away.

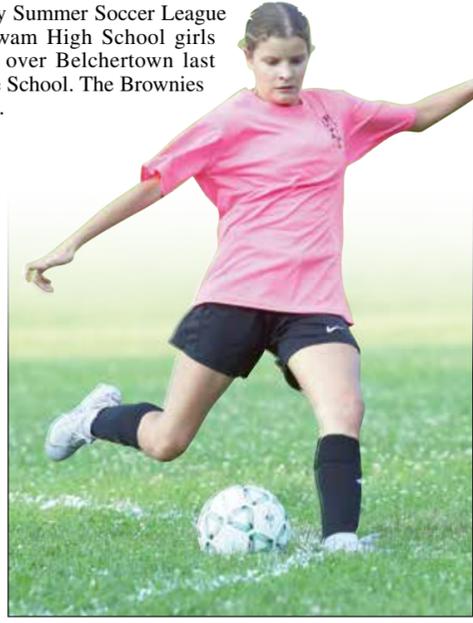
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Orioles take loss in opener

BELCHERTOWN – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is back in action in 2025 and the Agawam High School girls A summer squad scored a 1-0 shutout over Belchertown last Thursday evening at Jabish Brook Middle School. The Brownies and Orioles were back in action this week.



Lainey Holt tries to outrun her opponent.



Kierstyn Shaink sends a clearing pass ahead of an opponent.

## Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10



Gianna Boisjolie looks to deke around an opponent.



Aubrey McCain goes for the loose ball.



Ellie Maazaferro looks for an open teammate.

## Monson Legion picks up win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the playoffs. That won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion playoffs.

Two days after having their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the playoffs. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be hosting one of the pods in the preliminary round of the double elimination state tournament. There are going to be a total of seven pods with four teams each. The winner of each pod, along with Quincy Morrisette Post 294, will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, which will be held at Adams Field in Quincy from July



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Matthew Santos from Palmer High School picks up a grounder.

26-30.

The Northeast Region One Tournament will be held at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech, was the winning pitcher for Monson against Aldenville. The righthander went the distance allowing two runs on just three base hits. He issued two walks and recorded six strikeouts.

"We received an outstanding pitching performance from Brayden Mega," Tripp said. "This is the third year that he's been playing for us, and he has improved each year. We do have several

other very good pitchers on this year's team."

Monson's other pitchers are Austin Meacham (Monson High School), Nate Kaczuwka (Ware High School), and Liam McGrath (Quabog Regional), who's a first-year member of the Legion team.

Mega, who won five games for the Pioneers this past spring, will be playing college baseball at Monroe University, which is in New York City. Their baseball team competes at the NJCAA Division I level.

Mega can also play for the Legion team again next summer.

"I just wanted us to win our season opener," Mega said. "I was feeling very good out on the mound, especially after my teammates gave me an early 4-0 lead."

Aldenville (2-1) began the Legion season with a 9-1 road win against the Wilbraham Falcons.

A year ago, Aldenville lost to Belchertown in the District 3 championship game.

Righthander Justin Moskal, who was the ace of the South Hadley High School pitching staff this past spring, didn't receive very much support from his defense against Monson.

The majority of the Aldenville players are from South Hadley.

Monson second baseman Miguel Velasquez led off the second inning with an infield hit. Then Kaczuwka, who started at third base, bounced into a 6-4 fielder's choice play and catcher Shane Szado drew a walk.

After stealing third base, Kaczuwka scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"Nate is a fantastic base runner," Tripp said. "He has very good baseball instincts. You can always count on him to do the right thing."

With one-out in the fourth,

Please see **LEGION**, page 10

## Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last

Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

# Bonsignore breaks record for wins at Riverhead

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – Justin Bonsignore had a perfect day Sunday at Riverhead Raceway.

Driving the No. 51 Phoenix Communications machine for Kenneth Massa Motorsports, Bonsignore was fastest in both NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice sessions on Father's Day, then followed it up by capturing his first pole award of the season in qualifying.

Bonsignore rocketed to the lead early, then settled

for second for much of the middle stages of the race. It was on pit road where the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team again shined - getting Bonsignore back out front into the final stages.

He would hang on, holding off Ron Silk, Patrick Emerling and Matt Hirschman over a flurry of restarts in the second half of the race to take the victory.

The win was Bonsignore's 46th career on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour,

all with Kenneth Massa Motorsports. It was also his 12th career at Riverhead - breaking a tie with Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time in Whelen Modified Tour competition at the New York quarter-mile.

"I've been wanting to break the record for a long time," Bonsignore said. "Mike was a childhood hero of mine. The pit crew did another awesome job, with two excellent pit stops. To have my family here, it's the

first race that all of them have been to this year. For it to be on Father's Day at home and everything we did, it's just really cool."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track at Pocono Raceway on Saturday, June 21, driving the No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. The team will carry sponsorship from TW Cable LLC for the event, which will air live on The CW at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.



Bella Meadows traps the ball on defense.

TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

## PIONEERSN from page 9

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Pathfinder's Brayden Mega delivers a pitch home.

home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make

very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Diffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a breakaway opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

## LEGION from page 9

Kaczuwka reached first base following a fielding error. Szado and right fielder Jarett Skowyra followed with walks, which loaded the bases. Then McGrath hit a foul pop-up which was caught by first baseman Matt Drobiak. He threw the ball to catcher Memphis Huertas, but the runner at first base broke towards second on the play. Kaczuwka crossed the plate following a run down. An infield hit by center fielder Jason Mumper scored Monson's third run. Another run scored on a throwing error, which gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Aldenville cut the deficit in half with a two-out rally in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Shortstop Brandon Carillon was hit-by-a-pitch, and third baseman Alex

Savlick walked. One run scored on a double by centerfielder Noah Carillon. Drobiak also drove home a run with a single into center field.

Mega would then retire the final seven Aldenville batters of the game, which gave Monson its first win of the Legion season.

"We just made several costly mistakes in tonight's game," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We did battle back after following behind 4-0. We're now looking forward to playing Westfield."

Aldenville squeaked out an 8-7 win at Westfield Post 124 last Friday night

On the same night, Monson suffered an 11-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 in their first home game at Legion Field in Palmer.



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Nathan Kaczuwka, of Ware, slides into third base.



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**LIBRARY** from page 8

the ViewFinder Nature Photography contest exhibit reception and awards ceremony to acknowledge the creative achievements of our local photographers in capturing the beauty and natural diversity of Belchertown. The winning photographs will be exhibited at the Library throughout the month of July, and viewable on the Library website. The ViewFinder program is funded in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional funding is provided by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**For Adults:**  
**Learn Computer Basics Friday, June 20, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

We're partnering with Tech Foundry's Tech Hub to offer computer basics classes and drop in tech-support.

**June 20: Social Media Basics 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

This beginner workshop covers using Facebook, Instagram, and Messenger to connect, share posts, and manage privacy—no experience needed. Registration for this class is required. Visit the Circulation Desk or call the library at 413-323-0417.

**Drop-In Tech Support will follow in the Main Library, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.:**

Open for anyone with computer related questions. No registration is required for Drop-In Tech Support.

**"Make a Drawstring Bag with Castle Nitor" on Wednesday, June 25th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Spots are still available! Come get hands-on with history and create your own piece of history as you learn the basics of hand sewing. This class is run by Allison, the Lady of Castle Nitor, a history lover who collects craft skills and loves teaching and creating a fun, relaxing environment for all. All materials will be provided. The class is limited to 12 participants, ages 16 and up. Registration and confirmation required, sign up in person at the circulation desk or call 413-323-0417. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**For Teens:**  
**Teen Book Club Wednesday, June 25, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

The Clapp Memorial Library has started a book club for teens entering grades 7-12! This Teen Book Club is 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 25th, teens will discuss *I Will Never Leave You* by Kara A. Kennedy. Copies of the book

are available for checkout at the library's circulation desk and on the Libby app. Snacks will be provided at the meeting. Email [clapplibrarytab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrarytab@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Teen Movie Night Friday, June 27, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Celebrate the kickoff of the Teen Summer Reading Program with a Teen Pizza & Movie Night! Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided for free as the library hosts a showing of the 2017 hit movie based on the Jumanji board game - starring Jack Black and The Rock! Pizza will come from Antonio's, which placed highly in both categories at last year's Teen Pizza-Tasting Contest! Teens ages 12-18 are asked to call the library or email [clapplibrarytab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrarytab@gmail.com) to register. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**For Kids:**  
**Their Butt Does What?!? Friday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium**

Not every animal has a butt, but for those that do, there is an almost infinite variety of ways in which their butts can surprise us! In this program you'll learn about ... an inflating butt, a deflating butt, a butt with its own chemical lab, butts

that can grow eyes and a brain, butts that talk, and so many more! No registration required. Children must be registered for the CML's Summer Reading Program. Sign up now at [clapplibrary.beanstack.com](http://clapplibrary.beanstack.com) or via the Beanstack app. To sign up offline, visit the circulation desk or call 413-323-0417. This program is funded by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library.

**Ducks and Trucks Sunday at the Farmers Market, June 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The Farmers Market on the Town Common will have cute ducks and fire trucks! Come meet live ducks and learn about their diet, habitat, behavior and more. Duckworld Rescue at Ripley Farm will bring ducks and give children a chance to hold them and watch them swim. And the Belchertown Fire Department will be visiting with a truck for kids to explore hands-on! Made possible by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and Community Sponsors.

**The Clapp Memorial Library is open:**  
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• Thursday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
• Friday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
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**Belchertown Fair Exhibit Hall book now available**

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Fair committee invites you to "Shake, Cattle and Roll!" into this year's Exhibit Hall, September 19 to 21, 2025. Booklets with all the Department and Lot descriptions are available in hard copy at various locations around town including the Clapp Memorial Library, Finnerty Hall, Clerk's Office, Senior Center, and Ace Hardware.

Or access all the information online at [btownfair.com/exhibit-hall](http://btownfair.com/exhibit-hall). There are only 90 days until the Fair opens, so get your creative juices flowing, get your gardens growing, and get your Exhibit Hall entry forms postmarked by September 6 or submitted by email to [belchertownfair@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownfair@gmail.com). Let us know if you can help with check-in, decorating, or as a hall sitter.

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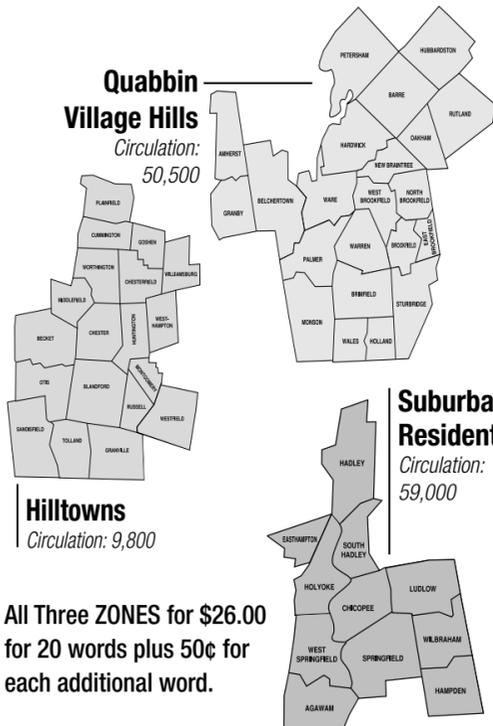
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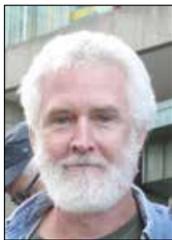
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**OBITUARIES**

**Jim Dee**

Jim Dee, my beloved life partner of 41 years, left this world on Friday, June 6, 2025. His heart betrayed him—he died quite unexpectedly of some heart/stroke combination.



I choose to believe that he has embarked on his next great adventure and that whatever and wherever that is in the space-time continuum, his spirit will be curious and excited, if not a bit surprised. Jim's first love in terms of a calling was music. He was an accomplished guitarist and his brother Joe formed a blues/rock band called Reaction that performed with some success in the Scituate area where he grew up.

Jim was charming, smart, quick witted, passionate about the state of the world, and always happy to engage in a debate about it.

He found his true calling as a journalist for the Boston Herald, which took us to Belfast in 1998 (with our 3-month-old son, Kiyo) just before the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. In the six and a half years that he was based in Belfast, he was constantly on the go, covering politics and the ongoing conflict. He was a great journalist and with that same charm, persistence and intelligence, he was able to forge connections with not only politicians and community activists, but also paramilitary figures on both the Republican and Loyalist

side. He was very proud of moving the narrative needle in the U.S. from the depiction of the Troubles as a Catholic vs Protestant religious conflict to seeing it as a long struggle against British colonialism. He found his true calling as a journalist and loved every minute of it.

While the implosion of print journalism meant that he eventually had to find other work once we returned to Massachusetts, I will always remember him as a fierce, honest, principled and nuanced journalist. This is his professional legacy and how he would want to be remembered.

His personal legacy was full of love, laughter, mischief and caring. If someone was feeling down, he'd be tenacious in bringing kindness, compassion and uplift. He loved his family and friends. He loved me. He loved his son Kiyo. We will miss him endlessly and depthless but also celebrate the legacy of his life and work. We wish him joy and happiness on his journey of whatever comes next.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to LUCE, <https://www.lucemass.org/>, an immigrant rights organization in MA that is coordinating a rapid response network to support and protect people from ICE raids. -Emily Kawano, Belchertown, MA

**Ramona M. Parker, 1941 – 2025**

BELCHERTOWN— Ramona Marie (Horta) Parker, 83, of Belchertown, passed away on Monday, May 26, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center. She was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, daughter of the late Ramon H. and Marion G. (Pearson)



husband, Edward H. Parker, in 2015. She is survived by her children: Todd Parker of Granby, Suzanne Parker (Joseph Willie) of Amherst, and Edward Parker (Candace) of Granby; nine grandchildren: Joshua, Shilo, Maddy, Megan, Shannon,

Shane, Shawn, Abigail, and Kayla; seven great-grandchildren: Kyle, Brent, Dylan, Greyson, Brayden, Grayson, and Aurora; and sister Jacqueline Corbett, of Belchertown. Besides her parents and husband, Ramona was predeceased by four sisters: Donna Andre, Doris Hebert, and Juanita Eckert; Marion Nelson; and daughter-in-law, Erica Parker. All services for Ramona will be held privately and are being handled by the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home in Holyoke. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Girls Inc. of the Valley, 480 Hampden St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

home, shopping, and traveling. She was the proprietor of Mona's Lace Place and Parker's Bed and Breakfast. She loved hosting family gatherings, traveling, dancing and singing, and gardening. Ramona was predeceased by her husband, Edward H. Parker, in 2015. She is survived by her children: Todd Parker of Granby, Suzanne Parker (Joseph Willie) of Amherst, and Edward Parker (Candace) of Granby; nine grandchildren: Joshua, Shilo, Maddy, Megan, Shannon,

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Jim Dee**  
Died June 6, 2025  
Beers & Story  
Funeral Home

**Ramona M. Parker**  
Died May 26, 2025  
Farrell Funeral Home

**Wilfrid Victor Roy**  
Died June 7, 2025  
Services June 22, 2025  
Beers & Story  
Belchertown  
Funeral Home

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

**Wilfrid Victor Roy**

Wilfrid Victor Roy ("Will" or "Bee"), 77, of Belchertown, MA, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at Mercy Medical Center.



Born on April 17, 1948, in Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover, Canada, Wilfrid was the son of the late Omer Roy and Rose-Aimée Laterreur. He grew up in Saint-Cyrille-Drummondville and moved to the United States in 1966, where he built a beautiful life with his wife of 53 years, Carole E. Roy.

Wilfrid was a skilled and hardworking carpenter who owned and operated his own business, W Roy Construction, before retiring from Marois Construction in South Hadley.

Family meant everything to him. He was a devoted husband, proud father, and adoring grand-

father. In retirement, he fully embraced his role as "Papa," spending time hiking, bike riding, rollerblading, ice skating, fishing and even tagging along to the town beach, despite not being much of a beachgoer.

He really enjoyed camping with family and friends, and playing his acoustic guitar. Wilfrid will be remembered most for the smile he always wore, especially when surrounded by the people he loved.

He is survived by his beloved wife Carole; sons Remi of West Springfield and Stephen (Heather) of Belchertown; and his cherished grandchildren, Madalyn and Riley, who lit up his world with love and laughter.

He also leaves behind siblings Armand (Marielle), Jean-Yves (Francine), and sisters-in-law Rita, Lise,

Colette (Renald) as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was predeceased by siblings Jean-Guy (Marie-Rose), Denise (Clement), Margerette (Bertrand), Cecile (Real), and Alfred.

A special thanks to Emilio, Whitney, and Catherine for the loving care and support they provided with such grace and compassion.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday, June 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home, 646 Newton Street.

On Monday, June 23, family and friends are welcome to gather at the funeral home at 8:30 a.m. for a funeral procession to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Belchertown for a 10:00am Funeral Mass. Burial will immediately follow at West Street Cemetery in Granby.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Wilfrid's memory to the Belchertown Senior Center or the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

**NOTICE**

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

**BACKYARD** from page 6

coming to feast on the mealworms.

**Mute swans and cranes**

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

**Titmouse and robin**

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."

**Loon fact**

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their

own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research

has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without

a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must

spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-

967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Sarah Fortune, Conservation Administrator, posing with her cardboard skirt which people could decorate.



Muralists Brittney and Josh Smith with their beautiful mural.

# From trash to treasure

**TRASH** from page 1

and lightens the experience of being there," said Haak-Frendscho.

But that wasn't all- the highlight of the night were the outfits made out of upcycled materials to encourage

the transfer station's call for reducing, reusing, and recycling.

The Creative Economy has been working hard to put together events like the Trash Gala and murals like at the transfer station to bring more to Belchertown, working

alongside other organizations in town to make it happen.

The Creative Economy Committee is "...invested in highlighting the creativity of Belchertown, and utilizing creative means of strengthening what it has to offer," said Haak-Frendscho.

The Trash Fashion Contest was created in order to bring the community together in a fun way, while showcasing their creativity and ability to turn trash into treasure, or in this case, outfits. Jordan Hall, the MC for the night, also provided an engaging, hilarious, and fun judging moment for the costumes.

"It's such a gift from each of the artists and every individual who took part in the processes that led to each of them that we now have these incredible murals in such an unexpected place," said Haak-Frendscho. "It's such a delightful surprise, and sure to turn some heads, and hopefully also make them consider the ideas of sustainability in the process."

Through working with the artists and the artists with the community, the Transfer Station is now more than it was before, opened up into a place where creativity is encouraged.

"I learned so much on this project, and I hope to see this copied by other communities, and loved like I loved

doing it," said artist Melissa Stratton Pandina.

The night was full of fun, and the artists got a chance to see their murals complete and were thanked and congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

"It was nice to be able to do this together, and create something fun and meaningful for everyone to see on the highway that captures the town," said Brittney Smith, who worked with her husband Josh on their canister.

"Folks have been so invested in this project from the get-go, and so many people have participated in every stage, every opportunity that was presented to take part, from filling out a survey to coloring an animal puppet to painting the container and now taking part in our final celebration," said Haak-Frendscho.

Winners of the Gala were Charlotte Cassidy in first place, winning a year of free trash services with her book page gown, and Helen Bierly in second, winning three free months of compost pick-up from Banana Compost.

With the Trash Gala being a wonderful time, the people who came together are looking forward to doing this again next year and cementing it as a tradition for years to come.



Muralist Melissa Stratton Pandina and her beautiful work.



The artwork that inspired the mural.



Louise Levy rocking her own newspaper vest.



You've got to laugh at the Trash Gala.



Helen Bierly, the second-place winner of the Gala.



Charlotte and Rudy Cassidy with their fabulous looks.



Library director Cyndi Harberson posing with a hat Charlotte Cassidy made.

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